

## DRAFT AFGE Local 704 Government Shutdown Survey

### **Q27 If you have any additional concerns or comments relevant to this particular survey, please do so now.**

Answered: 32 Skipped: 191

#	Responses	Date
1	The shutdown 17 years ago had better communication from USEPA. Why was the NTI emergency notification system not activation for updates or the reurn to work? Why do we test it each year if we are not going to use it?	11/14/2013 4:28 PM
2	I feel the quality of civil servants were already declining, where talented workers are finding better and more rewarding jobs in the private sector. I feel that very soon the only people we will be able to hire in critical government jobs that are closely linked to public safety and support are the applicants that can't get a job anywhere else. I also feel the lack of respect and appropriate compensation may lead to a greater threat on the ethical health of US civil service.	11/14/2013 2:36 PM
3	It was utterly ridiculous to be paid for the time that we did not work during the shutdown! And we wonder why there's a general dislike of the federal government and civil servants!	11/14/2013 1:47 PM
4	Although facilities were shut down and no work could be accomplished for 2 weeks, employee work deadlines were not adjusted accordingly. Since this (shutdown) has happened and could happen again, Branch and Division workplans, as well as employee performance standards, must be worded to make allowances for this in the future.	11/12/2013 5:36 PM
5	Is the concern of the Union for only those that are term/permanent government workers or is the concern for those that are temporary employees and those that are contractors along with the SEEP employees as well.	11/12/2013 6:47 AM
6	Being labeled as a "non-essential" employee is demoralizing and impacts morale. Being used as a political pawn to promote an agenda gives cause to questioning the importance the government places on our environmental protection programs.	11/8/2013 12:48 PM
7	Although the Shutdown was anticipated, EPA did little in advance to prepare us, and did not anticipate the excess computer time card entries on the last day. Management here rushed out staff on last day of Oct 1, even though we were informed to have 2 hrs to close-down. No EPA message was provided to our State partners or grantees, and should have. Morale is poor presently, especially when this may all happen again in January. Time-off pay was unexpected and appreciated to help pay the bills.	11/6/2013 9:31 AM
8	I did not understand the point of this "shut-down". It felt like the Republican party was holding the Government hostage to impede the progress of "Obama-care". Regardless of the fact, this was not a positive experience for me and my family!!!	11/5/2013 11:32 AM
9	our implementing partners expect and depend on EPAs support to the environmental programs, and the support to our partners just was not there.	11/4/2013 9:20 AM
10	with the loss of work time, there is still the expectation by HQ and Congress that we will met our program targets on time. this was observed for FY13 with the furlough days we had.	11/1/2013 2:58 PM
11	Our lawmakers should start serving their country and not use their position to serve their political party and as a tool for personal vendeta.	10/31/2013 12:11 PM
12	AFGE should not give any money to ANY congressmen they are ALL responsible for the shut down	10/30/2013 4:24 PM
13	Regarding #16, the only negative comment I have about communication during the shutdown is that I believe that Region 5 should have notified employees via the automated phone message system that they should return to work and what flexiplace employees should do on that day.	10/30/2013 12:10 PM
14	I believe that the sequestration is yet another abuse of Federal civil servants. we took an oath to serve and protect the constitution of the United States. Apparently this means that we should be kicked in the teeth by Republicans as we report to work and stabbed in the back by Democrats on the way out the door.	10/30/2013 12:03 PM
15	Again, the problems with Microsoft Outlook just compounded the shutdown anxiety. I was on sick leave at the time and my supervisor advised me to shutdown via remote access rather than travel in to the office. The remote access to Microsoft Outlook was again down and I ended up staying up until 11:30 pm to finally complete shutdown activities. I don't know if the issue is with our contractors, or if the issue is Microsoft. Someone really someone needs to investigate and resolve EPA's IT incompetence.	10/30/2013 11:19 AM
16	Inaquequate/nonexistent supervisor communitcation	10/30/2013 10:54 AM

