

From: MassMailer

Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2017 2:20 PM

To: MassMailer <massmailer@epa.gov>

Subject: Agency's Workforce Shaping through Voluntary Early Retirement and Separation Incentive Payment Authorities (VERA/VSIP)



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FROM: Mike Flynn

Acting Deputy Administrator

TO: All EPA Employees

Dear Colleagues,

In my April 17, 2017 memo to EPA senior management, I announced that we were beginning steps to initiate an early out/buyout program with a goal to complete the program by the end of September 2017. I wanted to give you an update on the current status and upcoming steps on the program.

Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment Authority (VSIP), often referred to as early outs and buy outs, can help us realign our workforce to meet changing mission requirements and move toward new models of work. The authority encourages voluntary separations and helps the Agency complete workforce restructuring with minimal disruption to the workforce.

Current Status

The Agency has begun a workforce reshaping effort in which headquarters and regional offices are reviewing their current organizations and analyzing where they can achieve efficiencies. As a result of these analyses, the Agency is planning to use VERA/VSIP where it makes sense and where it is aligned with these efficiencies. We will be working with the Agency's labor unions as we go through the VERA/VSIP process.

Headquarters and regional offices currently are working on VERA/VSIP business cases for their respective organizations. Our Office of Human Resources staff will review and consolidate these business cases into one agency-wide business case which will be submitted to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval.

In developing our VERA/VSIP business case, we are considering multiple factors including increasing supervisor to staff ratio; consolidating support functions; restructuring or reducing highly graded supervisory and non-supervisory positions; focusing on core business functions, programmatic and STEM priorities, and consolidating and streamlining programs and functions. Details on the selection criteria for employees in the pool are still being worked out.

Next Steps

We plan to submit our agency-wide VERA/VSIP business case to OPM/OMB for approval later in June, and will work closely with OPM/OMB to help expedite the review process. We will provide you information on what positions will be included in the VERA/VSIP program as soon as possible, likely sometime in July. We expect a limited number of employees will be offered VERA/VSIP, and those who accept a VERA/VSIP offer must leave the Agency by early September 2017.

Please look for additional VERA/VSIP information from your organization's senior leadership soon. In the interim, I have provided you with some helpful links below.

Many thanks for your continued commitment to EPA's mission and public service. I am very proud to work alongside you.

OPM's VERA/VSIP links:

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/voluntary-early-retirement-authority/>

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/voluntary-separation-incentive-payments/>

EPA's VERA/VSIP link: <http://intranet.epa.gov/policy/buyouts/index.htm>