

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

OCTOBER 15, 2024

**Expanding the
Conversation**



**working for
environmental
justice**

Housekeeping



Please join by phone or computer, not both



You are on mute, please enter questions and comments into the Q&A pod



If selected to speak during dialogue, please limit comment to 1 minute



Recording and transcript will be available online in the near future

En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.



Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- ☐ *How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- ☐ *Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- ☐ *Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

***MINDFULNESS
MOMENT***



mindful
EPA

The ReGenesis Story.

Collaborative Problem-Solving at Work



**Former South Carolina
State Representative
Harold Mitchell Jr.**



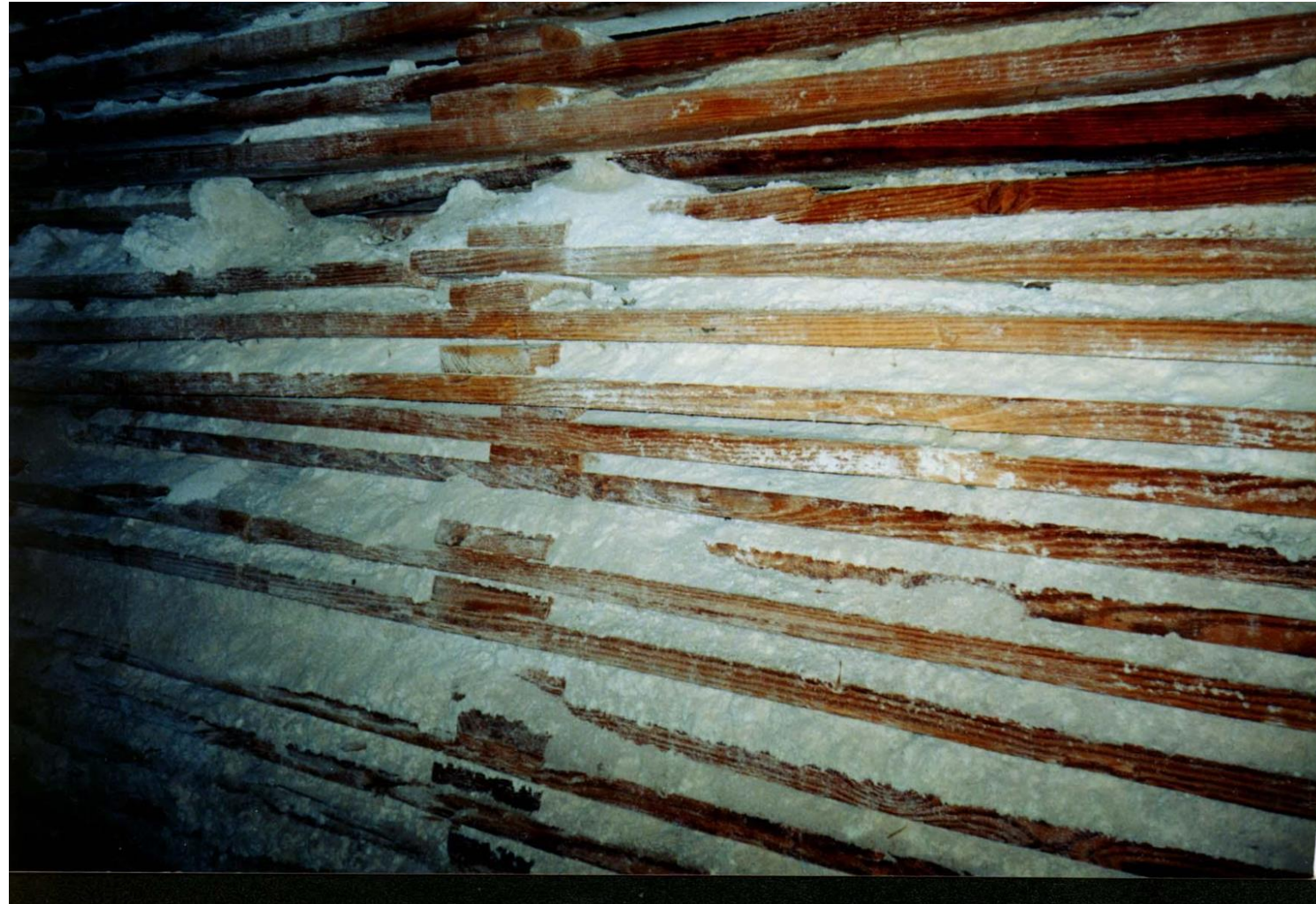


**DHEC sited a clean closure in 1986.
This photo taken 1998**

**Childhood window next to IMC Fertilizer
site.**



During the EPA investigation, it was determined that 48 tons of Super Phosphate fertilizer had been left in the facility, along with 2 underground storage tanks with 90 gallons of fuel oil left in them.



