ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM





AUGUST M. BALL

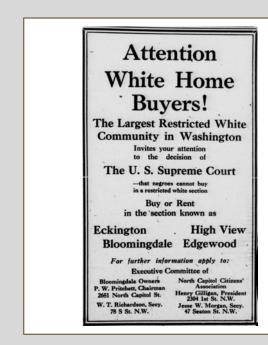
CREAM CITY CONSERVATION www.creamcityconservation.org

Examples of Racial Restrictive Covenants in Milwaukee Suburbs

Cudahy, Lincoln Terrace Subdivision

Recorded: May 16, 1927 Expires: May 16, 1952

"None of the buildings erected upon this subdivision shall be used to house either for business purposes or residence purpose **any colored persons or others outside the Caucasian race**, and the conveyance of any lot or lots in violation of the restriction shall ipso facto constitute a forfeiture."



14. RACIAL RESTRICTIONS...No property in said addition shall at any time be sold, conveyed, rented or leased in whole or in part to any person or persons not of the White or Caucausian race. No person other than one of the White or Caucausian race shall be permitted to occupy any property in said addition or portion thereof or building thereon except a domestic servant actually employed by a person of the White or Caucausian race where the latter is an occupant of such property.

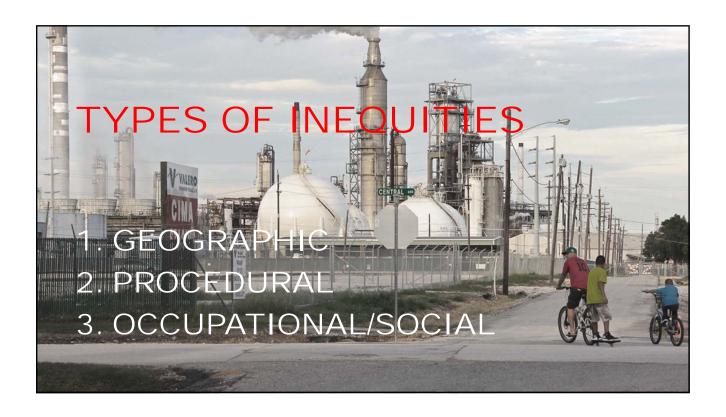
15. ANIMALS. No hogs, cattle, horses, sheep, goats, or or similar livestock shall be permitted or maintained on said property at any time. Chicken hens, pigeons, rabbits and other similar small livestock, not exceeding a total of twenty-five in number, shall be permitted but must be kept on the premises of the owner. Not more than one dog and cat may be kept for



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Can be defined as:

"Any government or industry action, or failure to act, that has a negative environmental impact which disproportionately harms (whether intentional or not) individuals, groups or communities based on race or color."



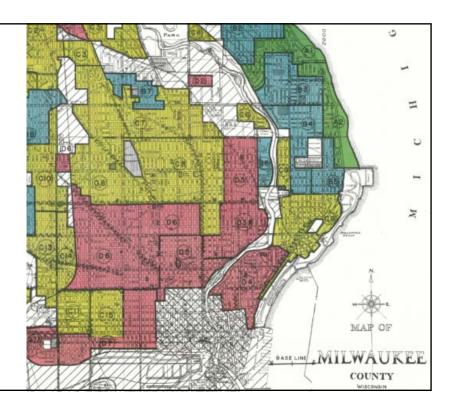
1. GEOGRAPHIC INEQUITY

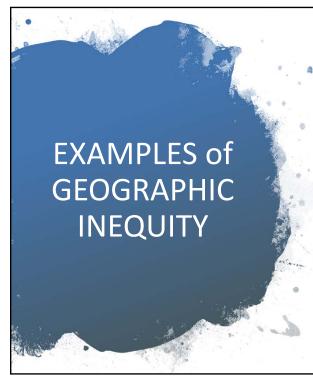
Discrimination in the placement of environmental hazards in predominantly nonwhite, poor locations: minority communities, (reserved) Indigenous Land, poor countries

LULUs

LOCALLY UNWANTED LAND USE

- Landfills
- Incinerators
- Lead smelters
- Refineries, etc.



