



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Environment and Natural Resources Division

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: ENRD Section Chiefs and Deputy Section Chiefs

FROM: Adam R.F. Gustafson, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General 

SUBJECT: Reinstatement of Enforcement Principles and Priorities

DATE: February 21, 2025

The Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) plays a critical role in the Department of Justice's civil and criminal enforcement of our nation's laws. The President and Attorney General Bondi have emphasized that the Department's law enforcement role must be pursued with integrity, consistency, and fairness. As ENRD carries out its vital mission of enforcing our nation's environmental laws to protect clean air, clean water, and clean land for all Americans, it is necessary to renew our commitment to evenhanded enforcement principles and the rule of law.

To this end, on February 5, 2025, Attorney General Bondi issued memoranda directing the Department to:

- Restore integrity and credibility to the Justice Department's exercise of civil and criminal enforcement authority;
- Ensure that the Department's general charging, plea bargaining, and sentencing policies are fair, consistent, and promote respect for the legal system and rule of law;
- Prohibit settlements that require improper payments to third parties;
- Terminate environmental justice programs; and
- End discriminatory DEI practices.

To implement Attorney General Bondi's orders and to ensure that ENRD's enforcement resources are directed appropriately and fairly, I am rescinding, effective immediately, the following Deputy Assistant Attorney General Memorandum:

1. *Withdrawal of Memoranda and Policy Documents*, February 4, 2021;

And I am reinstating, effective immediately, the following Assistant Attorney General Memoranda that will guide ENRD's civil and criminal enforcement priorities and practices:

1. *Enforcement Principles and Priorities*, January 14, 2021; and
2. *Additional Recommendations on Enforcement Discretion*, January 14, 2021.

Reinstatement of the polices and principles embodied in these Memoranda will promote impartiality in civil and criminal enforcement actions while advancing accountability and transparency.