

RESEARCH ARTICLE

ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to explore the environmental protection agency (EPA) issues and also suggest solutions that will help to solve these issues. **Method:** We have used an analysis method for our study. We used the environmental protection agency (EPA) website, report, and previously published reports to evaluate issues. **Results:** Our results show that the environmental protection agency (EPA) has issues in workload and also in information security. We analyze both issues deeply and recommend some changes to the environmental protection agency (EPA) which includes a pilot project, a staffing plan for the entire department, measurements of the security, and tracking of the environmental protection agency (EPA) framework. **Conclusion:** From the whole analyses we conclude that the environmental protection agency (EPA) and office of inspectors general need to focus on that issue. There is a need for them to improve the problems that occur in such policies that are designed to save the atmosphere and human health.

KEYWORDS

Environmental protection agency the USA, Staffing plan, EPA framework, Tracking, Workload.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is an autonomous department within the United States Federal Government for Environmental Quality, primarily a separate administrative department (EPA, 2017). The Office of the Inspector General is an autonomous division inside the EPA that helps the government preserve the atmosphere more reliably and cost-effectively. Carry out unbiased surveys, reviews, inquiries, create proof-based guidelines to encourage productivity, performance, and efficiency. It also enable the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deter and track fraud, pollution, harassment, mismanagement, and misconduct. (Agency, 2020).




Figure 1: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the United States

According to organization officers and document, in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the basic actions of offices of Inspector General

(OIG) and Homeland Security (OHS) are occasionally similar regardless of inquiries and introductory studies related to national security in which misbehavior of agency employee included. The responsibility of these actions explains in EPA's new policy, order 3230-Intelligence Operations which is finalized in May 2019. According to offices of Inspector General (OIG) documents and administration, the main activities of (OIG) are to leading assessments, inquiries, independent audits and give evidence-based approvals to enhance productivity and effectiveness of the economy.

It also checks and identifies the waste, mismanagement, fraud, abuse, or any kind of misconduct according to (OIG) plans. However, OHS actions are just focused on national security. For example, OHS helps the Federal Bureau of Investigation by giving them official experts to save the nation's water and wastewater treatment plants from the attack of terrorists. According to OHS official papers, the basic activities of OHS comprises to give guidelines to senior agency management on homeland security and national security. It also includes coordinating with White House offices and federal agencies which work on homeland security missions, guiding EPA homeland security programs, and directing EPA's intelligence program. Agency administration told Government Accountability Office (GAO) that coordination is not found generally between OIG and OHS related to their similar activities like inquiries and investigation to national security or agency employee misbehavior.

Though, GAO has hope that in the future these agencies may have coordination on similar activities through a new policy. Roles and

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responsibilities are explaining in the new policy; it also describes the basic activities of offices that have the most important collaboration practices. The new policy also offers direction to OHS, OIG, and other offices for information sharing. The officers of OHS told GAO that to increase coordination between two offices on introductory queries, information sharing protocols added in the implementation plan of the new policy. OHS officers said that they will introduce these protocols with the effort of both OIG and EPA's Office of General Counsel.

Meanwhile, EPA has freshly applied the order 3230 and it is too early to decide whether it works or not to increase coordination between OHS and OIG. However, there is hope to OHS, OIG, EPA's officers, and Office of General Counsel that progress will be taken by new orders to increase working efficiency between OIG and OHS. According to agency administration, there is a struggle between OHS and EPA's OIG for the last 7 years over certain activities concerning their power. To check and examine EPA activities and to determine and stop fraud and abuse in them, the Inspector General Act of 1978 establishes EPA's OIG.

