



U.S. Department of Justice

Environment and Natural Resources
Division


Office of the Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone (202) 514-2701
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February 7, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Employees of the Environment and Natural Resources Division

From: Lisa L. Russell 
Supervisory Official
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Re: Withdrawal of Plan and Policy Documents

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Orders (EOs) entitled *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*, and *Recissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*. On January 21, the President issued an EO entitled *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*.

The *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* EO requires each agency or department, within 60 days, to:

terminate, to the maximum extent allowed by law, all DEI, DEIA, and “environmental justice” offices and positions (including but not limited to “Chief Diversity Officer” positions); all “equity action plans,” “equity” actions, initiatives, or programs, “equity-related” grants or contracts; and all DEI or DEIA performance requirements for employees, contractors, or grantees.

The *Recissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions* EO repeals, among other Executive Documents, EO 14035 (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce). The EO entitled *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity* revoked EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*.

On January 23, 2025, I directed the withdrawal of:

1. All final or pending Division or Section environmental justice plans, guidance, and policies;
2. The ENRD DEIA Implementation Plan;
3. All final or pending documents, directives, orders, materials, and equity plans issued by the Division or a Section in response to now-repealed Executive Order 14035;
4. The Division's 2024 Language Access Plan; and
5. Any other final or pending Division or Section policy or guidance, not specified above, that implements DEI, DEIA, or environmental justice policies.

I further directed the termination of any actions, programs, or activities conducted in furtherance of the now-withdrawn Division and Section policies.

On February 5, 2025, the Attorney General rescinded the May 5, 2022, Memorandum from the Attorney General entitled *Actions to Advance Environmental Justice*, the May 5, 2022, Memorandum from the Associate Attorney General entitled *Comprehensive Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy*, and any other Attorney General memoranda, guidance, or similar directive that implement the last administration's "environmental justice" agenda.

ENRD will fully comply with the Executive Orders and the Attorney General's Memorandum. As of January 23, 2025, all ENRD memoranda, guidance, or similar directives implementing environmental justice policies were withdrawn. This memorandum serves as a confirmation of the rescission of those policies, as well as the termination of any actions, programs, or activities conducted in furtherance of the now-withdrawn Department, Division, and Section policies on environmental justice.

Attachments:

- A. Attorney General Memorandum (dated February 5, 2025)
- B. Memorandum to ENRD Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs (dated January 23, 2025)



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

February 5, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 

SUBJECT: RESCINDING “ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE” MEMORANDA¹

As one of his first official acts, President Trump rescinded many harmful executive orders and actions taken by the prior administration. In doing so, President Trump explained that “climate extremism has exploded inflation and overburdened businesses with regulation.”

As an initial step towards “mak[ing] our Nation united, fair, safe, and prosperous again” and “restor[ing] common sense to the Federal Government,” President Trump rescinded Executive Order 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, 86 Fed. Reg. 7037 (Jan. 20, 2021), and Executive Order 14099, *Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, 88 Fed. Reg. 30,891 (Apr. 21, 2023).

After the promulgation of Executive Order 13990, the Department issued memoranda to implement an “environmental justice” agenda that, among other things, “prioritize[d]” enforcing environmental laws in cases affecting “overburdened and underserved communities,” including “low-income communities, communities of color, and Tribal and Indigenous communities.”

To ensure that the Department engages in the even-handed administration of justice, I hereby rescind the May 5, 2022 Memorandum from the Attorney General entitled *Actions to Advance Environmental Justice*, the May 5, 2022 Memorandum from the Associate Attorney General entitled *Comprehensive Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy*, and any other Attorney General memoranda, guidance or similar directive that implement the prior administration’s “environmental justice” agenda. Further, the heads of all components and U.S. Attorneys’ Offices are to rescind immediately any memoranda, guidance, or similar directive applicable to their component or office. They must certify that they have done so by February 7, 2025.

¹ This guidance is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Subject: Renewing the Federal Bureau of Prison's Commitment to Public Safety and Successful Reentry

Going forward, the Department will evenhandedly enforce all federal civil and criminal laws, including environmental laws.



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January 23, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: ENRD Section Chiefs and Deputy Section Chiefs

From: Lisa Russell 
Supervisory Official
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Re: Withdrawal of Plan and Policy Documents

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Accordingly, pursuant to these Executive Orders the following Environment and Natural Resources Division documents are hereby withdrawn, effective immediately:

1. All final or pending Division or Section environmental justice plans, guidance, and policies;
2. The ENRD DEIA Implementation Plan;
3. All final or pending documents, directives, orders, materials, and equity plans issued by the Division or a Section in response to now-repealed Executive Order 14035;
4. The Division's 2024 Language Access Plan; and
5. Any other final or pending Division or Section policy or guidance, not specified above, that implements DEI, DEIA, or environmental justice policies.

Further, I am directing the termination of any actions, programs, or activities conducted in furtherance of the now-withdrawn Division and Section policies.

Please ensure all employees in your Section are notified of this guidance.