

Date of Meeting: March 13, 2019

Participants: Administrator Andrew Wheeler, Emory Rounds, Dale "Chip" Christopher

Name of Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Name of Agency Head: Andrew Wheeler

Bio of Agency Head:

Mr. Wheeler began his career during the George H. W. Bush Administration as a Special Assistant in EPA's Pollution Prevention and Toxics office.

Principal and the team leader of the Energy and Environment Practice Group at FaegreBD Consulting, as well as Counsel at Faegre Baker Daniels law firm, where he practiced since 2009. He also served as the Co-chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Industry team across the entire firm. Prior to his work with the firm, Mr. Wheeler served for six years as the Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel, as well as the Minority Staff Director, of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Before his time at the full Senate EPW Committee, Mr. Wheeler served in a similar capacity for six years for the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, Wetlands and Nuclear Safety. Mr. Wheeler is the past Chairman of the National Energy Resource Organization (NERO) and a Stennis Fellow. Mr. Wheeler is also an Eagle Scout. He completed his law degree at Washington University in St. Louis, his MBA at George Mason University, and his undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University in English and Biology.

Name of DAEO: David Cozad

Years in position: Since October 1, 2018

How frequently the agency calls and the nature of the question: Varies, but often. The questions typically involve complex criminal conflicts of interest statutes, financial disclosure reporting questions.

Financial Disclosure: No issues.

Program Review:

Date of last review: March 2017

Recommendations and/or highlights:

Ethics Program Staffing Concerns

OGC Ethics--the EPA headquarters ethics office--currently consists of the DAEO, the ADAEO, and two full-time and two part-time ethics officials. While DEOs assist in administering portions of the ethics program throughout the agency, OGE is concerned that OGC Ethics may be

insufficiently staffed to ensure the long-term effectiveness of EPA's ethics program. At the very least, OGE is concerned that at current staffing levels, OGC Ethics may not be able to absorb the impact of any staffing changes, such as medical leave or retirement, or any unforeseen events. Additional responsibilities or priorities may stretch existing resources even further. Moreover, the effective administration of certain elements of the ethics program relies largely on the competency of the DEOs who are not directly supervised by OGC Ethics. Again, OGE is concerned that OGC Ethics staffing may be insufficient to provide the DEOs with continuous oversight and necessary guidance and training.

Recommendations

1. Ensure that new entrant confidential reports are filed timely.
2. Ensure that all confidential reports are certified timely.
3. Implement corrective action to improve the review of confidential reports in order to eliminate technical errors.
4. Ensure that new entrant confidential reports are filed timely.
5. Ensure that all confidential reports are certified timely.
6. Implement corrective action to improve the review of confidential reports in order to eliminate technical errors.
7. Ensure that ORD IOAA undertakes efforts in concert with OGC Ethics to strengthen the administration of the ethics services provided to its expert and consultant SGEs.
8. Ensure that all expert and consultant SGEs EPA-wide receive ethics training.

Still open? Yes

Attached report publicly available at [https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Program%20Review%20Reports/0DCD9CBB33D65DFE852580DD004C50EE/\\$FILE/2017%20Environmental%20Protection%20Agency%20%20Final%20Report.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Program%20Review%20Reports/0DCD9CBB33D65DFE852580DD004C50EE/$FILE/2017%20Environmental%20Protection%20Agency%20%20Final%20Report.pdf?open)

From: [Dale A. Christopher](#)
To: [Emory A. Rounds III](#)
Subject: Some background for our meeting tomorrow
Date: Monday, March 18, 2019 8:33:57 AM
Attachments: [2017 Environmental Protection Agency Final Report.pdf](#)

Emory,

Attached is the most recent program review report for EPA. Subsequent to the issuance of this report, in June 2018 Doug, Ciara, and I met with Justina Fugh and Jennie Keith from EPA to discuss their progress in implementing the report's recommendations and in improving EPA's ethics program overall. They conceded that significant improvements had not been made, primarily due to continued staffing shortages, but provided us with a detailed plan for improvement, which included increased staffing.

We have a full follow-up review scheduled for (b) (5) to again assess EPA's implementation of our report recommendations, as well as to evaluate their progress in implementing the plan for overall program improvement detailed in our June 2018 meeting.

I'm teleworking today, but am happy to discuss further. We can also discuss tomorrow morning if you like.

Chip

From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: [Dale A. Christopher](#); [Emory A. Rounds III](#); [Director of OGE](#)
Subject: Meeting with EPA Administrator

From: [Emory A. Rounds III](#)
To: [Nicole Stein](#)
Subject: Accepted: Meeting with EPA Administrator

From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: [Emory A. Rounds III](#); [Dale A. Christopher](#); [Director of OGE](#)
Subject: Canceled: Meeting with EPA Secretary
Importance: High

Will be rescheduled.

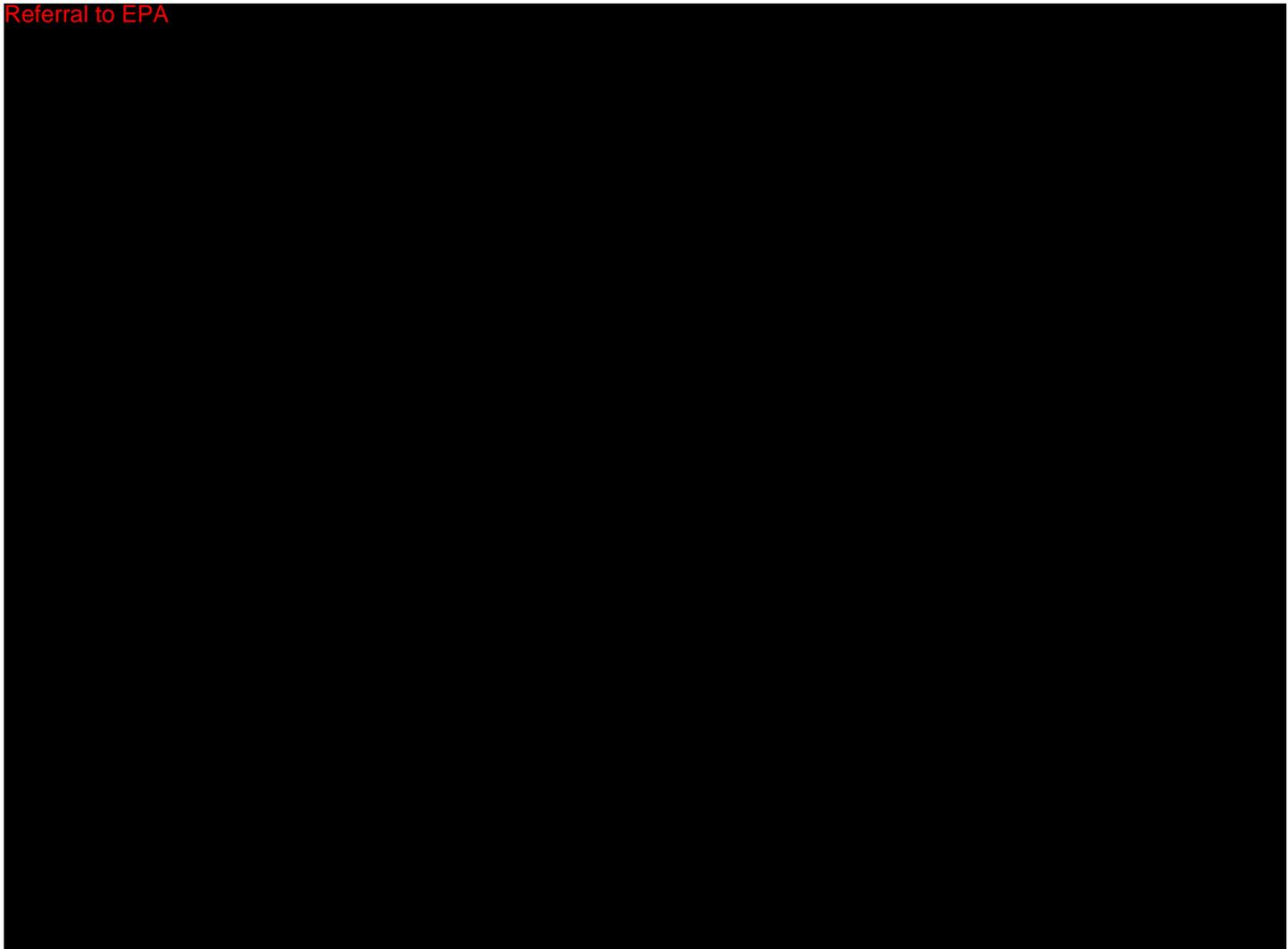
Suzanne L. Meyer

From: Emory A. Rounds III
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:41 AM
To: Nicole Stein
Subject: Accepted: Meeting with EPA Administrator

From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: [Dale A. Christopher](#); [Emory A. Rounds III](#)
Subject: EPA Logistics
Date: Monday, March 11, 2019 11:48:26 AM

See below.

Referral to EPA



From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: [Steven Corbally](#)
Subject: EPA
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019 9:35:12 AM

Emory and Chip are scheduled to meet with EPA next Wednesday. Please prepare the 1 pager background document. Thank you.

Nicole Stein

Subject: Meeting with EPA Administrator

Location: EPA

Start: Tue 3/19/2019 2:30 PM

End: Tue 3/19/2019 3:30 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Nicole Stein

Required Attendees: Dale A. Christopher (dachrist@oge.gov); Emory A. Rounds III (earounds@oge.gov);
Director of OGE

Nicole Stein

Subject: Meeting with EPA Secretary
Location: EPA

Start: Wed 3/13/2019 1:30 PM
End: Wed 3/13/2019 2:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Nicole Stein
Required Attendees: Emory A. Rounds III (earounds@oge.gov); Dale A. Christopher (dachrist@oge.gov);
Director of OGE

From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: (b)(6) - Victoria Clarke's email
Subject: Meeting with OGE Director
Date: Monday, February 11, 2019 3:00:25 PM

Hi Victoria,

I wanted to follow-up on our conversation regarding a meeting with the Director and Acting Director Wheeler. We would be happy to set up a meeting after he has been confirmed to the position.