The Office of Inspector General separately has takeover from the agency but acts as an independent office within EPA. By rule, Inspector General is under the supervision of the Deputy Administrator or EPA Administrator or give report only to it. However, in 2003 OHS was accepted by an EPA Administrator memorandum. The OHS mission includes direct EPA's planning, anticipation, and response to homeland security issues like a terrorist attack on water and wastewater treatment facilities. By sharing its official expertise, OHS also assists the U.S. intelligence community. According to OHS and OIG officers, there are clashes between the two offices despite many efforts to improve their working efficiency. According to agency administration, the new Order approved by EPA in May 2019 helps to increase the working relations between the two offices.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) requested to check out the problems regarding the working relationship between OHS and EPA's OIG. (U.S Government Accountability Office., 2012). If we imagine a world without the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) then we have to revise our memory that how the environment was like before the establishment of this agency in 1970. This can be seen from two points of view, one from the social and political environment and the second is from the physical environment. The power and existence of EPA are extremely threatened according to these practical exercises. The congressional democrats and the president find out that due to a decrease in funding and workforce, the agency will have lost its ability to protect the environment and human health. To stop this devastation, it is necessary to find out why EPA has lost its political and public support (Olden, 2018).

In 1970 EPA was established by the support of two strong parties, by a democratic president who was personally not concerned with environmental health problems. By establishing EPA, Congress and President Richard Nixon were replying to public fear about the terrible situation of the environment. Legislators could no longer ignore this problem because of strong public pressure. Highly sensitive technologies or any specialist cannot satisfy the American people about the extremely contaminated environment. Severe deaths from air pollution were routine in some US cities, rivers were "catching on fire" increasing harmful waste sites, and in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, air quality was so low that during day time streets lights were turned on for walkers crossing streets or to avoid automobiles from crashing due to low visibility (Davidson, 1979).

These horrible situation needs highly vocal public support to save the environment. In the first 30 years of its existence, the EPA has such outstanding development in making the environment clean that we almost forget how it was like in the 1950s or 1960s. The major portion of pollution has vanished from the land. In a 2016 survey directed by Pew Research Center, although 75% of Americans showed support for saving the environment the public does not understand the situation as it is highly sensitive. Americans consider that it is important but no longer a national priority to manage and enforce the environmental principals, and the task of EPA has skillfully done (Anderson, 2018).

From the last 10 years, the U.S Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) both have consistently found that the EPA needs to improve its misunderstanding about countries, localities, and societies that can apply environmental policy and strengthen the environmental rules and regulations. The agency wants to improve its misunderstanding and come on grip on deficiencies. However, the current review shows that misunderstanding remains an important managing task. The Administrator communication and EPA strategic policy confess that state misunderstanding is a major issue and also offer some direction to solve this.

Nonetheless, EPA management needs to establish an organizational obligation to improve the difficulties that are produced by the agency's misunderstanding of main countries, societies, and local platforms by organizing the correct peoples, assets, and processes and also introducing a charter for addressing misunderstanding problems. The agency also wants to organize a system for observing countries, localities, and societies' misunderstanding efficiency, so it can constantly work to representing its progress in improving this management task through all program offices. Therefore, we analyse the two most important challenges in our paper that the EPA is facing. We also suggest solutions for EPA problems that will help them achieve their goals.

1.1 The objective of the Study

This study intends to explore issues that U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is facing and also we aim to suggest solutions for U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) problems that will help U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) achieving their goals.

1.2 Research Questions

The investigator needs to answer the following questions:

- What are the main issues that the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is facing?
- How the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can solve these issues?

2. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

This study observes the effect of penalties on publically exported companies by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency. Precisely, we have to look that either there is an impact of earnings on companies that were punished by EPA. There are 2 challenging indications about the effect of environmental penalties on incomes. Because companies assign grants for regulatory breaches, there is no harmful effect or maybe a harmful effect because financiers and stockholders have a preference to invest in a well-organized company. This study plays a significant role in the existing literature that investigates refinements in the trade decision, making connected to cooperate with environmental management.

A researcher demonstrates that a new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) application needs the exposure of fundamental data that are used for daily-basis decisions, has critics saying the original goal is to undermine the investigation essential for environmental pollution criteria (Cornawall, 2018). The apprehension rotates basically around small bits of dust and substances released from the combustion of fuels and flora. Most of the studies based on personal medical data have established a connection between pollution and premature deaths, pulmonary issues, and cardiac disease. EPA guideline is honor with saving thousands of survivals but it is expensive. Industries, factories, and their followers have a complex task to challenge science.

