



Board Members

Mia Morse
President (Summit)

Nick Lewis
Treasurer (Montclair)

Lily Olas Carayannis
(Ridgewood)

Susan Druckenbrod
(Cherry Hill)

Nancy Griffeth
(Summit)

Clara Haignere
(Princeton)

Zoe Laffler
(Baptistown)

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi
(Ridgewood)

Phil Lubitz
(Baptistown)

Liandra Pires
(Englewood)

Kevin Pierre
(Montclair)

Liandra Pires
(Palisades)

Charles Loflin
Executive Director (Montclair)

Melissa P. Abatemarco, Esq.
Attn.: DEP Docket No. 04-22-04
Office of Legal Affairs Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street, 7th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

To Whom it May Concern:

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations. These are principles that we feel are addressed by the new Environmental Justice Law. We're pleased with the rules that DEP has drafted to enforce that law, and strongly support them.

We'd like to thank DEP for the extensive public process you conducted in order to hear from as many people as possible. Holding public meetings both in person and virtually gave many people the opportunity to participate. While we were pleased with the public input process, we'd like to suggest that in the future, social media be employed more extensively to encourage participation by a younger and more technically sophisticated audience. The geographic area of influence surrounding the proposed project should also be expanded to include at least neighboring census blocks, perhaps even further.

We are pleased that the list of conditions used under the "Compelling Public Interest" clause does not include economic benefits, such as jobs created. We would like to suggest that additional stressors be added when considering community burden including pesticides and other agricultural contaminants, as well as odors, and that any increase in a stressor should trigger an automatic Environmental Justice review.

While we recognize that DEP cannot deny a permit renewal for existing facilities, we suggest that upon such renewal a new condition be added that requires the permanent installation of an automatic continuous air quality monitoring station which would monitor for all pollutants listed in the new Air Quality permit.

Once again, we thank you for developing a strong set of rules to back up this new law which we believe will have enormous beneficial impact in overburdened communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Charles Loflin
Executive Director, UU FaithAction NJ

EDUCATE • ADVOCATE • MOBILIZE