Nicole

Nicole Stein
Chief, Agency Assistance Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
nstein@oge.gov
(202) 482-9255

From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: [Emory A. Rounds III](#)
Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director - EPA
Date: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:13:31 PM

Ok.

From: Emory A. Rounds III
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>
Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director - EPA

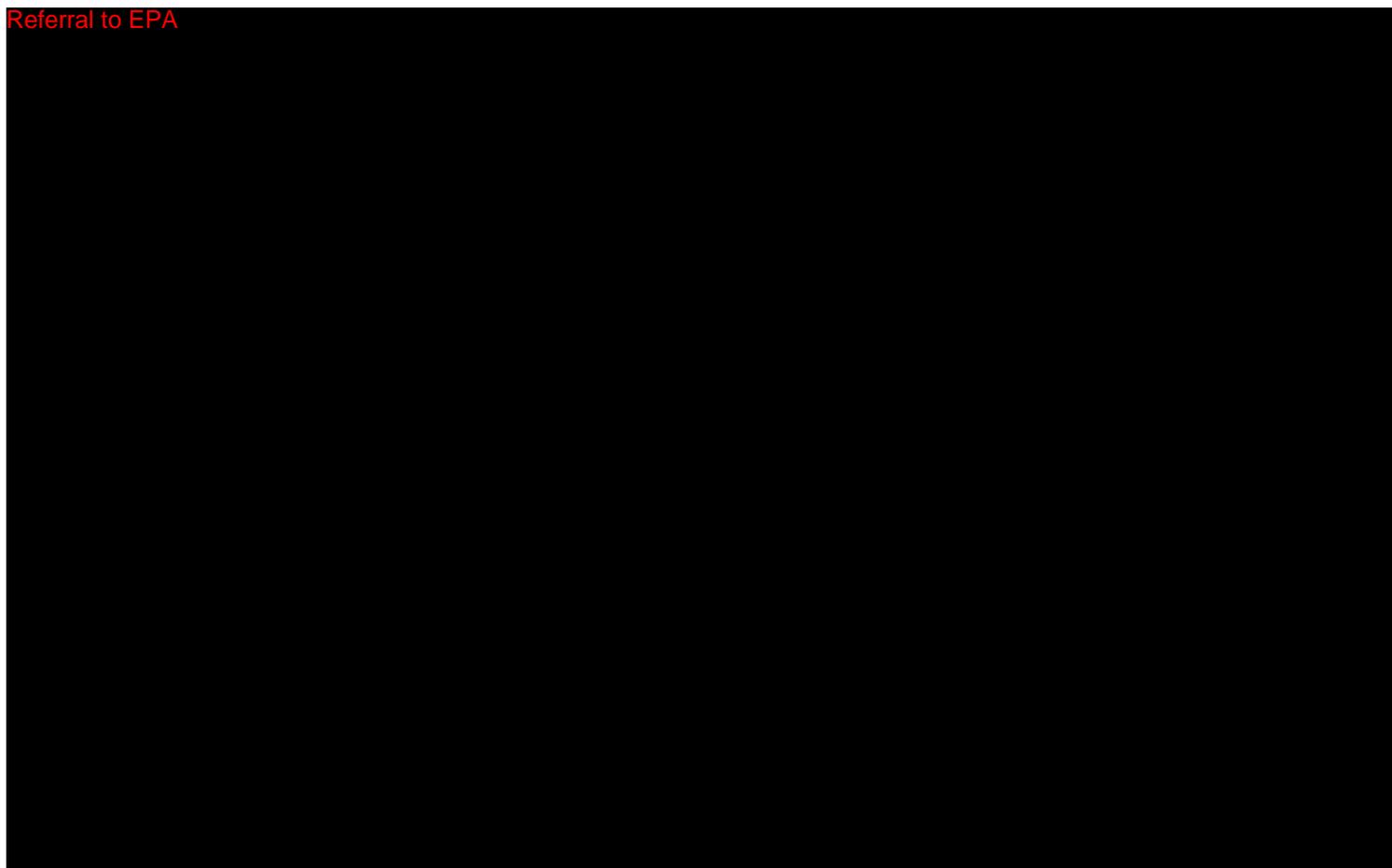
[I am pretty open on Wednesday.](#)

From: Nicole Stein
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 1:19 PM
To: Emory A. Rounds III
Subject: FW: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director - EPA

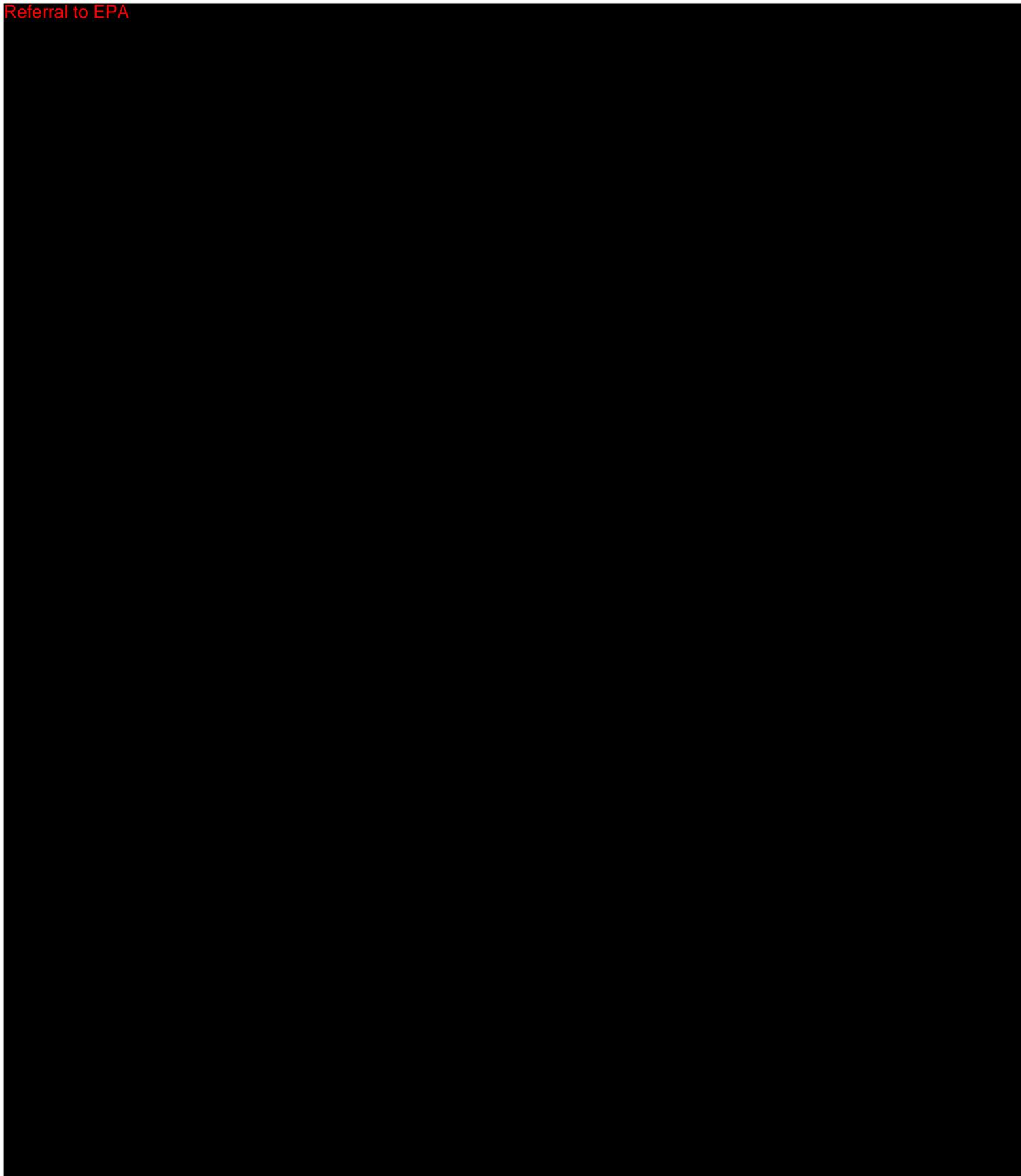
Emory,

Are you available on the 13th?

Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: "[Woodward, Cheryl](#)"; [Eby, Natasha](#); [Humphreys, Hayly](#)
Cc: [Clarke, Victoria](#)
Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?
Date: Monday, March 11, 2019 11:48:36 AM

Thank you Cheryl.

Referral to EPA



From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:38 AM
To: Eby, Natasha <(b) (6)>; Humphreys, Hayly <(b) (6)>
Cc: Clarke, Victoria <(b) (6)>; Woodward, Cheryl <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?

Hi Natasha,

March 19th at 2:30 works for us.

Nicole

Referral to EPA

From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:49 AM

To: Humphreys, Hayly (b) (6)

Cc: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6); Woodward, Cheryl (b) (6)

Eby, Natasha (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?

Hi Hayly,

Unfortunately, Monday morning does not work. Do you have time that afternoon?

