

**Moderator:**  
Diane Alexander

**Featured Hosts:**  
Herman Millholland  
Steven Siegel



## Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program

July 27, 2022

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# Poll

## Where are you located?



© Microsoft PowerPoint

Please type your answer in the Chat!

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# Featured Hosts



**Herman Millholland**



**Steven Siegel**

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# The Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program

## Federal Agencies

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Office  
of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics, and Training  
(EPA/OCEFT)**

**and**

**The U.S. Department of Justice – Environment and  
Natural Resources Division (DOJ/ENRD)**

*Both agencies lead the federal environmental criminal enforcement efforts. Collectively, these agencies investigate and prosecute environmental crimes.*

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# The Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program (continued)

## Overview

- The Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program is an OVC-funded project, and it is the first of its kind within EPA and DOJ to address the unique issues associated with victim identification and victims' rights in environmental crimes—from the initiation of a criminal investigation by EPA through final adjudication by DOJ.
- Recipient of the Federal Service Award during the April 28, 2022, National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# The Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program (continued)

## Overview

The overall objectives are to—

- Use government resources effectively to provide crime victims with their statutory rights under CVRA and VRRRA uniformly and consistently.
- Institutionalize environmental crime victim training within EPA and DOJ.
- Institutionalize outreach regarding environmental crime victims' rights issues to the public and other federal, state, local, and Tribal investigative partners.

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# The Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program (continued)

## Overview

The program has furthered environmental justice by—

- ✓ Strengthening tools for the detection of environmental crimes in overburdened communities.
- ✓ Improving outreach to the victims of environmental crimes.
- ✓ Ensuring investigations are structured to provide maximum assistance to DOJ and pursuing remedies that will guarantee adequate protection for those communities.

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# The Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program (continued)

## Overview

Environmental crimes may often involve **injury or harm to human health and the environment**. These criminal violations may result in—

- **Direct and proximate harm** to individuals in the form of adverse health impacts or death in the most extreme cases.
- Individuals, organizations, and businesses suffering economic harm as a result of violations of federal environmental laws and other associated crimes.

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*



# What is an Environmental Crime?

- Improper removal and disposal of regulated materials
  - Asbestos, lead
- Emitting pollutants into the air with a permit
- Illegal disposal, storage, or transportation of hazardous waste
- Illegal importation, sale, or application of pesticides
- Discharging pollutants into water or treatment systems with a permit
- Explosions, fires, and other harmful events that can harm workers and nearby people

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# Who is an Environmental Crime Victim?

## Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (VRRRA)

- A person that has suffered *direct physical, emotional, or pecuniary harm* as a result of the commission of a crime. . .
- Institutional Victims
- Representative Victims

## Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA)

- A person *directly and proximately harmed* as a result of the commission of a federal offense or an offense in the District of Columbia
- Institutional Victims
- Representative Victims

Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.

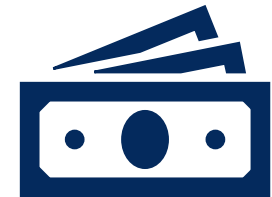
# How are Environmental Crime Victims Impacted?



**Physical**



**Emotional**



**Financial**

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# What are the Gaps and Unmet Needs?

- Communities Impacted by Environmental Crime:
  - Underserved and Under-Resourced
  - Communities of Color
  - Tribal Communities
- Limited traditional services for victims of environmental crime by local, state, and federal agencies
- Crime Victim Compensation benefits are generally not available to victims of environmental crimes due to statutory and administrative rules in each state

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# What Services are Available to Environmental Crime Victims?

## **EPA provides resources to victims by—**

- Identifying victims at the earliest opportunity
- Notifying victims of their status
- Notifying victims of case events and other Victim/Witness Coordinators' functions
- Providing witness security and protection
- Assisting victims in identifying possible resources
- Identifying legal resources for victim-related issues

## **EPA provides resources to victims through—**

- National Victim/Witness Coordinator
- EPA Crime Victim Assistance website
- Brochures for Crime Victims

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

## What Services are Available to Environmental Crime Victims? (continued)

### ENRD provides assistance to prosecutors and Victim/Witness Coordinators through—

- National expertise on environmental crimes and victims
- Help for prosecutors to promote consistency
- National resources to help prosecutors and Victim/Witness Coordinators

### ENRD provides resources to victims through—

- ENRD's Victim/Witness Coordinator
- DOJ website available to publicize cases
- Environmental Crime Victim Impact Statement template
- Information to help prepare victims for the process

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# Q&A

## What agencies will be involved for client benefits?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

## Q&A (continued)

What are the best programs to assist victims of environmental crime?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*



## Q&A (continued)

Given the alarming adverse long-term health effects resulting from certain substances, how can we help victims?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

## Q&A (continued)

Why aren't environmental crimes taken as seriously or given as much attention as other types of crimes?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

## Q&A (continued)

How do you provide restitution and relief to victims of environmental crime?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

## Q&A (continued)

# Is the Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program a reimbursement program?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

## Q&A (continued)

# What is the eligibility for victim services?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

## Q&A (continued)

Are there any other groups that focus on this specialization?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

## Q&A (continued)

As an advocate, how do I assist victims in obtaining the services they need?

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

# Resources

- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)
- [Department of Justice - Environment and Natural Resource Division \(ENRD\)](#)

*Note: OVC TTAC neither endorses, has any responsibility for, nor exercises any control over the organizations' views or the accuracy of the information contained in those pages outside of the OVC TTAC website.*

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*



Next Month

**Topic:** How To Deliver Training With Pizzazz

**Date:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022

**Featured Hosts:** Alice Hartzog, Kimber Nicoletti-Martinez, and Judith Walton

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*

Thank You!

Download a certificate of attendance for today's session via the link posted in the Chat.

If your question was not addressed in this session, you can send your question to our hosts or request additional information by email:

Herman Millholland: [hermanmillholland@gmail.com](mailto:hermanmillholland@gmail.com)

Steven Siegel: [butchsrs@aol.com](mailto:butchsrs@aol.com)

*Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.*