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Former Top Chesapeake Bay Foundation Official Dies in Car Crash

By **Josh Kurtz** - September 19, 2020



Lisa Feldt, until recently an official at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation who has also held top positions with the Montgomery County government and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, died Thursday in a car crash in Anne Arundel County. She was 60.

Feldt was the CBF vice president for environmental protection and restoration until July. She spent two years with the green group.

“Last night, we learned the CBF family has unexpectedly lost a valued colleague and friend, Lisa Feldt, in a traffic accident. Lisa was deeply committed to the environment and the Bay. She will be missed. We are keeping her and her family in our thoughts during this difficult time,” the foundation said in a statement Friday.



Lisa Feldt. Chesapeake Bay Foundation photo

Before working at CBF, Feldt served for two years as director of Montgomery County’s Department of Environmental Protection. But she spent a big chunk of her career at the EPA, including five years in top jobs during the Obama administration, where she rose to the position of acting deputy administrator.

On Twitter, Lisa Jackson, who was President Obama’s first EPA administrator, paid tribute to her former colleague.



“Lisa Feldt was assigned to ‘train’ me in my very first job at EPA in 1987,” Jackson wrote. “I emailed with her just this past Monday. We both grew up at EPA. I am devastated. I have never known a more upright, committed, passionate, or intelligent environmental servant/leader.”

Feldt’s current employer, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, along with the state of Maryland and other states, are suing EPA for failing to hold Pennsylvania and New York to their prescribed pollution reduction goals.

According to *The Capital*, Feldt was killed around 11 a.m. Thursday in West River, when her car was struck by a Jeep in the intersection. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Anne Arundel County police are investigating, the newspaper reported.

Information on survivors and funeral arrangements were not immediately available.

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Josh Kurtz

Co-founder and Editor Josh Kurtz is the leading chronicler of Maryland politics and government. He began covering the State House in 1995 for *The Gazette* newspapers, and has been writing about state and local politics ever since. He later became an editor at *Roll Call*, the Capitol Hill newspaper, and spent eight years at *E&E News*, an online subscription-only publisher of news websites covering energy and environmental issues. For seven of those years, he led a staff of 20 reporters at *E&E Daily*, which covers energy and environmental policy on Capitol Hill and in national politics. For 6 1/2 years he wrote a weekly column on state politics for *Center Maryland* and has written for several other Maryland publications as well. Kurtz has given speeches and appeared on TV and radio shows about Maryland politics through the years.

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