



RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
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EPA ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, met with stakeholders and federal employees on May 14th to provide an update on the implementation of the new EPA Lean Management System (ELMS) and announced EPA's new Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI) along with its director, Serena McIlwain. The Lean Management System is intended to track and measure key agency processes, such as permitting processes and monitoring of legal deadlines. It will also allow EPA to track progress regarding correction of environmental violations. The OCI is responsible for coordinating and implementation of ELMS throughout all of the agency.

Prior to the current administration, the EPA was not tracking or monitoring key actions in a systematic manner. EPA reports that this system will allow them to set ambitious and achievable targets and goals while at the same time measuring their results. ELMS uses regularly updated performance and work flow data to monitor progress toward major goals. EPA programs and regional offices hold regular reviews of their progress, the details of which are provided to the agency's Chief of Operations. Mr. Pruitt will then hold quarterly reviews to monitor overall progress being made on priority items.

The OCI plans to implement ELMS in 80% of the agency by September of 2020. Officials indicate that ELMS will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency while at the same time promoting employee engagement and accountability. ELMS has already been utilized at the agency to establish hundreds of metrics across EPA program and regional offices that are tracked monthly, and EPA staff have begun training regarding operation of the management system.

The new OCI Director, Serena McIlwain, has been an employee of the federal government for more than 25 years under both the legislative and executive branches. Serena was the Assistant Regional Administrator and Director of the Environmental Management Division at EPA Region 9 in San Francisco, CA. Before joining EPA in 2014, she served as the Chief Operating Officer at the Department of Energy's Fossil Energy department, providing management and operational support for scientists, engineers, technicians and administrative professionals.

We here at RT believe that implementation of this new management system will likely be a major challenge for EPA, however we do believe that improvement is needed in order to better track project progress and in meeting established deadlines. We also believe that more accountability in the federal government can only be a good thing.

*- Justin Lauterbach, QEP
Vice President*



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