



NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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Protect The Ironbound and Address Cumulative Impacts:
Stopping PVSC Construction on Fourth Power PLant

Newark - Last week, the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance joined technical experts Dr. Nicky Sheats, Esq. and Dr. Ana Baptista as amici - friends of the court - on a brief to the New Jersey courts to provide details and technical expertise regarding cumulative impacts analysis and policy. This analysis was presented to the court in opposition to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's construction of a fourth natural gas power plant in the Ironbound community of Newark, NJ.

For years, the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance has stood in solidarity with the Ironbound Community residents and local advocates from the Ironbound Community Corporation against PVSC's proposal. The Ironbound community is one of the most polluted zip codes in the United States, and adding a fourth power plant in a four-square mile radius would be detrimental to the local air pollution levels and disproportionate burden that the community already bears.

As part of our brief, NJEJA addressed the concept of cumulative impacts, which is that environmental justice communities, as a result of systemic injustice, navigate multiple environmental and social burdens which interact with one another to pose acute and unique problems. The brief explained cumulative impacts and acknowledged the specific challenges of cumulative impacts in the Ironbound and Newark as a whole, particularly the interconnection of local air pollution - particularly multiple greenhouse gas co-pollutants - and socioeconomic challenges that residents face.

Additionally, the brief addressed the importance of the landmark 2020 Environmental Justice (EJ) Law, and the value of upholding both the spirit and letter of the law, which was to address the cumulative impacts burdens of environmental justice communities across the state. In

submitting the brief and addressing the EJ Law, we asked the court to meaningfully consider the cumulative impacts concept and associated harms that are central to the interpretation of the EJ Law.

“Residents of the Ironbound deserve infrastructure resilience that doesn’t cost them their lungs and lives. Newark is a city where children still die of asthma, a preventable disease. Prevention looks like safer, cleaner air which is threatened by every fossil fuel burning facility located in our residential communities. NJEJA will continue to stand with the community in their call for the use of the best available technology for PVSC.”

Melissa Miles
Executive Director
New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

"I hope our brief helps to convince the Court that, based partly on cumulative impacts and environmental justice concerns, the decision to grant an air pollution operating permit to the proposed PVSC power plant was not only bad policy but also bad law".

Nicky Sheats, Ph.D., Esq.
Senior Policy Fellow and Lecturer
Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment
School of Public and International Affairs
Princeton University

Please note that the views expressed within this quote reflect the personal views of Dr. Nicky Sheats, Esq. and not those of Princeton University.

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The [New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance](#) is an alliance of New Jersey-based organizations and individuals working together to identify, prevent, and reduce and/or eliminate environmental injustices that exist in communities of color and low-income communities. NJEJA will support community efforts to remediate and rebuild impacted neighborhoods, using the community’s vision of improvement, through education, advocacy, the review and promulgation of public policies, training, and through organizing and technical assistance.