

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TIMELINE – MILESTONES



SECOND NATIONAL PEOPLE OF COLOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Celebrating Our Victories, Strengthening Our Roots

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Introduction

It has now been over a decade since the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit was held in Washington, DC. There is general agreement that environmental injustice existed long before the 1991 gathering. For many, having decent and affordable housing, access to health care, quality education, safe and secure employment at a livable wage, accessible public transportation, parks and green space, clean air, safe drinking water, and healthy food are basic rights.

Over the past two decades, environmental justice and environmental racism have become household words. Out of the small and seemingly isolated environmental struggles emerged a potent grassroots community-driven movement. Many of the on-the-ground environmental struggles in the 1960s and thru the beginning of the new millennium have seen the quest for environmental and economic justice become a unifying theme across race, class, gender, age, and geographic lines.

After more than a decade of intense study, targeted research, public hearings, grassroots organizing, networking, and movement building, environmental justice struggles have taken center stage. Yet, all communities are still not created equal. Some neighborhoods, communities, and regions have become the dumping grounds for all kinds of toxins. Some progress has been made in mainstreaming environmental protection as a civil rights and social justice issue.

A dozen environmental justice networks exist that were not around in 1991. The last decade has seen some positive change in the way groups relate to each other. We now see an increasing number of community based groups, environmental justice networks, environmental and conservation groups, legal groups, faith-based groups, labor, academic institutions, and youth organizations teaming up on environmental and health issues that differentially impact poor people and people of color. Environmental racism and environmental justice panels have become “hot” topics at national conferences and forums sponsored by law schools, bar associations, public health groups, scientific societies, professional meetings, university lecture series.

In just a short time, environmental justice advocates have had a profound impact on public policy, industry practices, national conferences, private foundation funding, research, and curriculum development. Environmental justice courses and curricula can be found at nearly every university in the country. Groups have been successful in blocking numerous permits for new polluting facilities and forced government and private industry buyout and relocation of several communities impacted by Superfund sites and industrial pollution.

Environmental justice has trickled up to the federal government and the White House. Environmental justice activists and academicians were key actors who convinced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (under the first Bush Administrations) to create an Office on Environmental Equity. Many of the policies, programs, and initiatives that were begun under the first Bush administration were continued and expanded under the Clinton Administration. Clearly, environmental justice is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It's just about justice.

About This Timeline-Milestones

The entries in this timeline-milestones were derived from a national call to grassroots groups, community based organizations, networks, academic centers, legal clinics, practitioners, analysts, foundations, labor, faith based groups, government officials, and others who have been involved in the environmental justice movement. The response was tremendous. No doubt some events and activities may have been inadvertently left out. The paper is a work in progress. If there are items you feel should be included, please send them to the Environmental Justice Resource Center, ejrc@cau.edu, and they will be incorporated in an updated version to be posted on the Summit II website.

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YEAR

1964

U.S. Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, 1964. Title VI prohibits use of federal funds to discriminate based on race, color, and national origin.

1968

In April, Martin Luther King, Jr. leads black Memphis sanitation workers in garbage strike. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 before he could complete his environmental and economic justice mission in Memphis, Tennessee.

1969

Ralph Abascal of the California Rural Legal Assistance files suit on behalf of six migrant farm workers that ultimately resulted in ban of the pesticide DDT.

Congress passes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

1970

As far back as 1970, the United States Public Health Services (USPHS) acknowledged that lead poisoning was disproportionately impacting African Americans and Hispanic children.

1971

Presidents' Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) annual report acknowledges racial discrimination adversely affects urban poor and quality of their environment.

1978

Houston Northwood Manor subdivision residents protest the Whispering Pines Sanitary Landfill.

1979

Linda McKeever Bullard files *Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management, Inc.* lawsuit on behalf of Houston's Northeast Community Action Group, the first civil rights suit challenging the siting of a waste facility.

Robert D. Bullard completes *Houston Waste and Black Community Study* for the *Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management, Inc.* lawsuit.

