



NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

January 31, 2019

Mr. John Ellis
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW (MC 2822T)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received your report responding to NARA's letter dated July 10, 2018 (attached) in response to an allegation of unauthorized disposition of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) records. This case was based on information in a news article published by CNN on July 2, 2018, which alleged that meetings and appointments on former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's official calendar were scrubbed, altered, or removed.

The EPA's report clarified that the "public calendar" on the EPA's web page is a calendar that is simplified for online display and is not the official calendar for the EPA Administrator. The EPA uses a Microsoft Outlook calendar account to manage the official calendar and the calendar in Outlook (the "official" calendar) is the calendar that is used to respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

The EPA also provided information indicating that there is no evidence that staff members deleted meetings that actually occurred from the official calendar. The EPA acknowledges that modifications to meetings and appointments were made in order to ensure that the calendar entries contain "adequate and proper documentation" of the meetings that occurred (e.g., removing attendees who did not attend the meeting, etc.). The EPA also noted that some meetings may be documented in other records that are managed and preserved alongside the calendar records. Regarding the allegation that EPA kept "secret" calendars, the EPA conducted a review that included interviews with relevant agency staff and available information sources including the former Administrator's mobile devices. During this review, no information was identified indicating that any calendars other than the Outlook and public calendars ever existed.

Based on this information, NARA considers this allegation of unauthorized disposition to be unsubstantiated. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Karyn Skevakis, Senior Records Analyst, at 301-837-3069 or by email at karyn.skevakis@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence M. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

Enclosures

1. 2018-07-05_UD_EPA_UD-2018-0018_Open Letter
2. 2018-10-10_UD_EPA_UD-2018-0018_Agency Response
3. 2018-10-10_UD_EPA_UD-2018-0018_Attachment