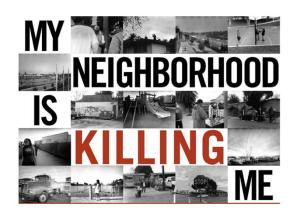


- Altgeld Gardens Housing Project (S. Chicago) aka Toxic Donut
- · East Madison near Truax Field
- Hunts Point (Bronx)
- Hunter's Point (San Francisco)
- Kettleman City,
- West Dallas
- Cancer Alley (Louisiana)
- Native American Reservations

2. PROCEDURAL INEQUITY

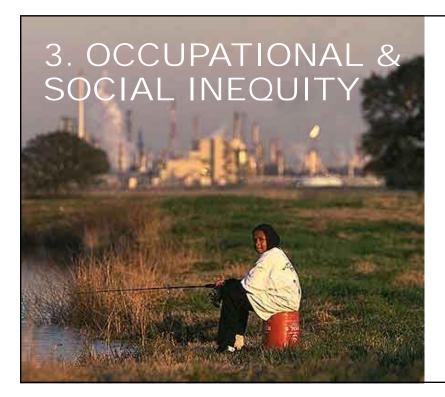
Unfair, discriminatory procedures for making & enforcing environmental rules, regulations & laws.

EXAMPLES of PROCEDURAL INEQUITY



White/Anglo communities see faster action, better results & stiffer penalties against polluters than non-white communities.

- Public hearings (& documents) are often only in English
- Penalties for hazardous waste violations are averaged 500% higher in white communities.
- Federal environmental laws penalties 46% higher in white communities.
- Superfund sites: minority communities take 20% longer to get listed; containment is chosen 7% more often than full clean-up; white communities see full clean-up 22% more than containment.



Disparities in power and wealth, often accompanied by discrimination, social exclusion, poverty and low wages, lack of affordable housing, exposure to hazards and community social decay.

This occurs when societal resources are distributed unevenly, typically through norms of allocation, that engender specific patterns along lines of socially defined categories of persons.

EXAMPLES of OCCUPATIONAL/SOCIAL INEQUITY

- **JOBS**: Ex. Non-unionized farm workers, heavy industry, etc.;
- **HOMES**: Ex. older homes, lead contamination;
- **SCHOOLS**: Ex. nearer to LULUs, incinerators, brownfields, etc;
- **COMMUNITIES**: Ex. more air polluted neighborhoods, near freeways;
- **FOOD**: Ex. fish exposed to mercury dumping, food desserts, malnutrition

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

is the *fair treatment* and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- 1. Guarantee the right to environmental protection
- 2. Prevent harm before it occurs
- 3. Shift the burden of proof to polluters
- 4. Redress existing inequities
- 5. Eliminate the Intent Standard

THE INTENT STANDARD

Established in 1976 by the Supreme Court decision Washington v Davis, requires plaintiffs to prove a perpetrator's discriminatory "intent" in order to win an anti-discrimination claim.

EJ advocates recommend replacement with Disparate Impact Standard

MIDWEST NEIGHBORS WITH OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Minnesota
- Illinois
- Michigan

WI: No EJ Office/Council or Framework

- Racial Inequity (WI Most economically unequal)
- Wisconsin received an "F" grade the only state besides Massachusetts to fail
 the 2016 report by the Center for Effective Government which graded states based
 on number of people of color and low-income residents living within one mile of
 dangerous chemical facilities compared to white and high-income people.
- Children of color in WI are twice as likely to live near a hazardous chemical facility than white children. Many of the state's high-risk facilities are located in Madison, Milwaukee and Fox River Valley.

SUGGESTED READING

