



**United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Fiscal Year 2026**

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

EPA-190R25002

June 2025
www.epa.gov/cj

EPA's Mission

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a clear mission: to protect human health and the environment. The Agency also has a duty to fulfill this mission in an accountable and efficient manner. President Trump's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget for EPA signals a return to common-sense environmental policy that works *for* the American people. The President's Budget (PB) will ensure that the Agency can carry out its core mission and statutory responsibilities, while eliminating wasteful spending, resetting a proper balance between the federal government and states, and *Powering the Great American Comeback*.¹

The FY 2026 President's Budget for EPA totals \$4.16 billion, a 54 percent decrease from the FY 2025 Enacted Budget level. The Budget supports 12,856 full-time equivalents (FTE), a decrease of 1,274 FTE from the 2025 level, aligning with the President's goal of streamlining the federal workforce.² These resources reflect the Administration's commitment to environmental stewardship, cooperative federalism, and delivering results that make a real difference in Americans' lives. The EPA is focused on a back-to-basics approach that will lower the cost of living, remove unnecessary barriers for business and industry, empower states, and return the Agency to administering core statutory obligations as Congress intended.

The Agency is currently developing the FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan, and the FY 2026 Budget will advance the Administrator's five strategic pillars: *Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American; Restore American Energy Dominance; Engage in Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership; Develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) Capabilities; and Protect American Auto Jobs*. This framework ensures that the Agency is looking to the future and prioritizing economic growth and environmental remediation rather than ideologies or ineffective passthrough funding that does not directly protect the environment. Action across the Agency will be realigned to work *with* partners such as states, tribes, and industry to achieve these goals. In too many instances the federal government has retained control of implementing laws from its perch in the Nation's capital, a case of overreach that this Budget rectifies. States and local governments will instead be empowered, promoting innovative, localized solutions.

In FY 2026, EPA will focus on realigning resources to emphasize operational efficiencies, rightsizing the federal workforce with a staff not one FTE more or less than what is necessary, fully executing executive orders, and adhering to statutory responsibilities to complete our mission. The Budget reduces support for areas that deviate from EPA's core mission and advances common-sense deregulations that will drive the economy forward and make it more affordable to own a car, heat a home, operate a business, and bring manufacturing back to local communities. EPA is committed to delivering real results with greater accountability and a stronger environmental return on investment per taxpayer dollar spent.

¹ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-lee-zeldin-announces-epas-powering-great-american-comeback>.

² The FY 2025 FTE total of 14,130 includes 779 Superfund tax FTE, and the FY 2026 President's Budget FTE total of 12,856 includes 1,655 Superfund tax FTE. The Agency also notes throughout that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

FY 2026 Priorities

Pillar One: Ensure Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American

Delivering clean air, land, and water for all Americans is at the center of EPA's mission. The FY 2026 President's Budget clearly demonstrates the Administration's commitment to common-sense environmental stewardship that provides a healthy and clean environment for Americans. With a renewed focus on the core statutory responsibilities Congress has imparted to the Agency, EPA will utilize FY 2026 resources to simultaneously revitalize the American economy while upholding this pillar. Programs and activities that hinder economic growth have been reduced or eliminated, allowing for greater investment in those that have a tangible, direct impact on everyday life and affordability. The FY 2026 Budget will advance work to implement Executive Order 14154: *Unleashing American Energy*³ and Executive Order 14162: *Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements*.⁴

Clean Air

In FY 2026, the Agency will focus on reducing air pollutants and toxics that can cause or exacerbate health issues by working more effectively with states and tribes. This includes reviewing and approving State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for attaining air quality standards, redesignating areas to attainment of air quality standards, and streamlining air permitting. By focusing on EPA's statutory obligations, the Agency will be better able to deliver on their responsibilities to the American public. In FY 2026, EPA will continue reviewing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and retain or revise, as appropriate, while taking public health, environmental stewardship, and common-sense regulatory approaches into account. This is in addition to planned revisions to the Exceptional Events Rule, the Good Neighbor Plan, and the Regional Haze Program, examples of unlawful overreach that hinder economic progress.

EPA also is improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the SIP process with a goal of maximizing timely processing of SIP actions and reducing the significant backlog. Funding within the Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program has been set aside specifically to address and resolve the backlog of SIPs and to focus on the reconsideration of regulations on power plants, the oil and gas industry, NAAQs, and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

The Agency will take steps to ensure that the efficient carrying out of environmental law, not ideologies, drives our work. In March 2025, EPA issued guidance to review and revise the National Enforcement Compliance Initiatives (NECIs) as appropriate, to ensure alignment with Administration directives and policies.⁵ In doing so, the Agency will target enforcement and compliance assurance on pollution, ensuring a fair approach to environmental remediation. Additionally, EPA's enforcement community will focus on critical national security actions, such as stopping illegal imports at the border to protect our citizens and using reasonable and effective enforcement tactics in the Agency's engagement.

³ Executive Order 14154: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-american-energy/>.

⁴ Executive Order 14162: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/putting-america-first-in-international-environmental-agreements/>.

⁵ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-03/necimemo-20250312.pdf>.

In FY 2026, EPA will use its resources to focus on the core goal of providing clean air for Americans, while advancing fiscal stewardship, conservation, and enhancing national security by addressing transboundary pollution at the border. Programs such as Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools and Wildfire Preparedness Grants help remediate and prepare buildings and communities that face air quality hazards. To further increase efficiency and empower state and local governments to take control of their own environmental programs, the FY 2026 Budget has proposed for elimination of a number of redundant programs, or programs that encourage federal overreach. These include the State & Local Air Quality Management Categorical Grant Program, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Program, the Radon Program, and the Radon Categorical Grant Program.

Clean and Safe Land

Ensuring that all Americans live, recreate, and work on land that is clean and safe is a priority for EPA. The Agency will continue to focus on expediting cleanup of Superfund and brownfields sites, concentrating efforts on a list of top priority sites to advance progress on areas of concern. Advancing cooperative federalism, EPA, working in tandem with states, tribes, and local partners, will clean up and return contaminated sites to productive use through the Superfund, Brownfields, Underground Storage Tanks (UST), and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) programs. These programs produce tangible benefits to working Americans and are the cornerstone of the FY 2026 President's Budget goal to ensure clean land across the Nation.

In FY 2026, EPA's land cleanup programs will utilize funding strategically, as good stewards of taxpayer dollars. EPA is fully transitioning the Superfund Remedial Program to Superfund taxes to conduct critical pre-construction projects, continue ongoing construction projects, and initiate new remedial work at National Priority List (NPL) sites to address contaminants including lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The Superfund Federal Facilities Program and the Superfund Emergency Response and Removal Program also will receive support from Superfund tax receipts.

The FY 2026 President's Budget will continue to advance the goal of clean land through its Brownfields programs. The Brownfields Projects Program will award grants and provide technical assistance to states, tribes, local communities, and other stakeholders to work together to plan, inventory, assess, safely clean up, and reuse brownfields, helping ensure clean land for communities across the Nation. As of April 2025, grants awarded by the Program have led to over 159,814 acres of idle land made ready for productive use and over 221,352 jobs and \$42 billion leveraged.⁶

Clean and Safe Water

The FY 2026 Budget focuses EPA's attention on implementing the core environmental statutes of our Nation, including Clean Water Act (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), while also recognizing the need for efficiencies. In FY 2026, EPA will focus on actions that improve quality of life for Americans such as addressing 40 different PFAS compounds in surface water, groundwater, and wastewater

⁶ U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management Estimate. All estimates of outputs and outcomes are supported by the data that is entered by cooperative agreement recipients via EPA's Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) database.

through cutting-edge methods, providing greater regulatory clarity and certainty to landowners in alignment with the Supreme Court decision in *Sackett*, and working to permanently end the Tijuana River sewage crisis that has plagued Southern California for decades. The Trump Budget for EPA resets the proper balance between federal and state responsibilities while ensuring our Nation's waterways and drinking water are clean, and our water infrastructure is secure from malicious actors.

In FY 2026, EPA will provide resources for Clean Water (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Programs that reflect a renewed emphasis on federalism, removing the overhead lost with the federal government acting as a passthrough. There has been significant historical federal funding, exceeding \$243.9 billion, invested in the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and EPA is returning the responsibility of infrastructure funding to the states to leverage the strongest return on investment towards these projects per taxpayer's dollar, while retaining funding to allow for an offramp as states prepare during this transition period. Some states may be able to utilize the repayments of loan principal and interest earnings to fund future infrastructure needs. Additionally, as a responsible partner, the Agency will provide \$31 million, an increase of \$27 million, to the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program to fund projects on reservations that connect, expand, or repair existing public water systems, as well as ambient water quality or sanitation projects for treatment works. While the Budget rightfully returns responsibility for state infrastructure to the states, it also prioritizes funding for tribes to be able to maintain their water infrastructure.

The FY 2026 Budget provides \$124 million in funding to EPA's Drinking Water Programs to advance the critical drinking water mission at EPA, protecting Americans, and especially children, from unsafe or contaminated water. This \$9 million increase from the current level will properly equip EPA with funds to respond to drinking water disasters, directly helping people on the ground recover from such emergencies. The Budget also will support coordination and protection of the Nation's critical water infrastructure from foreign, domestic, and other national security and public safety threats, including cyberattacks. EPA will leverage its role as the lead federal agency for cybersecurity in the water sector and work with government partners to close vulnerabilities and mitigate risks to cyberthreats.

EPA is empowering its implementing partners through cooperative federalism with support for the Geographic Programs to accomplish environmental remediation to restore and improve water quality, while bolstering important regional economies. Clean and safe drinking water is critical to the health of communities across the Nation. 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 sustainable infrastructure efforts as source water protection can reduce the need for additional drinking water treatment and associated costs. The Agency will continue to support regulatory analysis, development, and technical assistance for state, tribal, and local communities to address drinking water contaminants in their efforts to ensure safe and clean water.

Chemical Safety

EPA is responsible for ensuring the safety and availability of chemicals and pesticides used in the United States. In FY 2026 the Agency will work to reduce backlogs in the chemical review process

to provide regulatory certainty to industry, furthering the *Great American Comeback* and unleashing the greatness of the American economy. The FY 2026 President’s Budget realigns resources and FTE to ensure chemical reviews are done in a timely manner, addressing a deficit in staff and funding that has had negative consequences for small businesses and larger industry partners alike.

In line with returning to core activities, EPA will emphasize the review and registration of new pesticides and new uses for existing pesticides, and other covered applications under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) and its reauthorizations. Under President Trump’s leadership, EPA will demonstrate its commitment to American workers by continuing to support the implementation of the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and the Certification of Pesticide Applicators (CPA) revised rules for reducing occupational exposure to pesticides.

Pillar Two: Restore American Energy Dominance

The United States has an abundance of energy and natural resources that have fueled its economic success and supported American prosperity. Restoring American energy independence and energy dominance will significantly decrease costs for everyday Americans. The Agency’s investment in this pillar also will allow our Nation to stop relying on energy sources from adversaries, while lowering costs for hardworking families, farmers, and small business owners.

Achieving American energy dominance and independence requires innovative thinking and common-sense reform. The restoration of energy dominance is not only an economic and national security goal, but it also is best for the environment as America draws from its domestic energy supply in an environmentally responsible way.

In accordance with Executive Order 14154: *Unleashing American Energy*, EPA is systematically reviewing all of its actions, including regulatory requirements, orders, guidance documents, policies, settlements, and consent orders, to identify and eliminate barriers to domestic energy production. This review will ensure that EPA actions are grounded in clearly applicable law and based on sound technical, economic, and policy analysis. In FY 2026, the Agency will undertake 31 actions to fulfill the Administration’s promise to unleash American energy, lower the cost of living for all Americans, restore the rule of law, and empower and encourage states to innovate and fund more efficient and effective methods to meet their responsibilities under delegated authority.⁷

EPA is committed to helping unleash American energy to *Power the Great American Comeback*. The lack of adequate energy supply and weak infrastructure has increased energy prices, which has impacted all Americans, particularly those in low-and fixed-income communities.⁸ A reliable and affordable supply of energy is critical to driving the Nation’s industries and ensuring preparedness for national emergencies.

The FY 2026 President’s Budget prioritizes actions that reduce barriers to achieving the goal of energy independence. EPA will reevaluate greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations imposed on power

⁷ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-biggest-deregulatory-action-us-history>.

⁸ Executive Order 14156: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/declaring-a-national-energy-emergency/>.

plants, commonly known as the “Clean Power Plan 2.0.”⁹ The Agency also will reconsider methane regulations throttling the oil and gas industry under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). EPA will reexamine the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) that improperly target coal-fired power plants, and undertake multiple CAA reviews and associated rulemakings,¹⁰ including all National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), to reflect developments in practices, processes, control technologies, and associated national guidance and outreach, in addition to proposing or promulgating more than 25 NESHAP rules.

In FY 2026, the Agency will reconsider wastewater regulations for oil and gas development and standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating industry to ensure reliable, affordable electricity. EPA will evaluate modern technologies and management strategies to provide regulatory flexibility for oil and gas wastewater—also known as produced water—to be treated for beneficial reuse, including for AI and data center cooling, rangeland irrigation, fire control, power generation, and ecological needs. Additionally, EPA will revise wastewater regulations from the 1970s that do not reflect modern capability to treat and reuse water. Through these efforts, the Agency will lower production costs for oil and gas extraction to boost American energy while increasing water supplies and protecting water quality. These actions will ensure that America’s oil and natural gas refineries as well as chemical facilities are safer and more competitive as concerns have been raised on national security and value of prescriptive requirements within the rule.

To enhance transparency and accountability, EPA will track costs and cost savings of its regulatory actions so that all actions are fully and appropriately estimated. This includes the development and deployment of EPA’s economy-wide model to track how regulatory costs and savings ripple through the economy and improve the cost of living for American households. The Trump EPA has launched 31 deregulatory actions to advance President Trump’s Day One executive orders and *Power the Great American Comeback*.¹¹

In FY 2026, EPA will establish the Office of State Air Partnerships to improve coordination with state, local, and tribal air permitting agencies. Consistent with the requirements of the CAA, EPA will work to address sources of air pollutants for multiple source categories, including those in the power plant and oil and natural gas sectors. EPA expects to propose or promulgate at least four New Source Performance Standards actions in FY 2026.

The Agency will reconsider the mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program that imposes significant costs on the American energy supply. The Program requires over 8,000 facilities and suppliers in the United States to calculate and submit their emissions reporting annually, which costs industries millions of dollars that could be reallocated to improve and upgrade environmental controls or other items at these facilities to have a clear and noticeable impact on the improvement of the environment.

⁹ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-announces-reconsideration-biden-harris-rule-clean-power-plan-20-prioritized>.

¹⁰ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-announces-reconsideration-air-rules-regulating-american-energy-manufacturing>.

¹¹ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-biggest-deregulatory-action-us-history>.

The FY 2026 President’s Budget will support a detailed analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of regulatory actions on employment, with the best available data and in a more consistent, transparent, and cost-effective manner to support innovation at EPA on a regular basis and to advance the Administration’s policy goals to unleash clean, efficient, and affordable energy.

Pillar Three: Advance Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism & Cross-Agency Partnership

Permitting reform, cooperative federalism, and productive cross-agency partnerships are core components of *Powering the Great American Comeback*. Guided by President Trump’s executive orders and directives, EPA is committed to partnering with state, tribal, and local governments, as well as businesses and industry, to streamline the permitting process and improve efficiencies so the Nation can unleash economic growth while providing cost savings to hardworking Americans.

The FY 2026 Budget realigns resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness across EPA programs and regions through innovation and best practices to streamline permitting processes, reduce chemical review backlogs, and enhance workforce productivity that ensure cost-effective use of taxpayer dollars. The Budget also provides support to ensure EPA is transparent and fair under the rule of law. Under the Trump Administration, EPA will safeguard clean air, land, and water and protect human health in a way that fuels economy growth and sparks American ingenuity. America is a land of rockets, smartphones, and cancer cures – a place where innovation drives both prosperity and progress. We don’t have to choose between a strong economy and a healthy environment. With the same spirit that built Silicon Valley and reached the stars, we can achieve both, creating a future where people thrive.

Permitting Reform

The FY 2026 President’s Budget supports innovative strategies and realigns resources to reform and streamline permitting operations, as well as other internal and external activities across the Agency. EPA’s permitting and environmental review programs are implemented through statutory authorities such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FY 2026 Budget provides resources to ensure the Agency is prepared to conduct permitting and environmental reviews faster and more cost effectively while building capacity and improving testing on innovations to environmental reviews. This includes an increase for the NEPA Implementation Program to emphasize permitting and environmental review best practices, coordination with federal partners for timely authorizations and approvals, as well as streamlining and facilitating national oversight and automation. The Integrated Environmental Strategies Program will focus \$8 million exclusively on promoting economic growth through improvements to the permitting process. The Program will demonstrate new approaches to streamline and reduce unnecessary burdens and help communities meet their environmental and economic needs. The Agency will encourage policies and procedures that support process improvements, ideations, and problem-solving. EPA will continue to be a leader in data tracking, analysis, and problem-solving to support permitting reform initiatives such as implementing a continuous improvement project to reduce the time it takes for EPA to issue Class VI well permits and standardize EPA’s Class VI permitting process across regions.

The Agency is committed to investing in improvements to the timeliness and quality of new chemical reviews and its related risk management actions. As mandated by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA reviews approximately 500 submissions annually of new chemical substance for their stated uses to identify potential hazards and risks associated with those uses. Efficiency and timeliness of approval of new chemicals will spur innovation and allow for the manufacturing of newer, safer chemical substances, supporting the *Great American Comeback*. EPA also will implement improvements to the processes used to review and register new pesticides and new uses for existing pesticides, and other covered applications under PRIA, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDC).

