

Office of Water

IO Located in Washington, DC

The Office of Water (OW) ensures drinking water is safe, and restores and maintains oceans, watersheds, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities, and provide healthy habitat for fish, plants and wildlife. OW is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, portions of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Ocean Dumping Ban Act and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, the Shore Protection Act, the Marine Plastics Pollution Research and Control Act, the London Protocol and Ocean Dumping Convention, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the Polar Code, and several other statutes.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Office of Water works with the 10 EPA regional offices, other federal agencies, state and local governments, American Indian tribes, the regulated community, organized professional and interest groups, landowners and managers, and the public-at-large. OW provides guidance, specifies scientific methods and data collection requirements, performs oversight, and facilitates communication among those involved. Many states and tribes have been delegated authority to implement certain portions of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. OW helps the states and American Indian tribes to build capacity to implement and maintain those programs.

- Benita Best-Wong, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management (202) 566-1159
- FY 2024 Annual Appropriations resources: \$4.7 billion (\$389.7 million HQ and \$4.3 billion regions)
- FY 2024 Annual Appropriations FTE: 1,929.8 (600.9 HQ and 1,328.9 regions)
- FY 2024 IIJA Resources: \$10.1 billion (\$169.8 million HQ and \$9.97 billion regions)
- FY 2024 IIJA FTE: 288.7 (99.3 HQ and 189.4 regions)

Offices

The **Office of Water Immediate Office** serves as the National Program Lead and principal advisor to the Administrator and provides agencywide policy, guidance and direction on water quality, drinking water, groundwater, wetlands protection, marine and estuarine protection, and other water related programs. The Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management directs the Office of Program Analysis, Regulatory and Management support, the Chief of Staff, the Water Economics Center, the Communications Staff, Resource Management Staff and the Management and Operations Staff. Responsibilities and leadership of the immediate office include:

- National Water Program Leadership (policy, direction, priorities)
- EPA Region and Geographic Program Engagement and Coordination
- Partnership with states and tribes
- Research Collaboration (with the Office of Research and Development)
- Water Resource Security, Sustainability and Resilience
- Federal Leadership and Policy Alignment (coordination with other federal agencies)
- Surface, Groundwater and Source Water Protection

- Policy, regulations, economic analyses, audits and communications
- Budget, human resources, information technology and administrative operations
- Shared Accountability for Progress and Results – (systems and metrics)

Benita Best-Wong, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management

The **Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water (OGWDW)** together with states, tribes, and many partners, protects public health by ensuring safe drinking water and protecting ground water. The office has three divisions, the Standards and Risk Management Division, the Drinking Water Protection Division, and the Water Security Division. It oversees implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act, America's Water Infrastructure Act, and the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. OGWDW leads the following key topics.

- National Primary Drinking Water Standards
- Drinking Water Regulation Development and Review
- Drinking Water System Compliance Assistance
- Monitoring for Emerging Contaminants in Drinking Water
- Drinking Water Area-Wide Optimization Program
- Drinking State Revolving Funds
- Drinking Water Grants (e.g., America's Water Infrastructure Act and America's Water Infrastructure Act, Public Water System Supervision, Training and Technical Assistance)
- Drinking Water Data and Reporting
- Private Drinking Water Wells
- Source Water Protection
- Underground Injection Control
- Drinking Water Needs Survey
- Water System Security (including cybersecurity)
- Water System Resilience, and Preparedness
- Water Sector Emergency Response
- Water Sector Workforce
- Drinking Water System Technical Assistance
- Drinking Water in Tribal Communities
- Drinking Water Laboratory Certification and Methods

Jennifer McLain, Ph.D., Director

Yu-Ting Guilaran, Deputy Director

Office of Science and Technology (OST) collaborates with the Regions, partners with states and Tribes and works with stakeholders to develop the foundational elements of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. OST develops national aquatic and human health criteria, drinking water health advisories and biosolids risk assessments, policy and guidance for water quality standards and human health protection programs; performance standards to address water pollution from regulated entities, and develops, reviews and approves methods for the analysis of pollutants in water and wastewater. The office has three divisions: Engineering and Analysis Division, Standards and Health Protection Division, and Health and Ecological Criteria Division. OST leads the following key programs:

