



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 22 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Support for Broadband Opportunity Council

FROM: A. Stanley Meiburg, Acting Deputy Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AS Meiburg".

TO: General Counsel
Assistant Administrators
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators
Deputy General Counsels
Deputy Assistant Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators
Associate Assistant Administrators

About a year ago, President Obama announced his plan to promote "Broadband That Works," a public-private effort to help Americans around the nation get access to fast and affordable broadband. The following March he issued a memorandum putting in place additional policies to support this goal, and he created the Broadband Opportunity Council, focused on increasing broadband investment and adoption. That Council, on which EPA serves, issued a report last August and committed agencies to clarify policies that may affect broadband cost and access to communities. You can view the report at www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/broadband_opportunity_council_report_final.pdf.

I ask for your support to implement this commitment. Better access to information, especially in underserved communities, supports our efforts to make a visible difference around the country. We want to ensure that our efforts at the EPA to protect the environment and human health work in tandem with public and private initiatives to lay fiber-optic cable or deploy wireless 4G access to citizens.

All National Program Managers should work to ensure that their program and guidance support intelligent and efficient planning around infrastructure investments. Such action includes allowing entities laying cable to take advantage of trenches opened for EPA-funded projects or projects under EPA oversight where feasible, appropriate, environmentally sound, and consistent with statutory, regulatory or court-ordered requirements.

I appreciate your efforts to ensure that agency employees, grantees, contractors and our state and tribal partners all understand that the EPA supports a "dig-once" approach to environmental and human-health infrastructure investments when projects can also support greater broadband access for the American public.