

Water Words Dictionary—Appendix E–1

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

EPA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Agency's headquarters is in Washington, D.C. where overall planning, coordination, and control of EPA programs is conducted.

EPA OFFICES:

[1] ***Office of the Administrator (OA)***

The Administrator is responsible to the President for providing the overall supervision and direction of the agency. The Office of the Administrator is supported by a Deputy Administrator; and three Associate Administrators for Regional Operations and State/Local Relations, Communications, Education, and Public Affairs, and Congressional and Legislative Affairs. The Office of the Administrator is also composed of staff offices including: Administrative Law Judges, Civil Rights, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Science Advisory Board, Executive Support, Cooperative Environmental Management, Executive Secretariat, and the Pollution Prevention Planning Staff.

[2] ***Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM)***

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management has primary responsibility for policy and procedures governing resources management, human resources management, environmental health and safety, facilities management, administrative services, organization and management analysis, systems development, information management services, automated data processing systems, and procurement through contracts and grants. In performance of the above functions and responsibilities, the Assistant Administrator represents the Administrator in communications with the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Personnel Management, the General Accounting Office, the General Services Administration, the Department of Treasury, and other federal agencies prescribing requirements for the conduct of government budget, fiscal, management, and administrative activities.

[3] ***Office of Enforcement (OE)***

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for Enforcement serves as the primary advisor to the Administrator in matters concerning enforcement and provides the principal direction and review of civil enforcement activities for air, water, waste, pesticides, toxic substances, and radiation. The Office manages a national criminal enforcement program; ensures coordination of media office administrative compliance programs and civil/criminal enforcement activities; provides technical expertise for enforcement activities to headquarters, regions, and states through the National Enforcement Investigations Center; and manages the program for assuring compliance by federal facilities with all environmental implementing regulations.

[4] ***Office of General Counsel (OGC)***

The Office of General Counsel provides legal services to all of the organizational elements of the agency with respect to all programs and activities of the agency; provides legal opinions, legal counsel, and litigation support; and assists in the formulation and administration of the agency's policies and programs as legal advisor.

[5] ***Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation (OPPE)***

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning, and Evaluation serves as the agency's focal point for oversight and coordination of all policy, program guidance, and evaluation functions. The office is responsible for policy and economic analysis, regulatory management and evaluation, and strategic planning.

[6] ***Office of International Activities (OIA)***

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for International Activities performs the primary role in developing and maintaining a sophisticated understanding of the international political climate that will influence domestic and international consideration of environmental problems. The

office advised the administrator on the most appropriate timing, forum, and other modalities for dealing with international environmental issues, and exercises the lead responsibility within EPA for devising strategies to advance the U.S. position. The office manages meetings with representatives of other governments and multilateral organizations consistent with such strategies.

[7] **Office of Inspector General (OIG)**

The Office of Inspector General conducts audits and investigations relating to programs and operations of EPA; provides leadership and coordination; and recommends policies for agency activities to promote economy and efficiency, and to prevent and detect fraud and abuse. The Office informs agency senior management and the Congress of serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies relating to EPA programs and operations, and of the necessity for and progress of correction action.

[8] **Office of Water (OW)**

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for Water is responsible for the agency's water quality activities, which represent a coordinated effort to restore the nation's waters. The functions of this program include development of national programs, technical policies, and regulations relating to drinking water, water quality, and ground water; environmental and pollution sources standards development; wetlands protection; technical direction, support, and evaluation of regional water activities; enforcement of standards; development of technical assistance and technology transfer programs; provision of training in the field of water quality; economic and long-term environmental analysis; and marine/estuarine protection.

[9] **Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER)**

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response provides agencywide policy, guidance, and direction for the agency's solid waste and emergency response programs. The office is responsible for the development of guidelines and standards for the land disposal of hazardous wastes and for underground storage tanks; technical assistance in the development, management, and operation of solid waste management activities; analyses on the recovery of useful energy from solid waste; development and implementation of a program to respond to hazardous waste sites and spills; and the enforcement of applicable laws and regulations.

[10] **Office of Air and Radiation (OAR)**

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation is responsible for the air activities of the agency, which include development of national programs, technical policies, and regulation for air pollution control; development of national standards for air quality, emission standards for new stationary sources, and emission standards for hazardous pollutants; technical direction, support and evaluation of regional air activities; enforcement of standards; and provision of training in the field of air pollution control. Related activities include technical assistance to states and agencies having radiation protection programs, and a national surveillance and inspection program for measuring radiation levels in the environment.

[11] **Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS)**

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances is responsible for the development of national strategies for the control of toxic substances; criteria for assessing chemical substances; standards for test protocols for chemicals; rules and procedures for industry reporting and regulations for the control of substances deemed to be hazardous to man or the environment; enforcement of standards; and evaluating and assessing the impact of new chemicals and chemicals with new uses to determine the hazard and, if needed, develop appropriate restrictions. It coordinates activities on the assessment of control of toxic substances. Additional activities include control and regulation of pesticides and reduction in their use to assure human safety and protection of environment quality; establishment of tolerance levels for

pesticides which occur in or on food; monitoring of pesticides residue levels in food, humans, and nontarget fish and wildlife and their environments; investigation of pesticide accidents; and coordination of the agency pollution prevention program.

[12] **Office of Research and Development (ORD)**

The Office of the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development is responsible for the research and development needs of the agency's operating programs and the conduct of an integrated research and development program for the agency. The Assistant Administrator for Research and Development serves as the agency's principal science advisor and is responsible for the development, direction, and conduct of a national environmental research, development, and demonstration program in health risk assessment, health effects, engineering and technology, processes and effects, acid rain deposition, monitoring systems and policy, standards, and regulations. The office provides for dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge, including analytical methods, monitoring techniques, and modeling methodologies; and provides technical and scientific advice on agencywide technical program issues.

EPA REGIONAL OFFICES (Headquarters)—States/Areas Administered:

- [1] **EPA Region 1** (Boston, Massachusetts)—Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.
- [2] **EPA Region 2** (New York, New York)—New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.
- [3] **EPA Region 3** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)—Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia.
- [4] **EPA Region 4** (Atlanta, Georgia)—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.
- [5] **EPA Region 5** (Chicago, Illinois)—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin.
- [6] **EPA Region 6** (Dallas, Texas)—Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.
- [7] **EPA Region 7** (Kansas City, Kansas)—Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska.
- [8] **EPA Region 8** (Denver, Colorado)—Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming.
- [9] **EPA Region 9** (San Francisco, California)—Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, Trust Territories of the Pacific.
- [10] **EPA Region 10** (Seattle, Washington)—Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.

EPA FIELD OFFICES:

- [1] Environmental Research Centers
Las Vegas, Nevada
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
Cincinnati, Ohio
Corvallis, Oregon
- [2] Administration and Resources Management Offices
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
Cincinnati, Ohio
- [3] National Enforcement Investigations Center
Denver, Colorado

Source: **Access EPA**, Information Access Branch, Information Management and Services Division, Office of Information Resources Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington, D.C., 1992 Edition.