- Analytical Methods
- Aquatic Life Criteria Recommendations

- Biosolids Program
- Effluent Limitation Guidelines and Standards Program
- Fish and Beach Advisory Programs
- Human Health Criteria Recommendations (CWA)
- Human Health Effects to support National Primary Drinking Water Standards (SDWA)
- Numeric Nutrient Criteria Recommendations (includes National Harmful Algal Bloom Program)
- Water Reuse Program
- Water Quality Standards Program (States, Territories and Tribes)

Deborah G. Nagle, Director

Tanya Hodge Mottley, Deputy Director

Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) provides financial and technical assistance to states, tribes, communities, and regulated entities to protect human health and aquatic ecosystems, reduce flooding, and protect the nation's infrastructure investment. Two of the more important financial assistance programs in OWM include the Water Infrastructure and Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) program and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The WIFIA program is a federal loan and guarantee program that accelerates investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. The CWSRF program is a federal-state partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. OWM also supports the Clean Water Act by promoting effective and responsible water use, wastewater treatment, disposal and management and by encouraging the protection and restoration of watersheds. OWM has three divisions, the Water Infrastructure Division, the Water Permits Division, and WIFIA Management Division. OWM leads the following key projects or programs:

- Animal Feeding Operations
- CWSRF
- Clean Watersheds Needs Survey
- Combined Sewer Overflows and Sanitary Sewer Overflows
- Green Infrastructure
- Permits - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- Septic Systems (Onsite/Decentralized)
- Small, Rural, and Tribal Wastewater Systems
- Stormwater Management
- Sustainable Water Infrastructure
- U.S./Mexico Border Water Infrastructure
- Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center
- WIFIA
- Water Pollution Control (Section 106) Grants
- WaterSense Program

Andrew Sawyers, Ph.D., Director

Wynne Miller, Deputy Director

Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) is a leader in national efforts to protect and restore freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems. OWOW has two divisions, the **Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division** and the **Watershed Restoration, Assessment and Protection Division**. The office accomplishes its work by using sound science and implementing core Clean Water Act and other authorized programs in collaboration with states and tribes, as well as working with other federal agencies and partners to:

- Understand and communicate the quality of the nation's waters
- Plan for and fund restoration of impaired waters and protection of high-quality waters
- Protect, restore and preserve the aquatic environment from pollution
- Manage and monitor ocean dumping
- Facilitate monitoring and assessment of waters and watersheds
- Apply a watershed approach that prioritizes action to address stressors affecting waters in a geographic area

Brian Frazer, Director

Ann Ferrio, Deputy Director

Key topics and points of contact

- Drinking Water and Future Actions – Jennifer McLain
- Addressing PFAS and Emerging Contaminants in Water – Jennifer McLain, Deborah Nagle
- Addressing Lead in Drinking Water – Jennifer McLain
- Water Infrastructure and Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) – Andrew Sawyers
- Water and Wastewater Infrastructure – Andrew Sawyers, Jennifer McLain
- Addressing Nutrient Pollution – Brian Frazer, Andrew Sayers, Deborah Nagle, Jennifer McLain
- Drinking Water System Compliance and Assistance – Jennifer McLain
- Water Quality Standards – Deborah Nagle
- Biosolids – Deborah Nagle
- Water system security and resiliency – Jennifer McLain
- Water Reuse – Deborah Nagle
- WOTUS – Brian Frazer
- Infrastructure/Permit related Rulemakings & Actions – Brian Frazer
- BIL Implementation – Andrew Sawyers, Jennifer McLain
- Vessels – Brian Frazer
- Deepwater Horizon/NRDA/Restore Act – Brian Frazer
- Marine Litter – Brian Frazer
- USMCA/Border – Andrew Sawyers
- Tribal water quality issues – Deborah Nagle
- Water Workforce Initiative – Andrew Sawyers, Jennifer McLain