1982

Warren County residents protest the siting of a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) landfill in Warren County, North Carolina. It is also noteworthy that it was in Warren County that Dr. Benjamin Chavis coined the term “environmental racism”.

1983

“Solid Waste Sites and the Houston Black Community” article published in *Sociological Inquiry*, a quarterly journal of the International Sociology Honor Society.

U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) publishes *Siting of Hazardous Landfills and Their Correlation with Racial and Economic Status of Surrounding Communities*. The GAO report found that 3 out of 4 the off-site commercial hazardous waste facilities in EPA Region IV are located in African American communities. However, African Americans make up just one-fifth of the region’s population.

Urban Environment Conference’s *Taking Back Our Health* conference was held in New Orleans.

EPA, DOJ, DOD & Olin Chemical Company settle \$25 million lawsuit with black residents in Triana, Alabama. The tiny all-black community was contaminated with DDT from Redstone Arsenal Army base and was dubbed the “unhealthiest town in America.”

1986

West Harlem Environmental Action's community organizing began in 1986 to combat the harmful impacts of the North River Sewage Treatment Plant on the people of the West Harlem community.

1987

United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice issues the famous *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States* report, the first national study to correlate waste facility siting and race. (got photo)

Robert D. Bullard publishes *Invisible Houston* that chronicles the social, economic, political, educational, and environmental quality of Black Houston neighborhoods.

1988

Revielletown buyout and relocation by Georgia Pacific (now Georgia Gulf).

1989

Morrisonville, Louisiana relocation (Dow Chemical Company buyout).

The *Great Louisiana Toxic March* led by the Gulf Coast Tenants and communities in “Cancer Alley”(corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans). The march brought public attention to their toxic living conditions in “Cancer Alley.”

In 1989, Indigenous communities, organizations, traditional societies and tribal nations begin meeting together on environmental and natural resource extraction issues. This led to national meetings in 1990 on the Dine’ (Navajo) territory and in 1991, near the sacred Bear Butte in South Dakota that ultimately formed

the Indigenous Environmental Network, as a grassroots-lead Indigenous voice in regional, national and international forums on environmental and economic justice issues.

1990

Clean Air Act passed by U.S. Congress

Under the leadership of Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai, the *Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards Conference* brought together academics and activists. The “Michigan Coalition” (an ad hoc group formed during the conference) wrote letters and met with William Reilly (EPA) and Michael Deland (CEQ).

The Bush EPA administrator William Reilly established the Environmental Equity Work Group.

Robert D. Bullard publishes *Dumping in Dixie*, the first textbook on environmental justice.

The Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) was established.

First of four meetings on Environmental Justice was held between grassroots leaders and EPA Administrator Riley.

In January 1990, nine activists of color wrote a letter to the “Group of 10” national environmental organizations calling on them dialogue with activists of color on the environmental crisis impacting communities of color and to hire people of color on their staffs and boards of directors.

In early April 1990, the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) convened over 80 representatives from 32 organizations working on environmental and economic justice issues in the southwest. From these efforts, the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) was established.

A second letter was sent to the Big 10, this time signed by 103 activists of color representing grassroots, labor, youth, church, civil rights advocates, social justice and coalitions in the Southwest. The letter challenged and reinforced the first letter challenging mainstream environmentalists on issues of environmental racism and lack of accountability towards Third World Communities in the Southwest.

1991

December 30, *El Pueblo para el Aire y Agua Limpio v. County of Kings*, judge rules that permit process for toxic waste incinerator was flawed because failure to translate documents into Spanish meant affected public was not “meaningfully involved” in the environmental review, in case brought by Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry convenes the National *Minority Environmental Health Conference* in Atlanta, Georgia.

In October, The First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit was held in Washington, DC, attracting over 1,000 participants.

United Nations Commission on Human Rights Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 1991-2002.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Accountability Campaign was initiated by SNEEJ, their grassroots members, and joined by other Networks and their grassroots affiliates to ensure equitable treatment of communities of color by the EPA.

The Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice held its 1992 post-summit.

