To: Robbins, Chris[Robbins.Chris@epa.gov]
From: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer
Sent: Tue 1/31/2017 12:58:36 PM
Subject: RE: Message from the Senior White House Advisor

See also power post page in today's Washington post

http://wapo.st/2kgHsOk

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, PhD

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From: Robbins, Chris
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:34 AM
To: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Kavlock, Robert <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>; Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Message from the Senior White House Advisor

Hi Jennifer,

Regarding not being able to validate or reject items in the preceding paragraph, one example might be Myron Ebell recommending the EPA staff be significantly reduced – as you know, Myron led the EPA Transition team and has since left and did not make that statement while he was here as far as I know. Validate or reject could also refer to the Heritage Foundation report that has been delivered to the White House that has several recommendations related to EPA (and other agencies as well) There is a short piece on Ebell in today's Bulletin intelligence briefing that references his thoughts on our workforce. The part about no final decisions might also be a more general statement about deciding on resource levels for FY 2017 and FY 2018 which is happening at every agency right now. I expect those plans will become more clear over the next few weeks/months…hope that helps…

Chris Robbins

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From: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:26 AM
To: Kavlock, Robert <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>; Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Robbins, Chris <Robbins.Chris@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Message from the Senior White House Advisor

As an fyi, questions coming in about what is meant by highlighted statement below….

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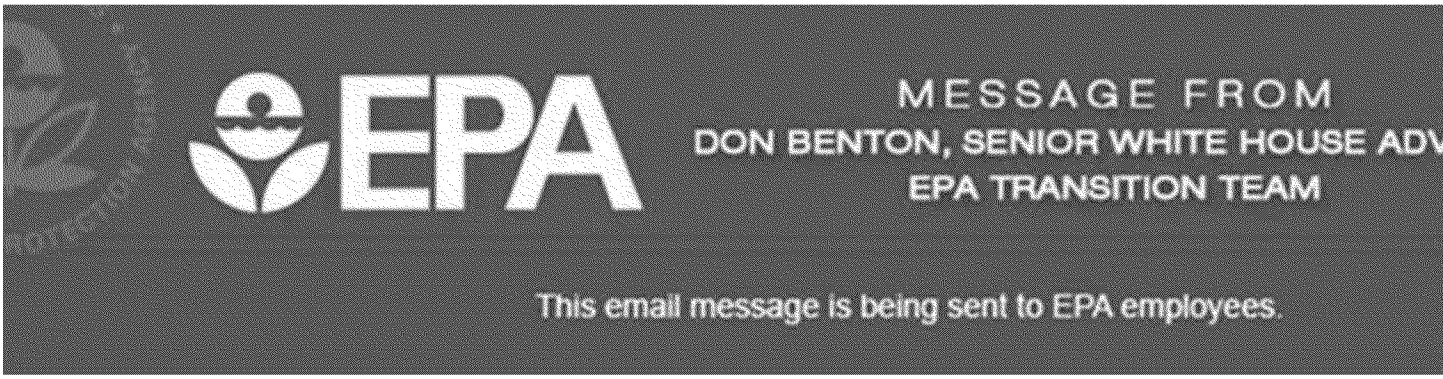
From: MassMailer
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:58 PM
To: MassMailer <massmailer@epa.gov>
Subject: Message from the Senior White House Advisor



After one week on the job leading the transition team, I would like to say thank you to the many career professionals here at the EPA who have been working with me, White House Liaison Charles Munoz, and the transition team. I have served many roles in my life in both the private sector and in government. I want the EPA team to know that the people I have worked with here are among the best I have ever had the opportunity to work with.

We all know that political transitions are never easy. Carter to Reagan in 1981, Bush to Clinton in 1993, Clinton to Bush, and then Bush to Obama have all been unique and possessed their own challenges. We are now working our way through the transition from President Obama to President Trump.

Due to the important nature of the work that is done here at EPA, we are falling under a greater media microscope than most agencies.

I, like many of you, am surprised each morning by what I read in the newspaper and see on TV

news shows, because much of what we see is just not accurate.

In addition, many news outlets are quoting individuals who are no longer serving on the EPA transition team. I am not able to validate or reject the statements made by these individuals, since I am not directly working with them, and I have not seen many of the documents referenced in the stories.

I cannot tell you today what the final decisions from the White House, from our new Administrator, and from the Congress will be. I can tell you that despite what you read and see on TV, no final decisions have been made with regard to the EPA.

Changes will likely come, and when they do, we will work together to implement them.

One thing I am certain of is that the transition team is committed to working with you to carry out the core mission of the EPA – To Protect Human Health and the Environment.

Don Benton

Senior White House Advisor