Message

From: Levine, MaryEllen [levine.maryellen@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/12/2021 1:44:51 PM
To: Packard, Elise [Packard.Elise@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Tuesday Morning Musings

Thank you for your wonderful note this morning. I have been thinking about finding the civil servants' oath I took in 1988 when I joined EPA and saying it out load again to fortify my resolve.

So much work to do.

- *Mary Ellen*

Mary Ellen Levine
Assistant General Counsel
Water Law Office, Office of General Counsel
7510 C WJC North
(202) 564-1345

From: Packard, Elise <Packard.Elise@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 8:30 AM
To: OGC ALL USERS <OGC_ALL_USERS@epa.gov>; OGC RCs and DRCs <OGC_RCs_and_DRCs@epa.gov>
Subject: Tuesday Morning Musings

I can't start my musings this week without expressing my horror at the attack on the Capitol and our democracy. The images of a mob breaking into our Capitol and desecrating our civic spaces will forever be etched in our collective memories, an historic moment not to be honored but to be remembered and learned from. An example of what can be if we do not work together to protect and nourish our democratic norms. The image of the confederate flag in the rotunda continues to play in my mind, and the stark contrast to the response to the demonstrations in June, after the killing of George Floyd and others, resonates and serves as a call to renew our commitment to an anti-racist society. I was proud that after the Capitol was secured, our Congress worked through the night to ensure that the certification of Joe Biden's election as the next President of the United States was completed. Duty to the Constitution and Service to the American people prevailed. It is the same duty and service that I have experienced from all of you every day I have had the privilege to work with you, and it is my hope that it is that duty and service that will move this country forward, away from anarchy and mob violence, and towards a collective experience of dignity, equality, and community. We know that folks continue to process that experience (especially those who live near the Capitol and have altered their lifestyle to deal with this new reality); please reach out to the Front Office and the ADDs if we can help in anyway.

It is odd to go from the existential nature of grappling with that reality, to the more mundane aspects of an office, but that is the nature of musings. I am pleased to announce that, at the request of some staff during office hours, I have worked with OMS to get guidance on attaching our Government issued computers to any home printers we might wish to use. The guidance is attached. OMS is not equipped to provide tech support for this, it is purely in response to requests from staff who, as a matter of personal choice, want to use their home printers. Please remember to safeguard and manage your paper records in the same manner you handle electronic records, as federal records can be created in any form or format. There are additional requirements to keep in mind if you are printing documents that relate to a matter that is the subject of a litigation hold or responsive to an open FOIA request, so remember to print with care.

Inauguration Day, Wednesday January 20, is a holiday for some EPA employees. Employees who normally report to the DMV area, including those who are teleworking due to COVID-19, will receive the benefit of the additional holiday if the following conditions apply to them:

- The employee's official worksite is located in the inauguration area.
- But for the COVID-19 National Emergency, the employee would be scheduled to work at the official worksite at least two days per biweekly pay period.
- The employee's telework location on January 20 is one from which the employee regularly commuted to the employee's official worksite prior to the COVID-19 emergency or is within a realistic commuting distance from the official worksite (generally no more than 2.5 hours commuting time or 125 miles in distance).

REMINDER – Today is the Awards Ceremony – come help celebrate the remarkable achievements of your colleagues.

As we finish one administration and prepare for a new one, Jim and I are so proud to help lead the remarkable staff of OGC who have dedicated their careers to creating a civil service, whose duty is to ensure continuity for the American people, and on whose skill and expertise elected representatives rely to execute the policy for which the electorate has voted.

Thanks for everything you do.

Elise

Elise B. Packard
Deputy General Counsel for Operations
U.S. EPA Office of General Counsel, Rm. 4020A
(202) 564-7729