



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Timeline of Attacks

- **January 28, 2025:** EPA employees received Elon Musk's "Fork in the Road" email offering deferred resignations.
- **January 29, 2025:** More than 1,100 EPA employees received an emailed notice that they could be terminated immediately due to their probationary status.
- **February 4, 2025:** DOGE agent Gautier Cole Killian was listed on the EPA's directory as a "Federal Detailee."
- **February 5, 2025:** EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin's public calendar listed a meeting with DOGE staffers.
- **February 6, 2025:** The EPA placed 168 employees on leave at the Office of Environmental Justice. The office was focused on the disproportionate impact of pollution on minority, low-income, and rural communities.
- **February 6, 2025:** Congressional Democrats were denied entry to the EPA headquarters while trying to meet with the DOGE staffers at the agency.
- **February 12, 2025:** DOGE agents were granted read-only access to the EPA's Acquisition System. The system houses information regarding the agency's spending, including sensitive personal information such as employee names, ID numbers, and the tax IDs of government contractors.
- **February 14, 2025:** Hundreds of EPA employees were informed via email that they were being fired. Just five days later, the EPA then emailed a portion of the terminated employees to inform them that the firing had been rescinded. The EPA told *Business Insider* that a total of 388 probationary employees were terminated.
- **February 26, 2025:** During a cabinet meeting, President Trump lauded a plan from Administrator Zeldin to cut 65% of the EPA's staff. The White House later corrected his comments to claim Zeldin's plan would cut 65% of EPA spending, not staff.
- **March 5, 2025:** DOGE announced the cancellation of seven leases for EPA offices across the country.
- **March 7, 2025:** The EPA issued guidance mandating that any spending originating from the agency greater than \$50,000 must be approved by DOGE staff at the agency.
- **March 12, 2025:** The EPA eliminated a host of offices focused on diversity efforts and environmental justice, including the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, the Environmental Justice Division, and the Office of Inclusive Excellence. 171 staffers were placed on administrative leave as a result.
- **March 14, 2025:** DOGE added three more EPA offices to its list of cancelled leases.
- **July 18, 2025:** The EPA announced it was eliminating the Office of Research and Development, which analyzed a range of environmental hazards and pollutants to



undergird EPA's decision making. The agency also announced plans to reduce staff level by 3,700 employees.

- **November 14, 2025:** 2,620 employees accepted the EPA's deferred resignation offer.

Impacts on Capacity

DOGE's early focus at the EPA targeted offices working on addressing the disproportionate impacts that pollution and environmental disasters have on low income and minority communities. The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, Environmental Justice Divisions within regional offices, and the Office of Inclusive Excellence were all completely eliminated.

Furthermore, the Office of Research and Development was shut down, decimating the agency's scientific research capacity. The EPA said it would replace the Office of Research and Development with the Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions, but the agency plans also put over 1,100 scientists at risk of layoffs. In all, the agency staff levels were reduced by over 6,000 employees between reduction in force efforts and deferred resignations.

Material Harms

Grant cancellations from DOGE and Administrator Zeldin affected so many communities and environmental efforts across the country that it is impossible to name them all here. By late April, the agency had already identified nearly 800 grants for cancellation. They canceled \$2 million in grants that would have funded water testing kits and filters, among other efforts, in the Pittsburgh area; \$20 million for improved water quality and removal of pollutants from local watersheds in Brunswick County North Carolina; \$250 million to fund solar energy infrastructure in Texas. The list goes on and on.

As a result, the country will not be able to transition to clean energy in the near future. Communities will be needlessly subjected to increased amounts of polluted air and water and must contend with the poor health outcomes that will inevitably follow.

FedScoop also spoke with scientists across the country about work that has now ceased due to canceled grants, including \$1.5 million at Texas A&M to develop new ways to quickly assess the environmental lifecycles of chemicals and \$2.5 million at Texas Tech to study the impact of chemicals from fireworks on drinking water, among others. For more on the harm caused by DOGE's efforts at EPA, see these resources from the National Resources Defense Council detailing the \$29 billion in frozen or cancelled EPA grants.

The Revolving Door Project has also maintained a tracker of environmental harms caused by Trump administration actions.



Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- Gautier Cole Killian
- Kathryn Loving
- Erica Jehling