

"Our region is willing to meet and negotiate; helpful with extra service issues - lab testing and helpful in complex investigation."

"ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION HAS BEEN GREAT."

"We have an excellent, effective partnership with the Region at all levels, and have had that for a long time."

"We generally work well with staff for permitting and enforcement."

"US EPA and Regional offices are well coordinated and have given one voice on issues helping provide certainty to the state."

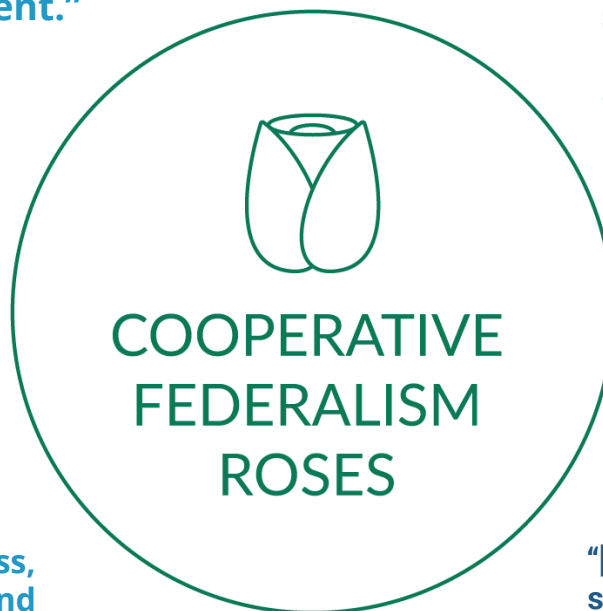
"[REGION IS] VERY ACTIVE AT MOVING RESPONSIBILITIES TO STATE RATHER THAN FEDERAL."

"[Our RA] hosted a productive meeting with state directors and is following up on actions identified during the meeting to improve the state-EPA relationship and environmental results."

"When we faced some challenges with a SIP process, several staff from [our Region] visited our offices and worked with our staff to find creative, workable solutions."

"[Our EPA Region] has worked with our state to establish connections and consult with us on priorities and future actions. EPA oversight of state activities on permitting and enforcement is appropriately scaled."

"There is always a change with a new administration. It is good that our regional administrator has made themselves available to meet and discuss issues. Some communication/decisions have seemed counter to a fully cooperative relationship or a defined set of roles, but hopefully through continued dialogue that too can be overcome."



"TIMELY REVIEW OF DRAFT AIR QUALITY PERMITS."

"Excellent cooperative work on use of environmental justice tools, including training, EJScreen & lead abatement strategy."

"In general, great relationships with top leaders with more work needing to be done at other levels."

"RA [is] instituting 'action day' meetings to bring greater timeliness and certainty to long-standing areas of state/Region disagreement...RA has [also] instituted monthly state/region leadership calls to share information and identify needs for response."

"RELATIONSHIP WITH RA."

"Overall good relationship. However, certain exceptions exist usually with specific staff."

"EPA is changing for the better and we appreciate it!"

"Focus on funding efficient cleanup of Great Lakes Areas of Concern by the Great Lakes National Program Office operated by EPA Region 5."

"[RA and RA's staff] are great. Responsive. Understanding of state Fed relationship. They are still working on staffing, which I find, mostly working under old philosophy."

"We have a strong, collaborative relationship with our EPA region -- built over many years and through many different administrations. We also work well with our neighboring states within the region. This relationship is even more important now as we all face staffing and budget shortfalls, and the retirement of staff with critical expertise."

"We have enjoyed a very good working relationship with [our region]. We have a new Regional Administrator but our working relationship with the staff has stayed the same."



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“BOTTOM LINE IS THAT ON A DAILY BASIS STAFF ARE BATTLING MANAGEMENT ON HOW THIS NEW PARADIGM WILL WORK.”

“EPA Leadership response/position not always consistent with EPA staff interpretation or communication to state. This can and has led to uncertainty in decision making.”

“WE CONTINUE TO WORK AT THE STAFF LEVEL TO OVERCOME PERMITTING DELAYS AND TRUST.”

“We have one case where DOJ and EPAHQ are both involved that has become a significant thorn [because the] current administration would prefer to take a different approach than what we have taken and want to continue to take. Consequently, we are never sure what decisions will be made to move the case forward.”

“...OVERSIGHT ON STORMWATER AND CAA REGULATION.”

“When relationships are negative they are generally driven by select individual [who have their own ideas and don’t fully appreciate ours.] It is media and personnel specific and not applicable to all areas.”

“Although not within Region control, continuing Administration dissonance between increasing state responsibility and [recommending lower budgets and grants] is concerning.”

“LANGUISHING NPDES PERMIT REVIEWS, DUPLICATION OF STATE EXPERTISE BY EPA REGIONAL STAFF.”

“[R]equiring annual inspections of permitted pretreatment facilities no matter how small...is a waste of time with no environmental benefits.”

“Some Superfund sites are not moving mostly because of lack of funding.”

“Region Staff tried to tank our water quality standards rule. [Headquarters] had to intervene. [Region has] overfiled us a dozen times. [RA relationship is poor and has damaged our relationships with other states in the region.]”

“Had some successes on case by case projects. Having less success in implementing the Bodine memo re: having state take a lead in enforcement cases. [EPA] staff treat [us] like we are a contractor to them and will “give up” an enforcement to state only if we meet all of their conditions. This is not the way it’s to work.”

“insufficient clarity/agreement by EPA Region & state leadership re: level of detail required for Title V air permitting documents.”

“[RA relationship is good but we] still have daily problems with staff in most programs of not embracing the right balance.”

