# EPA issues new directive requiring Musk's approval for large financial transactions



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently issued alarming new guidance mandating approval from Elon Musk’s controversial Department of Government Efficiency (Doge) for financial items exceeding $50,000. This directive raises significant concerns among lawmakers regarding potential bureaucratic delays and the troubling prospect of inappropriate influence in agency operations, especially in light of Musk’s record.

According to documents obtained by the Associated Press, the EPA now requires that “any assistance agreement, contract or interagency agreement transaction [valued at] $50,000 or greater must receive approval from an EPA DOGE team member.” Despite multiple attempts to get comment, the EPA remained silent on this critical matter, which does nothing to inspire confidence.

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, the leading Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, has described the new directive as “troubling.” His apprehension reflects widespread unease that such a requirement could result in needless bureaucratic delays for essential agency actions, hampering routine contracts and grant allocations. More worryingly, he has pointed out that Musk’s “unvetted, inexperienced team raises serious questions about improper external influence on specialized agency decision-making.”

This oppressive announcement coincided with a cabinet meeting where President Donald Trump appeared to distance himself from the sweeping government cuts initiated by Musk and his DOGE team. Tensions peaked during this meeting when Musk and Secretary of State Marco Rubio clashed over government restructuring initiatives. Rubio, frustrated with Musk's aggressive approach to downsizing the State Department, called out Musk’s assertion that he was ineffective in staff terminations, highlighting the 1,500 buyouts granted for early retirements as a point of contention.

Witnesses described the confrontation as drawn-out and uncomfortable, culminating with President Trump stepping in to defend Rubio. This marked a pivotal moment as Trump attempted to assert control over personnel decisions, claiming cabinet members should retain final authority over hiring and firing, rather than yield to Musk's problematic directives.

The Cabinet meeting was urgently convened in response to rising dissatisfaction among Republican constituents, especially military veterans who have been adversely affected by the severe cuts enforced by the DOGE. Following the meeting, Trump appeared to advocate for a more cautious approach to workforce reductions, suggesting that cuts should be made with a “scalpel” rather than a “hatchet.”

Concerns about the legality of the layoffs carried out by Doge have also emerged. Many newly hired federal employees found themselves dismissed before completing their mandatory probation periods, prompting confusion around accountability for these terminations. Representative Carlos Gimenez of Florida insisted that the agencies themselves, not Musk, bear responsibility for these alarming actions.

Leading up to the cabinet meeting, Musk attempted to alleviate concerns among lawmakers by offering his contact information to discuss the layoffs directly, an approach that starkly contrasts with earlier public displays of his ambition to streamline government functions. Far from inspiring confidence, this clutching at straws reflects a lack of a strategic vision and deepening frustrations among the political elite.

The contentious actions of the Doge have also spurred legal challenges, with critics alleging that the abrupt terminations of probationary employees may infringe upon federal regulations mandating advance notice. Both the Department of Government Efficiency and the Trump administration are undergoing intense scrutiny as they continue to push drastic cuts and efficiency measures that undermine the integrity of federal agencies.

Recent reports have raised eyebrows over the questionable appropriations made by the DOGE team, such as funding for sleeping accommodations in federal buildings to house operatives, prompting ethics experts to question compliance with longstanding agency rules.

As the situation unfolds, the implications for federal governance and agency operations are grave. The push for radical “efficiency” measures under the guise of reform is increasingly being viewed as a cover for unnecessary upheaval and destabilization of essential services, drawing sharp criticism from various stakeholders committed to upholding accountability and integrity within government.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://fortune.com/2025/03/07/epa-staffers-must-now-get-doge-approval-before-spending-anything-on-items-greater-than-50000/> - This article supports the claim that the EPA now requires approval from Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency for financial items exceeding $50,000. However, it does not mention Elon Musk's involvement directly in the context provided.
* <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-03/fy-2025-congressional-justification-all-tabs.pdf> - This document provides information on the EPA's budget and operations for FY 2025 but does not specifically address the new guidance on spending approval.
* <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-03/fy-2025-epa-bib.pdf> - This document outlines the EPA's budget in brief for FY 2025, focusing on environmental initiatives and does not mention the Department of Government Efficiency or Elon Musk.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - This document provides guidance on federal financial assistance but does not specifically address the new EPA spending approval process.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the original article but does not provide additional external validation for the specific claims about the Department of Government Efficiency or Elon Musk's involvement.
* <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Report-of-the-Impeachment-Inquiry-of-Joseph-R.-Biden-Jr.-President-of-the-United-States.pdf> - This report is unrelated to the specific claims about the EPA and the Department of Government Efficiency but provides context on political tensions and investigations.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/07/epa-guidance-doge-approval> - Please view link - unable to able to access data