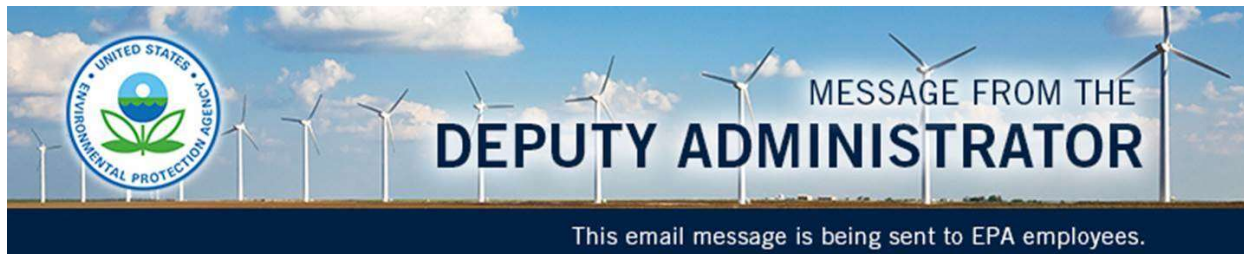


From: Message from the Deputy Administrator <messagefromthedeputyadministrator@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Message from the Deputy Administrator <messagefromthedeputyadministrator@epa.gov>
Subject: Personnel Updates



Dear Colleagues,

Today, we express our gratitude and well wishes to two agency leaders who have announced their plans to retire on July 31st: Donna J. Vizian, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mission Support, and Dr. Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Science Advisor and Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development. This mailer is long, but that's because there is a lot to say about these two amazing women.

Donna, who began her federal career with Region 2's superfund program, has demonstrated leadership at both the regional and national levels. After over 30 years of federal service, she is known throughout the agency for her technical expertise on all administrative matters, for providing significant advice and counsel on topics as varied as human resources, grants, contract programs, and space, and for assisting in the management of communications throughout the agency. Donna's contributions to the Agency have been significant and meaningful; and her leadership has resulted in efficiencies, innovations, and cost savings that benefit EPA employees, the federal government, and the American public. In 2019, she was awarded a Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award. Her innovative approach to workforce development and strong relationships with stakeholders inside and outside of the agency has shaped a strong and diverse workforce that is capable of effectively achieving programmatic goals.

Throughout her 40-year career that began as an EPA intern in 1981 and included time in the water and toxics programs, Jennifer has played a leadership role in tackling some of our most challenging environmental and public health issues, including transforming water research, addressing the environmental and health impacts of PFAS chemicals, and leading the research in response to the Gold King Mine emergency. Through her leadership, Jennifer catalyzed the development of novel research and scientific advances that amplify innovation and enhance national collaboration while ensuring the protection of the workforce. During her time as the acting AA for ORD, she successfully navigated a major restructuring effort. ORD now better integrates scientific approaches to address complex environmental challenges, and more efficiently supports mission-focused solutions. These achievements will long guide EPA's science program, delivering the research and engineering solutions that the Agency and the nation rely on to safeguard the environment and the public health.

We are extremely grateful to both Jennifer and Donna for their leadership and collaboration, especially during the Agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are committed to protecting our workforce as we continue to address the impacts of the pandemic. Therefore, we have asked two key leaders in their fields, who also have been instrumental parts of the executive leadership team at the forefront of the Agency's pandemic response, to act in these critical positions.

With Donna's departure, Lynnnann Hitchens will assume the position of acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Mission Support. Many of you will know Lynnnann from her participation in all-hands and town hall meetings across EPA over the last year to discuss the Agency's response to the pandemic, in her role as acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management. In addition to her leadership and guidance during the pandemic, Lynnnann has acted as the Director of OARM-Cincinnati and has served as the Office of Resources and Business Operations Director. We value Lynnnann's thoughtful leadership, expertise, and creative problem solving.

Dr. Wayne Cascio will assume the position of acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development. Wayne currently serves as Director of ORD's Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment. Wayne has been a leader for the Agency in developing the COVID-19 facilities dashboard and has been instrumental in providing health and safety advice throughout the pandemic. Prior to joining the EPA in 2011, Wayne worked to increase access to cardiovascular health care in underserved rural areas and served on [EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee for Particulate Matter](#). He now serves as the EPA's liaison to CDC's National Center of Environmental Health/ATSDR's Board of Scientific Councilors.

I thank both Wayne and Lynnnann for being invaluable assets to the Agency and for being willing to step into these acting roles as we begin the process to fill the positions. They have my full confidence as they step into these two key leadership roles starting on August 1st, and I look forward to their steady hands at the helm of these important EPA Offices.

Please join me in thanking our colleagues and noteworthy leaders, Donna Vizian and Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, for their exemplary service. Both have left a lasting mark on the EPA and can move into the next phase of their journey with much satisfaction for their contributions to EPA's mission of protecting public health and the environment. I wish them all the best following their retirement.

Janet McCabe
Deputy Administrator