

## APPENDIX A

# Survey Text and Responses

This appendix provides the text of the survey UCS mailed to nearly 5,500 scientists working at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with responses from the 1,586 scientists who completed and returned the surveys. The information includes two numbers for each response option: the *number* of scientists who selected that response, and the *percentage* of scientists answering the question who selected that response (in parentheses). (For a detailed analysis of select survey questions, see Appendix B.)

The total number of responses to many questions is less than 1,586 because not all respondents answered every question. For question 3, the total number of responses is greater than 1,586 because scientists could choose more than one response.

It is important to note that we calculated the percentages given here (and in the report text) based on the number of scientists answering the question, not the total number of returned surveys. Percentages for a given question may not total 100 because of rounding or multiple responses.

Respondents could include explanatory text when selecting “other” for questions 1 (major field of training), 3 (type of scientific work at the EPA), 41 (current General Schedule level), and 43 (highest level of education completed). For questions 1, 41, and 43, we used this text to reassign some of these responses to other categories. In the case of question 1, we created two new categories (“policy” and “math and economics”) that did not appear as response options on the original survey.

Questions 5, 15, and 25–38 offered “not applicable” as a possible response, and we included those responses when tabulating the results here. However, we did not include those responses when analyzing results for the main text. That means that the percentages given here for those questions differ slightly from those in the main text.

We excluded respondents who reported that 0 percent of their job duties related to scientific topics (question 2).

## UCS SURVEY OF EPA SCIENTISTS

Please select the best answer option for each of the following statements.

### RESEARCH & TRAINING

#### 1. My major field of training is:

Chemistry 164 (10.4%)	Life Sciences 276 (17.4%)	Physics 24 (1.5%)	Environmental Science 361 (22.8%)	Geology 102 (6.4%)
Engineering 328 (20.7%)	Toxicology 84 (5.3%)	Public Health 49 (3.1%)	Non-Science 66 (4.2%)	Other: _____ 51 (3.2%)
Policy 15 (0.9%)	Math & Economics 63 (4.0%)			

#### 2. The percentage of my job duties related to scientific topics is approximately:

None 0 (0.0%)	1-25% 248 (15.7%)	26-50% 306 (19.4%)	51-75% 436 (27.7%)	76-100% 585 (37.1%)
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#### 3. My scientific work at the EPA primarily involves: (select up to two options)

Laboratory Testing 168 (10.6%)	Modeling 237 (14.9%)	Basic Science 314 (19.8%)	Field Work 202 (12.7%)
Enforcement 147 (9.3%)	Compliance 184 (11.6%)	Permit Writing 54 (3.4%)	Risk Assessment 371 (23.4%)
Oversight 307 (19.4%)	Community Outreach 116 (7.3%)	Program Evaluation 254 (16.0%)	Grant Review 106 (6.7%)
Quality Assurance 160 (10.1%)	No scientific work at the EPA 4 (0.3%)	Other: _____ 345 (21.8%)	

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### 4. I am provided with the appropriate time and resources to keep up with advances in my profession, including attending conferences and participation in scientific or professional societies.

Strongly Agree 245 (15.5%)	Agree 739 (46.7%)	No Opinion 131 (8.3%)	Disagree 364 (23.0%)	Strongly Disagree 102 (6.5%)
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#### 5. I am allowed to publish work in peer-reviewed scientific journals regardless of whether it adheres to agency policies or positions.

Strongly Agree 132 (8.4%)	Agree 350 (22.2%)	No Opinion 464 (29.4%)	Disagree 203 (12.9%)	Strongly Disagree 88 (5.6%)	Not Applicable 341 (21.6%)
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**WORK ENVIRONMENT****6. I respect the integrity and professionalism of my direct manager or supervisor.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
620 (39.2%)	662 (41.8%)	108 (6.8%)	125 (7.9%)	67 (4.2%)

**7. I respect the integrity and professionalism of the EPA's senior leadership.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
128 (8.1%)	558 (35.4%)	302 (19.1%)	385 (24.4%)	205 (13.0%)

**8. Within the EPA I can openly express my concerns about the agency's mission-driven work without fear of retaliation.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
187 (11.9%)	658 (41.7%)	240 (15.2%)	381 (24.2%)	111 (7.0%)

**9. Outside of the EPA I can openly express my concerns about the agency's mission-driven work without fear of retaliation.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
224 (14.2%)	637 (40.4%)	332 (21.1%)	288 (18.3%)	94 (6.0%)

