Message

**From**: stepp.cathy@epa.gov [stepp.cathy@epa.gov]
**Sent**: 4/23/2019 4:10:05 PM
**To**: Thiede, Kurt [thiede.kurt@epa.gov]; Newton, Cheryl [Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov]
**Subject**: Fwd: recent posting and recent hire

I have no objection to extending. Thoughts?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Cantello, Nicole" <cantello.nicole@epa.gov>
> **Date:** April 22, 2019 at 4:07:49 PM CDT
> **To:** "Stepp, Cathy" <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** "Johnson, Gaila" <johnson.gaila@epa.gov>
> **Subject: recent posting and recent hire**
>
> Dear Cathy:
>
> I was dismayed to see the posting of this very sought after GS-14 position for 5 working days over the holiday weekend of Passover and Easter.
>
> https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/530871300
>
> I also note that the qualifications needed for this position bear a striking resemblance to the qualifications of the recent hire in your office, below.
>
> I ask that you extend the time allowed for the submission of applications for this position.
>
> Thanks very much for your consideration.
>
> Best,
>
> Nicole
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Stepp, Cathy
> **Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019 12:58 PM
> **Subject:** Region 5 Announcements and Staffing Update
>
> Greetings Region 5 Colleagues,
>
> Today I am excited to provide some leadership and hiring updates.
>
> **Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division**
>
> First, I am pleased to announce that **George Schupp** has agreed to be the acting LSASD Director. George began working at EPA in 1987 in the QA Office of the old ESD. He gained experience performing tasks assigned to the centralized QA program until 1990. He became the QA Section Chief at that time. When the region reorganized in 1995, he took on the responsibility of the regional QA Manager. In 1998 he returned from R6 after a short assignment as a SDWA lab certification officer. He landed in the lab as the QA officer and then Deputy Director in 2001. In 2017, George became the lab director. George's

experience working in and managing a centralized QA program will be essential as we transition from the Chicago Regional Laboratory to the new Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division!

**Office of the Regional Administrator/Office of External Communications**

Secondly, I'd like you to join me in welcoming **Alexander Girard**, Region 5's new Senior Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations Liaison. Alex will be working in Jeff Kelley's shop with the Intergovernmental Affairs Team to help coordinate with Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) in HQ, and build productive relationships with Congressional and State elected officials in Region 5. Alex will be starting on April 22nd.

Alex joins U.S. EPA Region 5 from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection as the Federal Liaison and a Legislative Advisor in the Office of the Secretary. In these roles he worked to enhance key relationships with stakeholders, elected officials, and intergovernmental partners. Through these experiences, he helped shape state and federal agricultural policy, conservation practices, and rural development issues impacting the state and local rural communities. Alex has extensive experience at the State and Federal level working on natural resources and environmental issues. Through his roles in state and federal government, he has been involved in critical policy concerning nonpoint source agricultural runoff, livestock facility siting, and water resource management.

Alex is originally from Hudson, Wisconsin. He graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay with a triple major and is pursuing a master's degree from the George Washington University. Please join us in welcoming Alex to our Region 5 team!

**Recruitment Updates**

In addition to the recruitments approved in early December, 25 more external and internal job opportunities have been approved. In total, these approvals will help us better manage our expected attrition this year, while also allowing some post-realignment internal movement. For more information about Region 5 recruitments, details, temporary promotions, and reassignment opportunities, please continue to monitor USAJobs, TalentHub, and Skills Market Place.

Sincerely,

Cathy