Cooperative Federalism

States, tribes, and local governments are best positioned to address the unique environmental challenges facing their communities. In FY 2026, the Agency will empower state and local governments to achieve environmental protection at a local level, encouraging more efficient and innovative ways to meet their responsibilities while EPA focuses on meeting core statutory requirements to protect human health and the environment where there is a unique federal role. The Budget recognizes that EPA has invested hundreds of billions of dollars over several decades building state and local capacity and many programs are mature or have accomplished their purpose.

In FY 2026, EPA will partner with environmental leaders from states and tribes through E-Enterprise for the Environment to streamline processes and optimize technologies to accomplish shared objectives for environmental program implementation.¹² By working together, states, tribes, and EPA regional offices will identify opportunities to digitize permit applications, automate and augment processes with AI, and share project analyses across jurisdictions to reduce duplication. EPA will emphasize tribal capacity-building, providing funding and technical assistance that encourage greater independence from federal oversight. Additionally, EPA will encourage tribes to establish environmental protection programs consistent with laws administered by EPA through the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP). GAP funding will encourage the development of technical, legal, enforcement, and outreach capacities tribes need to effectively administer environmental regulatory programs that EPA may delegate.

Cross-Agency Partnership and Internal Streamlining

The FY 2026 President's Budget emphasizes greater efficiency of Agency processes and actions through internal and external realignments and partnerships. In support of Administration priorities of a leaner, more accountable federal government, EPA will implement numerous workforce reshaping initiatives and human capital processes across the Agency that are in line with Executive Order 14217: *Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy*¹³ and Executive Order 14210: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative*.¹⁴ EPA's workforce reshaping effort will eliminate non-essential functions and implement hiring restrictions to right size the government.

¹² For additional information, please visit: <https://e-enterprisefortheenvironment.net/>.

¹³ Executive Order 14217: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>.

¹⁴ Executive Order 14210: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-cost-efficiency-initiative/>.

In FY 2026, EPA will be implementing an ambitious space consolidation plan that will reduce a number of occupied facilities, consolidate space, and reduce square footage, which will result in significant savings for the American public. EPA will vacate the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. and a facility in Chapel Hill, NC by the end of FY 2025, expecting approximately \$22 million in rent savings for FY 2026.

The FY 2026 President’s Budget marks a return to statutory enforcement and compliance work. This work will bring regulated entities into compliance with federal environmental law through administrative and judicial enforcement. EPA will achieve compliance more efficiently and appropriately by focusing enforcement on clear and substantial violations of the law that cause significant harm and that cannot be addressed by states.

Ensuring strong partnerships with other federal agencies, EPA will work with federal partners, including the Customs and Border Protection, to perform mission essential inspections, investigations, and sampling to stop illegal imports and ensure our borders remain secure. Much of the EPA’s cost-cutting and efficiency agenda requires close cooperation with other federal entities, especially when it comes to permitting reform. These efforts include coordination agencywide, across 13 other federal agencies, the Permitting Council, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Pillar Four: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World

In FY 2026, EPA aims to contribute to the United States becoming the global leader in AI. This advances multiple executive orders, including Executive Order 14179: *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*,¹⁵ OMB Memorandum M-25-21: *Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust*,¹⁶ and OMB Memorandum M-25-22: *Driving Efficient Acquisition of Artificial Intelligence in Government*.¹⁷ To fulfill these directives, EPA will expand AI capabilities within the Agency and remove unnecessary regulatory barriers to foster growth in the American AI industry.

To modernize its operations and improve efficiency, EPA will significantly invest in expanding its internal AI capabilities. This involves sharing critical data sets with federal and state agencies, a move that empowers permitting reform and supports the development of smart regulations. Leading this charge is the Chief Information Officer and the Chief AI Officer, tasked with crafting a robust AI strategy, ensuring compliance, and overseeing governance to maximize AI’s operational efficacy. EPA will make strategic adjustments to its programs and activities to better align with these new priorities. In addition to the development of a comprehensive strategy to guide the use of AI and automation in a responsible and effective manner, the Agency will develop a Metadata Management Plan that will enable AI to effectively locate and utilize data.

¹⁵ Executive Order 14179: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence/>.

¹⁶ OMB Memorandum M-25-21: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-21-Accelerating-Federal-Use-of-AI-through-Innovation-Governance-and-Public-Trust.pdf>.

¹⁷ OMB Memorandum M-25-22: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-22-Driving-Efficient-Acquisition-of-Artificial-Intelligence-in-Government.pdf>.

In FY 2026, EPA will advance the modernization of administrative workflows to improve productivity and the result of a taxpayer's dollar. By leveraging AI to transition from paper-based and analog processes to digital ones, the Agency can speed up and automate administrative and operational tasks as well as improve data analysis and collection. Additionally, the Agency will undertake a concerted effort to enhance cross-agency interoperability, ensuring that data delivery to the public is seamless and that AI-driven solutions facilitate better communication between agencies.

Looking to the future, the widespread adoption of AI tools and platforms within EPA is expected to yield significant achievements. By improving financial data quality, accessibility, and governance, EPA is creating a foundation where AI can thrive and provide essential data to support mission needs. AI platforms have the potential to greatly improve the precision and speed of environmental assessments, leading to more effective resource allocation. The development and refinement of AI use cases with high operational impact will contribute to innovative solutions for pressing environmental challenges. As AI capacity continues to expand across the Agency, a culture of innovation and technological advancement is expected to flourish.

EPA is looking beyond internal processes to invest in key partnerships to bolster the production of data centers, chip manufacturing, and supply chain management to enable this vital technology across the United States. Moving forward, EPA will collaborate with lawmakers and industry leaders to ensure that it is easy to invest in and develop AI within the United States, and that the energy required to do so is reliable and affordable. EPA will prepare and support the transition of organizational major permitting programs into 21st Century automation and AI-ready form while strengthening engagement and coordination with coregulating partners to use AI/automation which will enhance permit quality, timelines, and integrity

These initiatives reflect EPA's commitment to making the United States the AI Capital of the World. By supporting cooperative federalism and promoting smart regulations, and through strategic funding and governance, EPA is well-positioned to harness AI for the betterment of the environment and public health.

Pillar Five: Protect and Bring Back American Auto Jobs

The American auto industry, a cornerstone of U.S. manufacturing and economic strength, has faced significant challenges in recent years. Under President Trump, EPA will focus on bringing back American auto jobs and invest in domestic manufacturing to revitalize a quintessential American industry. This pillar aligns with the President's proclamation to protect national security by incentivizing the return of domestic automobile production and reducing America's reliance on imports of foreign automobiles and their parts.¹⁸ Americans have the right to decide what vehicle is best for them: electric or gas-powered.

To support the American auto industry, EPA will aid in assessing costs, benefits, and job impacts of Agency actions on businesses, communities, and government entities. This will better inform policies that protect human health and the environment without unduly burdening the economy. In

¹⁸ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/04/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-incentivizes-domestic-automobile-production/>.

FY 2026, EPA will establish a more detailed employment analysis of deregulatory and regulatory actions to identify options consistent with this goal and develop tools to evaluate regulatory job displacement, including through offshoring of production, and the benefits of avoiding those effects—with a focus on the electricity, oil, gas, and auto manufacturing sectors. These efforts will provide the Agency with useful data and information on how and where to invest in domestic manufacturing while lowering overall costs for households, energizing the economy, and continuing to support the Agency’s core mission of ensuring clean air for all Americans.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue the work begun in FY 2025 to reconsider and reevaluate three major on-road engine and vehicle regulations. Specifically, EPA announced on March 12, 2025, that the Agency would reconsider the 2024 light-and medium-duty vehicle multipollutant rule and the 2024 heavy-duty vehicle GHG “Phase 3” rule, and the 2022 highway heavy-duty engine Low Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) rule.¹⁹ These actions will result in smart regulations that lower the cost of living for American families and make it more affordable to purchase the cars of their choosing and to bring manufacturing into local communities.

In accordance with Presidential Memorandum *Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis*,²⁰ EPA will pursue appropriate actions to reduce the cost of the transportation sector and create employment opportunities for American workers. In FY 2026, the Agency will conduct more regular and detailed employment analyses of regulatory actions to identify areas consistent with current policy goals and priorities, including the development of information and models to help conduct assessments that evaluate the impacts of regulatory job displacement and the benefits of avoiding those effects. To further this goal, EPA will update the Agency’s “Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analysis,” including a companion reference manual, model, and data for conducting analysis on impacts of regulations on domestic competitiveness and the costs of shifting production and jobs overseas. These actions will ensure that American workers are supported, and the Nation can reinvest in itself, maintain resilience, sustain its domestic industrial base, and thrive in a rapidly changing global economy.

¹⁹ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-action-implement-potuss-termination-biden-harris-electric-vehicle>.

²⁰ For additional information, please visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/delivering-emergency-price-relief-for-american-families-and-defeating-the-cost-of-living-crisis/>.

Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Budget Authority
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget
Science & Technology	\$782,646	\$756,073	\$500,780
Environmental Programs & Management	\$3,253,430	\$3,195,028	\$2,481,704
Inspector General	\$40,042	\$43,250	\$43,250
Building and Facilities	\$32,830	\$40,676	\$35,076
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$23,712	\$20,711	\$16,395
<i>IG Transfer</i>	\$12,470	\$11,328	\$11,328
<i>S&T Transfer</i>	\$32,572	\$30,343	\$17,607
<i>Superfund Program</i>	\$1,433,921	\$496,029	\$253,814
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,478,962	\$537,700	\$282,749
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$95,778	\$89,214	\$47,922
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	\$3,499,285	\$4,380,245	\$744,844
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund	\$577,490	\$72,274	\$8,000
<i>SUB-TOTAL, EPA</i>	<i>\$9,784,176</i>	<i>\$9,135,171</i>	<i>\$4,160,720</i>
<i>TOTAL, EPA</i>	<i>\$9,784,176</i>	<i>\$9,135,171</i>	<i>\$4,160,720</i>

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Authorized Full-time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget
Science & Technology	1,999.3	1,892.6	1,535.5
Environmental Programs & Management	8,976.5	8,875.8	7,873.2
Inspector General	178.8	227.5	227.5
Inland Oil Spill Programs	79.7	75.2	72.5
<i>IG Transfer</i>	45.4	42.5	42.5
<i>S&T Transfer</i>	64.6	61.1	84.6
<i>Superfund Program</i>	2,616.2	2,388.6	2,482.9
Hazardous Substance Superfund	2,726.2	2,492.2	2,610.0
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	43.2	43.4	41.0
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	9.6	6.9	0.5
Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund	11.6	15.0	15.0
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund	38.7	35.2	38.4
Rereg. & Exped. Proc. Rev Fund	144.3	132.3	221.5
WCF-Reimbursable	261.3	334.0	220.9
Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment	3.6	0.0	0.0
Pesticide Registration Fund	60.5	0.0	0.0
UIC Injection Well Permit BLM	1.1	0.0	0.0
<i>SUB-TOTAL, EPA</i>	<i>14,534.4</i>	<i>14,130.1</i>	<i>12,856.0</i>
<i>TOTAL, EPA</i>	<i>14,534.4</i>	<i>14,130.1</i>	<i>12,856.0</i>

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Science & Technology
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology				
Budget Authority	\$782,646	\$756,073	\$500,780	-\$255,293
Total Workyears	1,999.3	1,892.6	1,535.5	-357.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

Bill Language: Science and Technology

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, \$500,780,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

Program Projects in S&T

(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Clean Air				
Atmospheric Protection	\$7,295	\$8,400	\$0	-\$8,400
Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs	\$6,456	\$6,162	\$5,739	-\$423
Federal Support for Air Quality Management	\$15,762	\$10,608	\$10,727	\$119
Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification	\$110,934	\$113,454	\$100,731	-\$12,723
Subtotal, Clean Air	\$140,448	\$138,624	\$117,197	-\$21,427
Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants				
Congressional Priorities	\$28,536	\$17,500	\$0	-\$17,500
Enforcement				
Forensics Support	\$14,668	\$14,895	\$10,095	-\$4,800
Ensure Safe Water				

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Drinking Water Programs	\$4,111	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$0
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection	\$11,253	\$10,427	\$10,214	-\$213
Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	\$25,348	\$23,598	\$25,542	\$1,944
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$625	\$625	\$500	-\$125
Subtotal, Homeland Security	\$37,226	\$34,650	\$36,256	\$1,606
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Indoor Air: Radon Program	\$169	\$22	\$0	-\$22
Radiation: Protection	\$2,295	\$1,740	\$1,047	-\$693
Radiation: Response Preparedness	\$3,174	\$3,400	\$3,096	-\$304
Reduce Risks from Indoor Air	\$100	\$88	\$0	-\$88
Subtotal, Indoor Air and Radiation	\$5,737	\$5,250	\$4,143	-\$1,107
IT / Data Management / Security				
IT / Data Management	\$2,484	\$3,079	\$2,890	-\$189
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$55,023	-\$9,710
Workforce Reshaping	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$57,023	-\$7,710
Pesticides Licensing				
Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk	\$2,151	\$2,143	\$2,616	\$473
Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk	\$2,996	\$2,889	\$2,442	-\$447
Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability	\$823	\$868	\$684	-\$184
Subtotal, Pesticides Licensing	\$5,969	\$5,900	\$5,742	-\$158
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Health and Environmental Risk Assessment	\$42,055	\$38,732	\$24,694	-\$14,038
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
<i>Endocrine Disruptors</i>	\$17,002	\$15,535	\$10,034	-\$5,501
<i>Computational Toxicology</i>	\$22,264	\$20,526	\$16,148	-\$4,378
<i>Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability (other activities)</i>	\$54,133	\$52,244	\$40,770	-\$11,474
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$93,399	\$88,305	\$66,952	-\$21,353

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$135,454	\$127,037	\$91,646	-\$35,391
Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources				
Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources	\$111,275	\$111,500	\$78,948	-\$32,552
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$134,581	\$132,205	\$58,597	-\$73,608
Research: Air and Energy				
Research: Air and Energy	\$94,764	\$96,000	\$33,543	-\$62,457
TOTAL S&T	\$782,646	\$756,073	\$500,780	-\$255,293

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

Clean Air

Atmospheric Protection

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$99,198	\$100,000	\$0	-\$100,000
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$7,295</i>	<i>\$8,400</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$8,400</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$106,494	\$108,400	\$0	-\$108,400
Total Workyears	197.6	201.8	0.0	-201.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Atmospheric Protection Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work (*e.g.*, Clean Air Act, Pollution Prevention Act, Energy Policy Act of 2005, etc.) will be accomplished in other programs within the Clean Air Program Area.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$8,400.0 / -25.4 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Atmospheric Protection Program, from the S&T account, to reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act; Pollution Prevention Act (PPA), §§ 6602-6605; National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), § 102; Clean Water Act, § 104; Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), § 8001; Energy Policy Act of 2005, § 756.

Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$15,177	\$13,423	\$13,231	-\$192
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$6,456</i>	<i>\$6,162</i>	<i>\$5,739</i>	<i>-\$423</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$21,633	\$19,585	\$18,970	-\$615
Total Workyears	62.8	62.8	61.7	-1.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

This program is responsible for managing the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), an ambient monitoring network that has been continuously collecting data for more than 35 years. CASTNET serves as the Nation's primary source for assessing long-term trends in rural air quality and atmospheric pollutant inputs to ecosystems. CASTNET sites are uniquely situated in remote and high elevation areas within 41 states and seven tribal boundaries. Rural CASTNET sites are intentionally located away from stationary emission sources. The network provides valuable data to support the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in many areas not monitored by state, local, and tribal monitoring agencies. Additionally, CASTNET ozone data are used for exceptional event assessments of international transport, background concentrations, wildfire events, and stratospheric ozone intrusions, often leading to ozone exceedances. The sites also fill critical data gaps needed to understand precursor emissions contributions leading to air quality issues affecting downwind population centers, such as agricultural activity, oil and gas production, wildfire smoke, and wood smoke in mountain valleys. The CASTNET monitoring network continues to be critical for assessing impacts of regional emission reduction programs particularly in rural and tribal communities across America and is used in evaluating how various stressors may impact future improvements to air quality.

The Agency's CASTNET Program also supports 42 ambient ammonia monitoring sites and 18 wet deposition sites through its contribution to the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) to assess atmospheric concentrations of particulate matter (PM) precursors (e.g., ammonia); nitrogen impacts on air and water quality (e.g., eutrophication, harmful algal blooms); and ecosystem effects (e.g., reduction in biodiversity). The Agency utilizes data from these monitoring programs to support the development, evaluation, and validation of air quality models used to assess results under potential future emission scenarios. Used in conjunction with other ambient air quality networks, CASTNET's data products also are used to determine the

effectiveness of national and regional emission control programs, validate satellite measurements, and provide near-real time data to support AirNow and Air Quality Index (AQI) reporting tools.

EPA works closely with tribal governments to build tribal air monitoring capacity through partnerships with the CASTNET Program. Since 2002, CASTNET has added seven sites on tribal lands. By expanding tribal partnerships, CASTNET can fill important spatial gaps in air quality and atmospheric deposition monitoring while providing tribes with the equipment and technical training to collect and report local air quality data. Tribes benefit from dedicated monitoring sites that build technical skills, provide near-real time air quality data to the community, and provide environmental data that help tribes assess the impacts of air pollution on cultural or natural resources on tribal lands.

