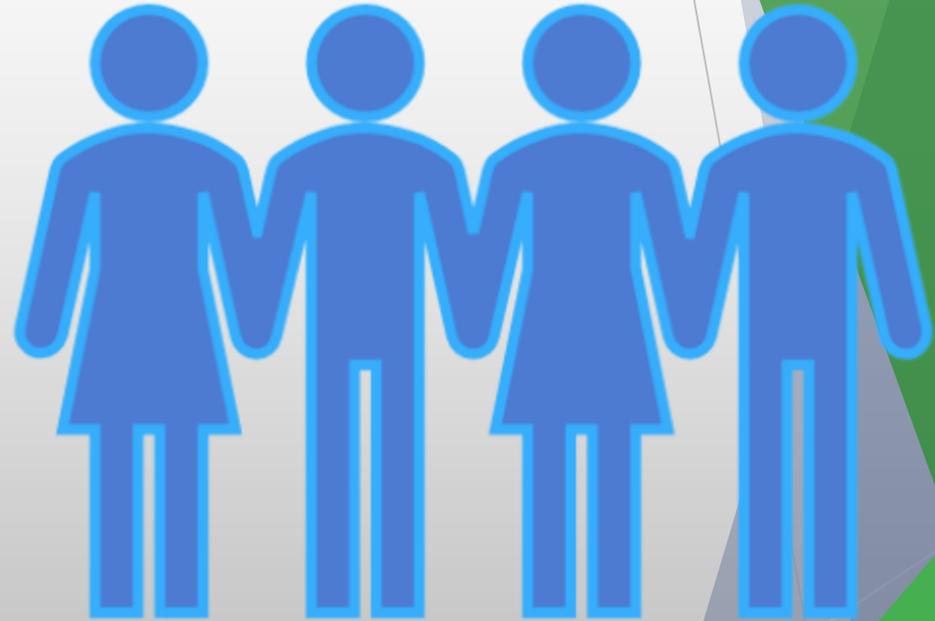


Environmental Justice

August 27, 2025

IERG Air Seminar



Focus of IEPA Environmental Justice Program

▶ [Enhanced Public Participation Plan](#)

- ▶ Permitting
- ▶ Rulemaking
- ▶ [Enforcement](#) (separate EJ strategy)
- ▶ Education of community members
- ▶ [Language Access Plan](#)
- ▶ OEJ advises

▶ [IRA analysis](#)

- ▶ Applies to certain permits in areas of EJ concern
- ▶ EJ/Title VI analysis (cumulative impacts)
- ▶ Modeling considerations
- ▶ BOA leads

Environmental Justice: definition v methodology

Environmental Justice (EJ) is equity in the administration of environmental policies and practices without regard to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, or any other demographics.

IEPA EJ Start

ISFA EJ mapping

~~USEPA EJ Screen~~

~~CEJST~~

CDC EJI (still accessible, for now)

