

The latest to sit at the Region 8 desk is Doug Benevento, a Colorado attorney who has been an energy executive and has also run the state's Department of Public Health and Environment.

Fortunately, in the first three weeks of his tenure, he has done precious little sitting. Instead he has been traveling to learn firsthand about EPA's challenges in the region, which are too lengthy to list.

It's no accident that he spent four of his first 16 days in office in Montana. We are pleased to note that he spent intensive time with Gov. Steve Bullock, DEQ boss Tom Livers and their staffs. He also came to Butte this past Wednesday, and made a very good impression. He did not condescend. He came off as self-effacing, sincere and straightforward.

Perhaps the best thing Benevento said during his short visit was that he realized it was too short and is therefore coming back in a couple of weeks.

While that visit will focus more on the considerable issues EPA faces in Anaconda, he did indicate he would also return to Butte. On Nov. 14, The Montana Standard and Restore Our Creek Coalition will co-sponsor a rally at the Covellite Theatre. It should surprise no one that the central message that evening will be: Clean it up. Restore our Creek. Get it done.

We sincerely hope Benevento's return visit will include his presence at this event, which would enable him to hear very directly from the community. We urge him — and you — to attend.

Benevento clearly wishes to communicate clearly and move quickly. He said he hopes to have a Butte Priority Soils consent decree in place by early next year, and if that's not possible, he said, EPA stands ready to enforce the law and move the cleanup along with a unilateral administrative order.

To:

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

From:

EPA Press Office

Sent:

Mon 11/6/2017 4:00:11 PM

Subject:

EPA's New Region 8 Boss Off To A Promising Start

Among the other choices are Jennifer McPartland, a senior scientist of the Environmental Defense Fund; Kari Cutting of the North Dakota Petroleum Council; Tim Wallington of Ford and Bart Croes of the California Air Resources Board.

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## MONTANA STANDARD

### EPA's New Region 8 Boss Off To A Promising Start

Montana Standard Editorial

November 5, 2017

[http://mstandard.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-epa-s-new-region-boss-off-to-a-promising/article\\_ce3b2023-257f-591d-95aa-65e80931bafa.html](http://mstandard.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-epa-s-new-region-boss-off-to-a-promising/article_ce3b2023-257f-591d-95aa-65e80931bafa.html)

Since Butte was added to the Superfund National Priorities List in 1983, we've gone through six presidents, 14 EPA administrators (acting and permanent) and more than half a dozen Region 8 EPA administrators.

That mirrors EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's stated intention to move cleanups along more quickly.

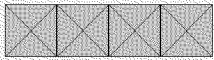
While a burst of speed would certainly be welcome after three decades of glacial Superfund progress, speed alone won't be enough to do right by this town. If speed means taking the cheapest, most expedient path, Butte may never recover.

Any remedy, whether agreed upon by the state, county, EPA and Atlantic Richfield or unilaterally imposed by EPA, must be substantive. In other words, the pollutants must come out of the ground and out of the water. Overbroad "technical impracticability" zones or more "waste in place" patch jobs will not suffice. The quality of Butte's cleanup will define the town's future. A quick "get out of town" deal would be even more harmful than the plodding progress the town has endured so far.

With all of those caveats, Benevento's resolve, forthrightness – and presence in Butte – are all excellent signs. We applaud him for getting his tenure off to a very promising start.

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**To:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
**From:** EPA Press Office  
**Sent:** Fri 11/3/2017 3:45:02 PM  
**Subject:** EPA Announces Intention To Nominate Members To Three Important Federal Advisory Committees

## **EPA Announces Intention To Nominate Members To Three Important Federal Advisory Committees**

**WASHINGTON** (November 3, 2017) – Today, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced his intention to appoint members who will serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) and the Science Advisory Board (SAB).

“To ensure that EPA is receiving the best independent scientific advice, I am appointing highly-qualified experts and scientists to these important committees,” **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.**

In a fair, open, and transparent fashion, EPA reviewed hundreds of qualified applicants nominated for these committees. Members who will be appointed include experts throughout the environmental stakeholder community, including from NGOs, academia, industry, and state, tribal and local officials. The makeup of the membership speaks to EPA’s commitment to science and openness to expertise from a diverse array of perspectives. Those nominees willing to serve have committed to remaining financially independent from EPA grants during their tenures.

Federal Advisory Committees (FAC) members that will serve on the BOSC can be found [here](#).

Federal Advisory Committees (FAC) members that will serve on the CASAC can be found [here](#).

Federal Advisory Committees (FAC) members that will serve on the SAB can be found [here](#).

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To: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**  
From: EPA Press Office  
Sent: Wed 11/1/2017 5:30:14 PM  
Subject: Pruitt Promotes Independence On EPA Science Boards

Pruitt: "The days of 'political science' are over at the agency."