To support modernization efforts, CASTNET will use the existing network infrastructure to fill in gaps in continuous measurements necessary to evaluate changes in atmospheric chemistry and global impacts on air quality and deposition. The Program is well-situated as a platform to measure background or regional levels of air toxics (*e.g.*, ethylene oxide) and persistent chemicals of concern (*e.g.*, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) compounds). Measuring speciated reactive nitrogen will provide valuable data that states can use to determine which precursors are driving PM formation and make more informed decisions on emission control strategies. Furthermore, continuing to expand capacity while modernizing the CASTNET infrastructure ensures data can be made available in near-real time to address short-term changes in air quality resulting from meteorological conditions, such as temperature inversions, or natural disasters, such as wildfires.

This Program also supports the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs, which are nationwide and multi-state programs that address air pollutants that are transported across state, regional, and international boundaries. Programs designed to control sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) include Title IV (the Acid Rain Program) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), the CSAPR Update, the Revised CSAPR Update, and the Good Neighbor Plan.²¹ The infrastructure for the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs also supports implementation of other state and federal programs.

This suite of statutorily required Programs requires states to limit their emissions of SO₂ and/or NO_x in order to reduce or eliminate the states' contributions to fine particulate matter and/or ground-level ozone pollution in other states. These programs set emissions limitations that are defined in terms of maximum statewide "budgets" for emissions of annual SO₂, annual NO_x, and/or ozone-season NO_x from each state's large electric generating units. EPA is supporting state efforts with respect to best available retrofit technology (BART), reasonable progress, and interstate visibility transport, as those obligations relate to SO₂ emissions from electricity generating units.²² The air quality and other environmental information gathered through this Program support these Clean Air Allowance Trading Program-related rulemakings and other rulemakings associated with Regional Haze.

²¹ On June 27, 2024, the Supreme Court of the United States granted emergency applications seeking a stay of the Good Neighbor Plan pending judicial review.

²² Clean Air Act § 110 and § 169A; refer to 40 CFR 52.2312.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Continue to support air quality and environmental monitoring sites (e.g., CASTNET NADP National Trends Network (NTN), and NADP Ammonia Monitoring Network (AMoN) sites. Monitoring data from these Programs are used to analyze and assess local and regional transport of air pollution, impacts on air quality and atmospheric deposition, and other indicators of air quality and ecosystem health.
- Provide support for independent audits and required performance evaluations to assure high-quality data to support the NAAQS and environmental assessments.
- Continue making progress toward increasing monitoring capacity by working to identify new tribal partners and rural communities across America that would benefit from joining a national air monitoring program.
- Informed by a recent scientific review of the Program, CASTNET will invest in new technology and small businesses by replacing aging equipment, repairing monitoring shelters more than 30 years old that have deteriorated due to weather, and deploying new equipment and monitoring sites in rural areas.
- Upgrade aging CASTNET equipment to expand the nation's rural multipollutant monitoring network. To modernize the Program, EPA will replace continuous ozone analyzers, and procure new PM_{2.5} sensors that will support NAAQS assessments, emission control strategies, regulatory actions, and impacts on air quality and ecosystems in the future.
- Continue to modernize the data reporting tools and visualizations to improve user experiences and data access, particularly during emergencies (e.g., wildfires). Strengthening front-end and back-end data management platforms will improve system reliability and allow state and local agencies to quickly make critical decisions.
- Ensure the continuation of ongoing SO₂ and NO_x emission reductions from power plants in the U.S. by implementing the suite of CSAPR Programs and the Acid Rain Program.
- Ensure accurate and consistent results for the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs. Continue work on performance specifications and investigate monitoring alternatives and methods to improve the efficiency of monitor certification and emissions data reporting.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$423.0) This program change is a reduction to reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth reflecting the Administration's deregulatory agenda and focus on the Agency being more efficient.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Federal Support for Air Quality Management

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$149,862	\$151,225	\$132,556	-\$18,669
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$15,762</i>	<i>\$10,608</i>	<i>\$10,727</i>	<i>\$119</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$165,625	\$161,833	\$143,283	-\$18,550
Total Workyears	836.5	849.6	743.1	-106.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Federal support for the criteria pollutant and air toxics programs includes a variety of tools to characterize ambient air quality and the level of risk to the public from air pollutants and to measure national progress toward improving air quality and reducing associated risks. The Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program supports development of State Implementation Plans (SIPs) through modeling and other tools, and assists states in implementing, attaining, maintaining, and implementing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants and the regional haze program. The Program also supports development and provision of information, training, and tools to assist state, tribal, and local agencies to reduce air toxics emissions and risk specific to their local areas. In addition, the Program supports activities related to the Clean Air Act (CAA) stationary source residual risk and technology review program. EPA is required to assess the level of risk remaining after promulgation of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) that are based on Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) within eight years of that promulgation. In addition, the Agency is required to review all NESHAP at least every eight years to determine if revisions are needed to reflect developments in practices, processes, and control technologies. The CAA Section 129 Program further requires EPA to develop and periodically review standards of performance and emissions guidelines covering air emissions from waste combustion sources, including emissions of certain air toxics.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

During FY 2026, as part of implementing key activities in support of attainment of the NAAQS, EPA will provide states, tribes, and local air agencies with scientifically and technically sound assistance in developing SIPs/Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs). This assistance includes providing models, modeling inputs and tools, and technical data and guidance and identifying emission control options consistent with applicable requirements of the CAA. EPA facilitates national consistency in how air quality modeling is conducted as part of regulatory decision-making, including federal and state permitting programs, SIP/TIP-related actions, as well as how conformity determinations are made across the U.S. The Agency will work with states, tribes, and local air agencies to ensure that particulate matter (PM) hot-spot analyses are conducted in a manner consistent with the transportation conformity regulation and guidance. In some instances,

EPA is obligated by a statutory or court-enforceable deadline to issue a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP). This work also supports state obligations.

One of EPA's priorities is to fulfill its statutory and court-enforceable obligations. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to conduct the periodically required "technology reviews," conduct required risk assessments for MACT-based NESHAP, and reconsider previous actions as necessary. In FY 2026, the Air Toxics program will prioritize conducting reviews and reconsiderations of NESHAP and CAA Section 129 rules that either are subject to court-enforceable deadlines or are Administration priority actions. EPA expects to propose or promulgate more than 25 air toxics rules in FY 2026. These actions also support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA will continue reporting the most current air toxics data each year in the annual Air Trends Report and in an online interactive tool (AirToxScreen). EPA will continue providing information annually on health risks from exposures to air toxics through AirToxScreen, so that state, tribal and local air agencies can identify existing and emerging air toxics exposure issues.

EPA works with other internal and external stakeholders on improving ambient air monitoring networks and measurement techniques to fill data gaps and to provide better input to estimation of population exposure to criteria and toxic air pollutants. To ensure data quality, EPA will continue to implement and manage independent quality assurance programs for national monitoring networks as well as for federal and commercial laboratories that produce ambient air monitoring data.

In FY 2026, EPA will work with partners to continue improving emissions factors and inventories, including the National Emissions Inventory (NEI). This effort includes gathering improved activity data from emissions monitoring and using geographic information systems and satellite remote sensing systems, where possible, for key point, area, mobile, and fugitive sources, and global emission events.

EPA will continue to operate and maintain the Emissions Inventory System (EIS), which collects, quality assures and stores current and historical emissions inventory data and supports the development of the NEI. EPA, states, and others use the NEI to aid in state and local air agency SIP development, serve as a vital input to air quality modeling, help analyze public health risks from air toxics, develop strategies to manage those risks, and support multi-pollutant analysis for air emissions.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$492.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefit costs.
- (+\$611.0 / +2.3 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program to align funding with core statutory requirements and the goals of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, while ensuring sufficient FTE levels to support the work on SIPs.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$110,934</i>	<i>\$113,454</i>	<i>\$100,731</i>	<i>-\$12,723</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$110,934	\$113,454	\$100,731	-\$12,723
Total Workyears	308.5	309.6	310.5	0.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under the Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program, EPA develops, implements, and ensures compliance with national emission standards to reduce mobile source related air pollution from light-duty cars and trucks; heavy-duty trucks and buses; nonroad engines and vehicles; and from the fuels that power these engines.

National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL)

The NVFEL ensures air quality benefits and fair competition in the marketplace by conducting testing operations on motor vehicles, heavy-duty engines, nonroad engines, and fuels to certify that all vehicles, engines, and fuels that enter the U.S. market comply with all federal clean air, greenhouse gas, and fuel economy standards. The NVFEL conducts vehicle emission tests as part of pre-production tests, certification audits, in-use assessments, and recall programs to ensure compliance with mobile source programs. The NVFEL also produces critical test data on new and emerging vehicle and engine technologies to support the development of test methods used by regulated industry to comply with EPA standards.

Renewable Fuel Standard Program (RFS)

The RFS was created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct), which amended the Clean Air Act (CAA), and was expanded under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). The RFS program requires a certain volume of renewable fuel to replace or reduce the quantity of petroleum-based transportation fuel, heating oil, or jet fuel. Producers of renewable fuel generate renewable fuel credits known as Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) which are ultimately used by producers or importers of petroleum fuels to demonstrate compliance with the Program's renewable fuel volume requirements.

Supporting Tribal, State and Local Governments

EPA works with tribal, state, and local governments to ensure the technical integrity of the mobile source control emission benefits, including State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and transportation

conformity determinations. EPA develops and provides information and tools to assist tribal, state, and local agencies, as well as communities, to reduce criteria pollutants and air toxics emissions and risks specific to their local areas.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program supports the Agency's compliance programs by operating test cells that measure emissions, reviewing certification applications for light-duty vehicles and heavy-duty engines to approve applications, and examining potential violations.

In FY 2026, the Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program will continue to focus its efforts on EPA's obligations under Section 206 of the CAA (Motor vehicle and motor vehicle engine compliance testing and certification). The Agency will continue to perform its compliance oversight functions on priority matters, conducting compliance oversight tests where evidence suggests noncompliance. EPA will continue to conduct pre-certification confirmatory testing activities for emissions and fuel economy for passenger cars. EPA also anticipates reviewing and approving about 4,900 vehicle and engine emissions certification requests. This work is consistent with *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to utilize in-use emissions data provided by light-duty vehicle manufacturers to measure compliance and determine if any follow-up evaluation or testing is necessary. EPA reviews the data and determines if there are any specific vehicles, models, or manufacturers that are failing in-use emissions standards.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue work begun in FY 2025 to reconsider and reevaluate three major on-road engine and vehicle regulations. Specifically, EPA announced on March 12, 2025, that the Agency would reconsider the 2024 light- and medium-duty vehicle multipollutant rule and the 2024 heavy-duty vehicle GHG "Phase 3" rule, and EPA will reevaluate the 2022 highway heavy-duty engine Low NO_x rule. This work is consistent with *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*, and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs*.

EPA will continue working on programs to reduce pollutant emissions from marine and aircraft engines. In FY 2026, the Agency will consider updates to existing oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) test cycles and emission limits for marine engines. In FY 2026, the Agency also will consider NO_x emissions from civil aviation, as well as the test procedure and measurement processes for measuring aircraft engine particulate matter (PM).

The Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) is the Agency's emission modeling system that estimates emissions for mobile sources at the national, county, and project levels for criteria air pollutants, greenhouse gases, and air toxics. In FY 2026, MOVES will continue to support the Agency's emission control programs, as well as provide critical assistance to states in their determination of program needs to meet air quality standards.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to provide state and local governments with assistance in developing SIPs and providing assistance with transportation conformity determinations. This work is consistent with *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

EPA will continue to provide assistance to state and local transportation and air quality agencies working on PM_{2.5} hot-spot analyses. Additionally, EPA will continue partnering with states to support inspection and maintenance (I/M) programs that focus on in-use vehicles and engines.

In FY 2026, EPA will work with a broad range of stakeholders to reduce emissions from legacy diesel engines. EPA will work collaboratively to help facilitate and accelerate this transition to newer technologies while maintaining the functionality of this commercial equipment.

EPA will continue to implement the Renewable Fuel Standard program and carry out actions required by the CAA's RFS provisions, including operating and maintaining the credit trading systems that support the program. Section 211(o) of the CAA requires that EPA set annual volume standards for renewable fuels, and the Agency intends to establish by October 31, 2025, volume standards for future years as part of the "Set 2" Rulemaking. The RFS program is a key federal support for domestic renewable energy, and implementing the program is consistent with *Pillar 2: Restoring American Energy Dominance*.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to maintain oversight of the RFS program and continue to evaluate compliance with RFS provisions through its system, which is used to track the creation, trades, and use of billions of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) for compliance.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement its Fuel and Fuel Additive Registration program as required under Section 211 of the CAA and anticipates reviewing and issuing approximately 900 registration decisions.

In FY 2026, the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL) enters into the fourth year of its 24-year energy savings performance contract (ESPC) that results in an infrastructure upgrade project with capital equipment costs of more than \$59 million over the contract's lifetime. The ESPC replaces the mechanical, electrical, control, and building management systems for the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment that is at or beyond the end of its useful life – work that supports the ability of NVFEL to carry-out its mission-critical work.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,780.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-\$1,249.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of lab utilities.
- (-\$9,694.0 / + 0.9 FTE) This net program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements. This change empowers EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism, while retaining funding and FTE for EPA to regain and retain primacy for certification of vehicles.

Statutory Authority:

Title II of the Clean Air Act; Motor Vehicle Information Cost Savings Act; Alternative Motor Fuels Act of 1988; National Highway System Designation Act; Energy Policy Act of 1992; Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); Energy Policy Act of 2005; Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Congressional Priorities

Congressional Priorities

Program Area: Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$30,700	\$30,700	\$0	-\$30,700
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$28,536</i>	<i>\$17,500</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$17,500</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$59,236	\$48,200	\$0	-\$48,200

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Congressional Priorities Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$17,500.0) The Congressional Priorities Program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act (CAA) 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq. Title 1, Part A – Sec. 103 (a) and (d) and Sec. 104 (c); CAA 42 U.S.C. 7402(b) Section 102; CAA 42 U.S.C. 7403(b)(2) Section 103(b)(2); Clinger Cohen Act, 40 U.S.C. 11318; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (Superfund, 1980) Section 209(a) of Public Law 99-499; Children's Health Act; Clean Water Act (CWA), Sec. 101 - 121; Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA); Coastal Zone Amendments Reauthorization Act (CZARA); Coastal

Zone Management Act (CZMA) 16 U.S.C. 1451 - Section 302; Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535; Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), Title II Subtitle B; Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA), 33 U.S.C. 1251 – Section 2(a); Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. 1531 - Section 2; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. Sec. 346; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. s/s 136 et seq. (1996), as amended), Sec. 3(c)(2)(A); Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) PL 104-170; Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 31 U.S.C. 6502; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) Sec. 203, 33 U.S.C. 1443; North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA); NCPA; National Environmental Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 5503(b)(3) and (b)(11); National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1969, Section 102; National Invasive Species Act (NISA); Ocean Dumping Ban Act of 1988 (ODBA) Title II; PPA, 42 U.S.C. 13103; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) (1996) 42 U.S.C. Section 300j-18; SDWA Part E, Sec. 1442 (a)(1); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Section 10, 15, 26, U.S.C. 2609; U.S. Global Change Research Act (USGCRA) 15 U.S.C. 2921; Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); Water Resources Research Act (WRRRA); and Wet Weather Water Quality Act of 2000 (WWWQA).

Enforcement

Forensics Support
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$14,668</i>	<i>\$14,895</i>	<i>\$10,095</i>	<i>-\$4,800</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,474	\$1,286	\$1,040	-\$246
Total Budget Authority	\$16,142	\$16,181	\$11,135	-\$5,046
Total Workyears	60.7	69.0	61.0	-8.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Forensics Support Program provides expert scientific and technical support for criminal and civil environmental enforcement cases, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's compliance efforts. EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) is an environmental forensic center accredited for both laboratory and field sampling operations that generate environmental data for law enforcement purposes.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will directly support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The Forensics Support program provides expert scientific and technical support for EPA's criminal and civil enforcement efforts. In FY 2026, NEIC will continue to streamline its forensics work and identify enhancements to sampling and analytical methods by leveraging emerging technologies. The NEIC will continue to provide critical support to enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act and other regulations, including using cutting-edge laboratory techniques for lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The Program will build on its progress to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, produce timely and high-quality work products, continue to identify and implement further efficiencies in laboratory operations, and develop new capabilities that align with EPA's Comeback Initiatives.

NEIC supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* by continuing to provide field and laboratory services to state and federal partners, including on-the-job training on how to conduct process-based inspections, effectively review environmental regulations, and conduct an engineering review of a permit. NEIC also will continue to support civil and criminal programs through laboratory analysis and method development. This

includes toxicology (*i.e.*, expert reports) and statistical support (*i.e.*, site sampling plan development).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$3,119.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$1,681.0 / -8.1 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements, five pillar work, and recognizes needed efficiencies. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI); Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act; Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act; Noise Control Act; Oil Pollution Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Rivers and Harbors Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; American Innovation and Manufacturing Act.