3. METHODOLOGY

We have used a descriptive research design in our study. We have used an analysis method for our study. We used the environmental protection agency (EPA) website, report, and previously published reports to evaluate issues. We do an interpretation of the data which are gathered by

analysis method. We do also recommend a solution for the issues of the USA environmental protection agency (EPA) by logistic reasoning.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Identification of Issues

As per the 2010 Government Quality and Performance Act Modernisation Act, major management challenges are systems or management activities, inside or through departments, that are more prone to duplication, bribery, corruption, and mismanagement where unable to perform well may adversely impair an organization or federal government's ability to accomplish its task or objectives. Focus on the complexities of running organizations could contribute to policy changes and environmental safety, and improved trust in the competence and responsibility of management.

A researcher explains the development of the United States Environmental Protection Authority (USEPA) policies and practices after 1970 against the aim of a more stable and prosperous community (Hecht, 2014). Whereas conforming to its origins in influencing pollution, it outlines how the USEPA has also taken on a broader sustainability and resilience perspective. He ends with guidelines for potential acts, including imaginative usage of environmental policy and legislation, implementation of network research, the advancement of emerging technology, cooperation with various shareholder groups as well as public engagement on the need for effective management of the ecosystem (Hecht, 2014).

A pioneered conference called 'Strengthening Study and Decision-making Environmental justice: A Symposium on the Science of Unequal Environmental Health Effects' was held in March 2010 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as government or even nongovernmental groups (Mondal). The symposium offered an opportunity for discussions on the nation of scientific expertise of EPA variables that can lead to high environmental exposure burdens or risks in racial/ethnic minority groups and lower-income communities. Conversations have discussed how aspects of environmental justice could be incorporated into the theoretical and decision-making processes of EPA, and the study requires to encourage environmental justice in policymaking. It provides detailed explanations of problems and concerns relevant to the company and articulates them. provides a well-oriented analysis of strategy problems and main problems that display an outstanding understanding of the situation and challenges. explanations are convincing and informative (Onyemaechi, 2011).



Figure 2: Identification of issues in EPA

4.1.1 Problem in Workload Analysis

Throughout the 1980s, the EPA carried out detailed studies of labor loads to determine suitable ratios of the workforce. EPA ceased these analyzes soon in the 1990s and has subsequently modified gradual staff sizes. The United States Government Accountable Service and the EPA Attorney General Service have found out the value of working-load base rates (Gunn, 2011). Several problems are confronting EPA, however, the key concerns are EPA requires to strengthen Data Safety to Address Cyber Threats: Although the EPA aims to take steps to better improve or expand its cyber protection system, there are still problems. In approximately 20 years, EPA didn't collect or analyze detailed working load info.

EPA provides no project offices to gather and manage data on workloads, and also no databases or managerial accounting systems are required to collect the data over time on different task outputs. The significance of

organizing research to define staffing requirements is stressed by federal guidelines and requirements. The management and budget guidance Office specify that organizations need to define workloads to assess the correct size of the workforce and federal reporting requirements allow organizations to develop cost accounting systems to assess assets they use for work performed.

Without adequate workload details, system departments are only able to evaluate their working loads to validate power needs so, as budgeting begins to intensify and evidence-driven decisions are made, the EPA's Budget Board must primarily base its budget choices on discretionary explanations. For years, task frameworks have been used by organizations of different sizes as well as goals to explain power needs. Throughout our examination, we recognized some fundamental concepts of workload modeling through which EPA could profit. EPA will need to customize these ideas to its project, composition, and traditions.

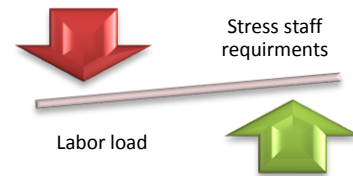


Figure 3: Analysis of workload in EPA (Environmental protection Agency)

4.1.2 Problem in Information Security

The security of EPA networks as well as data is just as critical today as we did in 2001 since we first identified the issue as a threat to management. It is becoming extremely difficult to protect networks that link to the internet with advanced attacks involving all linked actors, particularly federal networks. While securing their networks, government departments will remain cautious. Different government departments have seen multiple assaults on their infrastructure in recent years and they have impacted at least 21.5 million citizens.