Acid pond that flowed off of the IMC site into Fairforest Creek.



ABANDONED FERTILIZER PLANT



Illegal Demolition after site Investigation





In October of 1990, DHEC ordered the current owner to move the sulfur left by IMC to a proper C&D Landfill.



**Sulfur was dumped over the back fence of the property next to FairForest Creek.
The Acid Plant was identified after the sulfur was removed.**



Underneath the 20 tons of sulfur was the old acid plant from IMC discovered. This site was less than 50 feet from Fairforest Creek.



Trees in the dump were not able to root because of the content of the trash debris





The First Test pit dug up by EPA in Landfill 100ft from community fence line was hypodermic needles from the local Hospital





In 1998 Senator Hollings requested an investigation of the IMC site.

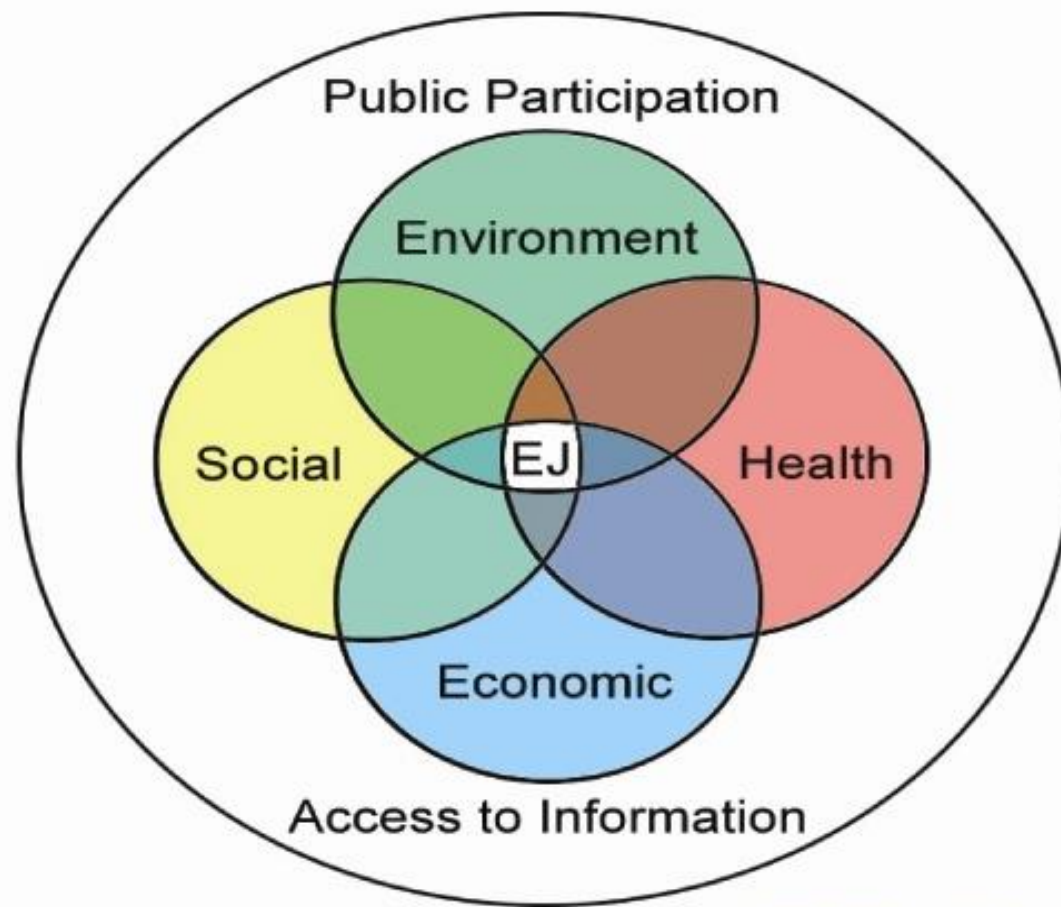
In 1998 EPA began workshops within the community to address the process of cleanup.