Referral to EPA

From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 5:38 PM

To: Humphreys, Hayly (b) (6)

Cc: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6); Woodward, Cheryl (b) (6);

Eby, Natasha (b) (6)

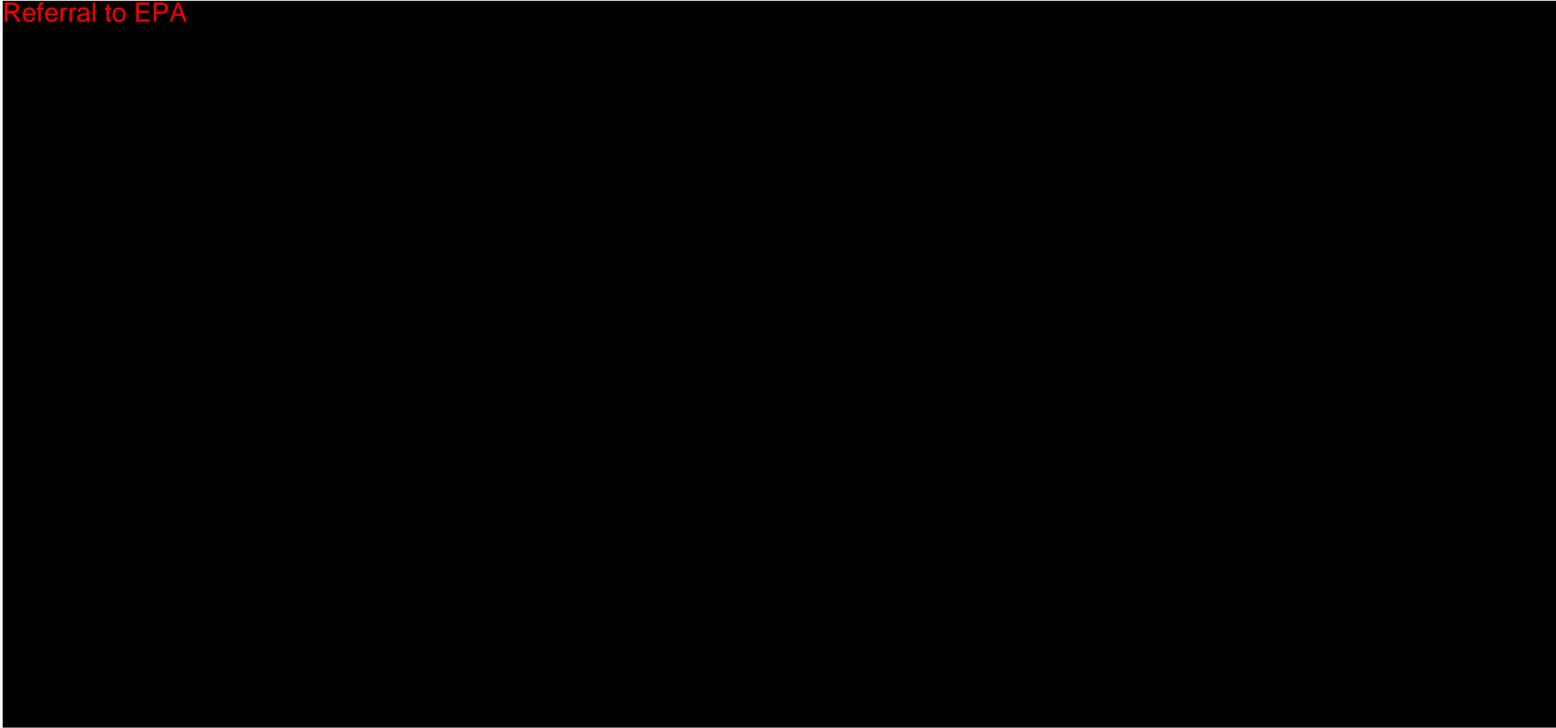
Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?

Hi Hayly,

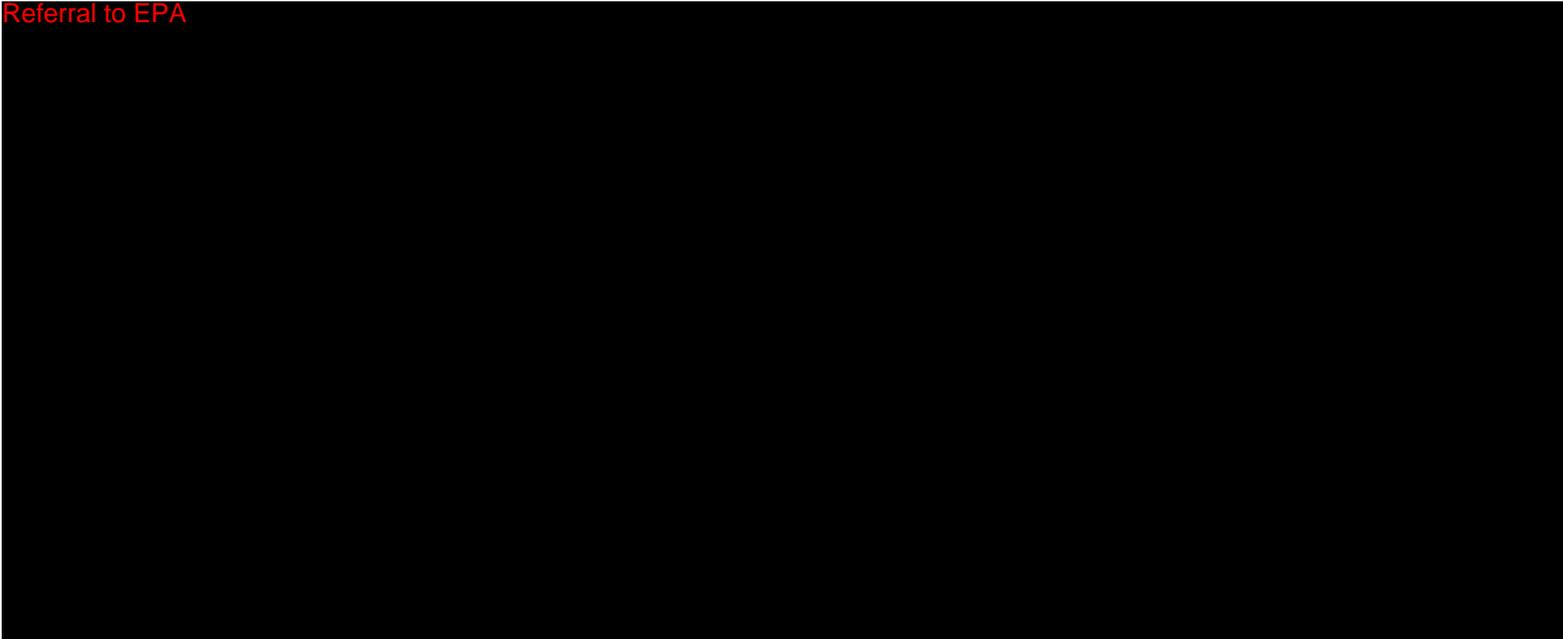
Unfortunately, the Director is not available March 15th. If Wednesday no longer works, does the Administrator have time the week of March 18th?

Nicole

Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 8:37 AM

To: Humphreys, Hayly (b) (6)

Cc: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6); Eby, Natasha (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?

Good morning Hayly,

Yes, March 13th at 1:30 pm works for the Director. He will be joined by Chip Christopher, OGE's Deputy Director for Compliance.

Please let me know if there are specific arrival instructions.