Ensure Safe Water

Drinking Water Programs

Program Area: Ensure Safe Water

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$123,122	\$115,429	\$124,181	\$8,752
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$4,111</i>	<i>\$4,700</i>	<i>\$4,700</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$127,233	\$120,129	\$128,881	\$8,752
Total Workyears	499.2	492.5	539.4	46.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Drinking Water Program is responsible for a range of activities to address drinking water contamination. The Program:

- Leads the collection of national occurrence data for unregulated contaminants in drinking water;
- Develops, evaluates, and approves analytical methods that are used to monitor drinking water contaminants accurately and reliably;
- Leads the national program under which laboratories are certified to conduct the analyses of drinking water contaminants with approved analytical methods; and
- Collaborates with states, tribes, and public water systems to implement tools that optimize treatment and improve water quality by helping systems achieve compliance and maximize technical capacity while reducing operational costs.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA's Drinking Water Program will continue to carry out the activities listed below:

- Lead development and implementation activities for the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), a federal direct implementation program coordinated by EPA, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).³

³ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

- The data collected pursuant to this rule support the Agency’s determination of whether to establish health-based standards for unregulated drinking water contaminants to protect public health.
- In December 2021, the Agency published the final rule for the UCMR’s fifth cycle (UCMR 5). EPA is managing UCMR 5 sampling through December 2025 and leading the data collection through 2026.
- UCMR 5 is the first cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitor Rule to implement the monitoring provisions of America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA), which requires, subject to the availability of appropriations and adequate laboratory capacity, sampling at all small public water systems (PWSs) serving between 3,300 and 10 thousand persons. AWIA also requires monitoring at a representative sample of small PWSs serving fewer than 3,300 persons. For UCMR5, EPA implementation responsibilities significantly expanded to address a 7.5-fold increase in the number of small-system samples as a result of AWIA and associated Congressional appropriations.
- EPA is responsible for managing UCMR 5 implementation at all large PWSs serving more than 10 thousand persons, all small PWSs serving between 3,300 and 10 thousand, and a representative sample of PWS serving fewer than 3,300 persons. EPA is additionally responsible for funding the required monitoring at small PWSs. Key activities for EPA include ensuring laboratories are available to perform the required analyses, managing the field sample collection and sample analysis for small systems, and managing data reporting and transparency.
- Concurrent with managing the implementation of UCMR 5 in FY 2026, EPA will publish the proposed rule and preparing the final rule to support the sixth cycle of UCMR (UCMR 6) monitoring.
- Lead the development, revision, evaluation, and approval of analytical methods for unregulated and regulated contaminants in drinking water to assess and ensure protection of public health.
- Implement EPA’s Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program, which sets direction for oversight of state, municipal, and commercial laboratories that analyze drinking water samples.⁴ EPA will conduct regional laboratory certification program reviews and deliver laboratory certification officer training courses (chemistry and microbiology) for state and regional representatives. The FY 2026 certification program oversight activities and trainings will help ensure the quality of drinking water compliance monitoring analyses.

Partner with states and water systems to optimize their treatment technology and distribution systems under the drinking water Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP).⁵ AWOP is a highly successful technical/compliance assistance and training program that enhances the ability of public

⁴ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwlabcert>.

⁵ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/optimization-program-drinking-water-systems>.

water systems to comply with existing microbial, disinfectant, and disinfection byproduct standards, and to address distribution system integrity and water quality issues caused by the source, aging infrastructure, or other concerns. During FY 2026, EPA will work with states, tribes, and technical assistance providers to train and directly assist systems. This effort includes identifying performance limiting factors at public water systems and developing and applying tailored tools to help them overcome operational challenges, achieve performance and optimization levels, and address health-based compliance challenges. The technical assistance provided by AWOP is instrumental for public water systems with limited capacity to effectively address drinking water quality issues.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$890.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$890.0 / +3.0 FTE) This program change will advance water emergency preparedness and response efforts through building internal capacity and the external capacity of state and local governments, as well as water and wastewater systems, to respond to water emergencies. This investment includes \$590.0 thousand in associated payroll.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act.

Homeland Security

Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$987	\$914	\$1,361	\$447
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$11,253</i>	<i>\$10,427</i>	<i>\$10,214</i>	<i>-\$213</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$12,240	\$11,341	\$11,575	\$234
Total Workyears	27.0	25.5	28.8	3.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA is the Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) for the water and wastewater systems sector and consequently must fulfill specific national security functions in support of the water sector. EPA's Water Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Resiliency Center serves as the primary lead for this mission by virtue of its expertise with water and wastewater systems. This Center engages federal, state, and local entities in defining annual objectives and identifying high priorities for immediate action.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

This program provides essential resources to coordinate and support the protection of the Nation's critical water infrastructure from terrorist threats and high-risk incidents. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to provide exercises and technical support to approximately 5,000 water utilities, state officials, and federal emergency responders to become more resilient to any natural or manmade incident that could endanger drinking water and wastewater services with an emphasis on natural disasters and cybersecurity threats. Pursuant to Executive Order 14239, EPA will adopt a risk informed approach to its national security mission by providing tools, exercises, and technical assistance which will address the highest physical and cyber risks confronting the water sector. In providing this assistance, EPA will provide direct technical assistance and will seek to build the security and resilience capacity of state and local governments and of water and wastewater systems as consistent with the policy objective of Executive Order 14239.

Natural Disasters and General Preparedness.

Droughts, floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters represent a high risk to the water sector due to their frequency of occurrence and their enormous potential for destruction. As evident from several recent natural disasters, the level of preparedness within the water sector varies significantly—with many utilities lacking adequate preparedness capabilities. In FY 2026, EPA

will continue to build capacity of the water sector by providing nationwide exercises and technical support to address natural disasters and general preparedness.

In FY 2026, EPA will provide tools and exercises to help train relevant groups on how to respond to water emergencies based on lessons learned from previous emergencies. EPA will enhance its internal emergency preparedness and field response capabilities and collaborate with other federal response partners, such as FEMA and USACE, for situations in which EPA is designated as the Lead Federal Agency under Presidential Policy Directive-44 (PPD-44): Enhancing Domestic Incident Management.

Water Quality Surveillance and Response (WQ-SRS).

The WQ-SRS Program, formerly known as the Water Security Initiative (WSI), addresses the risk of contamination of drinking water distribution systems. It has designed and developed an effective system for timely detection and appropriate response to drinking water contamination threats and incidents through a pilot program that has broad application to the Nation's drinking water utilities in high-threat cities. In FY 2026, EPA will continue necessary WQ-SRS activities including: refining technical assistance products, implementing a monitoring and response program for water utilities focused on source water chemical spills, and providing direct technical assistance to water utilities.⁶

Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA).

EPA's WLA ensures that if a contamination event threatens to overwhelm the capacity or capability of a single laboratory, the vital work of analyses is still able to be completed. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to promote, through exercises, expert workshops, and association partnerships, the WLA Plan, which coordinates laboratory responses to a surge of analytical needs.⁷ In FY 2026, under the WLA, EPA plans to train approximately 50 laboratories to improve their ability to handle potential problems associated with surge capacity and analytical method capabilities during an emergency. In FY 2026, EPA will collaborate with regional and state environmental laboratories to conduct exercises and continue efforts to automate the exercises and expand the membership of the WLA to eventually achieve nationwide coverage.

Cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity represents a substantial concern for the water sector, given that automated process controls are used to operate most facets of a modern water utility and that many water utilities have not implemented basic cybersecurity practices. Recent attacks by both inside and outside actors and their clear potential to disrupt essential lifeline services, such as drinking water supplies, are prompting a growing recognition that the federal government should adopt a more aggressive posture towards cybersecurity. EPA will sustain and enhance our existing cybersecurity program, such as the Cybersecurity Evaluation Program, where utilities voluntarily work with a cybersecurity professional to complete a vulnerability assessment and generate a risk mitigation plan. EPA will provide tabletop exercises, promote the Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool, identify common vulnerabilities, and share best practices. The EPA produced alerts for the water sector, such as the China state threat (Volt and Salt Typhoon), the Iranian state threat

⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector/water-quality-surveillance-and-response-system-program>.

⁷ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/waterlabnetwork>.

(CyberAv3ngers), the widespread CrowdStrike IT disruption, among others, and will continue this critical national security practice in FY 2026.⁸

In FY 2026, EPA is requesting resources and FTE to implement recommendations from the FY 2025 Water Cybersecurity Task Force report, provide technical support to help water systems develop their own cybersecurity capacity, and evaluate cybersecurity practices at public water systems.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$846.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$633.0 / +1.0 FTE) This program change supports the Administration's priorities of protecting the United States from foreign, domestic, and other national security and public safety threats by mitigating the risks of cyberattacks in the water sector and enhancing the Agency's ability to respond to such incidents. This investment includes \$198.0 thousand in payroll and workforce support costs.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act, §§ 1431-1435; Clean Water Act; Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Emergency and Response Act of 2002; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, §§ 301-305.

⁸ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector>.

Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$25,348</i>	<i>\$23,598</i>	<i>\$25,542</i>	<i>\$1,944</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$35,472	\$34,588	\$35,192	\$604
Total Budget Authority	\$60,820	\$58,186	\$60,734	\$2,548
Total Workyears	120.9	112.4	128.8	16.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Exposure to chemical agents, pathogens, and radiological materials released into the environment can pose catastrophic consequences to the health of responders and American citizens. Under statutory law and presidential directives, EPA has the responsibility to remediate contaminated environments created by terrorist attacks, industrial accidents, or natural disasters. EPA's emergency response research, under the Homeland Security Research Program (HSRP), informs and advances response capabilities for contaminant characterization and consequence assessment, environmental cleanup and infrastructure remediation, and community engagement and systems-based tools supporting resilience.

In support of *Powering the Great American Comeback*, HSRP research supports EPA in carrying out its primary mission essential function to help communities prepare for, endure, and recover from disasters – safeguarding their health and economic, environmental, and social well-being. HSRP researchers collaborate with states, local communities, tribes, private sector organizations, and other federal departments/agencies⁹ to deliver effective tools, methods, information, and guidance that address critical terrorism-related issues and natural or human-caused disasters. These efforts underline EPA's commitment to safeguard clean air, land, and water for every American, making great advances through cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships, and adopting and adapting AI to enhance response and recovery capabilities.

EPA also is responsible for operating and maintaining the network of near real-time radiation monitors, known as RadNet, a key resource necessary for responding to certain incidents as noted within the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to the National Response Framework. This network is critical in responding to large-scale incidents, such as the accident at the Fukushima nuclear facility and potential incidents in Ukraine. It is an EPA Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource asset. This monitoring network is supported by the IT system known as ARaDS, the Analytical Radiation Data System. The maintenance, update, and modernization of RadNet, the only nationwide environmental radiation monitoring system that monitors the nation's air, ambient radiation exposure rates,

⁹ Partners include: Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Defense (DOD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Agriculture (USDA).

precipitation and drinking water for radiation, is in direct support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Water, and Land for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in the HSRP directly supports the Administrator's priorities. The Program's subject matter experts and products support efficient and effective clean-up after contamination incidents, enabling recovery and growth. The Program engages across the federal, state, tribal, and local enterprise and in public-private partnerships. The Program is pioneering AI innovation, positioning the U.S. as a global leader in environmental protection. The Program prioritizes efforts based on capability needs of the end-users. In FY 2026, the HSRP will advance capabilities to respond to and recover from contamination incidents in alignment with the Administrator's pillars.

Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American

- Develop methods for clean-up of hazardous chemicals, such as chemical warfare agents, pesticides, and opioids (e.g., fentanyl) from various surfaces and materials.
- Enhance capabilities for biological threats, focusing on the development of methods for sample collection and processing and advancing decontamination capabilities using off-the-shelf devices and electrostatic spray technologies.
- Determine capabilities for response to wide-area radiological/nuclear contamination including sample collection from critical infrastructure, maintaining safe living conditions during remediation, stabilizing debris in hot zones, compiling clean-up guidance from various governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and ensuring commercially available equipment for clean-up and waste minimization.
- Advance capabilities for water contamination response, including remotely operated flood water samplers for contaminant detection, development of flocculants for pathogen recovery from contaminated water, testing of mobile treatment systems, and developing alternative disinfection processes for water recovery and purification.

Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership

- Support pesticide registration improvement by developing standard testing criteria and methods for aerosol pathogen treatment technologies through collaborative efforts with private and interagency partners.
- Leverage collaboration with federal, state, tribal, and community partners to enhance preparedness to respond to chemical, biological, and radiological threat incidents. This includes the completion of an effort with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security to demonstrate capabilities to respond to and recover from biological incidents, including conducting responder training of the U.S. Coast Guard Strike Teams.
- Develop an AI-based system for accurate indoor navigation using video and sensor data with private partner(s) via Small Business Innovation Research. This is advancing capabilities for responding during emergency response activities such as planning and site characterization.

Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World

- Evaluate the use of AI tools to enhance clean-up strategy development by optimizing sampling, decontamination, and waste management outcomes. This AI effort aims to develop utilities for identifying the most impactful decision points and making recommendations for next steps during remediation.
- Improve water infrastructure security by developing an AI supported cyber security application aiding the identification of weaknesses and new attack vectors in water system networks and implementing necessary measures to mitigate the impacts.

Radiation Monitoring

The RadNet fixed monitoring network provides near real-time radiation monitoring coverage near each of the 100 most populous U.S. cities as well as expanded geographic coverage for a total of 140 monitoring sites. The RadNet air monitoring network provides the Agency, first responders, and the public with greater access to data. RadNet improves officials' ability to make decisions about protecting public health and the environment during and after the incident. Additionally, RadNet data is used by scientists to better characterize the effect of a radiological incident.

In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to operate and maintain the RadNet air monitoring network, continue to add exposure rate meter capability to the network, and provide essential maintenance to the network. To best maximize resources, exposure rate meter capability will be added to monitors when needed repairs are called for. This expansion will enhance the federal government's ability to effectively communicate radiation measurement information to the public and to non-technical decision makers after a radiological release. In addition to aiding in explaining data to the public and decision makers, the addition of exposure rate meters aligns EPA's monitoring system with that of the international community. In FY 2026, EPA is requesting resources to update the aging equipment that monitors the nation's air for radiation. As a part of this, EPA also will modernize IT infrastructure for the ARaDS and support enhanced lab and field office facility operations and maintenance.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement to its research programs. EPA's state engagement program¹⁰ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

¹⁰ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$555.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$2,006.0 / +3.5 FTE) This program change supports Administration Homeland Security research priorities of protecting the United States from foreign terrorists and other national security and public safety threats. This investment includes \$669.0 thousand for payroll and workforce support costs.
- (+\$493.0 / +0.7 FTE) This program change is an increase in resources and FTE for updating the aging equipment that monitors the nation's air for radiation. Should there be a radiological emergency, RadNet improves officials' ability to make decisions about protecting public health and the environment during and after an incident. This increase also will modernize IT infrastructure for ARaDS and support enhanced lab and field office facility operations and maintenance. This investment includes \$135.0 thousand for payroll and workforce support costs.

Statutory Authority:

Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Clean Air Act, §§ 102, 103; Safe Drinking Water Act, §§ 1431-1435, 1442; Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, §§ 1411-1412; Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002; Toxic Substances Control Act, § 10; Oil Pollution Act; Pollution Prevention Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; Clean Water Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; Food Quality Protection Act; Food Safety Modernization Act, §§ 203, 208.

Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$4,973	\$4,665	\$4,986	\$321
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$625</i>	<i>\$625</i>	<i>\$500</i>	<i>-\$125</i>
Building and Facilities	\$6,225	\$6,676	\$6,176	-\$500
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,257	\$1,102	\$915	-\$187
Total Budget Authority	\$13,081	\$13,068	\$12,577	-\$491
Total Workyears	14.0	13.3	13.3	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 13.3 FTE to support Homeland Security working capital fund (WCF) services.

Program Project Description:

This program supports activities to ensure that EPA's physical structures and assets are secure and operational and that physical security measures are in place to help safeguard staff in the event of an emergency. These efforts also protect the capability of EPA's vital laboratory infrastructure assets. Specifically, funds within this appropriation support security needs for the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports the protection of Agency personnel and property to deliver on *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to provide enhanced physical security for the NVFEL, its employees, visitors, and test articles, which include prototype vehicles and engines. This funding supports the cost of security enhancements required as part of an Agency security assessment review.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$125.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of lab fixed costs.

Statutory Authority:

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; Homeland Security Act of 2002; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Indoor Air and Radiation

Indoor Air: Radon Program
Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$2,627	\$3,123	\$0	-\$3,123
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$169</i>	<i>\$22</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$22</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$2,796	\$3,145	\$0	-\$3,145
Total Workyears	8.0	7.9	0.0	-7.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Indoor Air: Radon Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work (e.g., Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Air Act) will be accomplished in other programs within the Indoor Air and Radiation Program Area. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$22.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Indoor Air: Radon Program, in the S&T account, in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local indoor radon reduction programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Title IV of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Title III Toxic Substances Control Act; Clean Air Act.

Radiation: Protection

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$8,791	\$9,520	\$2,470	-\$7,050
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$2,295</i>	<i>\$1,740</i>	<i>\$1,047</i>	<i>-\$693</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$3,823	\$2,472	\$2,122	-\$350
Total Budget Authority	\$14,909	\$13,732	\$5,639	-\$8,093
Total Workyears	53.5	50.9	25.0	-25.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA supports waste site characterization and cleanup by providing field and fixed laboratory radioanalytical data, expert technical support, and radioanalytical training to state and federal partners; and developing new and improved radioanalytical methods and field measurement technologies. In the event of a radiological accident or incident, the National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama, and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada, provide critical radioanalytical and field operation support for testing, quality assurance, analysis of various environmental samples, and field measurement systems and equipment to support site assessment, protective action recommendations, cleanup, and response activities. NAREL is the only EPA laboratory with in-house world-class radioanalytical capability. NCRFO is the only EPA asset that focuses solely on radiological emergency response field work and maintains a wide range of response assets and readiness to deploy to any type of radiological accident or incident. Together, they support three pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, this program provides quality data and expert analysis to inform Agency decisions regarding contaminated soil, water, and air environments. In support of *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*, the Program ensures readiness to support the use of advanced and emerging nuclear technologies while safeguarding public health and the environment. Furthermore, a demonstrated track record of cross agency partnerships, collaborative preparedness activities, technical exchanges, and readiness exercises with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal partners are in direct alignment of *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program continues to support EPA RadNet, the only nationwide environmental radiation monitoring system that monitors the nation's air, ambient radiation exposure rates, precipitation, and drinking water for radiation. The Program, in cooperation with states, tribes, and other federal agencies, will provide site characterization and analytical support for site assessment activities, remediation technologies, and measurement and information systems as requested. EPA also will provide essential training and direct site assistance, including field surveys and monitoring, laboratory analyses, health and safety, and risk assessment support at sites with radioactive contamination.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$35.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$728.0 / -3.6 FTE) This program change reflects a reduction in support activities at the National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada and focuses the Agency to be more efficient in providing analytical and field operation support in the event of a radiological incident. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Clean Air Act; Energy Policy Act of 1992; Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982; Public Health Service Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) of 1978; Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act of 1992; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Clean Water Act.

