

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 64

To provide for the establishment of the position of Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Mr. EHLERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the position of Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS.**

4 (a) DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR SCIENCE AND
5 TECHNOLOGY.—

6 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The President shall ap-
7 point, by and with the advice and consent of the
8 Senate, a Deputy Administrator for Science and
9 Technology of the Environmental Protection Agency.

1 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Deputy Adminis-
2 trator for Science and Technology shall have overall
3 responsibility for the scientific and technical founda-
4 tion of Environmental Protection Agency decisions,
5 including being responsible for—

6 (A) identifying and defining the important
7 scientific issues facing the Environmental Pro-
8 tection Agency, including those embedded in
9 major policy or regulatory proposals;

10 (B) developing and overseeing an inte-
11 grated agencywide strategy for acquiring, dis-
12 seminating, and applying information;

13 (C) ensuring that the complex scientific
14 outreach and communication needs of the Envi-
15 ronmental Protection Agency are met, including
16 the need to reach throughout the Agency for
17 credible science in support of the regulatory of-
18 fices, regions, and Agency-wide policy delibera-
19 tions, as well as the need to reach out to the
20 broader domestic and international scientific
21 community for scientific knowledge that is rel-
22 evant to an Agency policy or regulatory issue;

23 (D) coordinating and overseeing scientific
24 quality assurance and peer review practices

1 throughout the Environmental Protection Agen-
2 cy; and

3 (E) developing processes to ensure that ap-
4 propriate scientific information is used in deci-
5 sionmaking throughout the Environmental Pro-
6 tection Agency, and ensuring that the scientific
7 and technical information underlying each Envi-
8 ronmental Protection Agency regulatory deci-
9 sion is valid, appropriately characterized in
10 terms of scientific uncertainty and cross-media
11 issues, and appropriately applied.

12 (3) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed
13 under paragraph (1) shall have an outstanding tech-
14 nical background, including research accomplish-
15 ments, scientific reputation, and experience in public
16 forums.

17 (4) CONSULTATION.—Before appointing an in-
18 dividual under paragraph (1), the President shall
19 consult with the National Academy of Sciences, the
20 National Academy of Engineering, the Science Advi-
21 sory Board of the Environmental Protection Agency,
22 and other appropriate scientific organizations.

23 (5) COMPENSATION.—The Deputy Adminis-
24 trator for Science and Technology shall be com-
25 pensated at the rate provided for level III of the Ex-

1 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed
2 under subsection (a) shall have an outstanding technical
3 background, including research accomplishments, sci-
4 entific reputation, and experience in leading a research
5 and development organization.

6 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING OTHER ACTIVI-**
7 **TIES OF OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVEL-**
8 **OPMENT.**

9 It is the sense of Congress that—

10 (1) the Office of Research and Development
11 should—

12 (A) make a concerted effort to give re-
13 search managers of the Office a high degree of
14 flexibility and accountability, including empow-
15 ering the research managers to make decisions
16 at the lowest appropriate management level
17 consistent with the policy of the Environmental
18 Protection Agency and the strategic goals and
19 budget priorities of the Office;

20 (B) maintain approximately an even bal-
21 ance between core research and problem-driven
22 research;

23 (C) develop and implement a structured
24 strategy for encouraging, and acquiring and ap-
25 plying the results of, research conducted or

1 sponsored by other Federal and State agencies,
2 universities, and industry, both in the United
3 States and in foreign countries; and

4 (D) substantially improve the documenta-
5 tion and transparency of the decisionmaking
6 processes of the Office for—

7 (i) establishing research and tech-
8 nical-assistance priorities;

9 (ii) making intramural and extra-
10 mural assignments; and

11 (iii) allocating funds; and

12 (2) the Administrator of the Environmental
13 Protection Agency should—

14 (A) substantially increase the efforts of the
15 Agency—

16 (i) to disseminate actively the research
17 products and ongoing projects of the Office
18 of Research and Development;

19 (ii) to explain the significance of the
20 research products and projects; and

21 (iii) to assist other persons and enti-
22 ties inside and outside the Agency in ap-
23 plying the results of the research products
24 and projects;

1 (B)(i) direct the Deputy Administrator for
2 Science and Technology to expand on the
3 science inventory of the Agency by conducting,
4 documenting, and publishing a more com-
5 prehensive and detailed inventory of all sci-
6 entific activities conducted by Agency units out-
7 side the Office, which inventory should include
8 information such as—

9 (I) project goals, milestones, and
10 schedules;

11 (II) principal investigators and project
12 managers; and

13 (III) allocations of staff and financial
14 resources; and

15 (ii) use the results of the inventory to en-
16 sure that activities described in clause (i) are
17 properly coordinated through the Agency-wide
18 science planning and budgeting process and are
19 appropriately peer reviewed; and

20 (C) change the peer-review policy of the
21 Agency to more strictly separate the manage-
22 ment of the development of a work product
23 from the management of the peer review of that
24 work product, thereby ensuring greater inde-
25 pendence of peer reviews from the control of

1 program managers, or the potential appearance
2 of control by program managers, throughout
3 the Agency.

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