Nicole

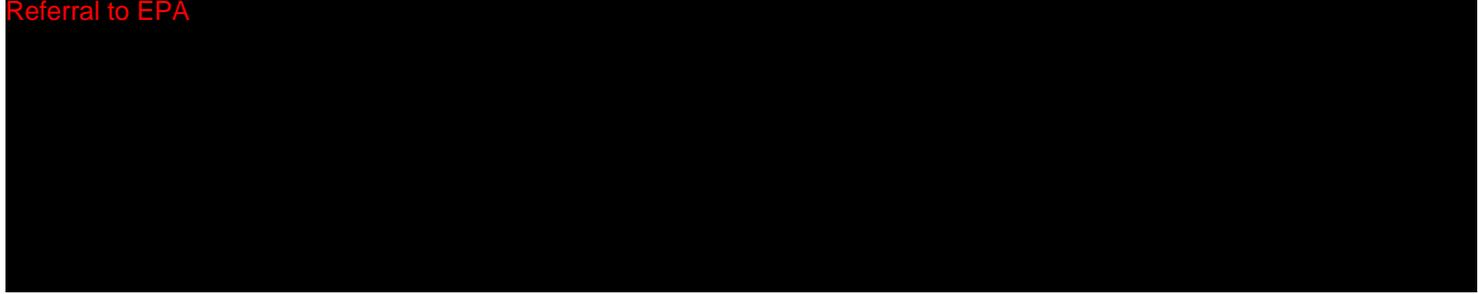
Referral to EPA



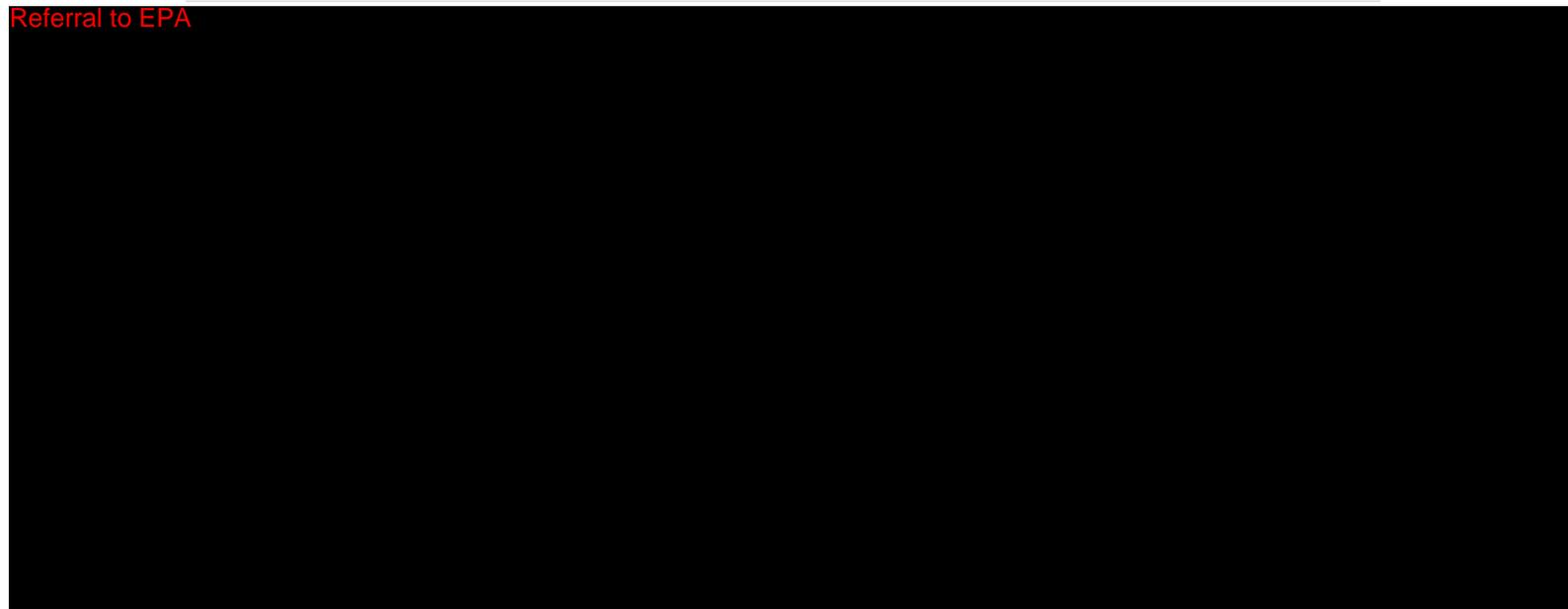
Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



On Mar 4, 2019, at 3:18 PM, Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov> wrote:

Hi Natasha,

The Director is also flexible on Wednesday. Perhaps, 11 or 2?

Yes, 30 minutes is sufficient time and the Director can attend the meeting. For the other meetings we have held, the DAEO and/or Chief of Staff has been attendance. The Director will plan to bring his Chief of Staff to the meeting.

I'm also available by phone if that is easier to coordinate.

Nicole
(202) 482-9255

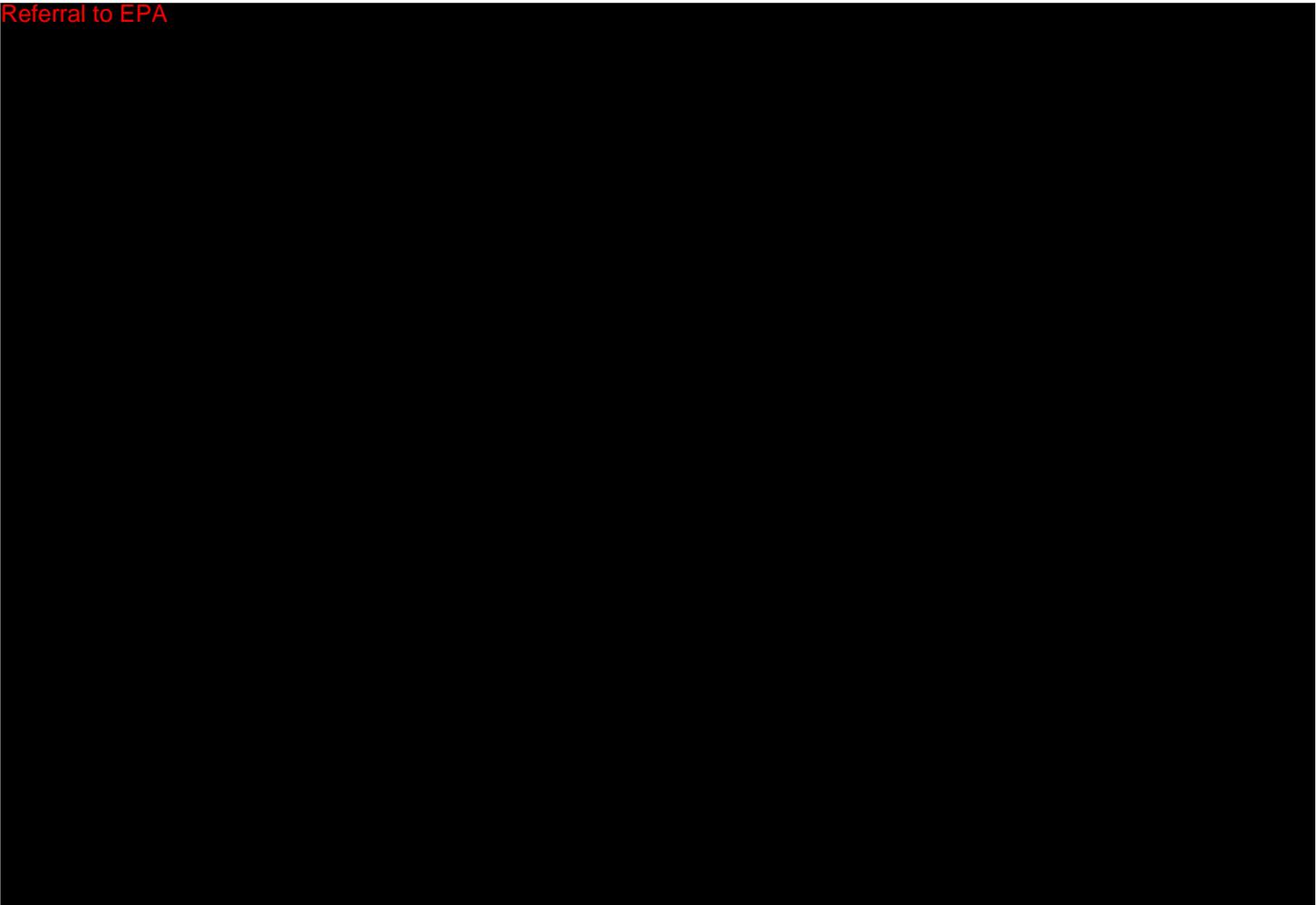
Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



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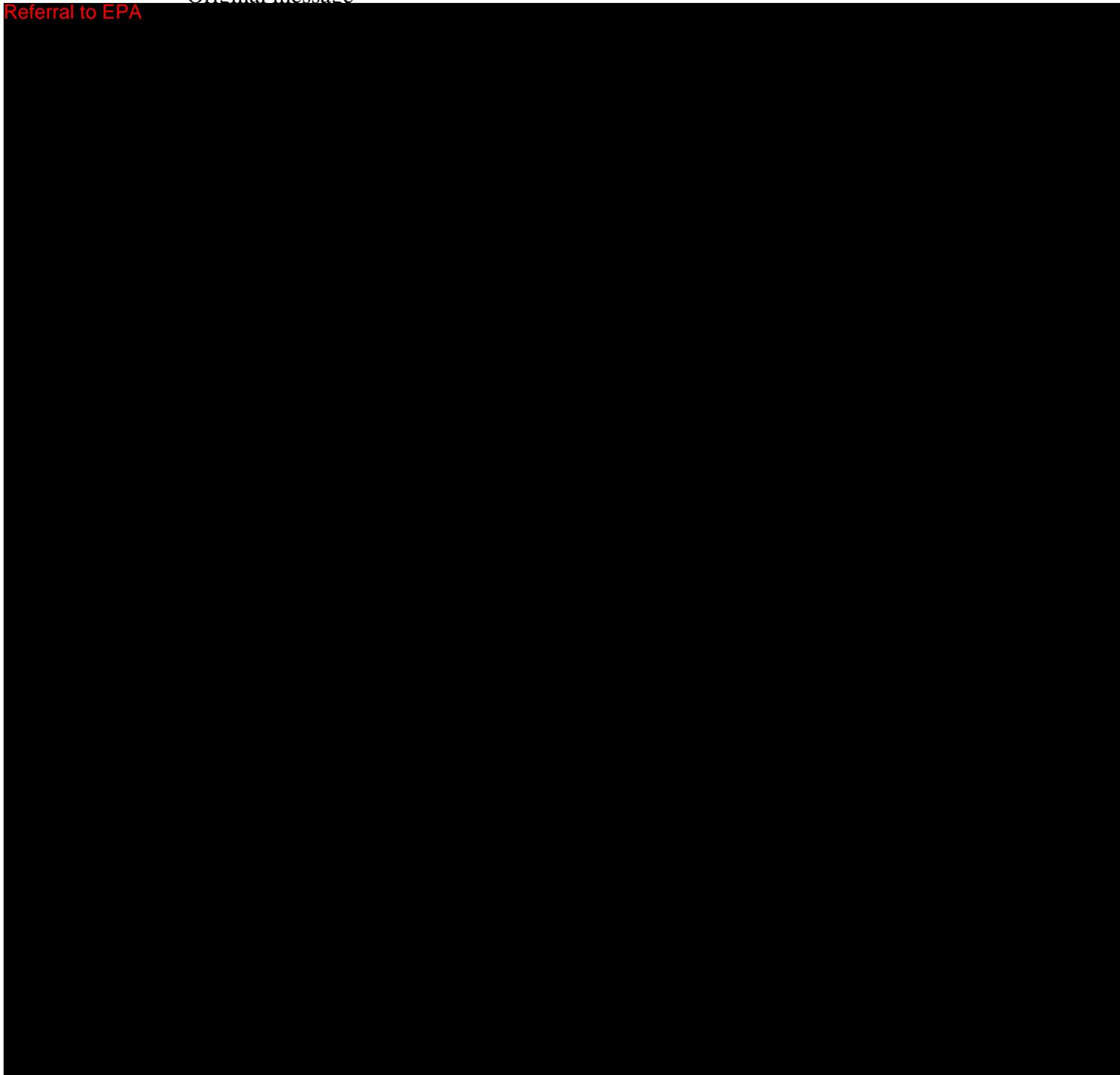
From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: [Eby, Natasha](#)
Cc: [Humphreys, Hayly](#)
Subject: Re: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?
Date: Friday, March 1, 2019 2:13:06 PM