**AGENCY EFFECTIVENESS****10. The EPA is acting effectively to clean-up and/or mitigate existing pollution or environmental problems.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
126 (8.1%)	686 (44.0%)	226 (14.5%)	422 (27.1%)	100 (6.4%)

**11. The EPA is acting effectively to foster practices that prevent environmental degradation or adverse health effects before they occur.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
106 (6.8%)	588 (37.7%)	237 (15.2%)	498 (31.9%)	131 (8.4%)

**12. In my opinion, the EPA is moving in the right direction.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
97 (6.2%)	527 (33.8%)	252 (16.1%)	512 (32.8%)	173 (11.1%)

**13. Compared to five years ago, the effectiveness of my division or office has:**

Increased	Stayed the Same	Decreased	No Opinion
321 (20.6%)	389 (24.9%)	696 (44.6%)	155 (9.9%)

**RESOURCES AND FUNDING****14. The EPA division where I work has sufficient resources to adequately perform its mission of protecting human health and the environment.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
61 (3.9%)	403 (25.9%)	125 (8.0%)	675 (43.3%)	294 (18.9%)

**15. The trend toward contracting out scientific work is harming the effectiveness of my division.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
203 (13.1%)	371 (23.9%)	389 (25.0%)	385 (24.8%)	66 (4.2%)	141 (9.1%)

**16. The recent changes and closures in the EPA library system have impaired my ability to do my job.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
154 (9.9%)	401 (25.8%)	439 (28.2%)	462 (29.7%)	101 (6.5%)

**ROLE OF SCIENCE IN AGENCY DECISIONS**

**17. My direct supervisor consistently stands behind scientific staff or supervisors who put forth scientifically defensible positions that may be politically controversial.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
274 (17.8%)	632 (41.0%)	358 (23.2%)	209 (13.6%)	68 (4.4%)

**18. EPA determinations and actions are consistent with the scientific findings contained in agency documents and reports.**

Always	Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Don't Know
58 (3.8%)	687 (44.6%)	488 (31.7%)	71 (4.6%)	6 (0.4%)	229 (14.9%)

**19. Expert advice from independent scientific advisory committees is heeded and incorporated into regulatory decisions.**

Always	Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Don't Know
55 (3.6%)	560 (36.5%)	439 (28.6%)	105 (6.8%)	9 (0.6%)	368 (24.0%)

**20. The EPA's determinations make use of the best judgment of its scientific staff.**

Always	Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Don't Know
77 (5.0%)	563 (36.5%)	552 (35.8%)	149 (9.7%)	18 (1.2%)	182 (11.8%)

**JOB SATISFACTION**

**21. Over the past few years my personal job satisfaction at the EPA has:**

Increased	Decreased	Stayed the Same	No Opinion
328 (21.3%)	670 (43.5%)	501 (32.6%)	40 (2.6%)

**22. Morale within my division or office at the EPA is:**

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Extremely Poor	No Opinion
95 (6.2%)	475 (30.9%)	564 (36.7%)	259 (16.9%)	128 (8.3%)	16 (1.0%)

**COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES**

**23. The EPA routinely provides complete and accurate information to the public.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
112 (7.3%)	651 (42.5%)	413 (26.9%)	294 (19.2%)	63 (4.1%)

**24. EPA policies allow scientists to speak freely to the news media about their research findings.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
29 (1.9%)	168 (10.9%)	395 (25.7%)	492 (32.0%)	291 (18.9%)	161 (10.5%)

**POLITICAL INTERFERENCE**

**How many cases do you know of where the following situations have occurred?**

**25. Cases where EPA political appointees have inappropriately involved themselves in scientific decisions.**

Many	Some	Few	None	Not Applicable
150 (9.9%)	366 (24.3%)	343 (22.7%)	347 (23.0%)	302 (20.0%)

**26. Cases where political appointees from other federal departments or agencies (for example, OMB, CEQ, USDA, DOD) have inappropriately involved themselves in decisions.**

Many	Some	Few	None	Not Applicable
201 (13.3%)	359 (23.8%)	229 (15.2%)	356 (23.6%)	361 (24.0%)

**27. Cases where commercial interests have inappropriately induced the reversal or withdrawal of EPA scientific conclusions or decisions through political intervention.**

Many	Some	Few	None	Not Applicable
139 (9.3%)	368 (24.6%)	307 (20.5%)	384 (25.7%)	296 (19.8%)

**28. Cases where non-governmental or advocacy groups have inappropriately induced the reversal or withdrawal of EPA scientific conclusions or decisions through political intervention.**

Many	Some	Few	None	Not Applicable
57 (3.8%)	272 (18.1%)	337 (22.5%)	504 (33.6%)	329 (21.9%)

**How often have you personally experienced the following situations?**

**29. I have been directed by EPA decision makers to provide incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading information to the public, media or elected officials.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
15 (1.0%)	73 (4.8%)	136 (9.0%)	1117 (74.0%)	168 (11.1%)

**30. EPA decision makers implicitly expect me to provide incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading information to the public, media or elected officials.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
33 (2.2%)	90 (6.0%)	161 (10.7%)	1031 (68.4%)	193 (12.8%)

**31. I have been directed to inappropriately exclude or alter technical information from an EPA scientific document.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
23 (1.5%)	71 (4.7%)	130 (8.6%)	1119 (74.2%)	166 (11.0%)

**32. Selective or incomplete use of data to justify a specific regulatory outcome.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
71 (4.7%)	214 (14.3%)	247 (16.5%)	736 (49.1%)	232 (15.5%)

**33. Pressure to ignore impacts of a regulation on sensitive populations.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
33 (2.2%)	120 (8.0%)	158 (10.5%)	904 (60.3%)	285 (19.0%)

**34. Changes or edits during review that change the meaning of scientific findings.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
53 (3.5%)	179 (12.0%)	250 (16.7%)	787 (52.6%)	228 (15.2%)

**35. Disappearance/unusual delay in the release of websites, press releases, reports or other science-based materials.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
84 (5.6%)	215 (14.4%)	221 (14.8%)	709 (47.4%)	267 (17.8%)

**36. New or unusual administrative requirements or procedures that impair my scientific work.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
265 (17.7%)	392 (26.2%)	303 (20.3%)	361 (24.1%)	174 (11.6%)

**37. Statements by EPA officials that misrepresent scientists' findings.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
92 (6.2%)	302 (20.3%)	346 (23.2%)	511 (34.3%)	240 (16.1%)

**38. Situations in which scientists have actively objected to, resigned from or removed themselves from a project because of pressure to change scientific findings.**

Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable
29 (1.9%)	162 (10.9%)	231 (15.5%)	807 (54.2%)	259 (17.4%)

**Several forms of political interference in the workplace are listed below. Most of these were addressed in the questions you have just completed (items 24–38). Please refer to the list below when answering the following two questions.**

- Inappropriate influence of EPA or other agency political appointees in scientific decisions
- Inappropriate influence by commercial, non-governmental, or advocacy interests
- Directed to provide incomplete, inaccurate or misleading information to public
- Directed to exclude or alter technical information in EPA scientific document
- Selective or incomplete use of data to justify a specific regulatory outcome
- Pressure to ignore impacts of a regulation on sensitive populations
- Changes or edits during review that change the meaning of scientific findings
- Disappearance/unusual delay in the release of scientific information
- New or unusual administrative requirements that impair scientific work
- Statements by EPA officials that misrepresent scientists' findings
- Requests to consider data or use methods that are not scientifically credible
- Situations in which scientists have actively objected to pressure to change findings

**39. How many activities or situations like those listed above have you personally experienced during the past 5 years?**

0	1-5	6-10	11-20	more than 20
581 (39.5%)	655 (44.6%)	175 (11.9%)	34 (2.3%)	25 (1.7%)

**40. If you compare the past 5 years to the 5-year period prior to it (from 5 to 10 years ago), would you say activities or situations like those listed above are occurring:**

More Often than before	About the Same as before	Less Often than before	Don't Know
508 (34.4%)	330 (22.4%)	65 (4.4%)	572 (38.8%)

**MY BACKGROUND****41. My current grade level is:**

GS-9 or lower	GS-10	GS-11	GS-12	GS-13	GS-14
16 (1.1%)	6 (0.4%)	37 (2.5%)	138 (9.3%)	672 (45.5%)	333 (22.5%)
GS-15	SES	Other: _____			
219 (14.8%)	37 (2.5%)	19 (1.3%)			

**42. I have been working at the EPA for:**

Less than 1 year	1-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	more than 15 years
21 (1.4%)	239 (16.1%)	254 (17.1%)	136 (9.2%)	833 (56.2%)

**43. Highest level of education completed:**

Bachelor's	Master's	PhD	JD	Other: _____
344 (23.2%)	640 (43.1%)	485 (32.7%)	10 (0.7%)	6 (0.4%)

**44. How could the integrity of scientific work produced by the EPA best be improved?**

855 (53.9%) respondents provided written comments in response to this question.

The full text of these essay responses is available at <http://www.ucsusa.org/surveys>.