Radiation: Response Preparedness

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$2,044	\$2,262	\$2,350	\$88
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$3,174</i>	<i>\$3,400</i>	<i>\$3,096</i>	<i>-\$304</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$5,218	\$5,662	\$5,446	-\$216
Total Workyears	26.8	26.2	32.2	6.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama, and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada, provide field sampling and laboratory analyses to respond to radiological and nuclear incidents. This work includes measuring and monitoring radioactive materials and assessing radioactive contamination in the environment. This program comprises direct scientific field and laboratory activities to support preparedness, planning, training, and procedure development. In addition, program personnel are members of EPA's Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT), a component of the Agency's emergency response program, and are trained to provide direct expert scientific and technical assistance. EPA's RERT is part of the Nuclear Incident Response Team under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA's RERT will provide critical support for federal radiological emergency response and recovery operations under the National Response Framework and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. When necessary, EPA's RERT will complement routine operations (e.g., on-site technical support/consultation and laboratory analyses) and provide for the rapid collection of field measurements/samples and accurate radionuclide analyses of environmental samples.¹¹

In FY 2026, NAREL and NCRFO will build capacity in core levels of readiness for radiological emergency responses; participate in critical emergency exercises; and respond, as required, to radiological incidents. NAREL and NCRFO will prioritize rapid deployment capabilities to ensure that field teams and laboratory personnel are ready to provide scientific data, field measurement capabilities, analyses, and updated analytical techniques for radiation emergency response programs across the Agency.

¹¹ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/radiation/radiological-emergency-response>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$825.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$521.0 / +2.3 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Radiation: Response Preparedness Program to return to the Agency's core mission of legal requirements, while ensuring sufficient FTE levels to remain ready to respond to radiological emergencies.

Statutory Authority:

Homeland Security Act of 2002; Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Clean Air Act; Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (PKEMRA); Public Health Service Act (PHSA); Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Reduce Risks from Indoor Air
Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$14,343	\$12,495	\$11,642	-\$853
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$100</i>	<i>\$88</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$88</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$14,443	\$12,583	\$11,642	-\$941
Total Workyears	33.6	32.3	35.8	3.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Reduce Risks from Indoor Air Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work (*e.g.*, Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Air Act) will be accomplished in other programs within the Indoor Air and Radiation Program Area. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$88.0 / -0.5 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Reduce Risks from Indoor Air Program, in the S&T account, in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local indoor air quality efforts to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Title IV Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Title III Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Clean Air Act.

IT/ Data Management/ Security

IT / Data Management

Program Area: IT / Data Management / Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$89,592	\$88,112	\$79,164	-\$8,948
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$2,484</i>	<i>\$3,079</i>	<i>\$2,890</i>	<i>-\$189</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$19,372	\$19,786	\$13,874	-\$5,912
Total Budget Authority	\$111,448	\$110,977	\$95,928	-\$15,049
Total Workyears	448.1	466.7	469.9	3.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 172.0 FTE to support IT/Data Management working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 12.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

The work performed under the Information Technology/Data Management (IT/DM) Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This program supports human health and the environment by providing critical IT infrastructure and data management. Science and Technology (S&T) resources for EPA's IT/DM Program fund the Quality Program,¹² EPA National Library Network, and Web Infrastructure Management.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Quality Program will continue to provide technical support to all EPA offices and laboratories in implementing EPA quality policies, procedures, and standards. In FY 2026, the Quality Program will conduct one Quality Management Plan review and one Quality System Assessment for selected EPA programs. These oversight activities help ensure the quality of EPA's data for intended uses, including environmental decision-making. This program directly supports *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by supporting the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and supporting infrastructure.

EPA's Quality Program provides implementation support to all EPA organizations that have environmental information operations described in an approved Quality Management Plan (QMP). In FY 2026, the Quality Program will:

- Assess organizations that have an approved QMP and identify findings requiring corrective action, areas needing improvement, and opportunities to leverage best practices;
- Focus on promoting sound science and ensure scientific integrity by promoting better planning to produce improved environmental information;

¹² For more information about EPA's Quality Program, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/quality>.

- Manage and provide oversight for the IQGs to ensure that information disseminated by or for EPA conforms with the *Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency* criteria;¹³ and
- Engage as a resource with EPA's state and tribal partners to ensure QA processes and procedures are in place to protect human health and the environment.

In FY 2026, the IT/Data Management Program will continue to support the hosting of EPA's websites and web pages through EPA's 'One EPA Web' which will continue to manage content and support internal and external users with information on EPA work, support employees with internal information, and provide a clearinghouse for the Agency to communicate initiatives and successes. Additionally, in FY 2026, EPA will continue to transform the Agency's libraries to meet the needs of the 21st Century in a cost-efficient manner. This involves reducing the physical footprint of Agency libraries; providing online services and resources at the customer's point of need, and centralizing core services.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$237.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$48.0 / +0.9 FTE) This program change is a net increase due to a reduction in contracting resources offset by an increase in Federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical quality assurance expertise back in-house. These adjustments are necessary to reduce unnecessary spending, to refocus EPA on its mission, and to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act; Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA); Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 508.

¹³ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/quality/guidelines-ensuring-and-maximizing-quality-objectivity-utility-and-integrity-information>.

Operations and Administration

Facilities Infrastructure and Operations

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$67,394</i>	<i>\$64,733</i>	<i>\$55,023</i>	<i>-\$9,710</i>
Building and Facilities	\$26,604	\$34,000	\$28,900	-\$5,100
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$625	\$637	\$541	-\$96
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$74,984	\$67,080	\$57,373	-\$9,707
Total Budget Authority	\$444,412	\$443,045	\$377,048	-\$65,997
Total Workyears	328.2	300.4	319.8	19.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce efficiency and facilities consolidation will allow EPA to reduce resources needed to maintain Agency facilities. Science and Technology (S&T) resources in the Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program fund the Agency's rent, utilities, and security.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to invest in the reconfiguration of EPA's workspaces, enabling the Agency to release office space and avoid long-term rent costs, consistent with HR 4465, the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016*. In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14274: *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management*,¹⁴ as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*,¹⁵ EPA is implementing an ambitious space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA is working to reduce office, laboratory and warehouse space. This has the potential to provide a cumulative annual rent avoidance of approximately \$28 million across all appropriations. This will help offset EPA's escalating rent and security costs and reduce taxpayer burden. By the end

¹⁴ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management>.

¹⁵ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

of FY 2025, EPA will have consolidated employees out of the Ronald Reagan Building and into existing space within the Federal Triangle in Washington, D.C. The consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 323,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$18 million. In addition to the Ronald Reagan Building, the Agency is vacating the Human Studies Facility located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 155,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$3.7 million. The Agency also is vacating its Houston regional laboratory and consolidating into the Ada, OK, facility for a rent savings of \$2.2 million and space reduction of 41,126 square feet. For FY 2026, the Agency is requesting \$26.2 million for rent, \$16.3 million for utilities, and \$11.1 million for security in the S&T appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level.

In FY 2026, the Agency will take action to reconfigure EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs. Space consolidation and reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace.

EPA will continue to manage lease agreements with GSA and private landlords, and maintain EPA facilities, fleet, equipment, and fund costs associated with utilities and building security needs. EPA also will meet regulatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) obligations and provide health and safety training to field staff (*e.g.*, inspections, monitoring, On-Scene Coordinators), and track capital equipment.

In addition, the Agency will continue to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office, *USAccess*, and Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS) programs. *USAccess* provides standardized HSPD-12 approved Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card enrollment and issuance and ePACS provides centralized access control of EPA facilities, including restricted and secure areas.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,047.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy, rent, utilities, and security.
- (-\$4,663.0) This program change is due to a reduction in contracting resources to reflect efficiencies across facility management and operations activities. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to shrink the federal real estate footprint by eliminating unused office space

Statutory Authority:

Federal Property and Administration Services Act; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Workforce Reshaping

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program provides resources to support organizational restructuring efforts throughout the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To help achieve its mission, EPA will develop, review and analyze mission requirements and implement options to effectively align and redistribute the Agency's workforce based on program priorities, resource reallocation, and technological advances.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will examine its statutory functions and processes to eliminate inefficiencies and streamline the Agency's processes. Primary criteria will include effectiveness and accountability, as EPA is focused on greater value and real results. These analyses will likely create a need to reshape the workforce. The Agency anticipates the need to offer voluntary early out retirement authority (VERA), and potentially relocation expenses, as part of the workforce reshaping effort. This program will directly support efforts directed by Executive Order (EO) 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*¹⁶ and supports all five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2025, EPA will have completed implementation of E.O. 14151: *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* by terminating organizations and positions focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) and environmental justice and will continue Agency restructuring efforts to align with Administration priorities.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

¹⁶ For more information, see <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative/>.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$2,000.0) This program change implements the Workforce Reshaping Program to align the Agency's organizational structure with the Administrator's five pillars and Powering the Great American Comeback.

Statutory Authority:

Title 5 of the U.S.C.; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Pesticides Licensing

Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$62,897	\$61,704	\$60,224	-\$1,480
<i>Science & Technology</i>	\$2,996	\$2,889	\$2,442	-\$447
Total Budget Authority	\$65,892	\$64,593	\$62,666	-\$1,927
Total Workyears	389.1	373.1	416.5	43.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408 statutory authorities, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) screens new pesticides before they reach the market and ensure pesticides already in commerce are safe. As directed by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA), and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5),¹⁷ EPA is responsible for registering and re-evaluating pesticides to protect consumers, pesticide users, workers who may be exposed to pesticides.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

This FY 2026 request includes an increase of \$1.725 million to invest in several areas across the Environmental Science Center (ESC) in Fort Meade, Maryland. In addition to the Region 3 laboratories, the ESC also is comprised of the Microbiology Laboratory Branch (MLB) and the Analytical Chemistry Branch (ACB). ACB will continue to develop and validate methods for multi-residue pesticide analyses, including furthering test protocols, providing technical review of data and reports. The laboratory also will provide technical analyses and support to states, EPA Regions, and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) in enforcement cases related to the potential misuse of or illegal pesticides. Additionally, this lab maintains EPA's National Pesticide Standard Repository (40 CFR, Part 158) and distributes more than five thousand

¹⁷ On December 29, 2022, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2022 (PRIA 5), which reauthorizes PRIA for 5 years through fiscal year 2027 and updates the fee collection provisions of the FIFRA, was signed into law.

standards yearly to states and regions to validate test results, identifying and quantifying pesticide residues. In addition, the laboratory will provide technical support to OPP to develop test protocols relating to the performance of portable monitoring devices measuring post-application levels of sulfuryl fluoride, an extremely toxic pesticide. Finally, work continues on the development and release of additional testing methods related to identifying and quantifying contaminant residues in pesticide formulations and packaging materials.

MLB will continue to protect human health by ensuring the availability of scientifically sound antimicrobial pesticide efficacy test methods. The development, validation and use of new quantitative methodologies for testing the effectiveness of antimicrobial products are necessary to meet the regulatory challenges associated with novel product claims, new infection control practices, and the emergence of new clinical pathogens. These efforts will continue to benefit the public by ensuring an efficient path for the registration of public health pesticides (40 CFR Part 158W) and allow for marketplace penetration of these products.

Specifically, in FY 2026, the Microbiology Laboratory will:

- Expand use of a quantitative method for bactericidal claims for regulatory purposes;
- Continue to work on the data collection, analysis, and development of new regulatory guidance and implementation materials for fungicidal claims to support adoption of a quantitative method for regulatory purposes;
- Initiate process for generation of a new ASTM standard method for *Legionella* in recirculating water for cooling tower remediation;
- Initiate process for generation of a new ASTM standard method for continuously active sanitizers and disinfectants;
- Expand the existing regulatory guidance document and implementation strategy for evaluating the efficacy of antimicrobial towelettes for additional microbes (*e.g.*, *C. difficile* and *C. auris*);
- Continue to develop Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory capacity for conducting antimicrobial efficacy testing and collaborating with the Office of Research and Development's Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response. EPA's Pesticide Program has the only two EPA laboratories with the physical containment to manage BSL-3 microbes, including EPA's only lab registered under the Federal Select Agent Program;
- Continue to expand viral testing and method development to respond to emerging viral pathogens.

In FY 2026, the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to protect human health by ensuring the availability of appropriate analytical methods for analyzing pesticide residues in food and feed and ensuring their suitability for monitoring pesticide residues and enforcing tolerances. In addition, the Laboratory will:

- Develop improved analytical methods and protocols using state of the art instruments (high resolution mass scanning gas and liquid chromatography) to replace outdated ones (liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectroscopy), thus increasing laboratory efficiency;
- Continue to develop new methods to support EPA's overall efforts on identifying per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances and potential routes of exposure. PFAS residues in pesticide formulations of varying chemistries (*i.e.*, those containing surfactants).
- Continue testing of pesticide products, as requested, to ensure contaminants free products
- Provide analytical support to fill in data gaps for OPP's Section 18 emergency exemption applications, and to perform studies for use in risk assessments and risk mitigation decisions;
- Provide analytical assistance and technical advice to OECA and to all regional offices in the enforcement of pesticide product integrity of domestic products and products imported to the US, protecting American consumers and product manufacturers;
- Verify that pesticide products are properly formulated; and
- Operate EPA's National Pesticide Standard Repository¹⁸.

Funding is requested to replace aging critical lab equipment and modernize the lab's capabilities to be responsive to federal and state enforcement, emergency requests, and other emerging issues.

Preventing Disease through Public Health Pesticides: Antimicrobial Testing

Manufacturers of antimicrobial pesticides bearing public health claims are required to submit efficacy data to EPA to substantiate the product's effectiveness (40 CFR Part 158W). In 1990, the Government Accountability Office issued a report indicating EPA lacked assurance in the efficacy of antimicrobial products registered by the Agency; thereby initiating a program to conduct post-registration testing of antimicrobial pesticides. In response to the Agency's 2016 Office of Inspector General report, EPA suspended the post-registration testing program and supported development of a new strategy for selecting and testing antimicrobial pesticides to ensure these products continue to be effective after they enter the marketplace. The new Antimicrobial Performance Evaluation Program (APEP) draft strategy further ensures the efficacy of antimicrobial products by laying out a risk-based approach for confirming hospital disinfectants remain effective and are used properly after they are registered. EPA expects to finalize the APEP strategy in FY 2026 and continue to seek public input on workplans.

The Microbiology Laboratory will continue to develop efficacy methods to support EPA's antimicrobial pesticide regulatory programs. The results of these efforts will help ensure products are available to control various bacteria, viruses, fungi, and biofilms and to inform EPA's method development activities in FY 2026 and beyond.

¹⁸ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-analytical-methods/national-pesticide-standard-repository>.

Funding is requested to replace aging critical lab equipment and modernize the lab's capabilities to be responsive to homeland security and other emerging issues. The additional funding will support the following critical lab purchases:

- Update and/or purchase equipment (*e.g.*, autoclave, pass-through ports) to meet more current laboratory specifications for EPA's only two BSL-3 laboratories, including the EPA's only laboratory registered under the Federal Select Agent Program;
- Replace existing environmental monitoring system equipment and contract shared by both Pesticide Program laboratories with more current technology.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$208.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$174.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of laboratory fixed costs.
- (-\$65.0 / +0.5 FTE) This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), §408.

Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$46,586	\$45,511	\$45,832	\$321
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$2,151</i>	<i>\$2,143</i>	<i>\$2,616</i>	<i>\$473</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$48,737	\$47,654	\$48,448	\$794
Total Workyears	301.0	248.0	268.4	20.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Pesticide Program screens new pesticides before they reach the market and ensures that pesticides already in commerce are safe. As directed by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA), and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5),¹ EPA is responsible for registering and re-evaluating pesticides to protect humans, plants, animals, and ecosystems that are not targets of the pesticide.

Under FIFRA, the Agency must balance the risks and benefits of other pesticide uses. For antimicrobial pesticides with public health claims, EPA requires that manufacturers perform tests to ensure the efficacy (*i.e.*, performance) of products per the labelling.

In addition to FIFRA responsibilities, the Agency has responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).² Under ESA, EPA must ensure that pesticide regulatory decisions will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or result in jeopardy to the continued existence of species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Where risks are identified, EPA must work with FWS and NMFS in a consultation process to ensure these pesticide registrations also will meet the ESA standard.