Thank you for your email. I will check with the Directors schedule and will touch base with you early next week.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

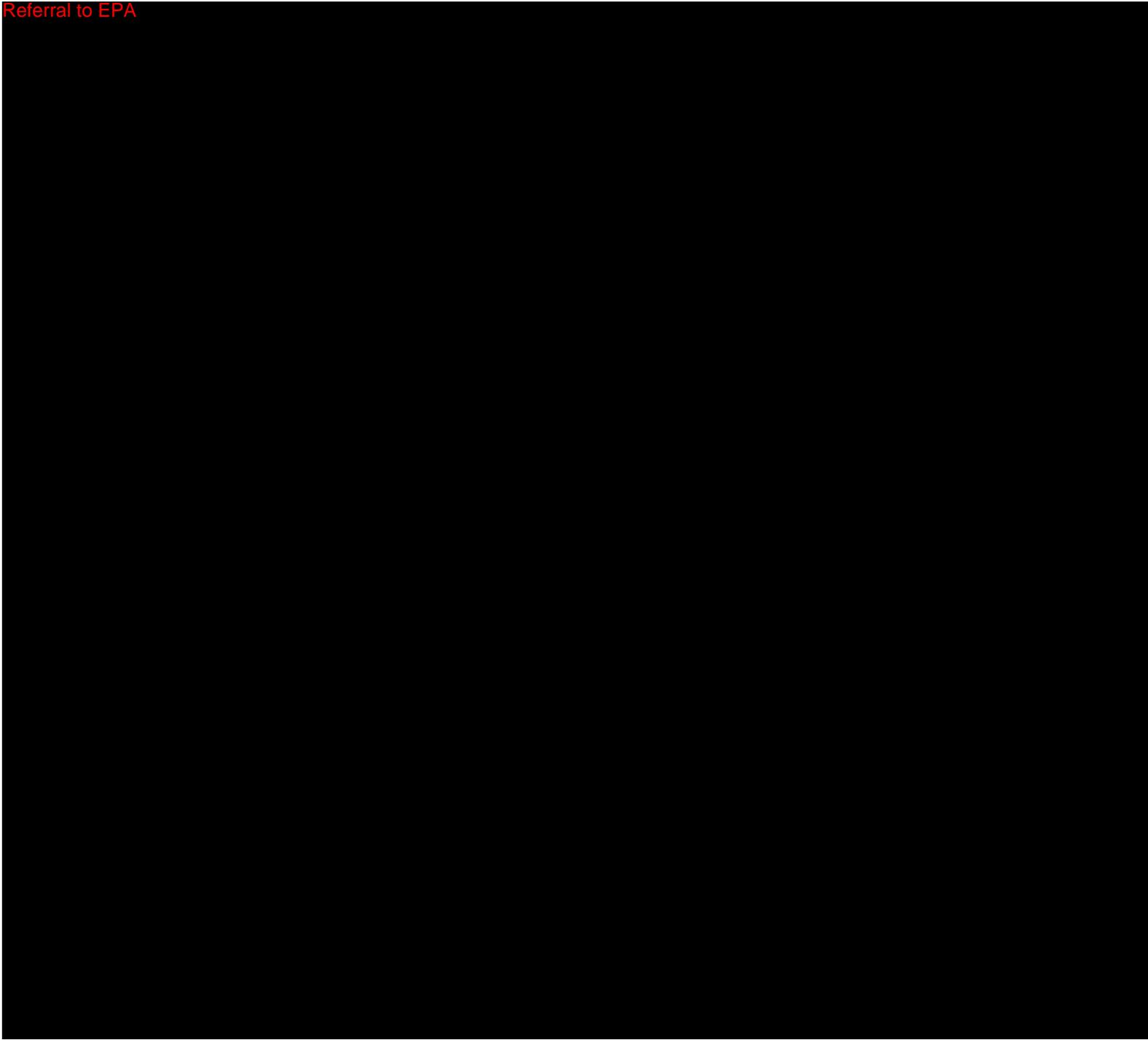
Referral to EPA



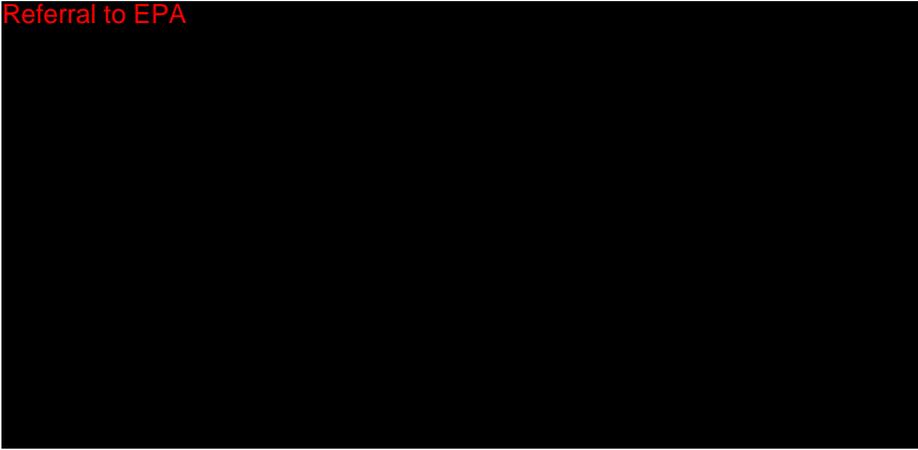
Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA





U.S. OGE 
@OfficeGovEthics

[Follow](#)



Today, Director Rounds met with
[@EPAAWheeler](#) from [@EPA](#).

2:11 PM - 19 Mar 2019

3 Likes



From: [Nicole Stein](#)
To: [Steven Corbally](#)
Subject: RE: Just a reminder
Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:28:22 AM

Thanks. We're presenting a list to Emory this week.

Nicole

Nicole Stein
Chief, Agency Assistance Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
nstein@oge.gov
(202) 482-9255

From: Steven Corbally
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>
Subject: Just a reminder

I know you said you reached out to Victoria.

From: Steven Corbally
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 9:39 AM
To: Nicole Stein
Subject: FW: how do we ...

I just received a call from Victoria Clarke at EPA asking if we have any dates yet. Victoria's contact info is (b)(5)-Victoria Clark's phone number (b)(6)-Victoria Clark's email

Thanks.
Steve

From: Steven Corbally
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2018 2:52 PM
To: 'Fugh, Justina'
Cc: Nicole Stein
Subject: RE: how do we ...

Justina,

I have copied Nicole Stein on this email. Nicole can assist you.

Happy holidays!!
Steve

Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:38 AM

To: Eby, Natasha (b) (6); Humphreys, Hayly (b) (6)

Cc: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6); Woodward, Cheryl (b) (6)

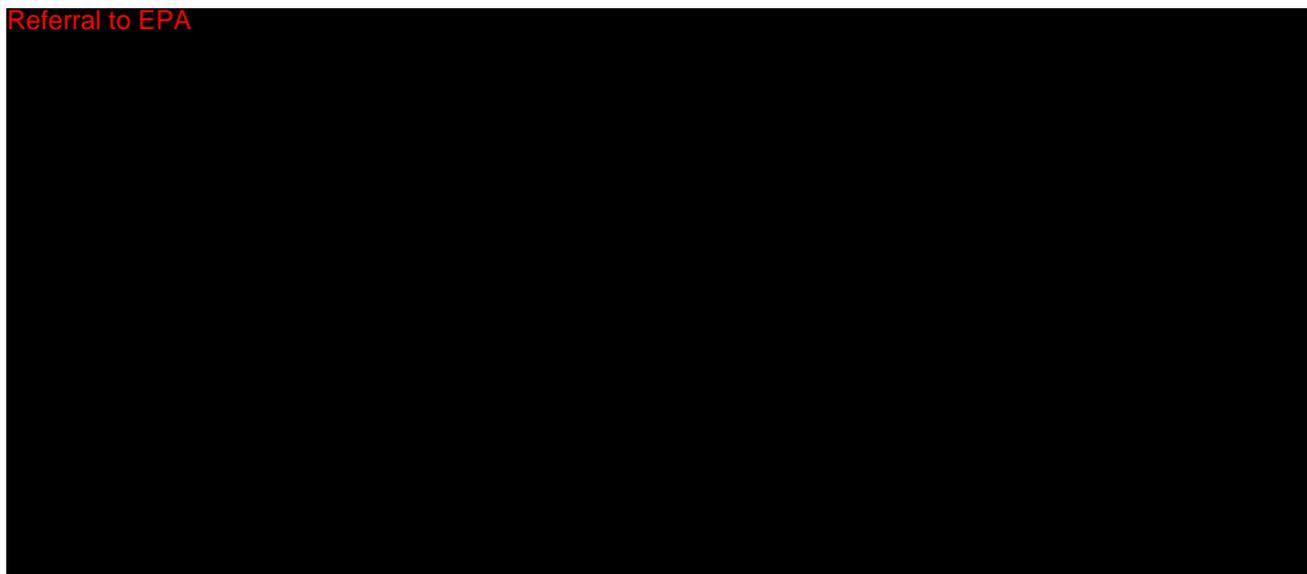
Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?

Hi Natasha,

March 19th at 2:30 works for us.

