

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

The following comments on the Draft Scope are submitted on behalf of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance.

In furtherance of the Energy Coordinating Working Group's expressed commitment to addressing equity issues in the forthcoming State Energy Plan, we recommend that the draft scope for the Issue Brief on Environmental Justice be amended to state: In keeping with Executive Order No. 2's mandate that the State Energy Plan address the "protection of public health and safety," "the needs of vulnerable communities," and "the role of environmental justice considerations in energy-related decisions," this Issue Brief will: (1) evaluate existing policies and programs that are intended to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, in the development and siting of energy facilities; (2) identify areas of the State that are disproportionately affected by energy-related and other industrial facilities; (3) identify, develop, and provide clear guidance on policies and practices that will (a) remedy existing inequities in the distribution of environmental harms and benefits, (b) prevent inequitable distribution of harms and benefits going forward, and (c) provide for meaningful public participation in energy policy issues.