

ONS: EPA'S FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION OFFICE

Internal deliberative pre-decisional - FOR USE BY 2024 PRESIDENT-ELECT TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS ONLY

ISSUE SUMMARY:

The scope of Homeland Security and National Security have expanded greatly in the last several years and the interaction with the intelligence community (IC) and the sharing of intelligence has become critical to departments and agencies' emergency preparedness and national security support. The effective integration of intelligence, both domestic and foreign, with relevant information from federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial (FSLTT) partners is essential to protecting the nation. The intelligence community (IC) has worked to strengthen partnerships with FSLTT entities. Within the domestic enterprise, federal customers directly receive unique support from the IC based on their mission needs, often through a Federal Intelligence Coordination Office (FICO). The Office of National Security (ONS) serves as the FICO for EPA.

KEY POINTS:

- *Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) defines intelligence as information gathered within or outside the U.S. that involves threats to our nation, its people, property, or interests; development, proliferation, or use of weapons of mass destruction; and any other matter bearing on the U.S. national security. Intelligence can provide insights not available elsewhere that warn of potential threats and opportunities, assess probable outcomes of proposed policy options, provide leadership profiles on foreign officials, and inform official travelers of counterintelligence and security threats.*
- *The IC developed guidance regarding coordination between themselves and federal partner departments and agencies which are not traditional members of the intelligence community (also called non-Title 50 or NT-50 agencies), like EPA, as described in Intelligence Community Directive 404 "Executive Branch Intelligence Customers" (ICD-404). Outside of the IC, numerous federal departments or agencies have staff charged with intelligence-like functions. Per ICD 404, FICOs are offices within an individual executive branch department or agency that coordinate with the IC to support policy makers and other intelligence consumers within their organizations. Within EPA, ONS is responsible for coordinating analytic intelligence support capacity across the agency to meet EPA national security requirements and obligations, to include executive orders and statutory requirements. ONS also shares sensitive unclassified threat information and intelligence across the agency in support of each program office's mission space.*
- *The Associate Administrator of ONS serves as EPA's Federal Senior Intelligence Coordinator (FSIC), as stated in EPA Order 3230 "Intelligence Operations". A FSIC is the senior position within an individual executive branch department or agency that has been designated by the head of that organization upon request of the ODNI, to serve as the primary liaison between the respective department or agency and the IC. This includes coordinating requests from the IC for EPA assistance (e.g., evaluating a piece of intelligence or sensitive information from a scientific or technical perspective) or requests from EPA for IC assistance (e.g., threat reporting related to an EPA equity), as outlined in Executive Order 12333 "United States Intelligence Activities", as amended.*

ONGOING/UPCOMING REVIEWS FOR FY2024:

EPA's FICO serves as a bridge for all matters concerning intelligence and national security requirements where either the agency or intelligence community supports the other. The FSIC and other intelligence points of contact (ONS personnel) serve as the liaisons within EPA to execute those functions and requirements. Examples of FICO/FSIC functions performed by ONS include:

- *Coordinating EPA access to classified Sensitive Compartmented Information material through secure communications systems, provide clearance validation, and manage the ONS sensitive compartmented information facility (SCIF).*
- *Collaborating with other FSIC/FICOs and the ODNI on policy matters related to Executive Branch intelligence customers and national security issues.*
- *Coordinating intelligence reporting and requirements to support EPA’s mission-essential functions including:*
 - *Physical and cybersecurity for the water and wastewater sector wastewater sector, pursuant to EPA’s statutory Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) responsibilities.*
 - *Emerging threats related to artificial intelligence, biodefense and the bioeconomy, foreign terrorist organizations, domestic violent extremism and counterintelligence related to nation-state actors’ efforts to illicitly obtain EPA intellectual property.*
- *Providing EPA subject matter expertise to the IC to develop intelligence requirements and analysis where EPA equities are involved, such as chemical, biological, or radiological contamination and cleanup, environmental security, and water/wastewater critical infrastructure.*
- *Communicating intelligence policies, procedures, and requests to EPA.*
- *Representing EPA to IC agencies and intelligence-related interagency working group.*

KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

☐ Congress
 ☒ Industry
 ☒ States
 ☒ Tribes
 ☐ Media
 ☒ Other Federal Agency
☒ NGO
☒ Other Critical Infrastructure – Water and Wastewater Sector & Chemical Sector

ONS actively manages/participates in a large and diverse network of stakeholders across the interagency.

MOVING FORWARD:

- *Implementing EPA’s National Security Threat Mitigation Program to protect EPA employees, programs, research and intellectual property, including the development of new and revised executive orders.*
- *Implementing the next phase of the EPA’s Classified Information Management Protocol (CIMP) to enhance and streamline intelligence communication within and among EPA regions, headquarters, and the IC.*
- *Developing EPA’s Intelligence Coordinating Network (ICN), comprised of subject matter experts and intelligence consumers from program offices and regions to enhance the internal/external exchange of intelligence information at EPA.*