Nicole

Referral to EPA



From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:49 AM

To: Humphreys, Hayly (b) (6)

Cc: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6); Woodward, Cheryl (b) (6);

Eby, Natasha (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?

Hi Hayly,

Unfortunately, Monday morning does not work. Do you have time that afternoon?

Referral to EPA



From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 5:38 PM

To: Humphreys, Hayly (b) (6)

Cc: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6); Woodward, Cheryl (b) (6)

Eby, Natasha (b) (6)

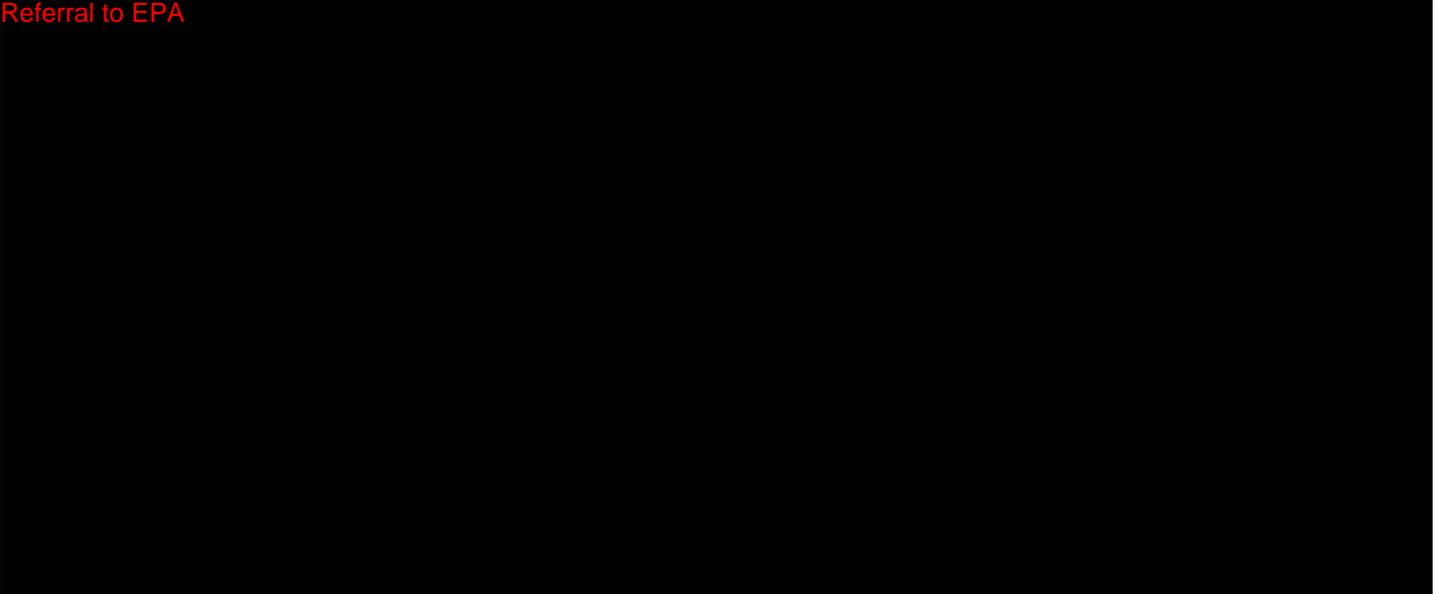
Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?

Hi Hayly,

Unfortunately, the Director is not available March 15th. If Wednesday no longer works, does the Administrator have time the week of March 18th?

Nicole

Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA

Referral to EPA

From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 8:37 AM

To: Humphreys, Hayly (b) (6)

Cc: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6); Eby, Natasha (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Scheduling a meeting with the OGE Director?

Good morning Hayly,

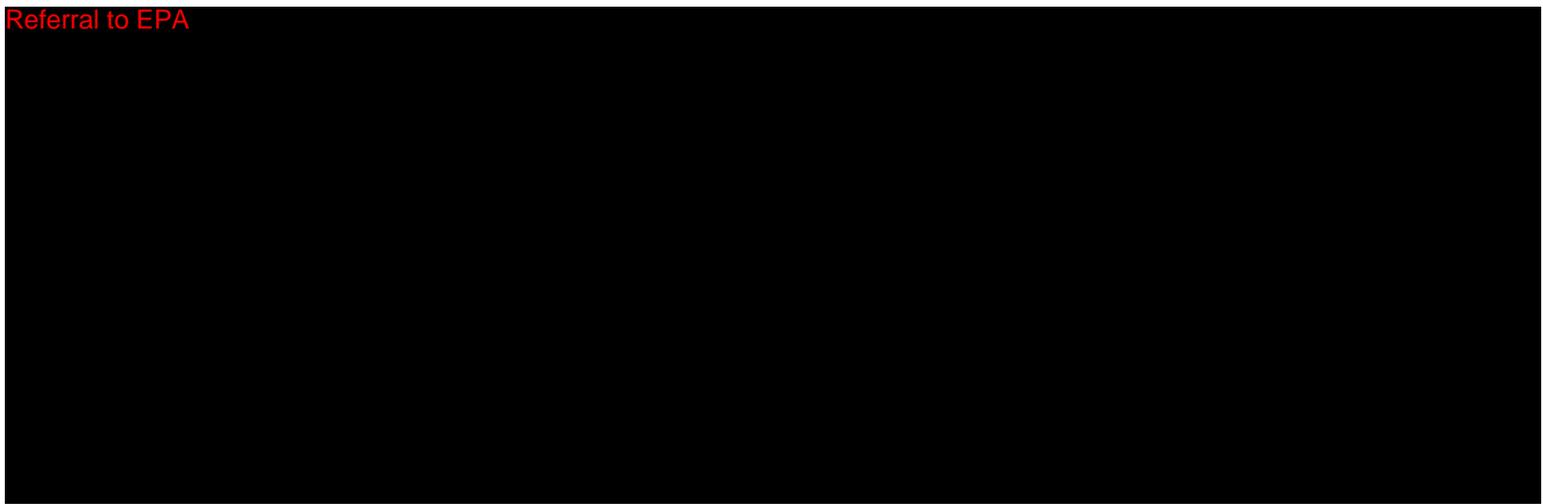
Yes, March 13th at 1:30 pm works for the Director. He will be joined by Chip Christopher, OGE's Deputy Director for Compliance.

Please let me know if there are specific arrival instructions.

Nicole

Referral to EPA

Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



On Mar 4, 2019, at 3:18 PM, Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov> wrote:

Hi Natasha,

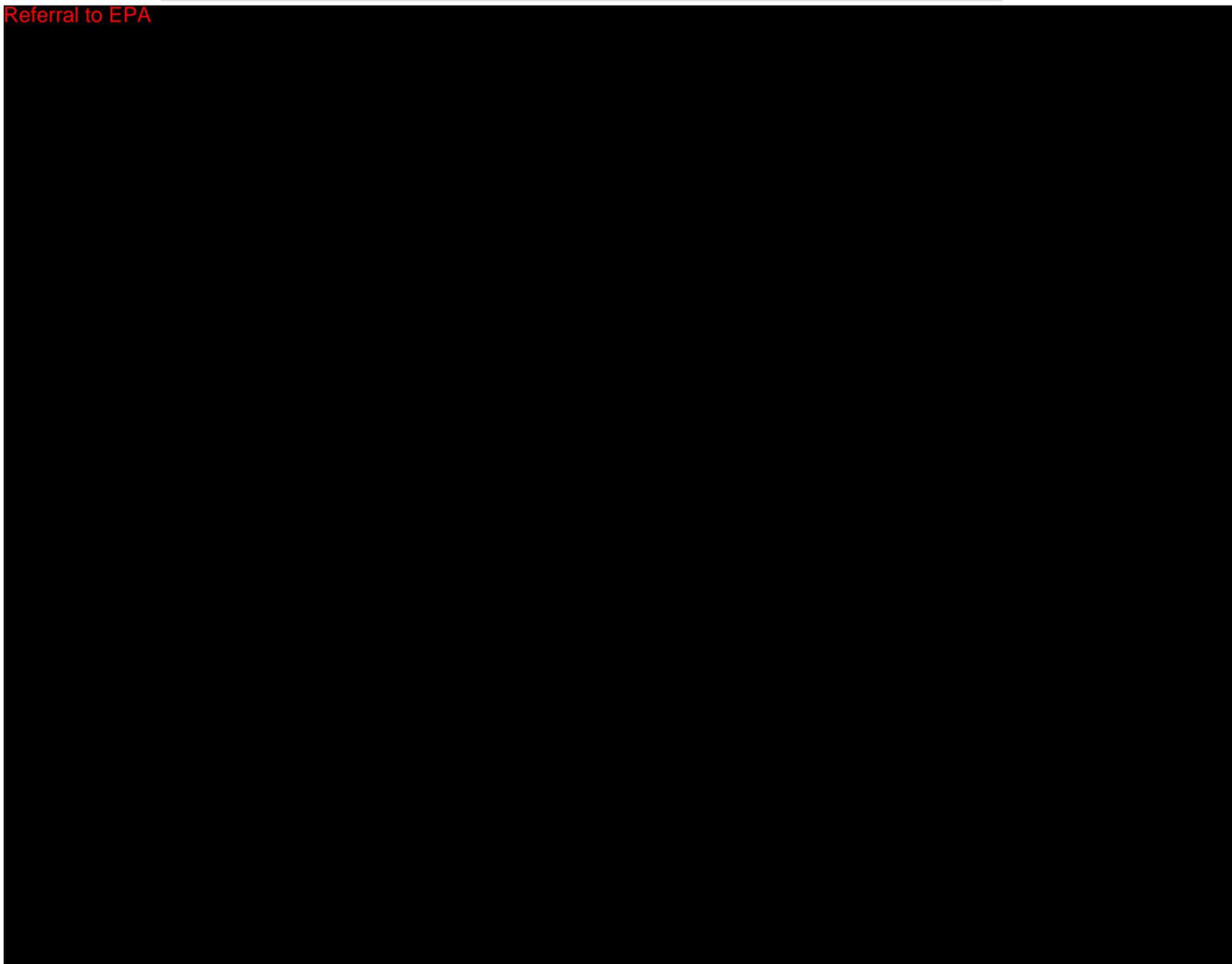
The Director is also flexible on Wednesday. Perhaps, 11 or 2?