The EPA has made substantial advances in the implementation of a regulatory process that entitles IT programs to conform to federal information protection standards to resolve such emerging cybersecurity concerns. Such moves entail the establishment of detailed strategies and practices to follow and make available to both the branches and field offices to a large portion of the federal information protection standards. The EPA, however, deals decent rally with the application of this policy structure. The new assessment research shows that the Department does not have a full-scale cyber management system that is equipped to efficiently tackle identified and evolving safety risks owing to a lack of oversight and documentation.



Figure 4: Problem in information security of EPA

The EPA continues to face the management hurdle of adopting a robust cybersecurity program, which enhances its connection protection as well as data protection in a time when federal systems are faced with growing threats. After improvement, recent reports tend to demonstrate the need, that needs continued high focus at the senior level, to completely enforce data protection in the EPA. In the deployment and management of organization networked services, the EPA relies heavily on contractor staff, but the EPA requires internal evaluation and reporting protocols for

contractor results. Recent evaluations have also shown that further changes are required.

4.2 Analysis and Evaluation

The United States in its present strategic cross-agency strategy to foster positive environmental results and to maximize social and economic results through decision & action is defined by the EPA. Sustainability emerged from a need to establish an increasing variety of activities. Design involves a shift from the creation of general priorities to the application and use of benchmarks and assessments to assess success in a particular strategy and initiatives to accomplish them. The EPA's inclusion of mitigation factors in its policy taking about the potential environmental, social, and economic consequences without sacrificing its emphasis on its existing regulatory obligations includes shifting from concentrating on individual pollutants in the atmosphere (air, water, or land) to a wider assessment of the relationships between human, natural and industrial processes.

In reaction to emerging environmental issues, EPA has suggested that it would have to continue utilizing a range of empirical methods and strategies to assess the possible sustainability-related consequences of its decisions and behavior (Kurtza, 2001). In assessments to improve decision-making through EPO (Exclusive Provider Organization), the Environmental Conservation Agency explores research tools and strategies for integrating sustainable principles. The use of empirical and science techniques, processes, and solutions discussed in the Sustainability and US 2011 NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) Study is explored in this study utilizing different case studies. EPO.

This study examines current and new tools, strategies, and techniques for determining the ones most appropriate for analyzing and/or measuring future fiscal, social, and environmental results in the light of the EPO Decision. In the choice-making process, Sustainable principles address data requirements and analyze outcomes on sustainability aspects. A wide variety of sustainable resources and strategies are sufficient in the sense of the EPA's decision-making to determine future natural, social, and economic outcomes. (Council, 2014).

In the system units we analyzed, the task details typically do not occur. While the Program offices understood all the outcomes of their research, they did not measure the demands of capital based on detailed analyzes at the job stage. A system office, for example, may know how many certificates it requires in a particular year. But, in the past, it has little knowledge about the tools required to obtain different permits. It was observed that expenditure demands for these program offices were made based on arbitrary figures; no objective evidence for the proposal was given to us. We have discovered little connection around requests from the program office and recommendations from OCFO's (Office of the Chief Financial Officer) budget. The lack of evidence on the workload of system offices led to the discrepancies between the estimated projections of the offices and the FTE (full-time equivalent).



Figure 5: Analysis and evaluation of EPA (Environmental protection agency) issues and solutions

Over previous years, the EPA has published proposals to endorse new FTE allocation demands in a variety of main areas, including carbon reserves, Chesapeake Bay, and mountaintop mining. Subjective models established by subject-matter specialists have often been used for such calculations. Setting on topic experts alone, by utilizing real data on workload, raises the risk of incorrect resource predictions (Gunn, 2011). In May 2019 (19-

P-0158) it was observed that perhaps the EPO's capacity to counter cyberattacks was hampered by inadequate activities to fix identified security vulnerabilities and system setups. EPA workers could not handle the action plans and targets needed by EPA's policies to address compliance vulnerabilities within the computer management vulnerability monitoring program of the department.