“Dumping in Dixie” receives National Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Award for Science.

1992

First edition of the *People of Color Environmental Groups Directory* published by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The “Environmental Justice Act of 1992” was introduced into Congress by Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) and Senator Albert Gore (D-TN).

First Title VI administrative complaint filed with US EPA, by St Francis Prayer Center in Flint, Michigan, against Genessee Power. This complaint was lost by EPA and not found, and accepted for investigation, until 1994 (it is still under review).

The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice was founded at Xavier University of Louisiana.

Governmental Accountability Campaign persuades the U.S. EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to clean up waste sites and support sustainable economic development efforts, enforce laws and regulation in communities.

Environmental justice delegation participates in the United Nations Conference on Environment & Development (UNSED) or Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro.

National Law Journal publishes a special issue on *Unequal Environmental Protection* that chronicles the double standards and differential treatment of people of color and whites.

Discussions started on establishing a Northeast Environmental Justice Network.

EPA releases *Environmental Equity: Reducing Risk for All Communities*, one of the first comprehensive government reports to examine environmental justice.

The Environmental Justice and Labor Conference, follow-up to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit and spearheaded by SOC, was held at Xavier University in New Orleans with over 2,000 persons in attendance.

The EPA, ATSDR, and NIEHS jointly sponsor the “Equity in Environmental Health: Research Issues and Needs” Workshop in Research Triangle Park, NC; papers from the workshop were later published in a 1993 special issue of *Toxicology and Industrial Health* journal.

The *EPA Journal* devotes its entire Volume 18, No. 1 (March/April) issue to environmental justice.

WE ACT, with the assistance of NRDC and the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, sued the City of New York for operating the North River plant as a public nuisance to the people of the West Harlem Community. WE ACT settled its lawsuit with the City of New York and was awarded a \$1 million dollar settlement and the City of New York agreed to set aside \$55 million dollars in capitol funds to repair the air pollution and engineering design problems at the North River Waste Water Treatment facility.

Two environmental justice leaders, Rev. Benjamin Chavis and Robert D. Bullard, appointed to the Clinton-Gore Presidential Transition Team in the Natural Resources Cluster.

Deeohn Ferris coordinates national campaign for drafting of the “Environmental Justice Position Paper” for submission to the Clinton-Gore Transition Team.

1993

The Environmental Justice Act was redrafted and reintroduced in 1993 by Congressman Lewis (D-GA) and Senator Max Baucus (D-MT).

SOC worked with Communities at Risk and coordinated participation of Region IV Task Force Members to a Superfund Reauthorization Roundtable.

EPA established the 25-member National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC).

Local community leaders and their allies defeated the Formosa Plastics Plant from locating in Wallace, Louisiana.

The first two EPA Title VI (Civil Rights Act) administrative complaints were filed against the MS Dept of Environmental Quality and LA Department of Environmental Quality. *Other network members follow and file administrative Title VI complaints against state agencies and the EPA.*

UN Commission on Sustainable Development, 1993-2002.

Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) forms in 1993 to inject an Asian Pacific Islander perspective into the environmental justice movement and to build an environmental justice framework and principles into work in API communities.

West Harlem Environmental Action (WEACT) leads fight over the North River Sewage Treatment Plant drawing in activists across 12 northeastern states. This initial gathering catalyzes the formation of a multi-state regional network: the Northeast Environmental Justice Network (NEJN).

The Farmworker Network for Economic and Environmental Justice (FNEEJ) was formed to support the struggle of more than 50,000 workers in nine independent farmworker organizations.

First wave of Title VI administrative complaints filed with EPA, by Tulane Environmental Law Clinic and Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in New Orleans, on behalf of groups in Louisiana and Mississippi. More than 100 such complaints have since been filed.

Ken Sexton and Yolanda Banks Anderson serve as guest editors of *Toxicology and Industrial Health* Special issue on "Equity in Environmental Health: Research Issues and Needs," volume 9, number 5 (September/October).

The "Toxic Racism" documentary produced for WGBH Boston air on PBS.