Yes, 30 minutes is sufficient time and the Director can attend the meeting. For the other meetings we have held, the DAEO and/or Chief of Staff has been attendance. The Director will plan to bring his Chief of Staff to the meeting.

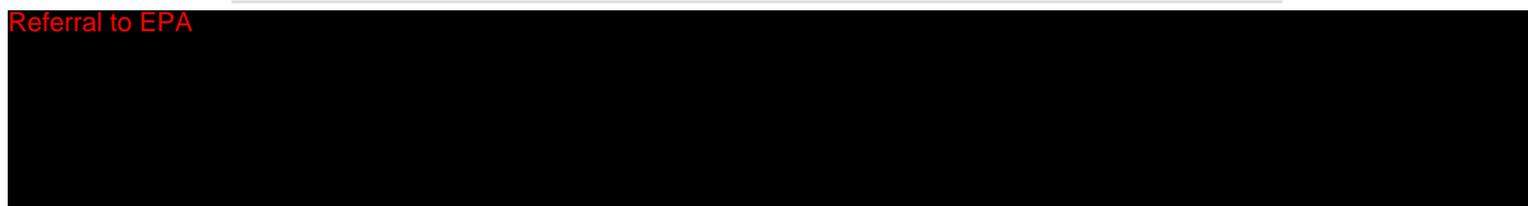
I'm also available by phone if that is easier to coordinate.

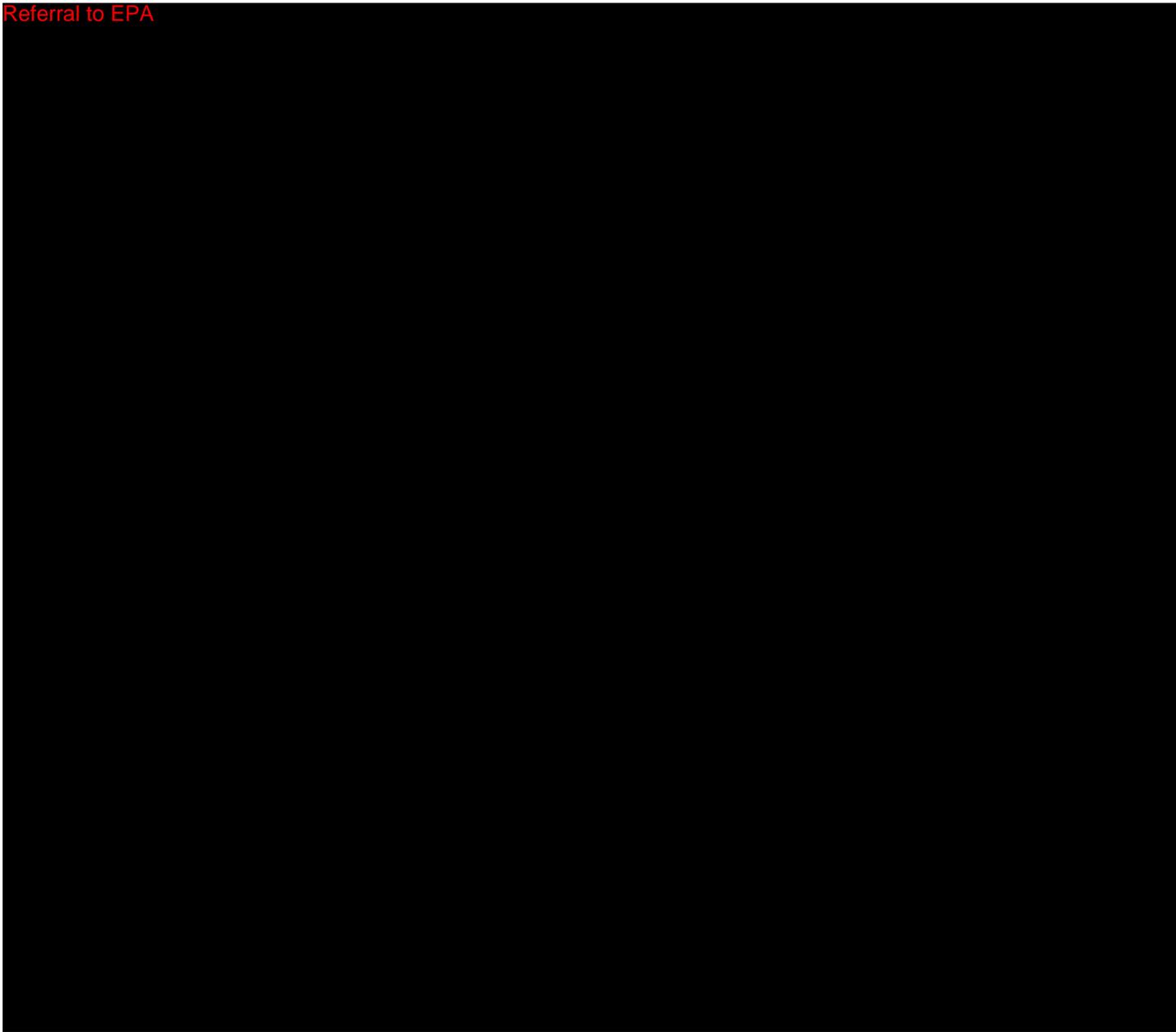
Nicole
(202) 482-9255

Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA





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Referral to EPA



From: Steven Corbally [mailto:scorball@oge.gov]

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2018 2:52 PM

To: Fugh, Justina (b) (6)

Cc: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>

Subject: RE: how do we ...

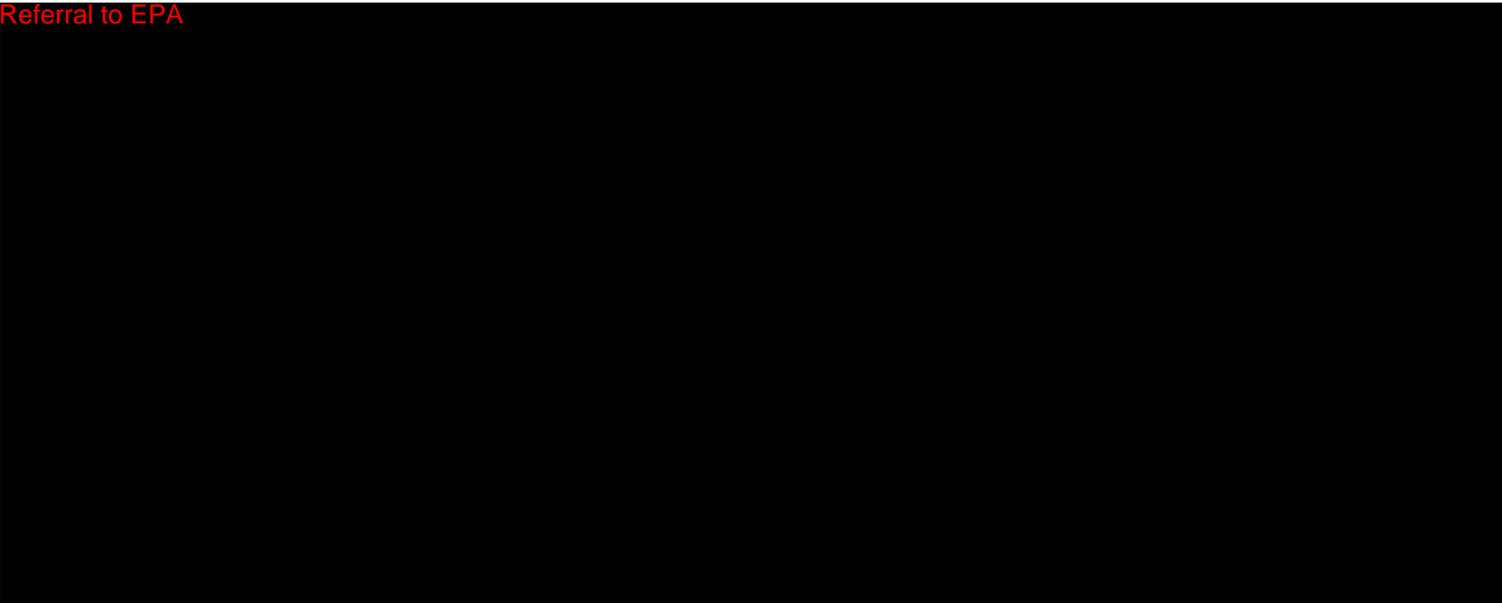
Justina,

I have copied Nicole Stein on this email. Nicole can assist you.

Happy holidays!!