Under the Science and Technology appropriation, EPA's Pesticide Program operates two laboratories, the Microbiology Laboratory³ and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory,⁴ that support the goal of protecting human health and the environment through diverse analytical testing and analytical method development and validation efforts. These laboratories provide a variety of technical services to EPA, other federal and state agencies, tribal nations, and other organizations to ensure the protection of the environment from pesticide risk.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$13.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$486.0) This program change supports balancing the risks and benefits of other pesticide uses and community initiatives.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$8,047	\$6,781	\$6,014	-\$767
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$823</i>	<i>\$868</i>	<i>\$684</i>	<i>-\$184</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$8,870	\$7,649	\$6,698	-\$951
Total Workyears	32.8	29.8	46.3	16.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total program workyears in FY 2026 include 10.5 FTE funded by the Reregistration and Expedited Processing Revolving Fund.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408 statutory authorities, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) laboratories provide significant contributions to help the Agency realize the value of pesticides. They consist of the Microbiology Laboratory¹⁹ and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory,²⁰ both of which support the goal of protecting human health and the environment through diverse analytical testing, analytical method development, and validation efforts.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will realize the benefits of pesticides by ensuring the continued operation of the National Pesticide Standard Repository. The Microbiology Laboratory and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to conduct efficacy and chemistry evaluations for antimicrobial pesticides. As the recognized source for expertise in pesticide analytical method development, OPP's laboratories will continue to provide quality assurance review, technical support, and training to EPA's regional offices, state laboratories, and other federal agencies that implement the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Additionally, the laboratories assist in making safety findings under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA).

¹⁹ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-microbiology-laboratory>.

²⁰ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-analytical-chemistry-laboratory-acl>.

The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to maintain the National Pesticide Standard Repository (NPSR) which collects and maintains an inventory of approximately 1600 analytical standards of registered pesticides in the United States. EPA provides these pesticide standards (approximately five thousand annually) to qualified federal, state, territorial, and tribal laboratories for food and product testing, environmental monitoring, and enforcement purposes. Several changes in the operation of the NPSR have been implemented to increase its efficiency and to better serve regulatory laboratories. Changes include instituting an inventory control system and electronic request mechanism, requesting registrants to package pesticide standards in ready-to-be-shipped aliquots, and installing a chemist as lead staff to ensure adherence to new protocols. These changes resulted in improvements in the operation of the NPSR including a decrease in the turnaround time for shipping repository samples from 15 to 10 days. These changes also helped federal, state, and tribal entities expedite enforcement efforts. Further process enhancements will continue in FY 2026, specifically in minimizing the number of non-usable expired standards that are shipped as chemical waste.

In FY 2026, the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory also will continue its work in: developing and validating multiresidue methods using state-of-the-art methodology and instrumentation; developing unique analytical methods for detection and measurement (in parts per trillion when appropriate) of contaminants (including PFAS); providing chemical analysis for assessing risk to human health and to the environment from agricultural use of pesticides; providing technical support to EPA regional offices to ensure that pesticide products are formulated according to approved labels.

In FY 2026, the Microbiology Laboratory will continue to evaluate FIFRA Section 18 emergency exemptions, and novel protocol requests for new uses and novel pathogens. The Laboratory also will continue the development of data and methods to support Section 18 for high consequence animal pathogens (*e.g.*, African swine fever, Newcastle disease virus, etc.). In addition, the continued work to develop new methods for emerging pathogens (*e.g.*, viruses, fungi, etc.) and novel claims (*e.g.*, residential porous materials, continuously active antimicrobials) provides a pathway for registrants to add new claims to existing antimicrobial pesticides. In some cases, the methods will lead to the development of new products when currently registered formulations are not effective against emerging pathogens.

The Microbiology Laboratory also will continue to refine and develop methods to support EPA's Section 3 and Section 18 regulatory programs (40 CFR Part 158W), continuing to develop testing methods for evaluating effectiveness of disinfectant products against emerging pathogens. The Laboratory will continue to collaborate with the Antimicrobials Division to develop guidance for registrants seeking to make air treatment claims and explore other novel control and application options for disinfectant products. The Laboratory will continue to expand the existing quantitative efficacy test method to provide a pathway for evaluating disinfectant claims for surfaces beyond hard, non-porous materials and soft surface materials located in institutional settings (vinyl, room divider curtains, etc.).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$115.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$69.0 / + 0.2 FTE) This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408.

Research: Air and Energy

Research: Air and Energy

Program Area: Research: Air and Energy

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$94,764</i>	<i>\$96,000</i>	<i>\$33,543</i>	<i>-\$62,457</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$94,764	\$96,000	\$33,543	-\$62,457
Total Workyears	264.8	235.0	152.8	-82.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Air and Energy (AE) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. The AE Research Program supports assessments of air quality impacts and informs strategies for maintaining and achieving clean air across the U.S.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The AE Program prioritizes key activities to meet statutory requirements under the CAA, including supporting attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and implementation of stationary and mobile source regulations, as well as national and multi-state programs. The AE Program continues to develop, evaluate, and apply methods and models to support air quality management programs and provides foundational information and analyses to support decision-making at the national, state, and local levels. AE also will continue to address emerging air pollution challenges related to wildfire smoke and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) air emissions. The AE Program will leverage its interagency partnerships to work more effectively and efficiently across the federal government.

In FY 2026, the AE Research Program would potentially include the following research areas:

- Delivering state-of-the-art tools for states and tribes to identify effective emission reduction strategies to meet the NAAQS and enhancing air quality measurement methods to ascertain NAAQS compliance. (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, CAA §103). In FY 2025, EPA developed an improved modeling platform for Fairbanks, Alaska, to help the state address PM_{2.5} nonattainment, resulting in reduced errors for predictions of wintertime sulfate in Alaska and improving model performance for other regions of the US.²¹

²¹ For more information, please see <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-25-3287-2025>.

- Applying advanced energy modeling tools to identify energy production portfolios that meet growing energy demands most cost-effective ways possible, while supporting expanded powering of AI data centers (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American, Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance, and Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*, CAA §103). In FY 2024, EPA released the latest version of the GLIMPSE energy system decision support tool, which allows users to model energy technology scenarios and identify low-cost energy solutions.²²
- Assessing human and ecosystem exposures and effects associated with air pollutants on individual, community, regional, national, and global scales, including how those effects will be impacted by heat, drought, and other extreme events such as wildfires (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, CAA §103). In FY 2024, EPA studied air quality health risks in individuals with heart disease, finding that individuals with heart failure had the highest risk of mortality from exposure to traffic related air pollution.²³
- Providing human exposure and environmental modeling, monitoring, metrics, and information needed to inform air quality decision making at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels, which includes supporting accelerated permitting reviews (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American and Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, CAA §103). In FY 2024, EPA analyzed PM2.5 and its components in Kansas City to understand impacts on PM2.5 from local emissions sources such as railyards and major roadways, finding the highest PM2.5 concentrations within 20-50 meters from a railyard.²⁴
- Addressing emerging areas of concern to EPA and state policymakers, including toxics such as PFAS and ethylene oxide (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, CAA §103 and §112). In FY 2024, EPA measured PFAS in Central New Jersey air using chemical ionization mass spectrometry (CIMS), demonstrating the potential of online CIMS instrumentation for measuring PFAS in ambient outdoor air in real time.⁴
- Advancing science-based approaches to improving wildfire readiness by developing and evaluating effective approaches to monitoring outdoor air quality, creating clean indoor air, and communicating actionable public health messaging (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, CAA §103).
- Measuring progress toward environmental health goals and translating research results to inform communities and individuals about measures that can be taken to reduce the impacts of air pollution (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, CAA §103 and §112).

²² For more information, please see <https://www.epa.gov/air-research/glimpse-computational-framework-supporting-state-level-environmental-and-energy>.

²³ For more information, please see <https://doi.org/10.1097/EE9.0000000000000351>.

²⁴ For more information, please see <https://doi.org/10.1080/10962247.2024.2365708>.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement²⁵ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$7,539.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$54,918.0 / -82.2 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements, and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act; Title II of Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA); National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) § 102; Pollution Prevention Act (PPA); Global Change Research Act of 1990.

²⁵ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability

Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability
Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$93,399</i>	<i>\$88,305</i>	<i>\$66,952</i>	<i>-\$21,353</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$8,457	\$7,723	\$0	-\$7,723
Total Budget Authority	\$101,856	\$96,028	\$66,952	-\$29,076
Total Workyears	273.6	259.0	241.4	-17.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program conducts rigorous research to assess and manage chemical risks, to help EPA partners and stakeholders make timely decisions on chemical safety.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, CSS will continue to leverage its expertise to accelerate the pace of chemical assessment and decision-making, streamlining the chemical review process and enabling safer chemical design. CSS will place particular emphasis on 'chemicals of immediate and emerging concern,' such as PFAS and 6PPD-quinone. Areas of CSS research will include:

Developing faster, cheaper New Approach Methods for toxicity testing: In FY 2026, CSS will continue collaborating with the Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Program to implement the June 2018 TSCA Strategic Plan²⁶ to create more efficient approaches that reduce the use of mammals for toxicity testing.

Using High-Throughput Toxicity (HTT)²⁷ Testing to accelerate decisions: CSS will use HTT to evaluate chemical hazards, with an emphasis on developmental neurotoxicology, inhalation toxicology, and thyroid disruption, greatly increasing the Agency's portfolio of chemical assessment products by developing the recently released ETAP.

Increased understanding of how chemicals affect developmental and reproductive biology: CSS uses HTT and Virtual and Complex Tissue Modeling²⁸ to observe complex chemical information

²⁶ This Strategic Plan can be found at: www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/documents/epa_alt_strat_plan_6-20-18_clean_final.pdf.

²⁷ CSS has extraordinary expertise in HTT. For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/high-throughput-toxicology>.

²⁸ For more information on this fascinating research tool, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/virtual-and-complex-tissue-modeling>.

within biological and toxicological contexts. In FY 2026, CSS will use this data to study adverse outcome pathways²⁹ (AOPs), which links events at the cellular level to atypical outcomes expressed at the whole animal level.

Delivery and translation of information on data-poor chemicals: In FY 2026, CSS will continue to support the collaborative efforts underway in the Agency to build scientifically robust, program-specific applications, such as RapidTox, that facilitate access and use of relevant information to support different decision contexts.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement program³⁰ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs, and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,865.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$15,488.0 / -18.6 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements, and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

²⁹ CSS develops AOPs for health outcomes relevant to risk assessment or regulatory decision making. For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/adverse-outcome-pathways>.

³⁰ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 104; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Children's Health Act; 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act; Clean Water Act; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA); Pollution Prevention Act (PPA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Health and Environmental Risk Assessment

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$42,055</i>	<i>\$38,732</i>	<i>\$24,694</i>	<i>-\$14,038</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$5,208	\$5,238	\$5,714	\$476
Total Budget Authority	\$47,263	\$43,970	\$30,408	-\$13,562
Total Workyears	160.9	148.9	109.9	-39.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program is focused on advancing assessment science and generating health assessments that provide the scientific basis for decisions made by EPA and others, including states and tribes, under an array of environmental laws, including: the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, HERA will leverage existing tools and innovative research to deliver targeted, decision-ready data that supports EPA's efforts under the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2026, HERA will:

Advance Chemical Assessments: HERA will continue developing priority chemical assessments that leverage modernized methodologies and state-of-the-art tools to inform decisions while maintaining rigorous scientific approaches. Fit-for-purpose assessments will deliver PFAS toxicity values to address contamination, prioritizing data-driven strategies that support state and tribal decisions without stifling industry. HERA will apply modernized models and database infrastructure, including to streamline assessment development and program management. These tools will enhance data accessibility and decision-making speed, aligning with Agency priorities for efficient program execution.

Accelerate TSCA Decisions with Efficient Methodologies and Program Collaboration: In cooperation with the Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program, HERA will apply new and alternative approaches, methods, and data to risk assessment products and technical support to better respond to the needs of states, tribes, and EPA's program and regional offices. Continued modernization of AI-enhanced tools, models, and databases will drive HERA's ability to be nimble and responsive to the needs of environmental decision makers. These advanced

methodologies and cross-program collaboration will help mitigate potential delays in chemical evaluation resulting in faster decisions under TSCA.

Enhance Superfund and RCRA Implementation: HERA will deliver high-priority Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Values (PPRTVs) on human health to support the Land and Emergency Management Program's CERCLA and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) mandates. Streamlined workflows will facilitate faster site remediation and reduce compliance costs for industry while upholding environmental stewardship.

Strengthen Technical Support Infrastructure: HERA will continue to emphasize technical support to the Agency and states on human and ecological risk assessment science, including supporting two Superfund Technical Support Centers (TSCs)³¹ to provide tailored, rapid-response technical assistance and scientific expertise, without imposing additional regulatory burdens.

Streamline workflow processes: HERA will provide training to staff, partners, and stakeholders on risk assessment science and practice and assessment tool literacy, enhancing user proficiency and supporting efficient program implementation.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement³² is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,541.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$12,497.0 / -53.0 FTE) This program change will align funding with core statutory requirements and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on

³¹ For more information on EPA's five TSCs, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/epas-technical-support-centers>.

³² For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 108, 109, and 112; Clean Water Act §§ 101(a)(6), 104, 105; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) § 3(c)(2)(A); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1458; Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); CERCLA; RCRA.

Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources
Program Area: Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$111,275</i>	<i>\$111,500</i>	<i>\$78,948</i>	<i>-\$32,552</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$111,275	\$111,500	\$78,948	-\$32,552
Total Workyears	361.4	337.2	268.9	-68.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) National Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program addresses current, immediate, and emerging water resource challenges, and additionally identifies and builds capacity for future preparedness to protect America's water resources.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, research efforts will continue to leverage SSWR expertise and will place particular emphasis on 'chemicals of immediate and emerging concern,' such as PFAS, and lead exposure from drinking water. Areas of research will include:

- **PFAS.** Continue PFAS work that focuses on drinking water treatment analytical methods, destruction, and disposal.
- **Water Reuse.** Expand the integrated assessment of cost and risk assessment of fit-for-purpose use of alternative water sources for potable end uses, industrial reuse, beneficial use of produced water from oil and gas operations, managed aquifer recharge, and artificial intelligence data centers.
- **HABs/Hypoxia/Excess Nutrients.** Expand the ability of the Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom model to detect blooms in 99 percent of lakes (>270,000) and almost all estuaries across the lower 48 states. Work also will include continuing research on the health effects and toxicity of HABs (anatoxin, saxitoxin, cylindrospermopsin, and other emerging cyanotoxins) and benthic blooms. Support the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and numeric nutrient criteria.
- **Biosolids.** Focus on biological and chemical contaminants and health effects by investigating the occurrence of antimicrobial-resistant *E. coli* during the treatment of Class B biosolids; assessing the human health risks of biosolids using molecular tools;

developing a Voluntary Consensus Standard analytical method for the analysis of PFAS precursors in biosolids; evaluating anaerobic biotreatment of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)/PFAS in wastewater biosolids; and determining the applicability of molecular techniques in treatment performance evaluation.

- **Water Infrastructure.** Evaluate and provide technical support to assess the distribution, composition, and potential health risks of known and emerging chemical and biological contaminants. Assist states, communities, and utilities with stormwater and wastewater infrastructure needs through models and technical assistance.
- **Recreational Waters and Public Health Protection.** Develop rapid fecal indicators and bacteriophage and microbial source tracking for monitoring recreational waters and response times to quickly close and reopen impacted areas. Use an applied economic benefits analysis to evaluate the financial impacts of beach closures based on different water quality monitoring technologies. Develop human health risk and water quality predictive modeling tools to support recreational water quality criteria. Conduct an assessment of new recreational water quality assessment tools in sub-tropical and tropical marine waters.
- **Antimicrobial Resistance.** Finalize analysis of a multi-year, interagency study of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and associated resistance genes in surface waters to determine the utility of including environmental data within the FDA's One Health-focused National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System. Data also will inform the development of risk models by leveraging an unprecedented national map of the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in rivers and streams. Apply similar techniques in wastewater systems to define the best approaches for mitigating risks from discharges of wastewater effluents.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI).** Apply AI to enhance already developed tools such as, EPANET³³, Multi Species Extension (MSX)³⁴, Storm Water Management Model (SWMM)³⁵, and Water Network Tool for Resilience (WNTR)³⁶.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

³³ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/epanet>

³⁴ For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=CESER&dirEntryId=359844

³⁵ For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NRMRL&dirEntryId=158255

³⁶ For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NRMRL&dirEntryId=337888

EPA's state engagement program³⁷ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,635.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$26,917.0 / -68.3 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements, and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1442(a)(1); Clean Water Act §§ 101(a)(6), 102, 104, 105, 320; Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA); Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) § 203; Title II of Ocean Dumping Ban Act of 1988 (ODBA); Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); Wet Weather Water Quality Act of 2000; ; Clean Air Act § 103(e), Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act, National Invasive Species Act; Coastal Zone Amendments Reauthorization Act (CZARA); Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act; Endangered Species Act (ESA); North American Wetlands Conservation Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (HABHRCA); National Defense Authorization Act FY 2020 EC. 7362.

³⁷ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

Research: Sustainable Communities

Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Science & Technology</i>	<i>\$134,581</i>	<i>\$132,205</i>	<i>\$58,597</i>	<i>-\$73,608</i>
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$354	\$327	\$304	-\$23
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$681	\$670	\$522	-\$148
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$20,147	\$16,937	\$11,448	-\$5,489
Total Budget Authority	\$155,764	\$150,139	\$70,871	-\$79,268
Total Workyears	436.8	397.2	294.6	-102.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program supports EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, regions, states, and tribes to advance the cost-effective clean-up of contaminated sites, develop data and tools to effectively manage waste, and ensure that communities are protected from harmful chemicals such as lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Under SHC, EPA will provide technical support at federal-, tribal-, and state-managed cleanup sites, while ensuring sustainable, healthy, and economically vibrant communities. Research will focus on addressing priority scientific needs and providing innovative solutions on three topic areas: 1) Contaminated Sites, 2) Waste and Sustainable Materials Management, and 3) Healthy, Resilient, and Economically Vibrant Communities.

The SHC Research Program provides state-of-the-science methods, models, tools, and technologies that the Land and Emergency Management Program uses in programmatic guidance and that EPA decision-makers use in the site cleanup process. Within the given resource levels for this program, research will be internally driven only, and external partnerships, grants, and research agreements will not continue.