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17	Many of the questions were loaded to solicit a specific answer. Why were many of the Q's related only to environmental concerns and not other government functions. Next time, this survey should be completed by a professional.	10/30/2013 8:40 AM
18	We need to spend our resources on educating the public on what impacts the shutdown has on the environment and the service we provide to them. Also, our leaders and unions should do the public interviews about the impacts and news media should be educated lot more than what they know about the work we do.	10/30/2013 8:37 AM
19	The Agency failed to provide any communication with the employee when they have a system to contact employees when there is bad weather. Employee never received a call from the Agency to return to work October 17, 2013.	10/30/2013 6:27 AM
20	I felt that managers pushed employees to "make up for lost time" from day one when back in the office giving little time to assess and prioritize after essentially three weeks out of the office. Not sure if employee PARS will reflect the 3 weeks that were taken out of the annual commitments. This does not include potential additional shutdowns as well as sequester furlough days during FY 14.	10/29/2013 6:50 PM
21	I wish they would use a term other than non-essential, because it is insulting. If I am not essential, then why am I even here? I really appreciated those who would not allow certain agencies or programs to re-open during the shutdown and others to stay closed as had been proposed. I also really appreciate that they told us we would be getting back pay a few days into the shutdown. This made it easier, although I am still behind on my bills for being short a check and also had to borrow money.	10/29/2013 5:02 PM
22	I think the general lack of Congressional support for the environment and our natural resources does not reflect the concerns of many Americans. In many cases, protection of the environment is a bi-partisan issue.	10/29/2013 4:45 PM
23	It is depressing to be struggling so hard to achieve the salary I was being paid 5 years ago in the private sector, and to be constantly facing setbacks from furloughs and shutdowns as I try to stabilize my life and stay out of debt. It is demoralizing to find myself in this position after what has already a disastrous 5 years of my life.	10/29/2013 3:55 PM
24	In addition to having to borrow from equity, my saving account was drawn to a level that will not support my family if some out of pocket financial needs arise.	10/29/2013 3:35 PM
25	When submitted our personnel information, phone #, email etc., and the agency didn't bother to use that information to call us back to work with an auto recording. But yet and still, they can use that information to check up on us when we are working at home. I feel it was the Regions responsibility to contact us to report to work. When I went to bed that night, they had not even finished voting. .	10/29/2013 3:33 PM
26	With regard to communication between EPA and employees, I question EPA's decision to communicate via e-mail message(s) given that federal employees were barred from accessing their e-mail during the shutdown. A significant failure in my opinion. In addition to this communication failure, I would really like to see AFGE address the Agency's failure to communicate regarding the continuing IT crisis that has been occurring for months since the transition from Lotus Notes to Office 365. How in the world after 6 months do we not have more information as to why EPA does not have a functional e-mail/information sharing/human resource operations system? This is beyond comprehension, unacceptable and would not be tolerated in the private sector. How in the world has the Agency not addressed and communicated with its employees the complete epic failure that is EPA's transition to Office 365 (e.g. arcane weekly access issues, remote access issues, no mobile access, unduly complicated login procedures including getting locked out of the system when it goes down), primitive time-keeping/leave request software, no electronic sign-off on documents, no modern e-discovery/FOIA response tools, no modern audio/video conference capabilities, limited remote work capabilities, poor IT support, etc.)? Basically we have nothing that was promised by the Agency that we would get when we "moved to the Cloud" and we have actually regressed (many years) with regard to our basic communication capabilities and no one has said why or taken responsibility for this epic failure. God forbid we ever need to communicate in a crisis as there would be none unless employees tried to do so on their own. Unbelievable!	10/29/2013 2:51 PM
27	I don't know that Americans realize the impact of the shutdown far exceeds the 16 or so days we weren't working. Time and budget that SHOULD have gone to protecting the environment went to planning for the shutdown and furloughs and budget shortfalls before that.	10/29/2013 2:41 PM
28	The shutdown wasted money.	10/29/2013 2:36 PM
29	If my projects were at a different stage, it could have been a risk or an issue.	10/29/2013 2:35 PM
30	I wish my supervisor or someone from my management chain would have called staff to let them know that we are to return to work. If I had not checked the radio or TV I would have not known. Our return to work could have been communicated better and my supervisor should have called us.	10/29/2013 2:35 PM
31	Government shutdown caused loss of production; Due to the time off, I will need to start from scratch on some of my projects.	10/29/2013 2:29 PM
32	Communication was horrendous	10/29/2013 2:20 PM