



# PRESS RELEASE

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Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS)

## **ERIS Releases Summary of State Research Needs**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) has released a summary of states' current research needs and environmental priorities identified in its second bi-annual survey. The survey, distributed in fall 2016, aimed to coordinate state science needs with the work of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD).

States identified surface and groundwater quality, remediation and changing remediation standards, nutrients and nonpoint source water contamination, emerging contaminants and toxics, and air quality, specifically the new ozone standard, as the most pressing challenges for their agencies in 2016. States agreed that more training on federal research information, methods, and tools could help to alleviate these issues, and noted webinars and a searchable website as resources to strengthen communication, translation of research, and the state-federal relationship around research.

ERIS has already communicated the survey results with ORD. In late February and March 2017, ORD hosted a series of follow-up calls with state representatives to discuss in more detail the science needed to address the state identified priority areas. "States are already gaining insight and finding value in the survey follow-up calls conducted with ORD," says David Paylor, ERIS President and Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. "There have been requests for additional coordination, especially regarding topics of high priority like perfluorinated chemicals."

"The Environmental Research Institute of the States is very pleased to be contributing to forming a dynamic and relevant research agenda, both at the EPA and other federal agencies throughout the scientific and policy community," says Alexandra Dunn, Executive Director and General Counsel at the Environmental Council of the States.

View the summary of current state research needs at: <https://www.ecos.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ERIS-Survey-Summary-One-Pager.pdf>

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*ERIS, a 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with the Environmental Council of States (ECOS), coordinates environmental research priorities among ECOS members, federal government agencies, and key partners with environmental research and management interests. ERIS also works to ensure that this research is shared with states in a practical, applicable manner. Visit [www.ecos.org/eris](http://www.ecos.org/eris).*