

From: Message from the Administrator

Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 11:31 AM

To: Message from the Administrator <messagefromtheadministrator@epa.gov>

Subject: Regional Realignment



Today we are announcing our intent to establish a standard organizational structure for EPA's regional offices that more closely aligns with EPA's headquarters' structure. This realignment, which we will send to Congress for review, is intended to:

- Increase coordination between EPA's National Programs and their regional counterparts as we work to meet our strategic goals and objectives;
- Improve the consistent implementation of EPA regulations and policies;
- Allow for better resource allocation to more effectively carry out the agency's mission;
- Facilitate the agency's overall operational excellence; and
- Provide greater transparency for EPA's customers.

In February 2018, EPA released its Reform Plan in response to President Trump's March 2017 Executive Order, *Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch*. EPA's Reform Plan contains 11 projects, including Examining EPA's Field Presence. After reviewing information presented by the Field Presence workgroup, Chief of Operations Henry Darwin and the Regional Administrators, in consultation with the Assistant Administrators, concluded that greater consistency in EPA's regional organizational structure is needed to increase visibility into regional office operations. When the regional offices are organizationally aligned with headquarters, we will be better able to streamline decision-making for accountability and performance, allowing us to better carry out our mission.

Currently, every regional office has a different structure. The proposed new standard structure (see attachment) for every regional office includes the following:

Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator, and the following divisions:

- a. Air and Radiation
- b. Administration and Resource Management (to include OARM, OCFO, and OEI functions)
- c. Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
- d. Land and Redevelopment (to include OCSPP and Brownfields functions)
- e. Superfund and Emergency Management
- f. Water
- g. Laboratory Services and Applied Science
- h. Regional Counsel (to include the FOIA program)

We plan to maintain our 10 regional offices for implementation of the Agency's programs. The contributions of EPA's regional office employees, who constitute nearly half of the agency's workforce, are vital to the protection of human health and the environment. I am inspired by and thankful for all the great work the regions perform every day.

As a next step, EPA's Office of Administration and Resources Management will convene and lead an Implementation Working Group, including representatives from each region, to prepare a realignment package that will be submitted to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations for review.

I look forward to advancing this effort together. It continues to be a privilege to be a part of such an outstanding organization.

Organization for EPA's Regional Offices