The office responsible for detecting vulnerabilities depended on certain department departments to join the action plans and targets for handling vulnerable vulnerabilities throughout the monitoring program. Furthermore, to avoid unwanted modifications to the main datasets and to report certain adjustments in the network audit reports, the EPO software management vulnerability monitoring program required review. This was because the EPA did not permit unauthorized changes to key data to be avoided by the functionality inside the monitoring framework nor did its logging function set up to collect details on key data field changes. The EPO approved the proposals and expected corrective steps.

4.3 Recommendations

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) have repeatedly noticed that the EPA wants to strengthen the monitoring and implementation of environmental projects, the Climate and Environmental Laws of Countries, regions, and territories with the jurisdiction (or "delegated jurisdiction." The Company has improved its oversight and resolved shortcomings. The latest reports nevertheless show that compliance persists a major management problem.



Figure 6: Recommendations for the solution of EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)

4.3.1 A pilot project

We recommend a pilot project that EPA departments should accumulate and analyze workload data on key operation operations from the Chief Financial Officer. In addition to details from a continuing consultant report, the Chief Financial Officer should use the data from the pilot project for the intent of presenting feedback to EPO System Offices about how workload details should be gathered and processed, how workload assessments profit, and how information should be used to plan budget demands. In its reaction to our draft paper, EPA partly agreed with our suggestions. EPA also said it would take time to gather additional evidence to schedule for execution a final corrective action plan. Nevertheless, despite continued mediation attempts, our research findings would stay unanswered.



Figure 7: A pilot project for the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) issues

4.3.2 Staffing plan for the entire department

By creating a staffing plan for the entire department, not sections of the agency, the agency must conform with the Strategic Human Capital Management rule. Just a subset of the EPO's priorities for employees was checked by the guided strategy (General, 2019).

4.3.3 Measurements

The EPO must take measures to improve the security of information against cyber threats. Enhances organizational processes for the evaluation and execution of corrective action on transparent web safety advice. EPO should establish and execute a system that: Maintain sufficient records to facilitate the execution of disciplinary measures relating to computer protection audits; as assigned to departments, daily reviews by the Audit Follow-Up Administrator of the Office of Task Facilitate will be included in the process.

Specifies which sub-offices have to complete information protection investigation disciplinary measures involves validation that corrective measures fix problems that have led to cybersecurity audit suggestions. Needs offices to keep utilizing systems that have been developed. Calls on the Task Assistance Manager of the Agency to educate the Controller's Audit Supervisor on the status of pending information protection audit corrections. Enables sufficient access to sharing folder material clearance and oversight that is compliant with federal / EPA information protection standards.

4.3.4 Agency's framework for tracking

The EPA will provide in the Agency's framework for tracking the abatement of cyber protection corrective measures guidelines for the Ongoing Tracking Evaluation. Act with the US would be EPA. The Homeland Security Department shall work to identify the possibility of data loss within the Electronic Manifest Program and the Network Information Services (NIS) to determine the proper data categorization and reassess the categorization of data inside the framework that should be periodically re-evaluated. The EPA, it will ensure that IT management regulations in the organization reflect the position of the Chief information officer (CIO) in the six areas defined by the GAO for their main responsibilities (Jackson, 2010).



Figure 8: Agency framework for tracking

4.3.5 EPA Needs Processes or Systems to Track Time Spent on Projects

Systematic task statistics may not appear at EPA like other Department projects, allowing workers to allocate their time on particular tasks, often fail or may not include records or expense accounting structures. EPA monitors expenditures at a broad point, system/activity stage, to satisfy government financial accounting requirements. EPA monitors the expense of nearly 140 programs/projects. A plan determines what EPA does base on a given legislative authority and describes a project as a significant issue or activity handled by the Department (Gunn., 2011).

5. CONCLUSION

The purpose of the study was to explore the environmental protection agency (EPA) issues and also suggest solutions that will help to solve these

issues. We conclude from our results that EPA Requires to Strengthen Data Safety to Address Cyber Threats and The EPA should enhance workload identification to carry out its role reliably and effectively. There is a need for them to improve the problems that occur in such policies that are designed to save the atmosphere and human health.

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