In 1998 the Arkwright Community addressed Landfill issues with the City Council



Indicators of Healthy and Sustainable Communities



EPA Office of Environmental Justice

The four categories the
ReGenesis Board wanted to
address

ISSUES

Environmental:

Two Superfund Sites
IMC Global
Arkwright Dump
Multiple Brownfield Sites

Health:

Concerns of Abnormal/High
Disease Incidence
Lack of Health Care

Economic:

Lack of Jobs
Lack of Transportation Access
Lack of Business Development
Lack of Retail Establishments

Social:

Crime
Poor Housing
Lack of Green Space
Lack of Recreational Facilities
Lack of Community Involvement



ARKWRIGHT MILL VILLAGE



EXISTING HOUSING CONDITIONS IN ARKWRIGHT

VISIONING



CHARETTES



**In 2000 The Creation of the
M.O.U. between the
City of Spartanburg,
Spartanburg County, the
Housing Authority and
ReGenesis signing ceremony.**



Community Capacity Building and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

**Environmental
Cleanup and
Remediation**

Transportation

Housing

**Economic and
Commercial
Development**



Health

Public Safety

**Education,
Jobs, Life
Skills**

**Recreation and
Green
Infrastructure**

The Beginning of Partnerships

- Designated as a Federal Interagency EJ Demonstration Project in May 2000
- Major focus of the project:
 - Health
 - Economic Development
 - Cleaning the Environment
- Received a \$20,000 EPA EJ Small Grant in June 2000



**South African Delegation &
White House visits Spartanburg,
South Carolina, to tour the
Arkwright Community**



**... and Study Our
Environmental
Injustice**

Some stories are hard to believe...fortunately, this story has a happy ending.

The Solvay Spartanburg Facility



ReGenesis/Solvay Dialogue Meetings began in Spartanburg 2000



Before

ReGenesis/ IMC, Fertilizer Facility Deconstruction Project after Litigation in 2000



After

**Designated Opportunity Zone 2017.
Designated 2019 for SC Renewable Tax Credits.
Eligible for SC Abandoned Mill Tax Credits.**



The First Federal Inter Agency Working Group EJ Meeting



FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

*Cleanup and Revitalization through Collaborative
Partnerships,
Arkwright and Forest Park Community*

Building A Livable Community Forum

August 21 - 22, 2000

The first "Building A Livable Community Forum" was held in Spartanburg, SC on August 21-22, 2000 and was attended by nearly 100 participants, including various federal, state and local government representatives as well as numerous community stakeholders. The excitement and enthusiasm of the many participants resulted in a vigorous plan to move forward with the many federal, state and local partnerships that have been initiated and will ultimately result in building a livable community.

Specific accomplishments of the Building A Livable Community Forum include:

- ♦ Charles Lee and Jewell Harper from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), introduced the Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group and the expectations for the demonstration projects. It was emphasized that this project more clearly reflects the community-driven, multi-stakeholder, multi-faceted collaboration that was envisioned when these projects were initiated.
- ♦ Local Officials, including Mayor James Talley and County Administrator James Hartmann shared their vision and welcomed the assistance from the federal sector and others. They further acknowledged that this effort was initiated by the community and pledged their support to make redevelopment a reality.
- ♦ *Expanding Community Transportation Choices Initiative:* A Mile long connector is being proposed to open access to the 500 acre area. Federal and State DOT officials are working with local government and congressional interests to further develop plans. The lack of adequate transportation routes into the area considered an environmental justice concern. Wendell Stills, of the US DOT is the primary contact for this initiative.

- Theme:
*Building a Livable
Community Forum*
- Two-days Meeting
August 21-22, 2000
- 7 Federal agencies
were in attendance

The Second Inter Agency Working Group EJ Meeting

- Held a month later, on September 20, 2000
- In attendance 50 participants
 - Federal
 - State
 - Local
 - Residents
- Develop goals for the project

Integrated Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Project

Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2000
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The meeting of the Environmental Justice Demonstration Project was held at the Spartanburg Vision Center at 9:30 a.m. on September 20, 2000. The meeting began at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Present:

Approximately fifty participants representing Federal and State Agencies, Spartanburg County & City, and residents of the Arkwright and Forest Park communities.

Welcome & Introductions

Agency Updates/Several Agencies Participated via Conference Call

- \$675,000 - Senator F. Hollings, via EPA, for promotion and revitalization. Vote for approval goes to Senate Floor today but is expected to pass. These funds do not include other grants that may be applied for. Harold Mitchell, Regenis, will forward proposal to the Ford Foundation for fund allocation.
- Ford Foundation, Inc. will provide Regenis, Inc. with funds.

Project Maps

- Maps distributed to the group.
- Project area was defined. Map will be edited and redistributed at the next meeting.
- Forest Park inside City line and Arkwright located within the County.

Community Involvement

Regenis is a community-based organization in the Arkwright/Forest Park area whose primary members are community residents. After discussion it is agreed that the project will be known as the Regenis Project.

The group formed through a beautification project when an alarming amount of similar serious illnesses began to affect the area. Board Members were selected to represent both communities. Collaboration efforts with existing organizations include representatives of the County and City, Federal and State, and Regenis - contact person: Rosalind Brown. Monthly meetings are held and the group is developing Focus Groups to:

- Identify cleanup
- Create an Arkwright model project

Goals

The participants were divided into sub-groups to develop goals from Community, County/City, and Federal/State agency perspectives.

