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Comment submitted by Center for Neighborhood Technology

Posted by the **Environmental Protection Agency** on Feb 25, 2025

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Attaining a good quality of life directly relies on a safe and healthy natural and built environment. This is true for any population, no matter how urban, suburban, or rural. The phenomenon and reality of cumulative impacts especially affects low-income community areas and working people in all regions of the United States. No one, regardless of any social standing, is unaffected by permitting decisions in their proximity. However, certain groups like the ones just described are impacted more than others.

When permitting happens, especially for more heavy industrial uses, the new development may (and often does) have a domino effect on human health. We strongly support the need for cumulative impacts frameworks and mapping, as well as support the framework's six principles as described on page 11. The fifth principle, "use available data and information to make decisions and take action" underscores the great importance of data's power to show adverse impact to public health as a means to attaining a good quality of life and wellbeing. We also recommend extending this principle further into collecting new data as needed when existing data falls short.

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