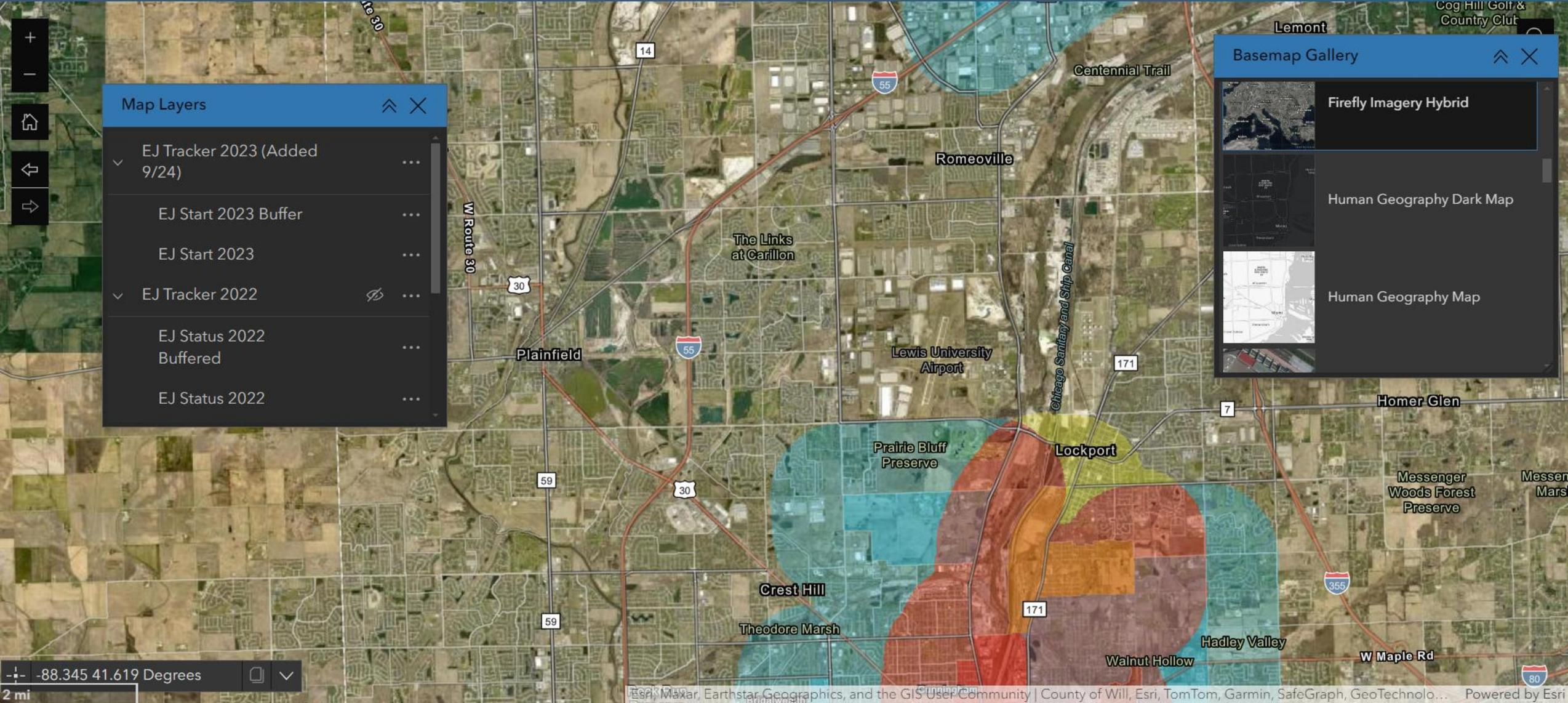
IEPA EJ Mapping Tool

IEPA EJ Start

- “area of EJ concern” is a community with a low-income and/or minority population greater than twice the statewide average
- Most recent update occurred 9/24 (no updates planned)
- USEPA has taken down EJ Screen (source of data for EJ Start)
- Past few years EJ Start available for comparison

IEPA EJ Start 2.0

- IEPA has developed expanded tool (more indicators)
- Deployment may be tied to passage of EJ law (not likely in 2025)
- Also exploring Illinois sources of data



Map Layers

- EJ Tracker 2023 (Added 9/24)
- EJ Start 2023 Buffer
- EJ Start 2023
- EJ Tracker 2022
- EJ Status 2022 Buffered
- EJ Status 2022

