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**ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE****New EPA Administrator Outlines Philosophies and Priorities in Memorandum to Staff**

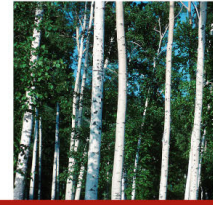
President Obama's appointment of Lisa P. Jackson as administrator of the U.S. EPA was confirmed by the Senate on January 22, 2009. Jackson, a chemical engineer by training, served on the EPA staff for 16 years before joining New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection in 2002. She served as the head of that agency from 2006 to 2009, then became chief of staff to Governor Jon Corzine just two weeks before President Obama announced that she was his choice for EPA administrator in December 2008. In her earlier tenure at the EPA, she administered the cleanup of hazardous waste sites and helped direct a regional enforcement division.

Jackson sent a memorandum dated January 23 to all EPA employees in which she signaled clearly that there would be a new way of doing business at the agency. She expressed her intent to respect the "ideas, advice and expertise" of the agency's staff. She noted that science must be the "backbone" for EPA programs and that she will not "compromise the integrity of EPA's experts in order to advance a preference for a particular regulatory outcome." She stated that the EPA must "follow the rule of law" and its actions must be transparent. Her statements certainly were prompted by common complaints by EPA staff and environmentalists about EPA management during the Bush administration.

Jackson identified five priorities that will receive her personal attention:

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by standing ready to help Congress craft strong, science-based climate legislation and complying with the Supreme Court's decision (*Massachusetts v. EPA*, 127 S. Ct. 1438 (2007)) "recognizing EPA's obligation to address climate change under the Clean Air Act."
2. Improving air quality by plugging "the gaps in our regulatory system as science and the law demand."
3. Managing chemical risks by revising and strengthening the EPA's chemicals management and risk assessment programs, including the Toxic Substances Control Act.
4. Cleaning up hazardous waste sites and converting brownfields for productive use.
5. Protecting America's waters and restoring the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and neglected urban rivers, and reducing pollution from non-point and industrial discharges.

To view Jackson's memorandum, go to [www.epa.gov/administrator/memotoemployees.html](http://www.epa.gov/administrator/memotoemployees.html).



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