1994

The Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University was formed in Atlanta, Georgia.

Environmental Justice Resource Center publishes 2nd edition of the *People of Color Environmental Groups Directory* that lists over 600 groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico.

The Environmental Justice Legal Clinic was formed at Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas.

The Washington Office on Environmental Justice (WOEJ) opens in Washington, DC.

Environmental justice delegates participate in the International Conference on Population & Development, Cairo, Egypt.

Environmental justice leaders meet with Dr. Kenneth Olden, director of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), to begin dialogue.

In February, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, along with six other federal agencies, hold the “Symposium on Health and Health Research Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice,” Washington, DC.

In February, President Bill Clinton issues Executive Order 12989, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.”

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice established.

United Church of Christ issues *Toxic Waste Revisited*. The updated report strengthens the association between race and siting of waste facilities.

University of Massachusetts issues study, funded by Waste Management, Inc., challenging siting demographics. This study triggers the first wave of attacks on environmental justice.

The Title IV lawsuit *Labor/Community Strategy Center, Bus Riders Union, et al. v. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority* was filed. The lawsuit charged that the MTA operated separate and unequal bus and rail systems that discriminated against the poor minority bus riders of Los Angeles.

1995

In January, the First Interagency Public Hearing on Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 was held at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Environmental Justice Resource Center holds the Environmental Justice and Transportation Conference at Clark Atlanta University.

Dine' CARE was the first native community group to get the Department of Interior (BIA) to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a 10-yr Forest Management Plan (FMP) for a federally recognized tribe (Navajo Nation). Before this, EIS were produced by Peabody Coal Company and other corporations rubberstamping EIS on Indian lands.

Environmental justice delegates participate in the 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995.

UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1995 – 2002.

Laotian Organizing Project started as APEN's first organizing project in Richmond, CA, to organize the Laotian refugee community as a new voice in the EJ movement. LOP also forms Asian Youth Advocates (AYA) as a youth leadership development and organizing arm for high-school aged Laotian young women. AYA's formation marks APEN's push to include a gender, race and class framework into the EJ movement while committing to the development of a generation of new leaders.

The Environmental Justice Fund was founded by six networks to promote the creation of alternative funding strategies to support the grassroots EJ organizing. The six networks include: Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, Indigenous Environmental Network, Farmworker Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice, and the Northeast Environmental Justice Network.

Region IV Environmental Justice Task Force supports *Communities at Risk' Platform for Superfund Reauthorization*.

1996

Washington Office on Environmental Justice facilitates environmental justice leaders participation in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II, Istanbul, Turkey (got photo)

The Environmental Justice Resource Center and CAU-TV co-produce the “Just Transportation” documentary.

Indigenous Anti-Nuclear Summit 1996, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Under sponsorship of the Seventh Generation Fund, with IEN and affiliate support, brought together a network of Indigenous peoples from North America and the Pacific negatively affected by the nuclear chain. A Declaration was developed that established the mandate of work on nuclear issues.

In July, a ten-person environmental delegation visits South Africa and meets with diverse community, labor, health, youth, and other leaders who were struggling to throw off the shackles of apartheid. Jean Sindab, an environmental justice trailblazer with the National Council of Churches, expires.

EPA Superfund Relocation Roundtable Meeting, Pensacola, Florida. Because of the hard work of Margaret Williams and local grassroots leaders, EPA decided to relocate the entire community of 358 African American and or low-income households living next to the Escambia Wood Treatment Plant in Pensacola, Florida.

People of Color Disenfranchised Communities Environmental Health Network established. The Network addresses Department of Energy and Department of Defense federal facilities. Due to the Network’s work, EPA formed the Federal Facilities Work Group in December.

ATSDR conducts the Community Tribal Forum.

Environmental Justice Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Round Table, Texas, sponsored by the NEJAC Enforcement Committee and Region IX.

The African American Environmental Justice Action Network (AAEJAN) was established.

Institute of Medicine Toxic Tour of “Cancer Alley” as part of its fact-finding mission and preparation for its report on health and environmental justice.

