# Region 2 Fact Sheet

**Geographic summary**

States: New Jersey, New York

Territories: Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Indian Nations: St. Regis Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Tonawanda Seneca, Seneca Nation of Indians [these seven are known as the Haudenosaunee], and Shinnecock

**Logistics**

Regional Office headquarters: 290 Broadway, New York City

Field offices: Edison, NJ; Guaynabo, PR; St. Thomas, USVI; Albany, NY; Stamford, CT (shared with Region 1)

Laboratory: Edison, NJ

Staff: 886.4 (includes BIL and IRA supplementals)

| Fund | FTE Ceiling |
|---|---|
| Base Appropriation | 756.8 |
| SF Tax | 7.5 |
| BIL | 84.1 |
| IRA | 38 |
| **Total** | **886.4** |

**Top environmental priorities and challenges**

- Both PR and USVI face severe fiscal crises; lack of capacity to manage grants; insufficient staffing; and, in PR, government transition. Major problems include non-compliant landfills (coupled with lack of recycling), that are running out of capacity in both PR and USVI; and 240 non-compliant small drinking water systems in PR (not operated by the central PR water utility) serving 3% of the population.

- R2 Superfund sites (2nd highest number among 10 EPA regions; NJ has most of any state) include many of the nation's largest, and many that are high profile and controversial, including sediment sites such as Hudson, Passaic and Grasse Rivers, Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek, and terrestrial sites such as American Cyanamid and Welsbach, with cleanup costs ranging from $250 M to more than $2 B. Superfund is an 'enforcement first' program and the majority of work is performed by viable responsible parties.

- Concerns about lead exposure, particularly for children. Major sources are drinking water due to older lead service lines that convey water from the mains in the street into homes (compilation of lead service line inventories and subsequent replacement programs are essential); and deteriorating lead paint in older homes.

- Climate change-related resiliency at critical water and wastewater infrastructure including addressing combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in older cities, which discharge mixture of raw sewage and rainwater during rain events.

- Uncovered finished drinking water reservoirs; the largest is Hillview in NYC (Under a Consent Decree to comply) and Newark, Passaic Valley Water Commission and Trenton who all lack firm deadlines for compliance.

- Emerging Contaminants, notably PFAS, 1-4 dioxane and ethylene oxide. R2 is working with states, Indian nations, local governments, and communities to understand impacts on drinking water, surface water, air, and soil. NY and NJ were two of the first states to develop and implement regulations for PFAS (NY and NJ) and 1,4-dioxane (NY) in drinking water, prior to EPA's PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

- Facilities, including commercial sterilizers, that are sources of excess emissions of ethylene oxide.

- Unsatisfactory air quality, particularly in the NYC and Philadelphia Metropolitan areas; major concerns are ozone and diesel-related fine particulates; localized concerns over SO2 and lead occur in PR and elsewhere.

- Growth in offshore wind projects. R2 is the air permitting authority for these highly complex Outer Continental Shelf projects and has devoted significant resources to date, with several more projects being proposed.

- Managing an unprecedented number of grants under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and under Congressionally Directed Spending.

- Workforce planning, including hiring, employee retention, and succession planning.