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Subject: EPA staff reshuffle nixes climate adaptation

By Emily Holden and Alex Guillén

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EPA's climate change adaptation staff will be dissolved into other agency offices under a reorganization of the EPA's policy shop, a spokesman confirmed today.

Samantha Dravis, a longtime political strategist and Administrator Scott Pruitt's top policy aide, announced the changes in a staff-wide memo first reported by E&E News. The policy office will also absorb EPA's environmental justice and National Environmental Policy Act activities.

A reorganization chart obtained by POLITICO eliminates the agency's four-person climate adaptation team.

EPA said those employees were reassigned to the Office of Regulatory Planning and Management and the National Center of Environmental Economics. They will still work under Dravis.

The team formerly focused on preparing for sea-level rise and extreme weather. EPA in April confirmed plans to move the employees into different roles and argued that adaptation should be conducted at the regional and local level. A spokesperson said the work didn't align with Administrator Scott Pruitt's core priorities of clean air and water.

The adaptation office was run by EPA veteran Joel Scheraga, who oversaw the creation of the agency's 2014 adaptation implementation plan and helped write Barack Obama's 2013 climate action plan, which led to the creation of the Clean Power Plan and other regulations.

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