



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 3 0 2021

THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Reaffirmation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Indian Policy

FROM: Michael S. Regan

TO: All EPA Employees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1984 became the first federal agency to adopt a formal Indian Policy. Today, I am proud to formally reaffirm the *EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations*. By my action, the EPA reiterates its recognition that the United States has a unique legal relationship with tribal governments based on the Constitution, treaties, statutes, executive orders and court decisions. The EPA recognizes the right of the tribes as sovereign governments to self-determination and acknowledges the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes. The EPA works with tribes on a government-to-government basis to protect the land, air and water of tribes consistent with the federal trust responsibility.

The reaffirmation of the 1984 Indian Policy articulates the importance of the EPA's tribal programs and our relationship with tribal governments. Our work with tribes is central to the agency's three foundational principles to follow the science, follow the law and be transparent in our actions and is a key component in furthering this administration's focus on advancing environmental justice and equity and combatting the climate crisis. With these objectives in mind, the EPA is committed to working with tribes to carry out our environmental goals for enforcement and compliance, air quality, water quality, safe drinking water, land revitalization and chemical safety, while also incorporating environmental justice and climate change considerations and support for infrastructure into this important work with tribes.

It is an important time in our partnership with tribes as the EPA builds on past successes and strives to meet current and future environmental challenges together with tribes. Please join me in advancing our strong partnership with tribal governments to protect human health and to safeguard the environment in Indian Country.

Attachment