UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

November 21, 2017

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Formalizing the Agency Committee to Coordinate EPA Efforts Addressing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

FROM: Michael P. Flynn
Acting Deputy Administrator

TO: General Counsel
Assistant Administrators
Inspector General
Chief Financial Officer
Chief of Staff
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators
Deputy Assistant Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination is of increasing concern in multiple locations across the United States. PFAS are widely dispersed and persistent environmental pollutants that are easily absorbed by living organisms. There is toxicological evidence that some PFAS have adverse reproductive, developmental and immunological effects. Agency regional, program and research offices have increased their activity to be responsive to these concerns. A committee of senior managers from across the agency has been meeting regularly to discuss and address PFAS-related issues. They have identified four goals that they are focusing on:

1. Addressing public concerns and informing risk mitigation by filling data gaps related to human health toxicity;
2. Establishing validated methods for measuring the amount of PFAS in different environmental media and for biomonitoring;
3. Reducing PFAS exposures by limiting production of potentially hazardous PFAS and by assisting states and federal partners in the remediation of environmental media; and
4. Improving risk communication efforts to ensure the accurate and timely communication of information to the public and other partners (e.g. local governments, tribes, industry).

This cross-agency group is being formally designated the PFAS Cross-Agency Coordinating Committee. The committee's main duties will be to identify the agency's PFAS priorities and deliverables and to coordinate projects and activities to address these priorities. Committee members will continue to include senior managers from the regions, Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Office of Research and Development, Office of Water, Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and the Administrator's office. The committee will be co-chaired by the Office of Research and Development and the Office of Water. The CACC currently has four work groups: human health toxicity, analytical method development, data validation and communications.

I request your support for this committee and its working groups so that the agency can continue to work to effectively and efficiently address high-priority PFAS contamination issues.

cc: Administrator