Basemap Gallery

- Firefly Imagery Hybrid
- Human Geography Dark Map
- Human Geography Map

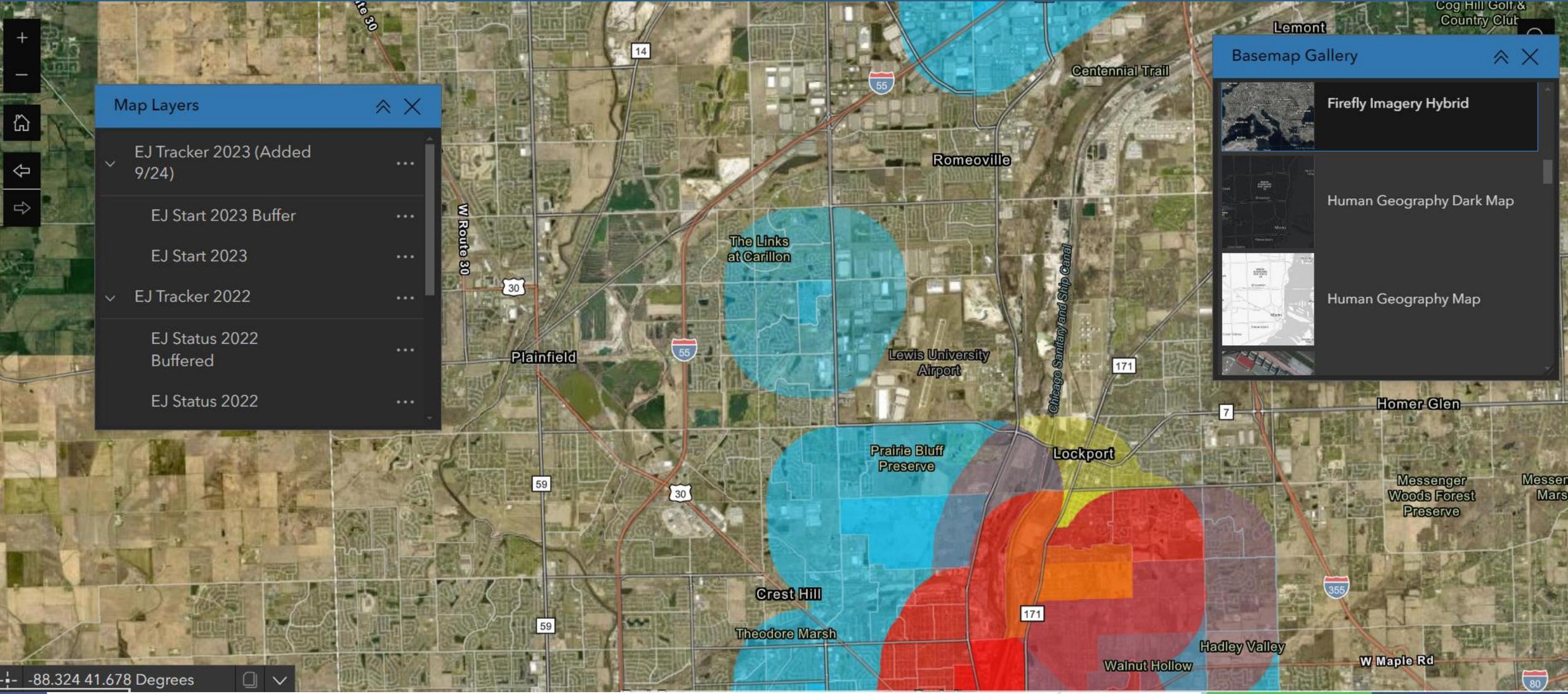


Map Layers [Up Arrow] [Close X]

- EJ Tracker 2023 (Added 9/24) ...
- EJ Start 2023 Buffer ...
- EJ Start 2023 ...
- EJ Tracker 2022 ...
- EJ Status 2022 Buffered ...
- EJ Status 2022 ...

Basemap Gallery [Up Arrow] [Close X]

- Firefly Imagery Hybrid
- Human Geography Dark Map
- Human Geography Map



-88.324 41.678 Degrees [Map Icon] [Dropdown Arrow]



8/25/2025

Public Participation and Outreach Strategy

Enhanced Public Participation Plan

- ▶ Outlines tools, strategies, and steps
 - ▶ EJ and Accessibility Considerations
 - ▶ Preparing for public participation process
 - ▶ Steps in public participation process
- ▶ Applicable to Illinois EPA
- ▶ <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/environmental-justice/ejppp.html>

Pre-Application Outreach

- ▶ Evaluate active groups (enviro, EJ, neighborhood, etc.) – elected officials may be helpful
- ▶ Determine questions and concerns, address proactively
- ▶ For larger, potentially multi-year projects:
 - ▶ Communicate improvements, new construction, etc.
 - ▶ If significant interest, consider facilitating formation of a community advisory group

Post-Submission of Application

- ▶ Work with IEPA staff (community relations, environmental justice, and technical) during community engagement process
- ▶ Continue direct outreach to interested groups (independent of IEPA convened meetings/hearings)
- ▶ Develop (and share) best practices

Language Access Plan

- ▶ [LAP](#) presents IEPA resources and protocols for staff (IRA requirement)
- ▶ Illinois Language Equity and Access Act passed in 2024
- ▶ Created Office of New Americans – overseeing:
 - ▶ Agency revisions of LAP
 - ▶ Implementation of LAPs
 - ▶ Data collection of populations served
 - ▶ Training of agency staff



Informal Resolution

- ▶ Agreement Analysis

Informal Resolution Agreement Analysis

- ▶ [February 2024 IRA resolved civil rights complaint filed with USEPA concerning permitting of shredder moving to southeast side of Chicago](#)
- ▶ Outlines analysis approach to address potential for cumulative impacts
- ▶ IEPA agreed to conduct EJ/Title VI reviews for certain construction permits in areas of EJ concern:
 - ▶ New source that will require CAAPP or FESOP
 - ▶ Existing source of that has CAAPP or FESOP seeking increase in annual permitted emissions
 - ▶ Existing source seeking an increase in annual permitted emissions and will require a new CAAPP or new FESOP for the first time
- ▶ 13 permits have undergone enhanced review
- ▶ USEPA informed IEPA that it has satisfied requirements of IRA

IRA analysis

- ▶ Basic overview:
 - ▶ No net increase in permitted emissions = no analysis (e.g., modelling)
 - ▶ Seeking increase in permitted emissions = analysis required
- ▶ Information posted here: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/environmental-justice/informal-resolution-agreement-analyses.html>
 - ▶ Issued permit
 - ▶ EJ/Title VI review memo
 - ▶ EJ Screen Community Report (no longer available)
 - ▶ Modeling memo

Questions?

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- ▶ Chris.Pressnall@Illinois.Gov