

## Data Quality Record for Long-Term Performance Goals

**Long-Term Performance Goal Text:** By September 30, 2026, implement 131 actions for scientific integrity objectives that are certified by Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials in each EPA program and region.<sup>1</sup>

**Corresponding Annual Performance Goal:** Number of actions implemented for EPA scientific integrity objectives.

**Goal Number/Objective:** Cross-Agency Strategy 1

**NPM Lead:** Office of Research and Development (ORD)

### 1a. Purpose of Long-Term Performance Goal:

The intent of this long-term performance goal (LTPG) is to encourage the full implementation of EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy<sup>2</sup> through increased visibility of scientific integrity at EPA, increased adoption, and modeling of scientific integrity through training, and the implementation of robust mechanisms that protect and maintain EPA's culture of scientific integrity.

Questions related to this long-term performance goal include:

- (1) Has each EPA Deputy Scientific Integrity Official (DSIO)<sup>3,4</sup> identified actions to meet the scientific integrity objectives?
- (2) Has each Deputy Scientific Integrity Official implemented actions to meet the scientific integrity objectives?
- (3) What is the plan to meet the LTPG?

Positive trend indicates actions are being taken across EPA that advance the implementation of the Agency's Scientific Integrity Policy. Deputy Scientific Integrity Official certification of completion of at least one action to meet scientific integrity objectives in FY 2023 and FY 2024 and increase activities to two actions annually during FY 2025 and FY 2026 to meet scientific integrity objectives by each Deputy Scientific Integrity Official will advance the implementation of the Agency's Scientific Integrity Policy overall.

### 1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:

Actions (to meet an objective): These are illustrative, but not exhaustive.

Scientific Integrity Objectives (that implement the EPA Scientific Integrity Policy):

- (1) Scientific integrity is highly visible at EPA.
- (2) All of EPA embraces and models scientific integrity.
- (3) Robust mechanisms protect and maintain EPA's culture of scientific integrity.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes five additional actions by the DSIO of EPA's new Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR).

<sup>2</sup> EPA Scientific Integrity Policy. <https://www.epa.gov/scientific-integrity/epas-scientific-integrity-policy>.

<sup>3</sup> List of EPA Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials. <https://www.epa.gov/scientific-integrity/scientific-integrity-epa#Scientific-integrity-committee>

<sup>4</sup> Multiple DSIOs within the Office of the Administrator may submit collective actions to meet the LTPG requirements.

- (Obj 1) Scientific integrity is highly visible at EPA.
  - Visibility campaigns to highlight one or more aspects of the Scientific Integrity Policy.
  - Office/regional scientific integrity leadership recognition award or activity.
  - Scientific integrity outreach events (annual townhalls, quarterly lunch and learns, newsletters, host guest speakers on scientific integrity topics).
  - Assistant Administrator/Regional Administrator mass mailer on scientific integrity.
- (Obj 2) All of EPA embraces and models scientific integrity.
  - 75% or greater attendance by employees who conduct, communicate, manage, or use science at annual scientific integrity training.
  - Delivery of scientific integrity refresher training for managers.
  - 100% completion of scientific integrity training for all new employees.
- (Obj 3) Robust mechanisms protect and maintain EPA's culture of scientific integrity.
  - Adoption of an electronic system for clearing scientific and technical products.
  - Adoption of Deputy Scientific Integrity Official office hours.
  - Adoption of office or regional science council or creation or strengthening community of practice.
  - Initiatives around quality assurance, accreditation, validation of methods, and other processes that protect scientific integrity.

Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials: Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials are members of the Scientific Integrity Committee representing each EPA program, office and region and provide leadership for the Agency on Scientific Integrity. As detailed in the Scientific Integrity Committee Charter<sup>5</sup> and the Scientific Integrity Policy, these senior-level employees provide oversight for the implementation of the Scientific Integrity Policy at the EPA, act as liaisons for their respective national programs and regions and are available to address any questions or concerns regarding the Scientific Integrity Policy.

**1c. Unit of Measure:**

The number of actions by each EPA Deputy Scientific Integrity Official that implement the Scientific Integrity Objectives.

**2a. Data Source:**

Each Deputy Scientific Integrity Official will develop a five-year plan for implementing the LTPG and submit to the EPA Scientific Integrity Official by the March 2022 Scientific Integrity Committee meeting.<sup>6</sup> The five-year plan will identify which actions will be completed in which fiscal year. Actions intended to be taken in the out years may be adjusted as needed and as experience dictates.

Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials will submit written reports semiannually to the EPA Scientific Integrity Official on progress or any adjustments to their plan.

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<sup>5</sup> EPA Scientific Integrity Committee Charter. <https://www.epa.gov/scientific-integrity/scientific-integrity-committee-charter>

<sup>6</sup>The OEJECR's DSIO will submit an implementation plan by January 2024.

Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials will describe actions in their annual scientific integrity certification via EPA's annual assurance submission in support of the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA).

The EPA Scientific Integrity Official will report the status of the LTPG during the agencywide annual meetings and document results in the scientific integrity annual reports.

**2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:**

No baseline available.

**3. Calculation Methodology:**

Each Deputy Scientific Integrity Official will manage and document their program office or regional actions that implement the Scientific Integrity Objectives and submit a written report on their status semiannually to the EPA Scientific Integrity Official.

**4. Quality Assurance/Quality Controls:**

The Scientific Integrity Committee will assess the quality of actions and suggest improvements as needed.

**5. Data Limitations/Qualifications:**

N/A

**6. Technical Contact:**

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Stacy Immerman (ORD), 240-385-7901

**7. Certification Statement/Signature:**

I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.

PDAA Signature Original signed by Maureen Gwinn Date 4/30/2024