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The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO) has failed to serve vulnerable communities suffering from systemic environmental racism through regulation reform and enforcement, and has instead dismantled communities' environmental justice demands while consequently supporting private sector perpetrators of environmental racism, by operating in a "colorblind" manner that stems from white supremacy and upholds white privilege. This failure is exemplified by the ECRCO's "resolving and closing" of the complaint filed by residents of Uniontown, Alabama in 2013, who continue to suffer from the storage of coal ash in nearby Arrowhead Landfill, despite clear violations of environmental regulations and civil rights law.

More than a billion tons of toxic coal ash containing arsenic, mercury, and lead were spilled into the Emory River in Kingston, Tennessee on December 22nd, 2008 (Engleman-Lado et al. 2019). Particles of coal ash are known to permeate the lungs, and exposure can lead to leukemia, lung and brain cancer (Engleman-Lado et al. 2019). Under the Comprehensive

guilty of) and “uneven patterns of regulatory enforcement,” create and propagate environmental racism against communities of color (Pulido 2015, p. 810). In her analysis, Exide was processing 88 chemicals in its facility, surrounded by neighborhoods comprised largely of low-income immigrants, and was not complying with regulations for decades, such that the community consequently faced a greater risk of cancer and poisoning by lead and arsenic (Pulido 2015). She argues that Exide as the polluter is primarily responsible for its actions, and is “fully aware of

the EPA's environmental justice program as it took effect in Port Arthur, Texas, a similarly small and majority Black town also suffering from pollution spewed by an energy production facility (Bruno & Jepson 2018). The residents of Port Arthur are, much like in Uniontown, "economically distressed" and on the "fenceline," where they neither have control over their

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work to their advantage and expect positive change when they criticize the status quo; communities of color, conversely, cannot expect the same respect and results, as illustrated by the interaction between Uniontown residents, and the EPA and Arrowhead Landfill, when juxtaposed with the attention received by the white community of Kingston, Tennessee, following the coal ash spill ("Black Belt Citizens..." n.d.; Engleman-Lado et al. 2019; McIntosh 1990). It is crucial that the ECRCO, and the EPA at large, recognize and work to change the agency's own racial biases so that it can effectively do its job of preventing and dismantling racially motivated and disproportionately harmful projects, in both the public and private sectors, that affect the environment. Only then can the positive advantages afforded to whites be shared with all racial groups, and the negative advantages be rejected across the board.

In conclusion, community members in the predominantly Black and impoverished city of Uniontown, AL, have been the victims of environmentally racist public initiatives and private operations following the powerplant malfunction and coal ash spill in Kingston, Tennessee. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management chose to enable profiteering by

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