

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 6/20/2017 6:51:24 PM
Subject: EPA could cut more than 1,200 employees with buyouts

By Alex Guillén

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EPA's early retirement and buyout programs could shrink the agency's 15,000-person workforce by as many as 1,228 people by September, according to an agency email.

Though the programs must still be approved by the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Budget and Management, EPA attorney Robert Coomber wrote to union leaders that the program will be offered to a maximum of 1,228 workers across the agency, although it is not known whether those people will accept them.

In a separate agency-wide memo, Acting Deputy Administrator Mike Flynn wrote that "we expect a limited number of employees" will be given an offer under the buyout programs, known in federal lingo as VERA and VSIP. Anyone who applies and accepts an offer would have to leave by early September.

The "voluntary separations" help EPA "complete workforce restructuring with minimal disruption to the workforce," Flynn added. EPA has at least \$12 million set aside to pay for the buyouts.

EPA's proposed budget calls for reducing EPA's workforce by 3,200 positions, or about 21 percent of the agency, although congressional appropriators indicated they will not grant that request.

As much as a third of the federal workforce is currently eligible for retirement, although it is not clear what the exact figure is at EPA.

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