E-ENTERPRISE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

ISSUE SUMMARY:

E-Enterprise for the Environment (E-Enterprise) is a collaborative partnership among government leaders from EPA, states, and Tribes. A valued, trusted, and successful forum where senior executives engage to identify strategic priorities and solve common issues together, E-Enterprise focuses on projects streamlining processes or optimizing IT systems that are key to environmental program implementation. The intent behind E-Enterprise is to encourage early and meaningful involvement by all parties, leading to shared solutions and efficient application and use of process and technology improvements.

UPCOMING MILESTONES:

In FY 2025, E-Enterprise will continue facilitating collaboration between EPA, states, and Tribes:

- Following the E-Enterprise Leadership Council (EELC) meeting [held in-person October 16-17 in Denver, CO]: OP2 will collaborate with EPA and state/Tribal (S/T) partners to complete action items identified by the EELC, such as, developing transition materials capturing EE's sustaining, value-added proposition. [The EELC relied upon an interactive agenda, coordinated with EPA Region 8/program offices and S/T members, including a dynamic visit to the National Wildlife Refuge at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and informative discussions on government use of Artificial Intelligence and several useful updates: e.g., OAQPS Unified Platform for Air Quality and Air Emissions Data, EPA's Climate Resilience and Adaptation Funding Toolbox, et al. In advance of this meeting, OP2 prepared briefing and presentation materials for and held discussions with the EELC EPA co-chair (Assistant Deputy Administrator), CFO, and senior/staff EPA EELC members.]
- Identify opportunities for streamlining and improving environmental program implementation in air, water, waste, and compliance/enforcement with EPA program offices and state and Tribal partners.

BACKGROUND:

- E-Enterprise was chartered in 2013. Through E-Enterprise, the EPA, state, and Tribal leaders identify and implement process improvement opportunities and data/systems technology updates to boost program efficiency and effectiveness protecting human health and the environment. Five decades of implementing federal environmental programs under multiple, different, media-focused statutes has led to overlapping and confusing lines of program responsibility and management among co-regulators. E-Enterprise co-regulatory partners are committed to improving and modernizing federal environmental programs.
- E-Enterprise is managed through collective conversations, negotiation, and direction-setting in which states, Tribes, and EPA identify and work together on priority activities. The E-Enterprise joint governance model drives transformative change across the national enterprise of environmental protection.
  - The EPA Deputy Administrator, a state agency executive, and a Tribal leader co-chair the E-Enterprise Leadership Council. As EPA's EELC co-chair, the Deputy Administrator (DA) underscores

EPA's commitment and helps to drive and define EPA's involvement. (Currently with the retirement of the EPA DA in October 2024, this position is being held by EPA Assistant Deputy Administrator, Mark Rupp.)

- The E-Enterprise partnership provides a structure and space for the EPA, states, and Tribes to share expertise, best practices, and case studies; identify priority issues; and build and test common solutions to process improvement and technology challenges.

STATE	TRIBAL	EPA
Jim Kenney State EELC Co-Chair New Mexico ED	**Jerry Cain** Tribal EELC Co-Chair Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Region 4 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC)	**Mark Rupp** EPA EELC Co-Chair, Acting U.S. EPA Assistant Deputy Administrator
Mike Keyack Arizona DEQ	**Marvin Cling** Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians Region 1 RTOC	**Faisal Amin** Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Jon Niermann Texas CEQ	**Shavonne Smith** Shinnecock Indian Nation Region 2 Indian Nations	**Benita Best-Wong** Office of Water
Todd Parfitt Wyoming DEQ	**Charlie Lippert** Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Region 5 RTOC	**Rafael DeLeon** Office of International and Tribal Affairs
Victoria Phillips Massachusetts DEP	**Christina Cooper** Comanche Nation Region 6 RTOC	**Vaughn Noga** Office of Mission Support
Myra Reece South Carolina DES	**Tim Grant** Omaha Tribe of Nebraska Region 7 RTOC	**Chris Robbins** Office of Research and Development
Phil Roos Michigan EGLE	**Gerald Wagner** Blackfeet Tribe Region 8 RTOC	**Cecil Rodrigues** Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Kristin Ryan Idaho DEQ	**Anne Turcotte** La Posta Band of Mission Indians Region 9 RTOC	**Betsy Shaw** Office of Air and Radiation
	Aaron Miles Nez Perce Tribe Region 10 RTOC	**Nigel Simon** Office of Land and Emergency Management
		Mark A. Smith Region 8

- E-Enterprise operates as a ready-made forum for EPA's National Program Offices and Regions to engage with state and Tribal partners to streamline program processes (e.g., reviewing/approving state and Tribal Quality Assurance Project Plans) and refine technical data reporting (e.g., reducing burden associated with air emissions reporting).
- E-Enterprise finalized the E-Enterprise Digital Strategy, initiated by the leadership of E-Enterprise to align the development of IT systems and manage data sharing. All environmental programs rely heavily on IT systems for collecting, managing, analyzing, and sharing information. As EPA, state, and Tribal IT systems near the end of their lifecycles, partners have the opportunity to make IT investments that are

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in sync with each other. Working together on IT systems and data allows the EPA, states, and Tribes to maximize the use of our collective resources.

KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

☐ Congress   ☐ Industry   ☒ States   ☒ Tribes   ☐ Media   ☐ Other Federal Agency
☐ NGO   ☒ Local Government   ☒ Other: ___Territories___

- States and Tribes have invested significant personnel, time, effort, and resources in E-Enterprise.
- An ECOS 2020 resolution and ongoing state officials' commitment to and participation in the EELC reaffirm the significance of E-Enterprise to our state partners.
- OMB has been supportive of E-Enterprise and its potential to further burden reduction and increase efficiency.
- Environmental associations such as ECOS, ASDWA, ACWA, NACAA, ASTSWMO, and ITEP are actively aware of and support their state and Tribal members – outside of the EELC forum.

MOVING FORWARD:

E-Enterprise will continue to provide a forum for state and Tribal partners to engage with EPA senior leaders, managers, and staff on program improvement. E-Enterprise has a Strategic Direction for 2024-26 focused on several priority areas: improving the grant process for grant recipients, advancing CROMERR application, addressing PFAS in an E-Enterprise developed tool that helps private well owners, et al.

E-Enterprise will continue to share information across partners and identify opportunities for EPA, states, and Tribes to work together to streamline and modernize environmental programs.

LEAD OFFICE/REGION: OCFO   OTHER KEY OFFICES/REGIONS: AO, OAR, OCIR, OCSPP, OECA, OITA, OLEM, OMS, ORD, OW, R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10