At this time, agency personnel are not authorized to use Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT, OpenAI, etc.) for official use. In the interim, EPA has blocked access to them.

Background

Artificial Intelligence is a technology that simulates human intelligence processes to make decisions and perform tasks, often using business information. AI tools collect and process large amounts of data that may contain highly sensitive information, such as financial, confidential business and Personally Identifiable Information.

EPA is currently assessing potential legal, privacy and cybersecurity concerns as releasing information to AI tools could lead to potential data breaches, identify theft, financial fraud or inadvertent release of privileged information. We must implement robust security measures and rules of use to ensure EPA personnel and information is protected.

Interim Decision

While the agency works to implement security measures and rules of use, as an interim decision, EPA has blocked access to AI tools. The Agency is continuing to analyze AI tools and will follow up with a final decision.

The interim decision to block these tools was made after careful consideration of various factors, including potential legal, information security and privacy concerns. If an employee has a compelling requirement to access AI tools, the employee can reach out to their Information Security Officer and request an exception to this interim decision. More detailed communication is forthcoming.