

Ashley Mocerro Powell

In the environmental justice and overburdened communities section of the draft PEIS, I would encourage you to consider ratings on the WA EHD Map that are lower than ratings of 9 and 10 for communities; as not all areas of the state have as robust data for their communities which could result in an unintentional gap. I appreciate the cross reference with CEQ's created Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. This tool was used to identify communities eligible for benefits from federal investments in critical sectors. However, CJEST but it's since been taken down by the new federal administration (Jan 2025). What additional databases would WA Ecology use to ensure we are looking beyond WA EHD limitations? Geospatial tools are designed to integrate different kinds of health, social, environmental, and economic data to identify disadvantaged communities and to aid policy and investment decisions that address the pervasive, persistent, and largely unaddressed problems associated with environmental disparities in the United States; however do not always capture the full picture at the community level and the multi-faceted layers of considerations we should take. One example is I do not believe this PEIS considers risks in the study areas and their proximity to schools, family resource centers, childcare centers or head start programs and/or recreational areas (ie parks, sports fields, others) where multigenerational and/or youth would be present. I am concerned about the disproportionate impacts that could result of us not looking more closely at where these sited facilities could be located in proximity to these community spaces.