

Envirodatagov.org

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Changes to EPA's Page About Office of Science and Technology within Office of Water

The description of the role of the Office of Science and Technology removed any mention of science, and replaced a mission of developing scientific foundations for protecting people with developing economically and technologically feasible industry performance standards.

Page: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-water#science

Description

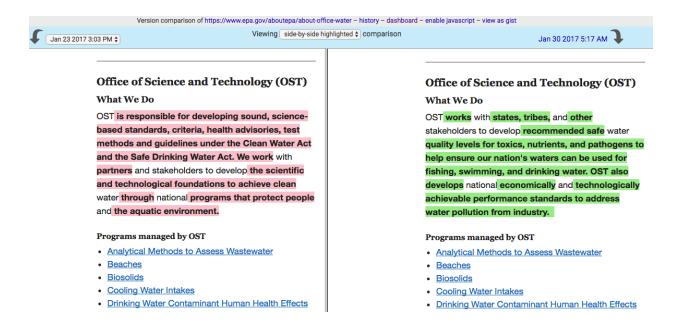
There is a significant shift in the communicated mission and duty of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) within the Office of Water. The description of "What We Do" no longer references science-based standards, methods, etc and has changed the description of their work from "developing scientific and technological foundations..." to "develop[ing]...technologically and economically achievable performance standards...." There is no longer any mention of science.

The specific changes include:

- 1. Changed text. Instead of the OST being "responsible for developing sound, science-based standards, criteria, health advisories, test methods and guidelines under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act," the OST "works with states, tribes, and other stakeholders to develop recommended safe water quality levels for toxics, nutrients and pathogens..." Note that the replacement does not provide information about what would establish recommendations (i.e. scientific research).
- 2. Changed text. Instead of the OST working to "develop scientific and technological foundations to achieve clean water," the OST is described as working to "develop technologically and economically achievable performance standards…"
- 3. Changed text. Instead of the asserted goal of OST being to "protect people and the aquatic environment," it is now to "address water pollution from industry" with the qualifier of economic feasibility. Note that the mission of the EPA is "to protect human health and the environment."

Screenshot 1: About Office of Science and Technology

- URL: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-water#science
- Side-by-side View: 1/23/17 1/30/17



Internet Archive Page Status:

- The page we observed on Jan 23rd is the same in Internet Archive on Jan 24th -https://web.archive.org/web/20170124061046/https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-water
- The new page which no longer references science is stored in Internet Archive at 21:25:50 on January 26th -https://web.archive.org/web/20170126212550/https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-water