

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2025

Via certified mail, email,
& EPA FOIA Public Access Portal

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

At your January 16 confirmation hearing before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, you pledged to be “transparent and accountable to Congress and the public.” In keeping with that commitment, please provide us with copies of the records requested below. Your response will help address our concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) implementation of the President’s various executive orders and other actions.

Freedom of Information Act Request

Our specific requests for EPA records listed below are submitted pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 USC 552. For purposes of this request, “records” include reports, memoranda, power points, correspondence, or other responsive documents. At this time, we are not seeking copies of (a) emails that transmit, discuss or acknowledge receipt of the records requested; (b) draft or marked up versions of any document; (c) press clippings or any record of media coverage; or (d) any information that is exempt from disclosure under 42 USC 552(b), provided that EPA identifies the specific exemptions in that paragraph that justify withholding records responsive to this request.

We expect EPA to waive any fees associated with your response to our request, as disclosure will contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of a government agency and does not serve any private commercial interest.

A. Calendar for EPA Administrator and Other Political Appointees

Former EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus released the so-called “fishbowl” memo in May 1983, which included a promise to make the meeting calendars for the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, Assistant, Associate and Regional Administrators, and Staff Office Directors publicly available by the end of each week.

1. EPA provides online access to “simplified meeting calendars” for the Administrator, Regional Administrators, and other high-ranking officials at <https://www.epa.gov/senior-leaders-calendars>, but advises that a FOIA request is required to obtain the “official record” of such meetings. Please provide copies of the official record of all meetings between January 20 and July 15, 2025, for the Administrator, all Regional Administrators, and for Barry Breen, Kimberly Patrick, Maureen Gwinn, Chad McIntosh, Sarah Dunham, Gregg Tremi, Rick Keigwin, Jeffrey A. Hall, James Payne, Rafael DeLeon, and Peggy Browne.
2. Please provide a copy of any analyses, power point presentations, charts, reports, letters, or other documents provided to the Office of the Administrator that were prepared by, or on behalf of, any

individual or organization identified in the official record of your meeting calendar. You may exclude any confidential briefing materials prepared by any EPA employee.

B. EPA Workforce

The numerous announcements regarding the number of EPA employees terminated, rehired, retiring, accepting buyouts, or subject to actual or planned reductions in staffing have left Congress and the public confused about the actual size of EPA's workforce and its capacity to carry out its mission.

1. For each office, program or region that appears on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-organization-chart>, please provide records that identify the total number of full time-equivalents (FTE) on EPA's payroll as of July 15, 2025.
2. For each office, program or region, please provide records that identify the number of FTE's who:
 - a. are on administrative leave because they have accepted buyouts and are expected to leave EPA on or before September 30, 2025;
 - b. have been placed on administrative for any other reason;
 - c. are still employed but have notified EPA of their intention to retire on or before September 30, 2025;
 - d. are still employed, but will be terminated on or before September 30, 2025, due to planned reductions in enforce or the elimination of specific functions or programs; and
 - e. have been hired since January 20, 2025, excluding any employees who were rehired after they were mistakenly terminated.
3. Please provide records that identify the number, name, and job classifications of individuals hired by the Office of the Administrator since January 20, 2025.

C. EPA Enforcement Actions

Federal environmental law directs EPA to notify sources violating permit or pollution control standards, as well as the relevant state agencies, and authorizes (and in some cases requires) EPA enforcement actions if needed to bring violators into compliance.

Please provide copies of the following records:

1. Notices of noncompliance issued by EPA from January 1, 2024, to the present, including notices of violation, findings of violation, or warning letters;
2. Civil complaints filed in federal court since January 1, 2023, for any cases that have not yet been resolved through litigation or an appropriate consent decree;
3. Inspection reports completed since January 1, 2024;
4. Information requests issued since January 1, 2024; and
5. Administrative penalty orders that are still pending, i.e., have not been resolved through consent orders.

D. EPA Reports Required By Executive Order

The EPA and other federal agencies are required to report regularly on the actions they have taken to implement President Trump's various executive orders. We request copies of the reports or records itemized below, along with any records of the analyses that EPA relied upon to prepare them.

Executive Order 14156: The Clean Water Act authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the permitting of projects that may pollute wetlands or other waters during emergency situations that result in "...an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship..." (33 C.F.R. 325.2(e)). Executive Order (EO) 14156, "Declaring a National Energy Emergency," directs the EPA and other agencies to exercise this emergency permitting authority "...to the

fullest extent possible...to facilitate the Nation's energy supply"; to identify actual, planned or potential actions to implement this directive within 30 days (by February 19), and every thirty days thereafter to report on their status as well as any new opportunities to exercise this emergency authority.

Please provide a copy of:

1. all reports that EPA has prepared and submitted in response to EO 14156; and
2. any actual or potential actions to expedite permits pursuant to the emergency authority cited in EO 14156.

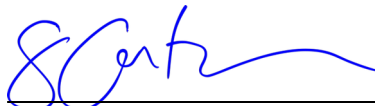
Executive Order 14154: EO 14154, "Unleashing American Energy," requires EPA and other Agencies to suspend, revise, or rescind "...all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, settlements, consent orders and any other actions..." that impose an undue burden on the "development and use" of fossil fuels, critical minerals, and other energy sources that do not include wind, solar power, or electric vehicles. Agencies must notify the Attorney General of any actions taken to implement this directive and within 30 days report to OMB as to whether reducing or eliminating enforcement could help to implement the President's policy goals.

Please provide a copy of any record of:

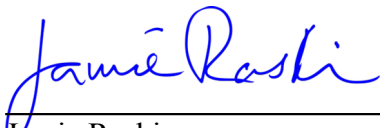
1. the EPA actions reported to the Attorney General under EO 14154;
2. any report or other document provided to OMB regarding the actual or potential exercise of its enforcement authority under EO 14154; and
3. for any federal law implemented in whole or in part by EPA, any records that interpret the specific statutory provisions that authorize the EPA to waive or modify otherwise applicable requirements.
4. any guidance, memoranda, or policy issued by EPA that establish or explain the criteria for determining when a regulation, order, guidance, policy, settlement, consent order or "any other action" will pose an "undue burden" on the development or use of fossil fuels or critical minerals.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have questions about the scope of this request or wish to discuss a schedule for response. Alternatively, your staff may contact Nikki Roy in my office (Nikki.Roy@mail.house.gov). Thank you for your attention to our request. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



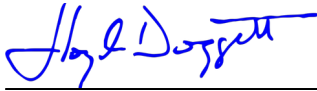
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



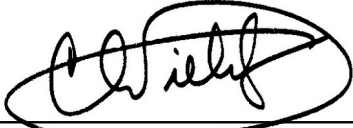
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



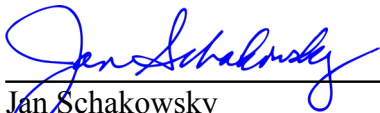
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



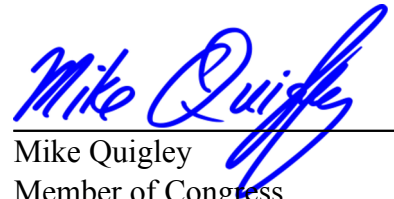
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



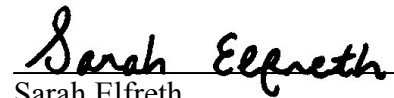
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress