

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

Effective Date: 7/31/20

Series: Organization

Part 112: Policy, Management and Budget

Chapter 4: Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Originating Office: Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

112 DM 4

4.1 Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC). The OEPC is responsible for providing leadership and program evaluation in implementing the Department of the Interior's (Department/DOI/Interior) environmental policy. The OEPC provides a coordinated and unified enterprise-wide approach for compliance with the full range of environmental statutes and assists the Department's leadership in responding to environmental issues that affect multiple Bureaus/Offices.

4.2 Program Authorities. Program authorities include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA); 40 CFR Part 1500 (Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act); and 43 CFR Part 46 (Department of the Interior Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act).

B. Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act or FAST-41); Executive Order 13807 of Aug. 15, 2017 (Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects); and Memorandum of Understanding Implementing One Federal Decision (OFD).

C. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, also known as Superfund), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986.

D. Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990; Government Management Reform Act of 1994; and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-136 (Financial Reporting Requirements).

E. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments Act of 1984.

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F. Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA); 40 CFR Part 300 (National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan); and Executive Order 12777, as amended.

G. Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.

H. Emergency Preparedness and Community Right to Know Act of 1986.

I. Federal Power Act; and 43 CFR Part 45 (Department of the Interior Procedures for Conditions and Prescriptions in Hydropower Licenses).

J. Energy Policy Act of 2005.

K. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988.

L. Homeland Security Act of 2002.

M. Homeland Security Presidential Directives 5 and 8.

N. Executive Order 12088 (Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards).

O. Executive Order 12580 (Superfund Implementation), as amended.

P. Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations)

Q. National Response Framework (multiple authorities, including Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002), Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007, Pub. L. 109-295, 120 Stat. 1355 (2006)).
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/117791>

R. National Disaster Recovery Framework (multiple authorities, including Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-288, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.). <https://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework>

4.3 Functions. The OEPC performs the following functions:

A. Provides advice and assistance to the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget (AS – PMB) on policies, programs, and activities affecting the human environment, on related issues affecting multiple Bureaus/Offices; and implementation of NEPA.

B. Serves as the Department’s principal contact on NEPA matters to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the OMB, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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C. Coordinates the Department's activities on environmental quality matters with other Federal agencies.

D. Oversees and coordinates the Department's NEPA compliance program. This includes developing policy, technical, and procedural guidance; providing technical assistance; determining technical and procedural adequacy of certain environmental documents (see 516 DM 3); supporting the AS – PMB in resolving intra-Departmental differences involving more than one program Assistant Secretary and interagency differences; conducting ongoing compliance evaluations; and identifying problems, recommending solutions and implementing changes to improve the Department's NEPA compliance programs.

E. Oversees and coordinates the Department's compliance with the FAST-41 and Executive Order 13807; determines technical and procedural adequacy of implementing procedures, and project compliance of qualifying major infrastructure projects; coordinates and prepares required reports; represents the Department on the FPISC; conducts ongoing evaluations of compliance; and identifies problems, recommends solutions and implements changes for improving the environmental review and permitting of infrastructure projects.

F. Implements and coordinates the Department's environmental review of non-Interior proposals, such as regulations, applications, plans, reports, and environmental documents, that affect the interests of the Department, and ensures that regions have programs and procedures for conducting reviews. The OEPC provides Departmental leadership with information on non-Interior proposals to make informed recommendations thereon. This includes establishing interagency coordination procedures; notifying leadership of intra-Departmental differences that involve more than one program Assistant Secretary and interagency differences; preparing and recommending Departmental positions for proposals; conducting ongoing evaluations of review effectiveness; and identifying problems and recommending solutions.

G. Oversees Departmental compliance with applicable Federal, state, and local environmental laws, directives, and requirements for pollution control, after consultation with the Office of the Solicitor. Ensures that Bureaus/Offices have compliance programs and procedures.

H. Provides support and coordinates the Department's implementation of Executive Order 13834 (Efficient Federal Operations). Leads implementation of the Department-level Environmental Management Systems.

I. Provides leadership, coordinates, and promotes consistency in carrying out the Department's roles and responsibilities for emergency response and CERCLA response actions under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. This includes oil discharge and hazardous substance release contingency planning, emergency and response activities, technical assistance, training, and exercises, in addition to representing the Department on the National, International, and Regional Response Teams.

J. Provides national level leadership, and coordinates and promotes consistency in carrying out the Department's roles and responsibilities for the protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties during response and recovery from major events. Responsibilities include emergency and contingency planning, response and recovery activities,

technical assistance, training, and exercises, in addition to representing the Department at national and international levels on issues associated with the protection of natural and cultural resources during major events ranging from pre-incident planning and preparation to response and recovery.

K. Chairs the Department's Environmental Safeguards Group (ESG) that coordinates implementation of the Department's Environmental Safeguards Plan for All-Hazards Emergencies (DOI ES Plan). The group comprises representatives from all Bureaus/Offices under the AS – PMB. The ESG does staff-level work, when responding to all-hazards emergencies, specifically protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties and oil spills and hazardous materials releases.

L. Participates in the Department's Natural Resource Restoration (NRR) Program, as provided in 521 DM 1-3. Represents the OEPC on the Executive Board and recommends to the Director, Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment, any issues regarding the interface, notification, or coordination between the Natural Resources Damage Assessment program and the response activities.

M. Participates on the Department's Emergency Management Council (EMC). Serves as the Department's lead office for the EMC's involvement in Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response and the U.S. Governmental lead for ESF #11 – Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties, pursuant to the National Response Framework.

N. Coordinates, and reviews all aspects of the Department's involvement with CERCLA and RCRA hazardous material sites, including: tracking Bureau/Office site activities; providing a centralized methodology for the prioritization of sites across Bureaus/Offices; providing recommendations on site cleanup alternatives; reviewing and commenting on Bureau/Office hazardous materials budgets; and overseeing implementation of Bureau/Office hazardous materials surveys prior to the acquisition of an interest in lands.

O. Chairs the Department's Technical Review Committee (TRC). The TRC makes recommendations to the Director, OEPC, on allocation of funds for the cleanup of CERCLA sites from the Central Hazardous Materials Fund.

P. Provides leadership, oversight and guidance on the Department's environmental contingent liabilities. Chairs the environmental liability workgroup and manages the Environmental Management Information System that is used to record the Department's Environmental and Disposal Liabilities

Q. Chairs the committee to select the annual Natural Resource Conservation Achievement Awards.

R. Recommends, and, in certain cases, trains personnel responsible for preparing and reviewing environmental and related documents and (ensuring or performing) compliance with environmental laws, directives and standards.

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S. Provides oversight for Departmental programs affecting environmental quality, identifying problems and recommending solutions.

T. Represents the Department on the interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice. Chairs the Department's Environmental Justice Working Group. Provides leadership and coordinates policy, guidelines, and integration efforts related to the Department's Environmental Justice programs and activities, pursuant to Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations).

4.4 Organization. The OEPC is led by a Director who reports to the Deputy AS – PMB – Policy and Environmental. The Director carries out the functions of the OEPC with assistance from a Deputy Director and headquarters and regional staff. (See attached organizational [chart](#)).

A. Headquarters Staff. The headquarters staff includes interdisciplinary teams and a Lead Environmental Protection Specialist. Each Team Leader and the Lead Environmental Protection Specialist report to the Deputy Director. The interdisciplinary teams are:

- (1) Environmental Review.
- (2) Environmental Cleanup and Liability Management.
- (3) Environmental Response and Recovery.

B. Regional Staff. Each regional office is headed by a Regional Environmental Officer who reports to the Director (see attached [map](#)). Regional office staff carry out the OEPC's responsibilities at the regional level, in consultation with the applicable Secretary's Field Special Assistant. On matters of regional significance, as determined by the appropriate Secretary's Field Special Assistant, the Regional Environmental Officer will assist the Field Special Assistant in carrying out the duties of the OEPC. Offices are located in the following cities:

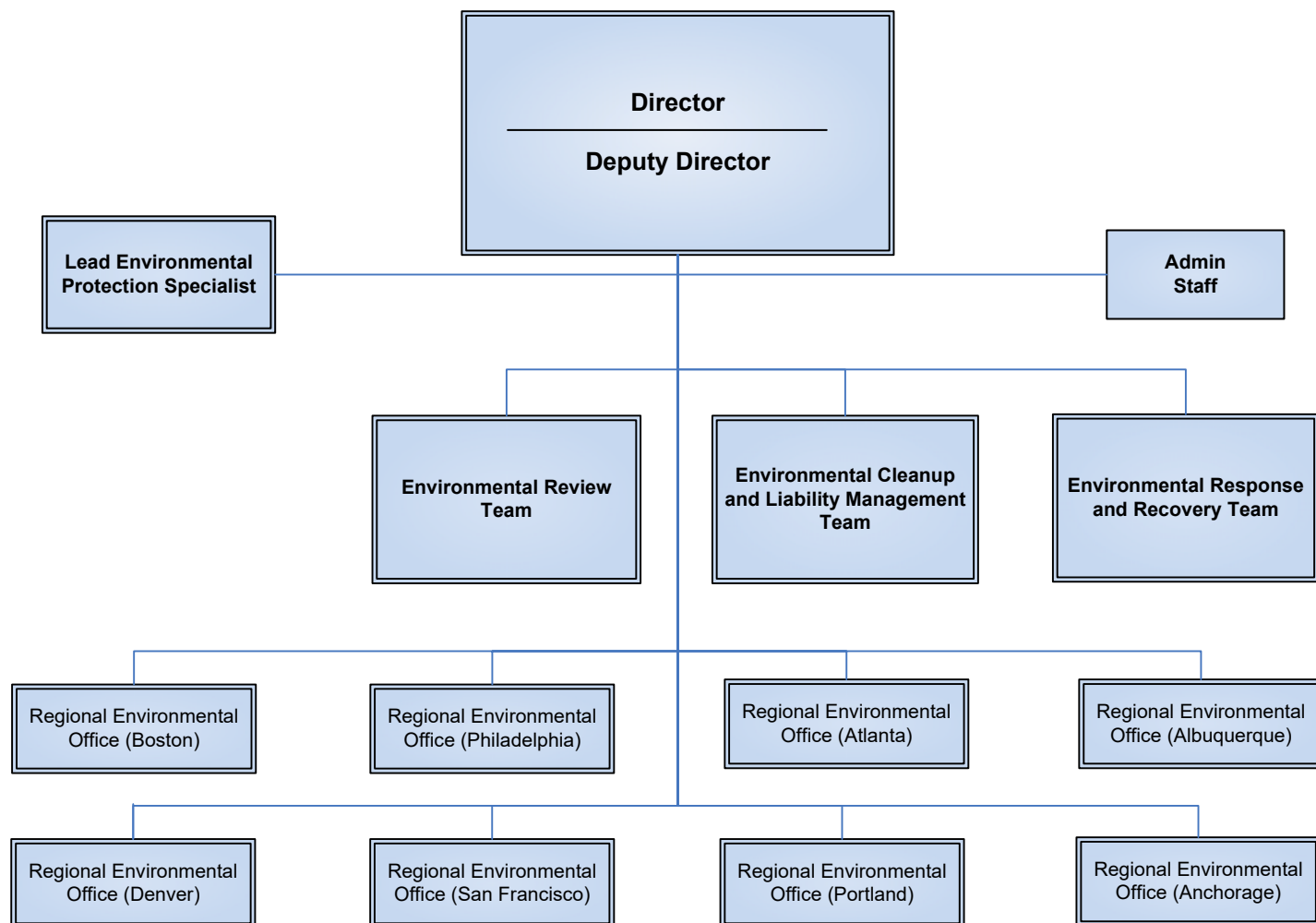
OEPC Regional Office	State Assignments for Interior Region work, including NEPA and Permitting Activities	State Assignments for Spill Preparedness and Response and Disaster Response and Recovery
Albuquerque	<i>Interior Region 6 – (Arkansas Rio Grande-Texas-Gulf) - Oklahoma, Texas</i>	Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
Anchorage	<i>Interior Region 11 (Alaska) – Alaska</i>	Alaska
Atlanta	<i>Interior Region 2 (South Atlantic, Gulf) – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina,</i>	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico and

	Tennessee, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands	US Virgin Islands
Boston	<i>Interior Region 1 (North Atlantic- Appalachian) - Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia</i>	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
Denver	<i>Interior Regions 5 (Missouri Basin) and 7 (Upper Colorado Basin) Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming</i>	Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
Philadelphia	<i>Interior Region 3 (Great Lakes) and 4 (Mississippi Basin) – Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Wisconsin</i>	Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin
Portland	<i>Interior Region 9 (Columbia – Pacific Northwest) - Idaho, Oregon, Washington</i>	Idaho, Oregon, Washington
Sacramento	<i>Interior Regions 10 (California-Great Basin); 8 (Lower Colorado Basin); and 12 (Pacific Islands) - Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam</i>	Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance



* Also includes Puerto Rico and American Virgin Islands

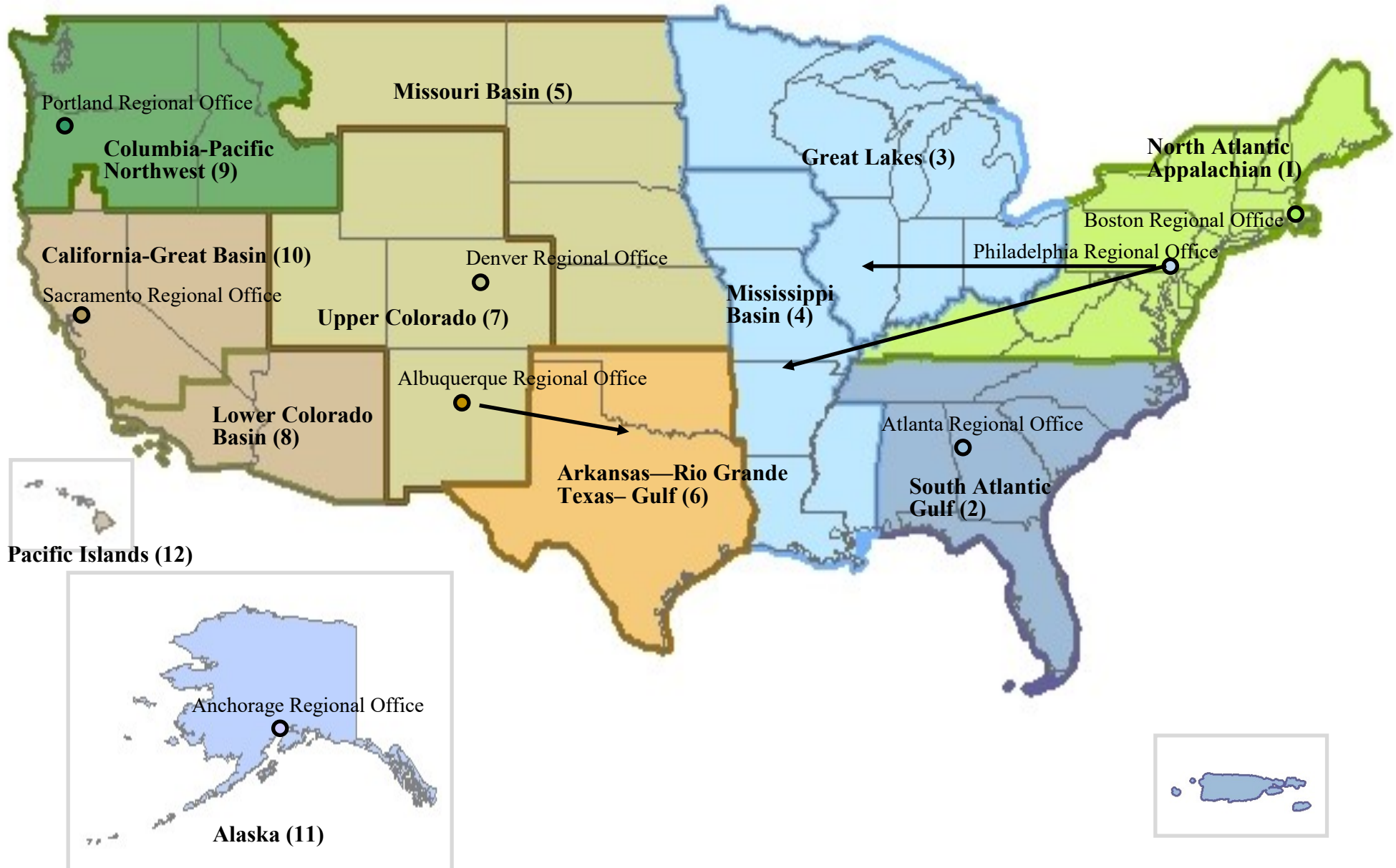
** Also includes American Samoa, Guam, and Commonwealth of Northern Marianas

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Regional Office State Assignments for Interior Region Work including NEPA and Permitting Activities

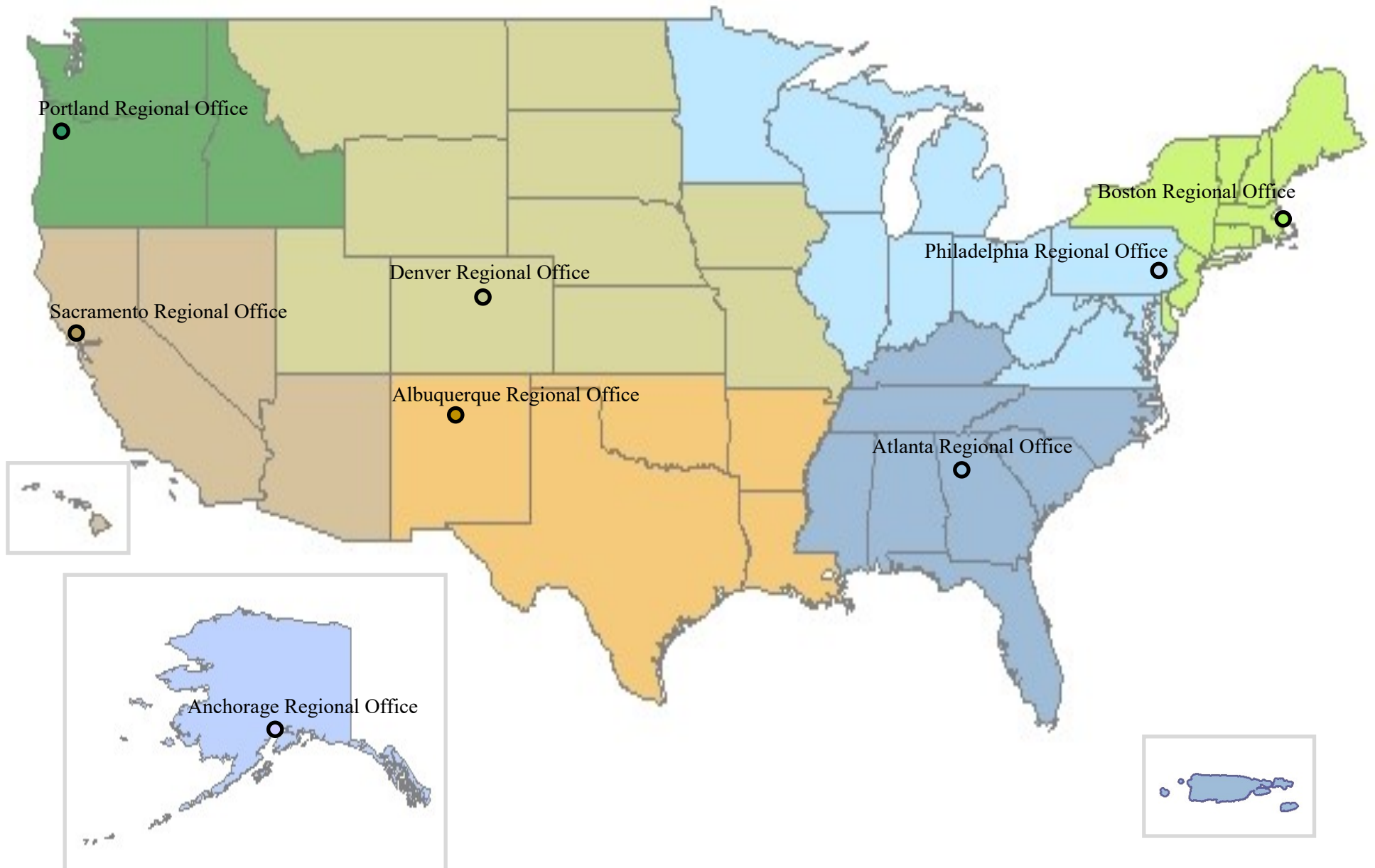


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Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Regional Office State Assignments for Spill Preparedness and Response and Disaster Response and Recovery



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