1997

Earth Summit II held in New York.

Ingram Barge Spill of Toluene and Benzene at Southern University site in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The Environmental Justice Resource Center’s “Healthy and Sustainable Communities Conference” brought EJ leaders from across the country to explore sustainable development strategies.

Community Tribal Advisory Board for the ATSDR Board of Scientific Counselors was established and Network members were appointed to this Board.

African American farmers bring a lawsuit against the USDA charging it with discrimination in denying them access to loans and subsidies.

The *Just Transportation: Dismantling Race and Class Barriers to Mobility* (edited by Robert D. Bullard and Glenn S. Johnson) is published. The book chronicles transportation racism cases across the United States.

Chattanooga Make the Link: Health and Environmental Justice major meeting.

President Clinton issues Executive Order 13045 protecting Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks.

Waste Management Division of Region IV US EPA and SOC hold Environmental Justice Summit.

Second Environmental Justice Enforcement Round Table sponsored by the NEJAC Enforcement Committee and Region IV Environmental Accountability Office.

Tennessee Legislature passes a resolution for Superfund site, due to the work of the Defense Depot Memphis TN Concerned Citizens Committee. The resolution requires posting of hazardous signs at all Superfund sites.

EPA establishes the National Advisory Council on Policy and Technology (NACEPT), Title VI Implementation, to examine facility permitting.

1998

EPA issues Interim Guidance for Investigating Title VI Administrative Permits Challenging Permits.

United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice convenes an array of grassroots environmental justice, civil rights, faith-based, legal, and academic centers leaders on the Shintech Title V permit application planned for Convent, Louisiana.

Shintech suspends its effort to build PVC plant in Convent, Louisiana.

Citizens Against Nuclear Trash (CANT) and residents in Homer win a major victory over Louisiana Energy Services (LES) on Earth Day. Louisiana Energy Services nuclear decision by the NRC was based largely on Robert D. Bullard's exhaustive written testimony.

UN Environmental Programme Negotiating Sessions on Elimination of POPs 1998-2001.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1998-2002.

The First International Agricultural Worker Forum was held in 1998. The purpose of the Forum was to create a space for workers to present their problems and encourage leadership development through future training programs. Over 60 delegates attended.

IEN facilitated for the participation of Native grassroots, tribal traditional leadership and elders in the Native Peoples/Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This led to the development of the "*Albuquerque Declaration*" that was sent to the UN Fourth Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. From this point on, IEN has participated in climate change meetings from the local, regional, national and international level.

EPA denies the Title VI Select Steel complaint, its first administrative decision under Title VI.

Florida Legislature passes the 1998 Environmental Equity and Justice Act.

The Environmental Justice and Equity Institute is created at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida.

The U.S. Supreme Court dismisses the Chester, Pennsylvania case because Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) revoked the Permit at issue.

More than a dozen Bishops and church leaders in the Council of Black Churches participate in "Toxic Tour of Cancer Alley." The church leaders on the tour represent over 17 million African Americans.

1999

UN Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) Experts' meeting in Costa Rica.

National Emergency Meeting of Blacks in the United States, New Orleans, LA. Groups came from 37 states. This and subsequent meetings laid the foundation for the creation of the National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN).

IEN established a Native POPs campaign office in Alaska in partnership with Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT).

The Black farmers discrimination case against the USDA settles for a reported \$400million to more than \$2 billion.

Asian Youth Advocates (AYA) wins a campaign victory at Richmond High School in Richmond, CA, that increases advisory and guidance services to students. AYA broadens the notion of environmental justice to recognize school environments as a key arena for youth.

Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Seattle, Washington, 1999 (SNEEJ, SWU, IEN, IITC).

Congressional Black Caucus Chair James Clyburn (D-SC) convenes "Environmental Justice: Strengthening the Bridge Between Economic Development and Sustainable Communities" convenes at Hilton Head, SC.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) publishes *Toward Environmental Justice: Research, Education and Health Policy Needs* (National Academy Press).