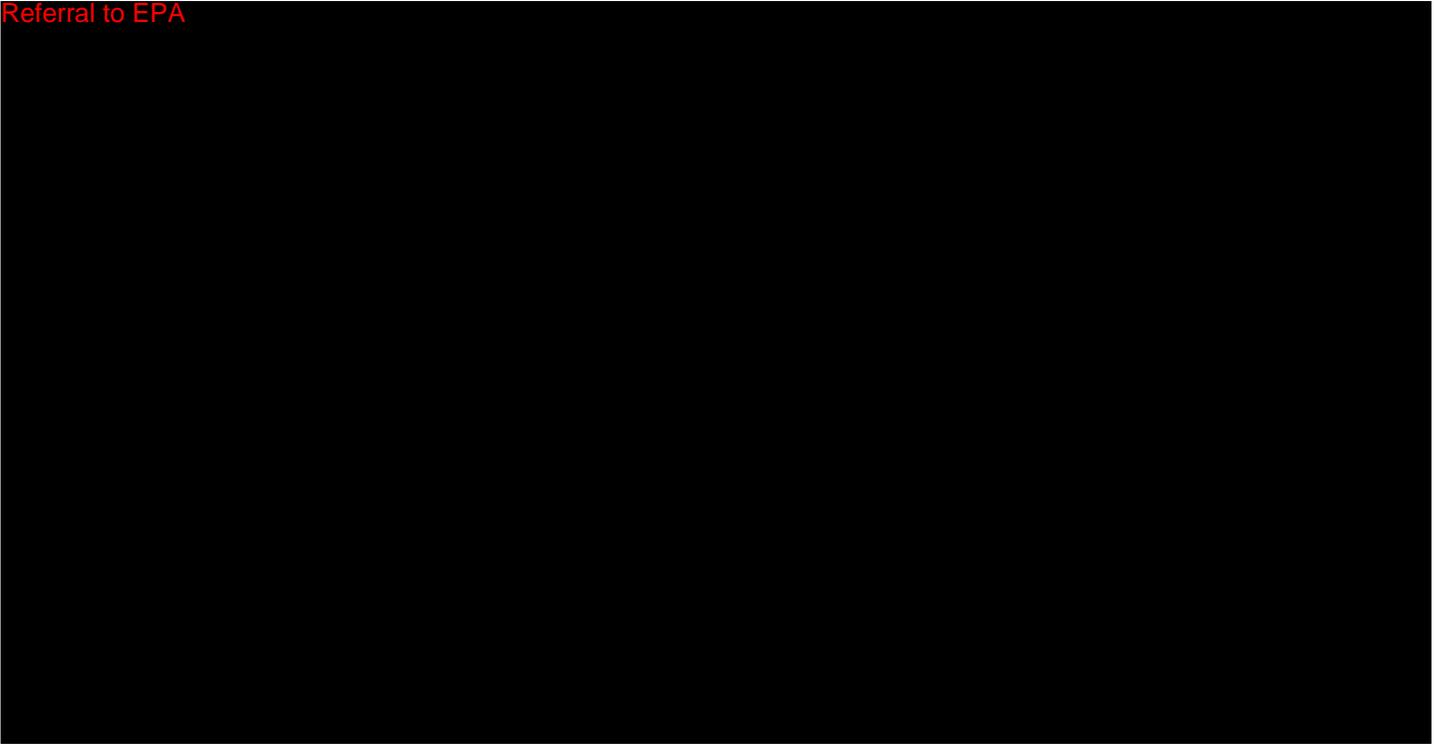
Steve

Referral to EPA

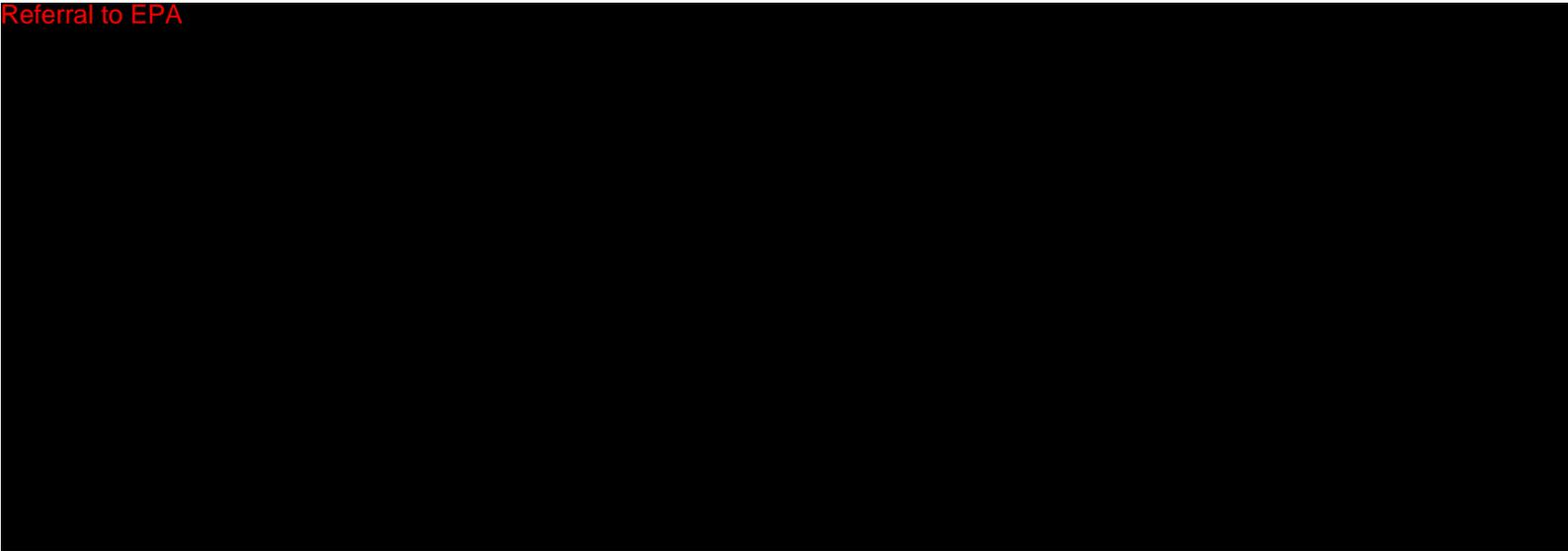


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Referral to EPA



Referral to EPA



From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 9:01 AM
To: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Meeting with OGE Director

Hi Victoria,

I saw that. Yes, wed be happy to work with you to set up a meeting.

What I have found helpful with scheduling these meetings with other agencies is when they send me a few date and times that work for the Secretary.

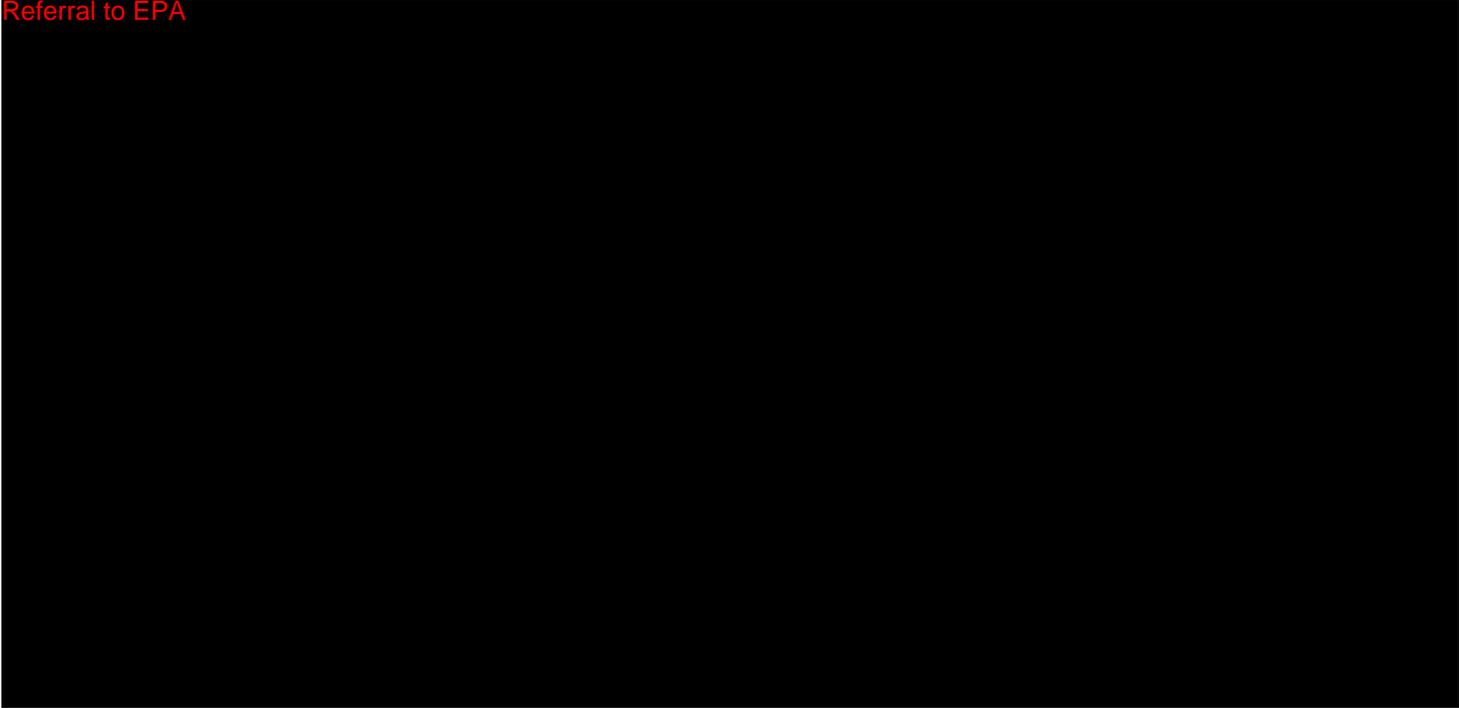
As far as preference, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays work best for the Director.

Nicole

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

Referral to EPA



From: Nicole Stein <nstein@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Clarke, Victoria (b) (6)
Subject: Meeting with OGE Director

Hi Victoria,

I wanted to follow-up on our conversation regarding a meeting with the Director and Acting Director Wheeler. We would be happy to set up a meeting after he has been confirmed to the position.

Nicole

Nicole Stein
Chief, Agency Assistance Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

nstein@oge.gov

(202) 482-9255

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