

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 8, 2025:** Acting Administrator of NASA Janet Petro sent an email to agency staff [directing](#) them to take “some inspiration from the spirit of the ‘Department of Government Efficiency’ and “maximize efficiencies.”
 - Petro also told staff of recent agency-wide changes that [reflected](#) DOGE and the White House’s wishes, including the removal of pronouns from employee display names, forcing employees to work in-person, and deferred resignation offers.
- **February 13, 2025:** Acting Administrator Petro [confirmed](#) that DOGE would soon be arriving at the agency to review its payments. Petro also told reporters that hundreds of NASA employees had accepted buyouts from DOGE.
- **February 18, 2025:** ABC News [reported](#) that NASA had laid off 10% of its workforce to comply with Office of Personnel Management (OPM) guidelines.
- **February 20, 2025:** NASA [reached](#) a deal with OPM that separations of probationary employees would be “performance-based or voluntary.” NASA also confirmed that roughly 5% of its work force, or around 900 employees, accepted DOGE’s deferred resignation offer.
- **March 10, 2025:** In a memo obtained by [USA Today](#), NASA announced it would be closing the Office of Technology, Policy and Strategy, the Office of the Chief Scientist, and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility arm of the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.
- **March 18, 2025:** NASA [announced](#) the formation of a “Tiger Team” to meet with DOGE staff to identify areas for layoffs and spending cuts.
- **March 21, 2025:** NASA [introduced](#) a “weekly accomplishments app” to facilitate employee compliance with DOGE’s requirement that federal employees submit a report of five things they accomplished each week.
- **March 25, 2025:** DOGE [announced](#) the termination of \$420 million in contracts from NASA, claiming they ended \$45 million contracts to three unnamed consultants for “Change Management Support Services.”
- **April 7, 2025:** Acting Administrator Petro [announced](#) the agency may consolidate regional offices, which could force hundreds or thousands of employees to relocate. (As of this writing, NASA has not carried out the significant consolidation floated by Petro.)
- **April 14, 2025:** DOGE [pressured](#) the Astrogeology Science Center, an Interior Department office that aids NASA with moon landings and Mars probes, to cut employment by 20%, with further departures expected from early retirements and resignations.

- **April 24, 2025:** NASA [announced](#) the cancellation of its lease for the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, a New York City lab that works with Columbia University to conduct climate and space studies.
- **July 26, 2025:** NASA [announced](#) that nearly 4,000 employees had accepted DOGE's deferred resignation offer, representing a 20% reduction in the agency's total workforces.
- **December 31, 2025:** NASA [closed](#) the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center library, which held tens of thousands of books and resources. NASA's spokesperson said the library's contents would be moved to a government warehouse or thrown away.
- **March 4, 2026:** In a reversal of the past year's cuts, NASA and OPM [announced](#) the agency was planning to hire engineers and technical experts.

Impacts on Capacity

According to the latest data from OPM, NASA has lost over 4,000 employees since the start of the Trump administration. As with their other incursions, DOGE targeted NASA's offices dedicated to increasing diversity at the agency, reducing staff at the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity and eliminating its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) arm.

The staff cuts also led to the departure of top scientists and experts, notably through the closure of the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Office of Technology, Policy and Strategy. The Office of the Chief Scientist was a six person team that gave scientific advice to the administrator—currently billionaire entrepreneur Jared Isaacman. Speaking to the [New Yorker](#) at the time of the cuts, a senior NASA official described the resulting loss of institutional knowledge saying, “you don't even know you have until you need it, and you can only learn it by watching others.”

Material Harms

The closure of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) lab could have long term impacts on the reliability of climate information, as it [served](#) as a top lab globally in climate change data and forecasting. While its employees continue to work remotely, the administration has devised other schemes to impede the lab and the agency's mission, specifically ignoring various grant proposals [in service](#) of the President's proposed budget, rather than congressional appropriations.

According to former GISS research scientist Kate Marvel, [many](#) of her proposals “disappeared into a black hole.” In an [op-ed](#) for the *New York Times*, Marvel described the culture from agency leadership as focusing on trips to the moon and Mars, while earth science research was treated as “an afterthought.”

This pivot away from climate and earth science was also evident in the administration's decision to cut off support for the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (IPCC). The US [chose](#) to not send State Department officials to the meeting held in China in February 2025 while simultaneously cancelling a NASA contract to fund a technical support group for the panel.

Even while the administration claimed these cuts were necessary to focus on missions to reach the moon and Mars, [experts say](#) the administration's insistence on cutting funding for NASA's scientific research—including a proposed 46% cut for Fiscal Year 2027 as part of a 23% agency-wide reduction—will undermine these goals as well.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Kate Calvin:** Chief scientist and climate science expert forced out of the agency when DOGE closed the Office of the Chief Scientist.
- **Kate Marvel:** Research scientist at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies who [resigned](#) in April 2026 citing the “budget cuts, chaos, and political intervention” that threatened the agency's mission.

DOGE Agents

- **Riley Sennott**