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**United States  
Environmental Protection Agency**

**FISCAL YEAR 2018**

**Justification of Appropriation  
Estimates for the Committee  
on Appropriations**

**Tab 00: Introduction**

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[www.epa.gov/ocfo](http://www.epa.gov/ocfo)

## The EPA's Mission

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and the environment. In carrying out its mission, the EPA works to ensure that all Americans are protected from exposure to hazardous environmental risks where they live, learn, work, and enjoy their lives. The agency guides national efforts to reduce environmental risks, based upon on-going research and scientific analysis.

The agency's FY 2018 budget lays out a comprehensive back-to-basics and foundational strategy to maintain core environmental protection with respect to statutory and regulatory obligations. This budget provides the direction and resources to return the EPA to its core mission of protecting human health and the environment. This can be accomplished by engaging with state, local, and tribal partners to create and implement sensible regulations that also work to enhance economic growth.

The EPA works to ensure our future generations will inherit a better and healthier environment. Environmental stewardship while growing our economy is essential to the American way of life and key to economic success and competitiveness. Regulation and policy will incorporate robust input from the public through formal and informal mechanisms to seek full understanding of the impacts of proposed policy on public health, the environment, the economy, jobs, families, and our communities. We will build on progress to date by focusing on three core philosophies for carrying out the EPA's mission:

- **Rule of law:** Administering the laws enacted by Congress and issuing environmental rules tethered to those statutes, relying on agency expertise and experience to carry out congressional direction and to ensure that policies and rules reflect common sense and withstand legal scrutiny.
- **Cooperative federalism:** Recognizing the states and tribes, as applicable, as the primary implementers and enforcers of our environmental laws and programs, and partnering with them to engender trust and maximize environmental results to protect human health and environment.
- **Public participation:** Fulfilling obligations to conduct open and transparent rulemaking processes, engaging with and learning from the diverse views of the American public, and addressing stakeholder input on the impacts of rules on families, jobs, and communities.

The EPA is proud to be a good steward of taxpayer resources and to deliver environmental protection efficiently. To learn more about how the agency accomplishes its mission, including information on the organizational structure and regional offices, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/>.

## FY 2018 Annual Performance Plan

The EPA's FY 2018 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of \$5.655 billion is \$2.6 billion below the FY 2017 Annualized Continuing Resolution funding level for the EPA. This resource level and the agency FTE level of 11,611 supports the agency's return to a focus on core statutory work and recognizes the appropriate federal role in environmental protection. The budget addresses our highest environmental priorities and refocuses efforts toward streamlining and reducing burden. Responsibility for funding local environmental efforts and programs is returned to state and local

entities, while federal funding supports priority national work. Funding is provided for infrastructure and includes accelerating the pace of work in clean water and drinking water infrastructure as well as at Brownfield and Superfund projects. Resources also are focused on efforts to improve and protect air quality and to ensure the safety of chemicals. In FY 2018, increased resources will support the agency's significant continuing and new responsibilities for ensuring that new and existing chemicals are evaluated in a timely manner for introduction in commerce and do not present unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. The agency will work across all of our programs to unite varied interests and stakeholders to focus attention and leverage federal, state, local, and non-governmental resources in a coordinated effort to address the nation's greatest environmental challenges.

## **Infrastructure**

The infrastructure of the nation is not limited to roads and bridges. The infrastructure needs of our communities are broader and include making improvements to drinking water and waste water infrastructure as well as cleaning up contaminated land. Focused efforts in the Superfund and Brownfields programs can lead to tangible benefits for communities: a cleaner environment and the redevelopment of sites back to beneficial use and new economic development.

A priority for the agency is modernizing the outdated water infrastructure on which the American public depends. While most small systems consistently provide safe and reliable drinking water, many small systems face challenges with aging infrastructure, increasing costs and decreasing rates bases. Funding is provided for critical drinking and wastewater projects. These funding levels support the President's commitment to infrastructure repair and replacement and would allow states, municipalities, and private entities to finance high priority infrastructure investments. The FY 2018 budget includes \$2.3 billion for the State Revolving Funds and \$20 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Under WIFIA, the EPA could potentially provide up to \$1 billion in credit assistance, which, when combined with other funding sources, would spur an estimated \$2 billion in total infrastructure investment.<sup>1</sup> This makes the WIFIA program credit assistance a powerful new tool to help address a variety of existing and new water infrastructure needs.

The cleanup and reuse of contaminated lands often can play a role in economically revitalizing a community. The EPA's cleanup programs, including Superfund and Brownfields, protect human health and the environment and also return sites to productive use, which is important to the economic well-being of communities. Working collaboratively with partners across the country, the EPA engages with communities in site cleanup decisions, fosters employment opportunities in communities during and after remedy construction, promotes the redevelopment of blighted areas, and protects human health and the environment. For example, Superfund properties are often reused as commercial facilities, retail centers, government offices, residential areas, industrial and manufacturing operations, and parks and recreational areas. The agency will look for program efficiencies to increase the pace of projects and reduce often heavy administrative costs. The EPA also invests in communities through Brownfields grants so communities can realize their own visions for environmental health, economic growth, and job creation. As of April 2017, the

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<sup>1</sup> This approximation is based on notional calculations. Subsidy cost is determined on a loan-by-loan basis.

