

4 The NYSDEC EJ recommendations concerning Native Americans is very interesting. I like the way they use NATIONS, instead the lesser title of tribes. I have some questions, comments, and ideas concerning this document that I will write below:

(2) The Commissioner should meet yearly with Indian Nation leadership to address environmental justice issues.

[Which leadership would that be?]

(3) The Department should establish a cultural awareness training program for its employees.

[It would be nice if they hired us to teach these programs instead of perpetuating misinformation]

(4) The Department should develop agency specific contact and consultation guidelines for interaction with the Indian Nations.

[On the flip side of this, we should create the same.]

(5) The DEC should support the State taking immediate steps to evaluate laws regarding the excavation, disinterment, removal, alteration, impairment, or disturbance of human remains, associated funerary objects or other cultural items at Native American burial sites and strengthen, if necessary.

[We should review these NYS laws and, if it is not done already, create our own written protocol and procedures for the same. My thinking here is that NYSDEC could read our "Haudenosaunee Repatriation Protocol and Procedures manual" and use it as a guide for their own development to assure they meet our needs. This manual would need to be written in a way that protects our traditions. Some of us might be concerned about revealing traditional/sacred information, but this need not be part of the "Public" version of the manual.]

(6) The Department, the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Museum should establish protocols for State agencies to share archaeological information of importance, including maps and site files, with individuals and organizations designated by the Indian Nations.

[We should create a formal process, if one does not exist, to designate individuals and organizations that might desire access the above information.]

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Barbara