COMMUNITY	COUNTY/CITY	FEDERAL/STATE AGENCIES
> Affordable Housing > Improvement Programs > Banks > Clean the Land > Crime Management > Cultural Center & Programs	<u>COUNTY GOALS</u> > Community Cleanup > Community Health (Others) > Environmental Cleanup > Improved Infrastructure > Long Term Sustainability	<u>DOE</u> > Brightfields - Attract New Clean Industries to the Site > Efficient Use of Energy > Integration of High Tech i.e. solar, wind, ground source heat pumps

Acting EPA Administrator Marianne Horinko, EPA Region IV Administrator Jimmy Palmer, EPA Asst. Administrator Tim Fields, and Charles Lee Senior Official OEJ. visits, tours, and participates in the ReGenesis stakeholder meeting in 2003 before Health Center Grand Opening.



Affordable, Top, Quality Healthcare

- Senator Fritz Hollings & Harold Mitchell worked together and opened the first ReGenesis Community Health Care Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving the medically underserved on Aug. 11, 2003

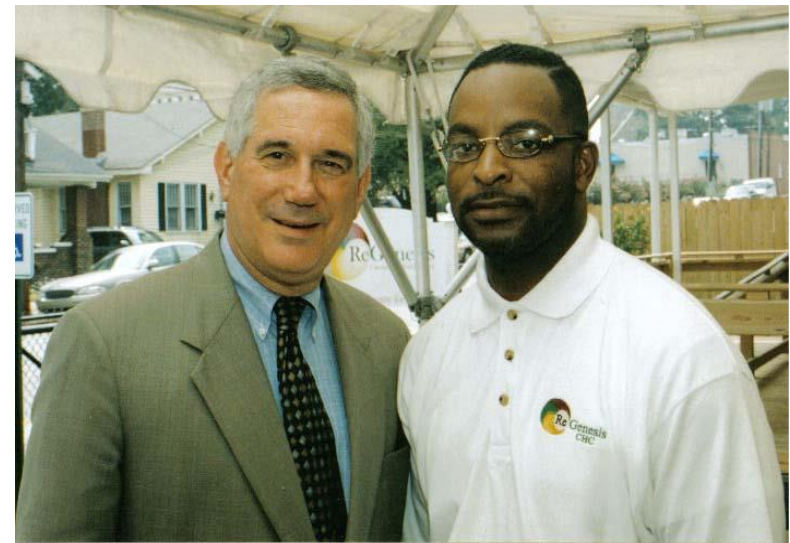


2003 OUR FIRST SITE



**Senator Fritz
Hollings & Harold
Mitchell at the Grand
Opening of
ReGenesis CHC**

**Mayor Barnett
& Harold Mitchell**



2005 Site Expansion





**1st State Inter-agency Meeting after passage of SC
First Environmental Justice Law 2007**

**ReGenesis begins
Peer to peer
community CPS
training with Dr.
McClain and
Savannah Ga.
Residents in
Spartanburg SC**



**16 Korean reporters and the Institute of Social Conflict
visit ReGenesis after the release of the CPS video**



2016 Expansion due to increase of patient growth



Today, there are 16 locations serving three counties

In 2004 ReGenesis became the 1st recipient of the States Voluntary Cleanup Program, Cleaning up and Remediating a former abandoned Textile Mill site for Petroleum and Hazardous Waste

Before



**Site designated Opportunity Zone in 2017.
Eligible for States Abandoned Textile Mill Tax
Credits.**

After



Jobs Training, Community Involvement, Self-Sufficiency and Workforce Development

Community Involvement, Self-Sufficiency, and Workforce Development



**Asbestos Abatement
Training 2004**



CONSTRUCTION TRADE CLASS



Brick Masonry Class





Removal of Distressed Housing



SENIOR HOUSING





Former Phyllis Goins Public Housing Site





**\$20 Million HOPE VI grant helped convert the
former Phyllis Goins to the New Collins Park in 2006**



FORMER PHYLLIS GOINS



COLLINS PARK





In 2015 ReGenesis began constructing Affordable Craftsman Style Energy Efficient Homes



The New Green LEED Design
C.C. Woodson Recreational Center
opened 2010



NFL Carolina Panthers funded
Multi – purpose Field



SOUTH CHURCH PLAZA

**The New 45,000 sq. ft.
Shopping Plaza addressed
our Food Desert Obstacle**



2014 Arkwright Dump Site Capped Designated Opportunity Zone 2017



**Proposed Aquaponics reuse on the Former Arkwright
Textile Brownfield Site Designated as a Opportunity Zone
in 2017**





BEFORE & AFTER

