

# Using Georgia's Brownfields Program to Further Environmental Justice

Gina Montgomery, President  
J5 GBL, LLC

We Combine Environmental Justice with Environmental Excellence



# Consultant and Environmental Justice Community Partnerships

We Combine Environmental Justice with Environmental Excellence



# How We Promote Environmental Justice in Brownfields Communities

- Provide our clients with excellence in environmental services while executing environmental justice best practices in the communities we serve.
- Participate in partnerships with the local community, State, and Federal Agencies.
- Invest in EJ communities by providing training and hiring local contractors and residents to support the work throughout the community.
- Develop community and stakeholder engagement programs.
- Serve on State and local boards and the EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC).



# Consultant's Role to Assist the Client in Understanding EJ Communities

---

- Local consultants share knowledge and discuss historic EJ concerns with the client.
- Express importance of transitioning a site from a burden to a benefit for the overall community.
- Provide the community with an opportunity to develop a plan for the proposed long-term use.
- Encourage transparency.
- Provide the community with a plan to allow engagement over the project lifecycle.
- Engage local Community Action Group (CAG) and local representatives.
- Encourage participation in community meetings with other stakeholders.



# How EJ Communities Become Involved with Brownfields Projects

Local consultants offer under- and unemployed residents in the community employment.

Participate in and attend local community meetings. Provide feedback and comments about distributed materials.

Engage with local and government Agencies to ensure stakeholders are held accountable for outcomes.

Residents become self-educated and begin to serve as the voice of the community.



# Consultant/EJ Community Partnership – Example Project



- Former Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Site.
- 89-Acre site located in Columbus, MS.
- Wood treating operations occurred at the site from 1928-2003.
- Creosote and other hazardous materials were released into soil, stormwater ditch sediment, and groundwater.
- Site cleanup and restoration activities were initiated for the following:
  - Stormwater and Mid-ditch improvements
  - Residential property cleanup
  - Pine Yard remediation



# Consultant/EJ Community Partnership – Example Project



- Training was provided for 25 EJ community minority residents.
- Health and Safety, as well as EPA Region 4 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) sampling protocols training was provided.
- A total of 20 local residents and 6 local contractors were hired.
- Support was provided for technician level field operations including soil and groundwater sampling, transportation and disposal of waste, air monitoring, and decontamination support team.
- Remediation efforts started in 2016; some work has been completed and remediation and restoration are ongoing.



# Benefits of Consultant/EJ Community Partnerships

- Overall engagement with the community can change.
- Residents may become advocates for the work being performed in the community.
- EJ community may begin to recognize the benefits of the project.
- Viable long-term employment opportunities positively impacts EJ community families.
- Client shows that they care and are committed to the overall investment of the community.
- Burdens are transformed into benefits.