Dana Alston, a heroine of the Environmental Justice Movement, best known for her famous speech at the 1991 First People Of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, and *We Speak for Ourselves* booklet, expires.

2000

Environmental Justice Resource Center publishes 3rd edition of the *People of Color Environmental Groups Directory* that lists over 1,000 environmental justice groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico.

Dine' CARE also spearheaded a national organizing effort with a multi-racial and multi- state coalition to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) legislation.

IEN developed a training partnership with Project Underground, to hire and train a Native mining campaigner to address mining issues. This launched the Indigenous Mining Campaign Project, as a response to address unsustainable mining and oil development in Native lands.

The December 2000 Listening Session initiated by the Congressional Black Caucus' National Commission on Environmental Justice Policy reflected the Network's increasing ability to mobilize grassroots participation; the NEJN coordinated development of a statement, testified and submitted formal comments to the Commission.

The North Carolina General Assembly released \$7 million in appropriations to begin the detoxification of the Warren County PCB Landfill.

Macon County Citizens for a Clean Environment successfully wage a major fight to stop the siting of a mega landfill near historic Tuskegee University campus.

NBEJN holds National Press Conference on “End Toxic Terror in Black Communities,” Washington, DC.

NBEJN coordinates Congressional Black Caucus Hearing on environmental justice, Washington, DC.

2001

Environmental justice leaders participate in World Conference against Racism (WCAR) held in Durban, South Africa.

National Black Environmental Justice Network lends it support and expertise to the African/African Descent Caucus. The goal is to get the African/African Descendent declared a Major Group in the United Nations.

Environmental justice leaders participate in Climate Justice Summit in The Hague, Netherlands. “Trade Secrets” documentary airs on PBS.

“Celebrity Tour of Cancer Alley Louisiana” held. This event sparked some celebrities, including writer Alice Walker and Congresswoman Maxine Waters, to revisit some of the impacted communities and work directly with the people.

EPA clean-up at Agriculture Street Landfill neighborhood begins (completed 2001).

Judge Orlofsky rules in *South Camden Citizens in Action v. NJ Dept of Environmental Protection* that compliance with environmental laws does not equal compliance with civil rights laws, and determines that NJ has violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the first EJ case to prevail under this theory. Decision later overturned by Third Circuit on grounds that plaintiffs do not have the right to enforce EPA's disparate impact regulations.

On April 25, 2001, residents of Anniston, Alabama Sweet Valley/Cobb Town Environmental Task Force won a \$42.8 million settlement against Monsanto chemical company. The community had to be relocated because of PCB contamination.

Warren County, North Carolina PCB landfill community secures state and federal resources to detoxify the PCB landfill and build strategy for community driven economic development.

Environmental justice delegation from the Environmental Justice Resource Center and Deep South Center for Environmental Justice visits and meets with faculty and administrators at the University of Puerto Rico, community leaders in Vieques, and made a presentation to several dozen groups in the San Juan area. Environmental justice leaders participate in the Environmental Justice and Labor Conference held at the University of Niteroi, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The university and nongovernmental organizations are interested in starting a community-university center.

2002

Environmental justice delegates participate in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Rio +10 Earth Summit, Johannesburg, South Africa.

National Black Environmental Justice Network form partnership with the South African Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) to host a week long set of pre-WSSD side events, workshops, and site tours.

Norco, Louisiana’s Diamond Community secures full relocation and buyout by the Shell Chemical Refinery.

“Fenceline” Documentary airs on PBS television.

The first North American Indigenous Mining Summit was held that formed working groups to develop action plans to address coal, uranium and metallic mining activities in Native lands. In 2002, a Native oil campaigner was hired.

Power in Asians Organizing (PAO) founded as APEN's second organizing project in Oakland, CA, to organize a multi-ethnic Asian constituency for environmental justice. PAO and LOP work together and choose housing as its next campaign, looking at housing affordability and community displacement as issues to broaden the EJ movement.

October 23-26, Second People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit convened in Washington, DC.