



E. SCOTT PRUITT  
ADMINISTRATOR

**SUBJECT:** Strengthening and Improving Membership on EPA Federal Advisory Committees

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency relies on independent, expert advice from a variety of federal advisory committees to help inform sound decision-making and fulfill its core mission of protecting human health and the environment. Given the critical role these committees play, it is in the public interest to select the most qualified, knowledgeable, and experienced candidates. In order to strengthen and improve the independence, diversity and breadth of participation on EPA federal advisory committees, the Agency shall, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, apply the following principles and procedures when establishing the membership of such committees:

1. *Strengthen Member Independence:* Members shall be independent from EPA, which shall include a requirement that no member of an EPA federal advisory committee be currently in receipt of EPA grants, either as principal investigator or co-investigator, or in a position that otherwise would reap substantial direct benefit from an EPA grant. This principle shall not apply to state, tribal or local government agency recipients of EPA grants.
2. *Increase State, Tribal and Local Government Participation:* In the spirit of cooperative federalism and recognition of the unique experience of state, tribal and local government officials, committee balance should reflect prominent participation from state, tribal and local governments. Such participation should be appropriate for the committee's purpose and function.
3. *Enhance Geographic Diversity:* Given the range of environmental and public health considerations across the country, membership should be balanced with individuals from different states and EPA regions. Emphasis should be given to individuals from historically unrepresented or underrepresented states and regions.
4. *Promote Fresh Perspectives:* To encourage and promote the inclusion of new candidates with fresh perspectives and to avoid prolonged and continuous service, membership should be rotated regularly.

This directive is intended to improve the internal management of EPA and does not create a right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, EPA, its officers or employees, or any other person. Where appropriate or to be consistent with applicable law, I reserve the right to exercise my discretion to depart from the procedures set forth in this directive.

With these improvements to EPA's federal advisory committees, the Agency is taking another step to provide the public with a better, more effective government.

E. Scott Pruitt  
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