



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

This email message is being sent to EPA employees.

Dear Colleagues,

Today, Administrator Regan traveled with President Biden to Ohio to highlight EPA's \$1 billion investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to support environmental cleanups in the Great Lakes. This follows a trip he made with the Vice President to Newark last week celebrating 100% replacement of lead pipes. On the same day, I was in Indianapolis meeting with recipients of our latest Brownfields Job Training grants. I was also thrilled to participate in a virtual event yesterday with colleagues from the Hill and our state and local partners to announce \$106 million in BIL funding for the Long Island Sound. All across the country our teams are pushing forward amazing work to address critical infrastructure needs thanks to the law that President Biden signed just over 90 days ago.

BIL represents the largest increase in the EPA budget since we were founded in 1970! Over the next five years, EPA will invest more than \$60 billion to improve our nation's infrastructure, expand access to clean water, address long-standing environmental contamination, address the climate crisis, and advance environmental justice. Given the magnitude of this legislation, our work started well before the law was signed. As a result, we were able to hit the ground running on day one. Since then, we have:

- Announced our plans to use \$1 billion in BIL funding to clear 49 backlogged Superfund sites.
- Sent a letter from Administrator Regan to the governors of all 50 states and territories outlining our priorities for the State Revolving Funds, and we will be getting more information to them soon.
- Released a Request for Applications for Pollution Prevention grants that will provide states, educational institutions, and tribes technical assistance to develop and adopt pollution reduction processes.
- Made initial progress on our efforts to design a \$5 Billion Clean School Bus program with applications for a first round of funding opening this spring.
- Hosted listening sessions for thousands of stakeholders, including tribal representatives, schools, state water officials, and environmental justice leaders.
- Submitted an unprecedented agency BIL spend plan weeks ahead of the deadline.
- Highlighted BIL funding with Administrator and Deputy Administrator events in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 9 with more to come in the weeks ahead.

While there are many accomplishments to celebrate, this is a monumental undertaking that is asking a lot of our team. We will be learning as we go and listening to EPA voices to hear your ideas and to make sure we know how implementation is progressing and where we need additional resources. One of my top priorities is moving quickly to hire 1,000+ highly-qualified team members across the agency. We are making good progress with more than 150 new team members already in the pipeline and several efforts underway to accelerate hiring including:

- **Bolstered staff:** OMS has already added more than 20 people to our Shared Service Center and Personnel Security Branch to accelerate hiring and background investigations.
- **New hiring authorities:** We recently received direct hiring authority from the Office of Personnel Management for over 500 additional staff across all offices and regions for highly technical and competitive positions. We have also received new streamlined authority, called “Schedule A,” to hire candidates into term-limited roles in support of infrastructure work.
- **Continuous improvement:** We have launched BIL hiring and diversity dashboards so senior leaders and hiring managers have real-time data on our priority to hire with expediency and in line with the agency’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility principles.
- **Recruitment:** We have held 13 outreach events reaching more than 4,500 potential candidates in our efforts to encourage a diverse pool of young people to join us in changing the world. We have another eight planned over the next six weeks.

Thank you for all your hard work and for everything that you do to protect public health and the environment. This is truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and we are here to help. I can’t wait to see the impact we make on our nation.

Janet McCabe
Deputy Administrator