Brownfield grants have led to over 67,000 acres of idle land made ready for productive use and over 124,300 jobs and \$23.6 billion leveraged.<sup>2</sup>

## **Improving Air Quality**

In FY 2018, the EPA will perform activities in support of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and implementation of stationary source regulations, supporting state, local, and tribal air quality programs. The agency will continue its Clean Air Act-mandated responsibilities to administer the NAAQS and will provide a variety of technical assistance, training, and information to support state clean air plans. The EPA will continue to prioritize CAA and court-ordered actions. A focus will be placed on states achieving attainment, looking for improved process for SIPS and implementation options. In addition, in FY 2018, the EPA will continue to conduct risk assessments, to determine whether the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) rules appropriately protect public health.

In FY 2018, the Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification program will focus its efforts on certification decisions. The agency will perform its compliance oversight functions on priority matters, where there is evidence to suggest noncompliance, and conduct testing activities for pre-certification confirmatory testing for emissions and fuel economy for passenger cars.

The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program requires mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reporting to inform the annual GHG inventory, a U.S. treaty obligation. The program will focus on implementing already-finalized regulatory revisions across multiple sectors to address stakeholder concerns associated with collection and potential release of data elements considered to be sensitive business information; aligning the database management systems with those regulatory revisions; and conducting a targeted Quality Assurance/Quality Control and verification process through a combination of electronic checks, staff reviews, and follow-up with facilities when necessary.

Air monitoring, which provides information to states used to develop clean air plans, for research, and for the public, will continue to be a focus of the Administration. In FY 2018, the EPA will provide grants to state, local, and tribal air pollution control agencies to manage and implement their air quality programs.

This budget supports implementation of the Energy Independence Executive Order which directs agencies responsible for regulating domestic energy production to identify, and propose measures to revise or rescind, regulatory barriers that impede progress towards energy independence.

## **Clean and Safe Water**

The EPA will continue to partner with states, drinking water utilities, and other stakeholders to identify and address current and potential sources of drinking water contamination. These efforts are integral to the sustainable infrastructure efforts as source water protection can reduce the need for additional drinking water treatment and associated costs. As progress has been made, work remains for existing and emerging issues.

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<sup>2</sup> The EPA's ACRES database (<https://cfext.epa.gov/acres/>)

The EPA will continue to provide scientific water quality criteria information, review and approve state water quality standards, and review and approve state lists of impaired waters. In FY 2018, the agency will continue to work with states and other partners on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) as required by the Clean Water Act, as well as on other waterbody restoration plans for listed impaired waterbodies. The EPA also will continue to implement and support core water quality programs that control point-source discharges through permitting and pre-treatment programs.

### **Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals**

The EPA's toxics program will maintain its 'zero tolerance' goal for preventing the introduction of unsafe new chemicals into commerce. In FY 2018, \$65 million is requested for the TSCA Chemical Risk Review and Reduction Program to support the agency's significant continuing and new responsibilities for ensuring that chemicals in commerce do not present unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. New chemicals will be evaluated and decisions will be based on best available science and the weight of evidence. For chemicals in commerce, the EPA will maintain an ambitious schedule for initiating and completing chemical risk evaluations and, where risks are identified, for initiating and completing regulatory actions to address those risks. The EPA also will implement the new mandates related to determinations on claims for confidentiality for chemical identities.

In FY 2018, the agency will continue implementing TSCA activities not amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. The agency also will provide firm and individual certifications for safe work practices for lead-based paint abatement and renovation and repair efforts, as well as provide for the operation and maintenance of the online Federal Lead-Based Paint program database (FLPP) that supports the processing of applications for training providers, firms and individuals.

Identifying, assessing, and reducing the risks presented by the pesticides on which our society and economy rely is integral to ensuring environmental and human safety. Chemical and biological pesticides help meet national and global demands for food. They provide effective pest control for homes, schools, gardens, highways, utility lines, hospitals, and drinking water treatment facilities, while also controlling vectors of disease. The program ensures that the pesticides available in the U.S. are safe when used as directed. In addition, the program is increasing the focus on pollinator health, working with other federal partners, states, and private stakeholder groups to stem pollinator declines and increase pollinator habitat.

In FY 2018, the EPA will invest resources to improve the compliance of pesticide registrations with the Endangered Species Act. A portion of the funding also will ensure that pesticides are correctly registered and applied in a manner that protects water quality.

### **Agency Strategic Plan and Performance Measures**

The FY 2018 annual performance measures and provisional targets and the FY 2016 EPA Annual Performance Report (APR), which includes performance measures and related information from

FY 2011 to FY 2017, are included in the appendixes to the FY 2018 Annual Performance Plan and Budget [<https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/fy2018>].

### **Eliminated Programs**

Programs eliminated in the FY 2018 budget total \$983 million. Details are found in [<https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/fy2018>]. The Administration is committed to creating a leaner, more accountable, less intrusive, and more effective Government. The FY 2018 budget eliminates programs that are duplicative or those that can be absorbed into other programs or are state and local responsibilities.