

Agency Goals for Scientific Integrity

The EPA Scientific Integrity Policy outlines five specific goals to ensure scientific integrity throughout the Agency.

- EPA environmental policies, decisions, guidance, and regulations grounded in robust high quality science;
- Transparency within Agency scientific processes;
- Scientific research and results communicated openly and with integrity, accuracy, and timeliness;
- Appropriate use of peer review and federal advisory committees; and
- Professional development of the Agency's scientists, engineers and other technical staff.

“The work we do together to preserve the integrity of our science is as critical as ever ... With science as our North Star — EPA has steered America away from health risks, and toward healthier communities and a higher overall quality of life.”

— Gina McCarthy - EPA Administrator
April 28, 2014



Scientific Integrity at U.S. EPA

Safeguarding science to protect human health and the environment

Contact Us

Scientific Integrity Official

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Scientific Integrity Committee

The Scientific Integrity Committee provides oversight for the implementation of the Scientific Integrity Policy. Led by the Scientific Integrity Official, it is comprised of senior Agency Officials from each Region and Office. A list of committee members and their contact information can be found on our website.

To report fraud, waste or abuse, contact the hotline (Office of Inspector General) through one of the following methods:

E-mail: OIG_Hotline@epa.gov

Phone: 1-888-546-8740

Fax: 202-566-2599

Online: <http://www.epa.gov/oig/hotline.htm>

Write:

EPA Inspector General Hotline
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Mailcode 2431T

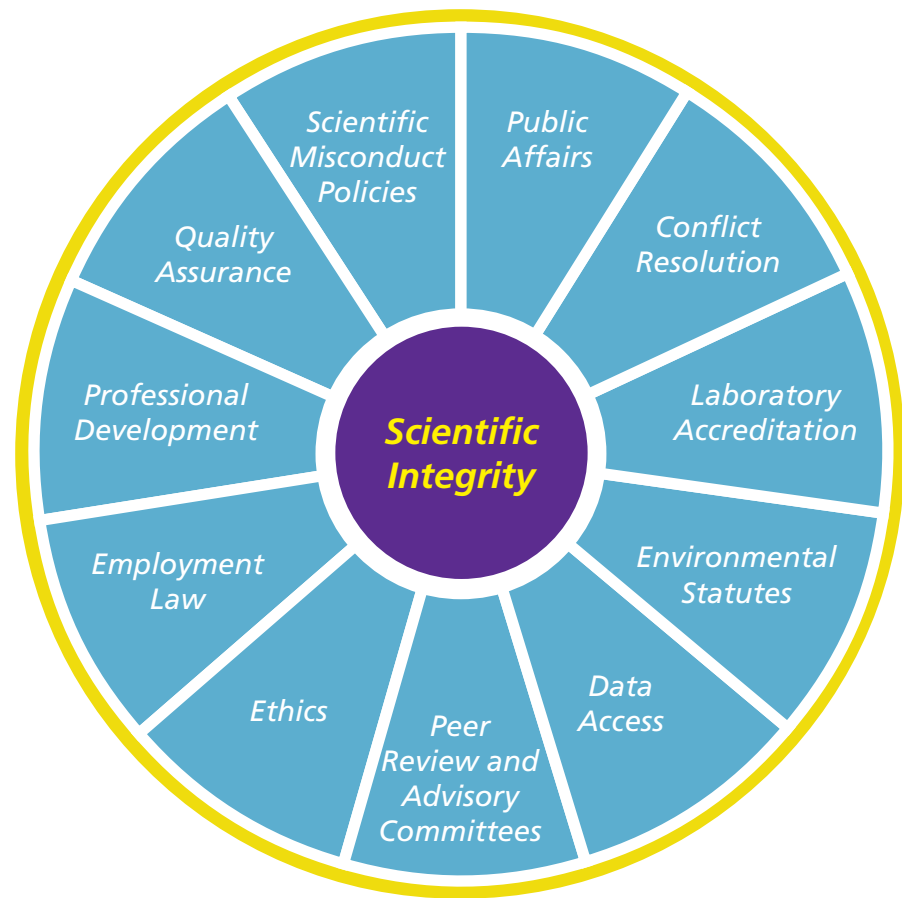
Washington, DC 20460

Scientific Integrity



<http://www.epa.gov/scientificintegrity>





A variety of sources contribute to scientific integrity at EPA

Scientific Integrity at the Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's ability to protect human health and the environment depends upon the integrity of the science on which it relies. The EPA Scientific Integrity Policy provides both a vision and a roadmap for Scientific Integrity at the Agency. The Policy, released in 2012, builds upon EPA's significant earlier scientific integrity efforts and focuses on promoting a culture of scientific integrity at EPA, ensuring the release of scientific information to the public, the consistent use of peer review, and the professional development of its scientists and engineers.

Scientific Integrity

Is the adherence to professional values and practices when conducting, communicating, and applying the results of science and scholarship. Scientific integrity ensures objectivity, clarity, reproducibility, and utility. It provides insulation from bias, fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, outside interference, and censorship.

The Scientific Integrity Policy

Applies to EPA employees, contractors, grantees, collaborators and volunteers. Employees who supervise, manage, or influence scientific activities and those who communicate or utilize scientific information must abide by the Policy.

A Culture of Scientific Integrity

- Scientific research generated in a timely manner, characterized appropriately for Agency policy-making, and communicated clearly to the public.
- Honesty, transparency, and a commitment to producing high-quality scientific data.
- Suppression, manipulation, or otherwise altering of scientific data are forbidden.

This assures that EPA decisions are informed by the best science the Agency, its contractors, grantees, and collaborators have to offer. A culture of scientific integrity is also one that protects employees who report allegations of suspected misconduct. Similarly, employees who express differing scientific opinions should not fear nor experience retaliation.

How to Report a Scientific Integrity Allegation

Formal scientific integrity allegations may be reported to the Scientific Integrity Official, any Deputy Scientific Integrity Official or to the Office of Inspector General. Allegations may come from outside or inside the Agency.

- Allegations that concern waste, fraud, abuse or other criminal violations should be reported to the Office of Inspector General.
- Allegations that concern reprisal should be reported to the office of Inspector General or the Office of Special Council.
- Allegations that concern a financial conflict of interest or other ethics issues involving federal employees will be referred to the appropriate Deputy Ethics Official or Office of General Counsel/Ethics, or the Human Subjects Research Review Official, as appropriate.

Allegations can also be reported to the Scientific Integrity Official without revealing the identity of the person making the allegation. While there is no formal process for resolving these allegations, the Scientific Integrity Official is still interested in obtaining information about these allegations and can take some steps to help resolve them.

When a formal allegation is resolved, the Scientific Integrity Official is responsible for preparing a summary and recommendations for corrective actions to safeguard the relevant science and will provide follow-up to ensure that the scientific recommendations are carried out appropriately. In addition, the resolved allegations are summarized in EPA's scientific integrity annual report and on the internet in a way that protects the identity of the parties involved.