## **Pruitt Promotes Independence On EPA Science Boards**

**"It Just Is Not Right For The Agency To Be Issuing \$77 Million In Grants And Then Asking These People To Be Providing Independent Counsel."**  
- EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

**THE WASHINGTON POST: "Scott Pruitt Blocks Scientists With EPA Funding From Serving As Agency Advisers."** "It is very, very important to ensure independence, to ensure that we're getting advice and counsel independent of the EPA," Pruitt told reporters Tuesday. He estimated that the members of three different committees — Scientific Advisory Board, the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee and the Board of Scientific Counselors — had collectively accepted \$77 million in EPA grants over the last three years. He noted that researchers will have the option of ending their grant or continuing to advise EPA, 'but they can't do both.'" ([The Washington Post](#), 10/31/17)

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL: "EPA Bars Scientists It Funds From Advisory Roles."** "The Environmental Protection Agency will no longer permit scientists receiving agency grants to serve on three of its independent advisory boards, a change the agency said was designed to foster greater independence and regional diversity for the panels, but which scientist groups and environmental advocates said would give polluting industries undue policy influence." ([The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/31/17)

**USA TODAY: "Pruitt Moves To Shake Up EPA Advisory Boards."** "Scientists who receive grants from the Environmental Protection Agency will no longer be allowed to simultaneously serve on the agency's nearly two dozen advisory boards, an unprecedented directive EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt ... 'We want to ensure that the American people have confidence ... in the process and that the advisers that we have in each of these respective capacities are providing independent, arms-length input to us as we make decisions.'" ([USA Today](#), 10/31/17)

**THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON: "Members Of Scientific Boards Received \$77 Million From EPA While Advising Agency."** "Under the last three years of the Obama administration, members sitting on just three of the agency's scientific advisory boards received \$77 million in EPA grants. Pruitt said individuals advising in policy and regulatory matters should be completely independent of the EPA." ([The Washington Free Beacon](#), 10/31/17)

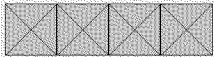
**THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: "Scott Pruitt Bars EPA Grant Recipients From Serving On Advisory Boards."** "People receiving EPA grants who currently serve on the three boards will have to choose whether to keep the grant or continue their work on the boards. Most board members serve three-year terms. 'You have to choose, are you going to continue getting a grant or serve the agency,' Pruitt said. 'They can't do both.'" ([The Washington Examiner](#), 10/31/17)

**ABC NEWS: "EPA Blocks Some Scientists From Serving On Advisory Boards."** "The

Environmental Protection Agency announced today that scientists who receive money from the agency will no longer be able to serve on its advisory boards, a move that critics contend will push independent science out of decisions about environmental policy. ... The EPA argues that in addition to strengthening the independence of members on its boards, the move will further increase the diversity of the councils, with new members offering 'fresh perspectives.' The agency is further promoting participation from state, local and tribal governments." ([ABC News](#), 10/31/17)

**DAILY CALLER: "Trump's EPA Takes Steps To 'Ensure Independence' Among Science Advisers."** "EPA will no longer allow researchers to serve on three scientific advisory boards if they also receive agency grants. The policy is to ensure science advisers are truly independent from EPA, Pruitt said, echoing concerns Republicans have voiced for years." ([Daily Caller](#), 10/31/17)

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**To:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
**From:** EPA Press Office  
**Sent:** Tue 10/31/2017 9:19:00 PM  
**Subject:** CBS: Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement

## CBS NEWS

### Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement

**NOTE:** Patrick Traylor, a former energy industry lawyer hired by new EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, said the settlements show that the Trump administration will enforce environmental laws "with prudence and with excellence." Traylor said the deals bring "two very well-respected companies" back into compliance with environmental laws. "Now they can continue their work of driving economic growth," he said.

#### Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement

CBS News

October 31, 2017

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/exxon-epa-settle-pollution-case/>

Exxon Mobil (XOM) settled air pollution violations with the Trump administration by paying a \$2.5 million civil penalty and promising to spend \$300 million on pollution-control technology at several plants along the Gulf Coast.

Federal officials said Tuesday that the settlement will prevent thousands of tons of future pollution, including cancer-causing benzene, from eight petrochemical plants in Texas and Louisiana.

Some environmentalists attacked the settlement as insufficient punishment for years of violations by the giant oil company, while others said it addressed excess burning or flaring of gas, a key pollution problem at Exxon plants.

The deal settles allegations that Exxon violated the federal Clean Air Act by releasing excess harmful pollution after modifying flaring systems at five plants in Texas and three in Louisiana. The allegations date back more than a decade.

Exxon said it will install and increase the efficiency of the flaring systems and monitor for benzene outside four of the plants.

The Justice Department and the state of Colorado announced a smaller settlement over pollution charges against Denver-based PDC Energy (PDCE). The company will spend about \$20 million to upgrade equipment and pay a \$2.5 million civil penalty to the federal government and Colorado. Up to \$1 million of the state's share can be forgiven if the company performs certain environmental projects.

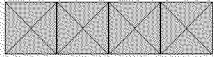
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