In FY 2026, SHC work would potentially include the following areas:

- **Critical Minerals and Life Cycle Assessment:** Building on existing efforts to review recovery methods and technologies,³⁸ SHC researchers will continue to evaluate the feasibility of recovery of critical minerals from contaminated sites (e.g., mine waste, coal ash) to help establish a sustainable domestic supply of critical minerals that is necessary for expanding AI infrastructure, supporting automobile manufacturing, and American energy dominance. Similarly, SHC will continue to develop life cycle analysis tools³⁹ to help decision-makers understand the impacts of decisions and identify more environmentally friendly alternatives. Scientific journal articles, reports, datasets, models, and tools will be published and used by decision makers.
- **PFAS Research:** EPA researchers will support the needs of EPA partners, states, tribes, and local communities by developing methods to evaluate PFAS in waste, soil, sediment, groundwater, and homes and investigate PFAS fate and transport in the environment as well as its disposal and destruction. Researchers also will identify locations and source contributors to potentially high PFAS exposure in children and other populations by evaluating multimedia PFAS sources and pathways for human exposure.⁴⁰ This research supports the implementation of the *PFAS Strategic Roadmap*⁴¹ and EPA guidance on PFAS destruction and disposal required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.⁴²

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement⁴³ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs, and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

³⁸ For more information, please see, for example:

https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=360468&Lab=CESER.

³⁹ For more information, please see for example:

https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?dirEntryId=360453&Lab=CESER.

⁴⁰ For more information, please see, for example: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39526893/>,

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11874334/>.

⁴¹ See EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap at: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap_final-508.pdf.

⁴² <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/interim-guidance-destruction-and-disposal-pfas-and-materials-containing-pfas>.

⁴³ For more information on EPA's work with States, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$6,004.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$67,604.0 / -112.7 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements, and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This Program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5 App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Environmental Programs & Management
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management				
Budget Authority	\$3,253,430	\$3,195,028	\$2,481,704	-\$713,324
Total Workyears	8,976.5	8,875.8	7,873.2	-1,002.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Bill Language: Environmental Programs and Management

For environmental programs and management, including necessary expenses not otherwise provided for, for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; purchase of reprints; library memberships in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members; administrative costs of the brownfields program under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002; implementation of a coal combustion residual permit program under section 2301 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016; and not to exceed \$40,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$2,481,704,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, further, That of the funds included under this heading—

(1) \$598,419,000, shall be for Geographic Programs as specified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act);

(2) \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for grants, including grants that may be awarded on a non-competitive basis, interagency agreements, and associated program support costs to establish and implement a program to assist Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaskan Native Village Corporations, federally-recognized tribes in Alaska, Alaska Native Non-Profit Organizations and Alaska Native Nonprofit Associations, and intertribal consortia comprised of Alaskan tribal entities to address contamination on lands conveyed under or pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that were or are contaminated at the time of conveyance and are on an inventory of such lands developed and maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency: Provided, That grants awarded using funds made available in this paragraph may be used by a recipient to supplement other funds provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through individual media or multi-media grants or cooperative agreements: Provided further, That of the amounts made available in this paragraph, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, the Environmental Protection Agency may reserve up to \$2,000,000 for salaries, expenses, and administration of the program and for grants related to such program that address contamination on lands conveyed under or

pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that were or are contaminated at the time of conveyance and are on the EPA inventory of such lands; and

(3) In addition to amounts otherwise available for the purposes specified in this paragraph, not to exceed \$9,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for addressing water emergencies, as determined by the Administrator, using the authorities under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

Program Projects in EPM
(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Alaska Contaminated Lands				
Alaska Contaminated Lands	\$3,245	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Brownfields				
Brownfields	\$25,458	\$25,689	\$12,816	-\$12,873
Clean Air				
Atmospheric Protection	\$99,198	\$100,000	\$0	-\$100,000
Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs	\$15,177	\$13,423	\$13,231	-\$192
Federal Stationary Source Regulations	\$26,113	\$24,554	\$25,272	\$718
Federal Support for Air Quality Management	\$149,862	\$151,225	\$132,556	-\$18,669
Stratospheric Ozone: Domestic Programs	\$6,655	\$1,472	\$5,895	\$4,423
Stratospheric Ozone: Multilateral Fund	\$8,326	\$8,326	\$0	-\$8,326
Subtotal, Clean Air	\$305,331	\$299,000	\$176,954	-\$122,046
Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants				
Congressional Priorities	\$30,700	\$30,700	\$0	-\$30,700
Compliance				
Compliance Monitoring	\$106,372	\$107,078	\$69,078	-\$38,000
Enforcement				
Civil Enforcement	\$218,862	\$201,305	\$140,191	-\$61,114
Criminal Enforcement	\$65,595	\$60,041	\$30,472	-\$29,569
Environmental Justice	\$109,912	\$94,124	\$0	-\$94,124
NEPA Implementation	\$21,664	\$19,898	\$21,061	\$1,163
Subtotal, Enforcement	\$416,034	\$375,368	\$191,724	-\$183,644
Ensure Clean Water				
Marine Pollution	\$9,561	\$8,494	\$8,954	\$460

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Surface Water Protection	\$224,493	\$216,798	\$214,000	-\$2,798
Subtotal, Ensure Clean Water	\$234,054	\$225,292	\$222,954	-\$2,338
Ensure Safe Water				
Beach / Fish Programs	\$1,696	\$1,571	\$1,819	\$248
Drinking Water Programs	\$123,122	\$115,429	\$124,181	\$8,752
Subtotal, Ensure Safe Water	\$124,818	\$117,000	\$126,000	\$9,000
Geographic Programs				
Geographic Program: Chesapeake Bay	\$107,846	\$92,000	\$92,000	\$0
Geographic Program: Gulf of America	\$23,160	\$25,524	\$25,524	\$0
Geographic Program: Lake Champlain	\$25,041	\$25,000	\$15,590	-\$9,410
Geographic Program: Long Island Sound	\$42,108	\$40,002	\$40,002	\$0
Geographic Program: Other				
<i>Lake Pontchartrain</i>	\$4,399	\$2,200	\$1,012	-\$1,188
<i>S. New England Estuary (SNEE)</i>	\$4,534	\$7,000	\$3,334	-\$3,666
<i>Geographic Program: Other (other activities)</i>	\$5,827	\$5,000	\$2,793	-\$2,207
Subtotal, Geographic Program: Other	\$14,760	\$14,200	\$7,139	-\$7,061
Geographic Program: Puget Sound	\$55,217	\$54,000	\$28,767	-\$25,233
Geographic Program: San Francisco Bay	\$41,881	\$54,500	\$12,897	-\$41,603
Geographic Program: South Florida	\$8,508	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0
Great Lakes Restoration	\$336,013	\$368,000	\$368,000	\$0
Subtotal, Geographic Programs	\$654,534	\$681,726	\$598,419	-\$83,307
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Communication and Information	\$4,018	\$4,792	\$3,677	-\$1,115
Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection	\$987	\$914	\$1,361	\$447
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$4,973	\$4,665	\$4,986	\$321
Subtotal, Homeland Security	\$9,979	\$10,371	\$10,024	-\$347
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Indoor Air: Radon Program	\$2,627	\$3,123	\$0	-\$3,123
Radiation: Protection	\$8,791	\$9,520	\$2,470	-\$7,050
Radiation: Response Preparedness	\$2,044	\$2,262	\$2,350	\$88
Reduce Risks from Indoor Air	\$14,343	\$12,495	\$11,642	-\$853
Subtotal, Indoor Air and Radiation	\$27,805	\$27,400	\$16,462	-\$10,938

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Information Exchange / Outreach				
Children and Other Sensitive Populations: Agency Coordination	\$6,343	\$6,350	\$6,350	\$0
Environmental Education	\$9,705	\$9,500	\$0	-\$9,500
Exchange Network	\$15,359	\$11,098	\$0	-\$11,098
Executive Management and Operations	\$61,072	\$56,574	\$38,984	-\$17,590
Small Business Ombudsman	\$2,460	\$1,925	\$1,983	\$58
Small Minority Business Assistance	\$3,572	\$1,907	\$1,080	-\$827
State and Local Prevention and Preparedness	\$15,308	\$14,940	\$10,862	-\$4,078
TRI / Right to Know	\$12,246	\$11,991	\$13,206	\$1,215
Tribal - Capacity Building	\$14,414	\$14,715	\$14,715	\$0
Subtotal, Information Exchange / Outreach	\$140,479	\$129,000	\$87,180	-\$41,820
International Programs				
International Sources of Pollution	\$7,748	\$7,683	\$5,339	-\$2,344
Trade and Governance	\$5,232	\$4,558	\$0	-\$4,558
US Mexico Border	\$2,853	\$2,936	\$2,791	-\$145
Subtotal, International Programs	\$15,833	\$15,177	\$8,130	-\$7,047
IT / Data Management / Security				
Information Security	\$11,852	\$8,388	\$14,012	\$5,624
IT / Data Management	\$89,592	\$88,112	\$79,164	-\$8,948
Subtotal, IT / Data Management / Security	\$101,444	\$96,500	\$93,176	-\$3,324
Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review				
Administrative Law	\$5,437	\$6,106	\$5,104	-\$1,002
Alternative Dispute Resolution	\$439	\$579	\$0	-\$579
Civil Rights Program	\$12,219	\$11,248	\$9,780	-\$1,468
Integrated Environmental Strategies	\$12,897	\$10,435	\$8,000	-\$2,435
Legal Advice: Environmental Program	\$61,776	\$58,876	\$50,263	-\$8,613
Legal Advice: Support Program	\$18,906	\$18,541	\$18,082	-\$459
Regional Science and Technology	\$1,341	\$322	\$0	-\$322
Regulatory/Economic-Management and Analysis	\$18,634	\$17,768	\$17,294	-\$474
Science Advisory Board	\$3,972	\$3,415	\$4,031	\$616
Subtotal, Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review	\$135,622	\$127,290	\$112,554	-\$14,736
Operations and Administration				
Acquisition Management	\$34,401	\$32,223	\$32,247	\$24
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$81,953	\$80,928	\$76,603	-\$4,325

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management	\$28,386	\$28,202	\$27,147	-\$1,055
Human Resources Management	\$62,477	\$51,813	\$40,000	-\$11,813
Workforce Reshaping	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$481,424	\$469,075	\$418,596	-\$50,479
Pesticides Licensing				
Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk	\$46,586	\$45,511	\$45,832	\$321
Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk	\$62,897	\$61,704	\$60,224	-\$1,480
Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability	\$8,047	\$6,781	\$6,014	-\$767
Science Policy and Biotechnology	\$1,613	\$1,379	\$0	-\$1,379
Subtotal, Pesticides Licensing	\$119,143	\$115,375	\$112,070	-\$3,305
Protecting Estuaries and Wetlands				
National Estuary Program / Coastal Waterways	\$35,648	\$40,000	\$32,000	-\$8,000
Wetlands	\$21,404	\$20,884	\$20,884	\$0
Subtotal, Protecting Estuaries and Wetlands	\$57,052	\$60,884	\$52,884	-\$8,000
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)				
RCRA: Corrective Action	\$39,061	\$38,423	\$25,126	-\$13,297
RCRA: Waste Management	\$74,277	\$71,879	\$40,399	-\$31,480
RCRA: Waste Minimization & Recycling	\$12,776	\$10,348	\$4,253	-\$6,095
Subtotal, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	\$126,114	\$120,650	\$69,778	-\$50,872
Toxics Risk Review and Prevention				
Endocrine Disruptors	\$9,184	\$7,614	\$3,000	-\$4,614
Pollution Prevention Program	\$12,583	\$11,865	\$0	-\$11,865
Toxic Substances: Chemical Risk Management	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Toxic Substances: Lead Risk Reduction Program	\$12,551	\$14,068	\$0	-\$14,068
Toxic Substances: Chemical Risk Review and Reduction	\$91,338	\$96,406	\$73,042	-\$23,364
Subtotal, Toxics Risk Review and Prevention	\$125,656	\$129,953	\$76,042	-\$53,911
Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)				
LUST / UST	\$12,333	\$11,500	\$6,863	-\$4,637
TOTAL EPM	\$3,253,430	\$3,195,028	\$2,481,704	-\$713,324

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Alaska Contaminated Lands

Alaska Contaminated Lands

Program Area: Alaska Contaminated Lands

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$3,245	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$3,245	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Total Workyears	4.0	0.3	6.3	6.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Alaska Contaminated Lands Program supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative and seeks to address the legacy contamination on areas and sites within the 44 million acres conveyed from federal ownership to Alaska Native corporations as part of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).²³ Many of these lands were contaminated while not under Alaska Native ownership. The contaminants on some of these lands – arsenic, asbestos, lead, mercury, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), petroleum products, and other hazardous and toxic wastes – pose health concerns to Alaska Native communities, negatively impact subsistence resources, and stifle economic development.

EPA has initiated a cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnership approach to advance the cleanup of contaminated ANCSA lands. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, coordination and work continues with the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, other federal agencies, the State of Alaska, and Alaska Native entities.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Continue to engage with the State of Alaska, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native Tribes, Alaska Native Organizations, and other federal agencies to further develop, modify, and implement the comprehensive approach to advancing cleanup efforts.
- Further refine the inventory of contaminated sites on ANCSA lands through outreach, cross-agency coordination, and site visits to assist the Alaska Native entities in the verification of sites for grant funding.

²³ For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/r10-tribal/contamination-ancsa-conveyed-lands#background>.

³ For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>.

- Maintain and continuously update the public-facing dashboard to provide comprehensive site information, cleanup status, transparency for the progress of the Contaminated ANCSA Lands Grant Program.
- Manage the Contaminated ANCSA Lands Grant Program to facilitate assessment and cleanup work at contaminated ANCSA lands.
- Oversee and manage grants awarded under the Contaminated ANCSA Lands Program.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,018.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$1,018.0 / +6.0 FTE) This program change increases capacity to maintain the ANCSA sites inventory and dashboard, engage with stakeholders to advance cleanup efforts, and manage the ANCSA Lands Grant Program.

Statutory Authority:

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Pub. L. 117-328.

Brownfields

Brownfields

Program Area: Brownfields

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$25,458</i>	<i>\$25,689</i>	<i>\$12,816</i>	<i>-\$12,873</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$25,458	\$25,689	\$12,816	-\$12,873
Total Workyears	105.9	117.3	77.6	-39.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Brownfields Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Brownfields sites are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant; the Program supports efforts to revitalize these sites by providing support and technical assistance to states, tribes, local communities, and other stakeholders to work together to plan, inventory, assess, safely clean up, and reuse brownfields sites.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2026, the Brownfields Program will continue to manage approximately 1,400 assessment, cleanup, revolving loan fund (RLF), multi-purpose, and Job Training (JT) cooperative agreements; as well as state and tribal assistance agreements; training, research, and technical assistance agreements; Targeted Brownfields Assessments; and land revitalization projects.

In FY 2026, the Brownfields Program will support the following activities:

- Review, select, and award an estimated 215 new cooperative agreements which will lead to approximately \$1.6 billion and 11,000 jobs leveraged in future years.
- Continue federal fiduciary responsibility to manage approximately 1,400 existing brownfields cooperative agreements, while ensuring the terms and conditions of the agreements are met and provide limited technical assistance. The Program also will provide targeted environmental oversight support to grantees (e.g., site eligibility determinations, review of environmental site assessment and cleanup reports).

- Provide technical assistance to states, tribes, and local communities in the form of research, training, analysis, and support for community-led planning workshops. This can lead to cost effective implementation of brownfields redevelopment projects by providing communities with the knowledge necessary to understand market conditions, economic development, and other community revitalization strategies, and how cleanup and reuse can be catalyzed by small businesses.
- Work collaboratively with EPA's partners at the state, tribal, and local level on innovative approaches to help achieve land reuse.
- Support the baseline maintenance of the ACRES online grantee reporting tool. This enables grantees to track accomplishments and report on the number of sites assessed and cleaned up, and the amount of dollars and jobs leveraged with brownfields funding.
- Provide support for communities as part of EPA's Land Revitalization Program. The Land Revitalization Program supports communities in their efforts to restore contaminated lands, advance economic growth, and create sustainable community assets.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$3,941.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$8,932.0 / -39.7 FTE) This program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and empowers EPA's partners at the state, tribal, and local level through cooperative federalism. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), §§ 101(39), 104(k), 128(a); Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, § 8001.

Clean Air

Atmospheric Protection

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$99,198</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$100,000</i>
Science & Technology	\$7,295	\$8,400	\$0	-\$8,400
Total Budget Authority	\$106,494	\$108,400	\$0	-\$108,400
Total Workyears	197.6	201.8	0.0	-201.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Atmospheric Protection Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work (*e.g.*, Clean Air Act, Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pollution Prevention Act, American Innovation and Manufacturing Act, etc.) will be accomplished in other programs within the Clean Air Program Area.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this Program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$100,000.0 / -176.4 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Atmospheric Protection Program, in the EPM account, to focus Agency resources on its core statutory requirements and reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act; Global Change Research Act of 1990; Global Climate Protections Act; Energy Policy Act of 2005 § 756; Pollution Prevention Act §§ 6602-6605; National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) § 102; Clean Water Act § 104; Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) § 8001. American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act.

Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$15,177</i>	<i>\$13,423</i>	<i>\$13,231</i>	<i>-\$192</i>
Science & Technology	\$6,456	\$6,162	\$5,739	-\$423
Total Budget Authority	\$21,633	\$19,585	\$18,970	-\$615
Total Workyears	62.8	62.8	61.7	-1.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs are nationwide and multi-state programs that address air pollutants that are transported across state, regional, and international boundaries. The programs designed to control emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) include Title IV (the Acid Rain Program (ARP)) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), the CSAPR Update, and the revised CSAPR Update. SO₂ and NO_x are precursors for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), while NO_x also is a precursor for ground-level ozone. Researchers have associated PM_{2.5} and ozone (O₃) exposure with adverse health effects in toxicological, clinical, and epidemiological studies. Lowering exposure to PM_{2.5} and O₃ contributes to significant human health benefits.

The Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs establish a total emission limit across affected emission sources, which must hold allowances as authorizations to emit one ton of the regulated pollutant(s) in a specific emission control period. The owners and operators of affected emission sources may select among different methods of compliance—installing pollution control equipment, switching fuel types, purchasing allowances, or other strategies. By offering the flexibility to determine how the sources comply, the programs lower the overall cost, making it feasible to pursue greater emission reductions and promoting *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. These programs are managed through a centralized database system operated by EPA.²⁴

The Part 75 monitoring program requires almost 4,100 affected sources to monitor and report emission and operation data.²⁵ The Part 75 monitoring program requires high degrees of accuracy and reliability from continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS) or approved alternative methods at the affected sources. EPA provides the affected emission sources with technical assistance to facilitate compliance with the monitoring requirements, and software—the Emissions Collection and Monitoring Plan System (ECMPS)—to process, quality assure, and report data to EPA.

²⁴ Clean Air Act § 403(d).

²⁵ Clean Air Act § 412; Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. P.L. 101-549 § 821.

EPA's centralized market operation system (the allowance tracking system) manages accounts and records allowance allocations and transfers.²⁶ At the end of each compliance period, working directly with and supporting stakeholders, EPA reconciles allowances against reported emissions to determine compliance for every facility with affected emission sources.

The Clean Air Act § 110(a)(2)(D)²⁷ requires states or, in some circumstances the Agency, to reduce interstate pollution that significantly contributes to nonattainment or interferes with maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Under this statutory authority, EPA issued CSAPR, which requires 27 states in the eastern U.S. to limit their state-wide emissions of SO₂ and/or NO_x to reduce or eliminate the states' contributions to PM_{2.5} and/or ground-level ozone non-attainment of the NAAQS in downwind states. In addition, EPA is supporting state efforts to address regional haze including best available retrofit technology (BART) and reasonable progress, as well as interstate air pollution transport contributing to downwind nonattainment of NAAQS as those obligations relate to emissions from electricity generating units.²⁸

EPA manages the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), a rural multipollutant air quality monitoring program supporting NAAQS determinations, model validation, and health and ecological impacts research. CASTNET measures ambient ozone and nitrogen and sulfur particles and gases to evaluate air quality effects on human health and environmental loadings. In addition, EPA participates in the National Atmospheric Deposition Program, which monitors wet deposition of sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury, as well as ambient concentrations of mercury and ammonia.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, and *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to operate the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs and the systems to assess compliance with the programs' regulatory requirements, and the programs' progress toward the clean air goals required by the CAA. EPA will work to meet requirements and requests for modeling in support of the power sector emission control programs and for legal defense of regulatory actions. The programs will continue to support emission reporting for other state and federal programs, including the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS).

EPA will allocate SO₂ and NO_x allowances to affected emission sources and other account holders as established in the CAA²⁹ and state and federal CSAPR implementation plans. These allowance holdings and subsequent allowance transfers will be maintained in an allowance tracking system (*i.e.*, central database).³⁰ EPA will annually reconcile each facility's allowance holdings against its emissions to ensure compliance for all affected sources.³¹

²⁶ Clean Air Act § 403(d).

²⁷ Also known as the Good Neighbor Provision, also refer to Clean Air Act § 110(c).

²⁸ Clean Air Act § 110 and § 169A; refer to 40 CFR 52.2312.

²⁹ Clean Air Act §§ 110 and 403.

³⁰ Clean Air Act §§ 110 and 403.

³¹ Clean Air Act §§ 110 and 404-405, and state CSAPR implementation plans.

EPA will operate the Part 75 emission measurement program to collect, verify, and track emissions of air pollutants and air toxics from approximately 4,100 fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units.

EPA will continue to monitor ambient air, deposition, and other environmental indicators through the CASTNET Program, contribute to the National Atmospheric Deposition Program, publish the power sector progress reports required by Congress, and produce additional information to communicate the extent of the progress made by the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs.³²

EPA will continue the redesign of its markets operation system and ECMPS software. These mission critical systems support the trading programs, as well as other emissions reporting programs operated by the states and EPA. Reengineering these decade-old systems will enable EPA to enhance the user experience, comply with EPA security and technology requirements, consolidate software systems, and reduce long-term operation and maintenance costs.

EPA will work with states to develop emission reduction programs to comply with the CAA Good Neighbor Provision and Regional Haze Program requirements.³³ As part of the emission measurement, data collection, review, and publication, EPA will provide a web portal for states with delegated authority for MATS to access and review emissions and compliance data. EPA recently announced reconsiderations to both the Good Neighbor Plan and the Regional Haze Program.³⁴ Work in FY 2026 will continue in a manner consistent with Administration direction.

CASTNET will continue to support states in meeting their minimum monitoring requirements and assist with developing exceptional event demonstrations, as needed. Additionally, CASTNET will continue to provide data that can be used for permitting and ecological assessments within state boundaries (*e.g.*, Colorado).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$453.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$261.0 / -1.1 FTE) This net program change reflects the Administration's agenda and a focus on the Agency being more efficient.

³² Government Performance and Results Act § 1115.

³³ Clean Air Act § 110(a)(2)(D).

³⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-biggest-deregulatory-action-us-history>

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Federal Stationary Source Regulations

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$26,113</i>	<i>\$24,554</i>	<i>\$25,272</i>	<i>\$718</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$26,113	\$24,554	\$25,272	\$718
Total Workyears	115.1	122.5	124.5	2.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to take action to manage air quality and limit emissions of harmful air pollutants from a variety of sources. The CAA directs EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six “criteria” pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The criteria pollutants are particulate matter (PM), ozone (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and lead (Pb). The CAA requires EPA to review the science upon which the NAAQS are based and the standards themselves every five years. These national standards form the foundation for air quality management and establish goals that protect public health and the environment. Section 109 of the CAA Amendments of 1990 established two types of NAAQS. Primary standards are set at a level requisite to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety. Secondary standards are set at a level requisite to protect public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects. Various CAA sections in Parts A, C, and D of Subchapter I of the CAA pertain to implementation of the NAAQS. This includes work to designate areas of the country through the initial area designations process, as well as attainment and maintenance work for all NAAQS, as well as implementation of the regional haze program.

Sections 111, 112, and 129 of the CAA statutory program direct EPA to undertake activities targeted at air emissions of toxic, criteria, and other pollutants from stationary sources. Specifically, to address air toxics, this Program provides for the development of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for major sources and area sources; the assessment and, as necessary, regulation of risks remaining after implementation of NESHAP that are based on Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT); the periodic review and revision of the NESHAP to reflect developments in practices, processes, and control technologies; and associated national guidance and outreach. In addition, EPA must periodically review, and, where appropriate, revise both the list of air toxics subject to regulation and the list of source categories for which standards must be developed. The statutory program also includes issuing, reviewing, and periodically revising, as necessary, New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for criteria and a subset of listed pollutants from certain new, modified, or reconstructed sources of air emissions; issuing emissions guidelines for states to apply to certain existing sources; and providing guidance on Reasonably Available Control Technology through issuance and periodic review and revision of control technique guidelines. The CAA further requires EPA to develop

and periodically review standards of performance and emissions guidelines covering air emissions from waste combustion sources.

Sections 169A and 169B of the CAA implement a program to manage impairment of visibility in specifically identified 156 Class I areas, as well as other aspects of visibility related programs. The Regional Haze Rule implements these provisions, as directed by the CAA, and establishes requirements that state plans must satisfy to make reasonable progress towards meeting this national goal, as well as meet the best available retrofit technology (BART) obligations. EPA also has additional obligations in any State Implementation Plan (SIP)-based program to implement Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs), depending on statutory and court-enforceable obligations. In March 2025, the Administration announced intentions to restructure the regional haze program. This work will begin in FY 2025 and continue into FY 2026.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to implement priorities and efficiencies called for in Executive Order 14154: *Unleashing American Energy*. EPA will continue to evaluate recommendations, and, where appropriate, act to repeal, replace, or modify existing regulations to make them less burdensome and provide greater certainty to regulated entities.

NAAQS: In FY 2026, EPA will continue reviewing the NAAQS and retain or revise, as appropriate. EPA will revisit the annual primary PM_{2.5} NAAQS set in 2024. In addition, EPA will continue review of the primary nitrogen oxides NAAQS under a consent decree schedule, review of the primary and secondary 2020 Ozone NAAQS, and review of the primary and secondary lead NAAQS. Each review involves a comprehensive reexamination, synthesis, and evaluation of the scientific information, the design, and conduct of complex air quality and risk and exposure analyses; and the development of a comprehensive policy assessment providing analysis of the scientific basis for alternative policy options.

In FY 2026, EPA will perform any implementation work associated with recently revised NAAQS, and existing NAAQS, including, but not limited to, supporting stationary source permitting-related air quality analyses, initial area designations, and reviewing/taking action on SIPs. Initial area designations activities specifically apply to the 2024 PM_{2.5} NAAQS and the 2024 Secondary SO₂ NAAQS. In FY 2025, EPA announced intentions to revisit the 2024 PM_{2.5} standard; however, so long as that standard is effective, EPA will continue to support appropriate and relevant implementation obligations. EPA also may have obligations in any SIP-based program to implement FIPs, depending on statutory and court-enforceable obligations.

Additionally, EPA will work to support areas in attainment and maintenance of existing NAAQS. These include the ozone standards established in 2015, 2008, 1997, and 1979; the 1997 PM₁₀ standards; the 2012, 2006 and 1997 PM_{2.5} standards; the 2008 lead standard; the 2010 NO₂ standard; the 1971 CO standard; and the 2010 SO₂ standard. EPA, in close collaboration with states and tribes, will work to reduce the number of areas not in attainment with the NAAQS, including assisting states and tribes in developing plans to attain and maintain the NAAQS. This work supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great*

American Comeback initiative. In some instances, this work also supports *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*. This work will be done in a manner consistent with Administration direction and the March 2025 regulatory announcements. Various work to implement the NAAQS and the regional haze program are subject to statutory and court-enforceable obligations. This work will continue as necessary and appropriate throughout FY 2025 and 2026.

Air Toxics: Section 112(d)(6) of the CAA requires EPA to review and revise, as necessary, all NESHAP (for both major and area sources) every eight years. These reviews include compiling information and data already available to the Agency; collecting new information and emissions data from industry; reviewing emission control technologies; and conducting economic analyses for the affected industries needed for developing regulations. Similarly, Section 112(f) of the CAA requires EPA to review the risk that remains after the implementation of MACT standards within eight years of promulgation. Section 129 of the CAA requires a similar approach to review regulations applicable to solid waste incinerators, including standards for emissions of certain air toxics.

In FY 2026, EPA will undertake multiple CAA reviews and associated rulemakings. The Air Toxics program will prioritize conducting reviews and reconsiderations of NESHAP and CAA Section 129 rules that either are subject to court-enforceable deadlines or are Administration priority actions. EPA expects to propose or promulgate more than 25 air toxics rules in FY 2026. These actions support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*. These actions include reconsiderations of NESHAPs for certain coal-fired power plants, integrated iron and steel manufacturing, rubber tire manufacturing, synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry, commercial sterilizers for medical devices and spices, lime manufacturing, coke ovens, copper smelting, and taconite ore processing.

NSPS: Section 111 of the CAA requires EPA to set NSPS for new, modified, or reconstructed stationary sources of air emissions in categories that have been determined to cause, or significantly contribute to, air pollution that may endanger public health or welfare. Section 111 of the CAA also requires EPA, at least every eight years, to review and, if appropriate, revise NSPS for each source category for which such standards have been established. Under CAA Section 111, EPA must establish emission guidelines for existing sources for which air quality criteria have not been issued, are not included in the list published under Section 108(a) of the CAA or are emitted from a source category that is regulated under Section 112 of the CAA but to which a standard of performance would apply if such an existing source were a new source.

In FY 2026, EPA will work to address NSPS actions, consistent with the requirements of the CAA, for sources of air pollutants for multiple source categories, including those in the power plant and oil and natural gas sectors. EPA expects to propose or promulgate at least 4 NSPS actions in FY 2026. These actions support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*. These actions include reconsiderations of NSPS for power plants and for the oil and natural gas industry.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,708.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefit costs.
- (+\$2,426.0 / +2.0 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Federal Stationary Source Regulations program reflecting the Administration's deregulatory agenda and a focus on the Agency being more efficient.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Federal Support for Air Quality Management

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$149,862</i>	<i>\$151,225</i>	<i>\$132,556</i>	<i>-\$18,669</i>
Science & Technology	\$15,762	\$10,608	\$10,727	\$119
Total Budget Authority	\$165,625	\$161,833	\$143,283	-\$18,550
Total Workyears	836.5	849.6	743.1	-106.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work, while continuing to provide funding to work with states on State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and advance cooperative federalism.

The Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program assists states, tribes, and local air pollution control agencies in the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), establishes standards for reducing air toxics, and sustains visibility protection. This work supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*, and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to take action to manage air quality and limit emissions of harmful air pollutants from a variety of sources. The CAA directs EPA to set NAAQS for six "criteria" pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The criteria pollutants are particulate matter (PM), ozone (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and lead (Pb). The CAA requires EPA to review the science upon which the NAAQS are based and the standards themselves every five years. For each of the six criteria pollutants, under Section 110 of the CAA, EPA tracks two kinds of air pollution information: air pollutant concentrations based on actual measurements in the ambient (outside) air at monitoring sites throughout the country; and pollutant emissions based on engineering estimates or measurements of the total tons of pollutants released into the air each year. EPA works with state and local governments to ensure the technical integrity of emission source controls in SIPs and with tribes on Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs). EPA also reviews SIPs to ensure they are consistent with applicable requirements of the CAA and takes regulatory action on SIP submissions consistent with CAA responsibilities.

The New Source Review (NSR) preconstruction permit program in Title I of the CAA is a component of state plans to attain and maintain the NAAQS. The two primary aspects of this program are the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program, described in Section 165 of the

CAA and the Nonattainment NSR program, described in various parts of the CAA, including Sections 173 and 182.

Sections 169A and 169B of the CAA require protection of visibility for 156 national parks and wilderness areas, known as Class I areas. EPA's implementing regulations, the Regional Haze Rule, sets forth the requirements that state plans must make reasonable progress towards meeting the national goal, as well as any best available retrofit technology (BART).

Toxic air pollutants are known to cause or are suspected of causing increased risk of cancer and other serious health effects. The CAA requires issuing National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for major sources and area sources; the assessment and, as necessary, regulation of risks remaining after implementation of NESHAP that are based on Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT); the periodic review and revision of all NESHAP to reflect developments in practices, processes, and control technologies; and associated national guidance and outreach. In addition to its regulatory work, EPA also provides determinations to states and industry seeking information about source-specific applicability of these regulations.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Air quality has improved significantly for communities across the country since passage of the CAA in 1970 (with amendments in 1977 and 1990). Between 1990 and 2023, national average levels have decreased by 18 percent for O₃, 29 percent for coarse PM, 92 percent for SO₂, and, since 2010, national average levels for lead have decreased 87 percent.³⁵ In FY 2026, EPA will continue to prioritize key activities in support of attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS, implementation of stationary source regulations by state, tribal, and local air agencies, and implementation of the regional haze program. In March 2025, the Administrator announced EPA plans regarding priority actions involving rule revisions to the Exceptional Events Rule, the Good Neighbor Plan, and the Regional Haze Rule, among multiple others.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue reviewing the NAAQS and retain or revise, as appropriate. EPA will revisit the annual primary PM_{2.5} NAAQS set in 2024. In addition, EPA will continue review of the primary nitrogen oxides NAAQS under a consent decree schedule, review of the primary and secondary 2020 Ozone NAAQS, and review of the primary and secondary lead NAAQS. EPA also will continue its CAA mandated responsibilities to implement the NAAQS by completing any applicable designations processes, supporting permitting related reviews, and reviewing/taking action on state implementation plans consistent with statutory obligations. In addition, EPA will continue to engage in appropriate federal oversight activities, and developing regulations, guidance, and policies to ensure appropriate transition between existing and new standards.

The FY 2026 Budget provides funding to address and resolve the backlog of SIPs. EPA, in close collaboration with states and tribes, will work to reduce the number of areas not in attainment with the NAAQS. The Agency will look for ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the SIP process, including its own review process, with a goal of maximizing timely processing of SIP

³⁵For additional information on air quality trends, please see the Air Quality -National Summary at: <https://www.epa.gov/air-trends/air-quality-national-summary> and at *Our Nation's Air: Status and Trends Through 2023*.

actions and reducing the backlog. The Agency will act on designation or re-designation of nonattainment areas to attainment in a timely manner.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to review and take appropriate action on SIPs for regional haze first and second planning periods to be consistent with statutory obligations and Administration policy direction. In FY 2026, EPA also will continue to work on updates to the Regional Haze Rule that are started in FY 2025. Additional SIPs for the third planning period are due in July 2028; however, EPA has proposed extending that deadline, and also proposed a restructuring of the Regional Haze Program overall.

The CAA sets deadlines for EPA to review and update, as necessary, all NESHAP every eight years, accounting for developments in practices, processes, and technologies related to those standards. The CAA also requires that EPA conduct risk assessments within eight years of promulgation of each MACT-based NESHAP to determine if it appropriately protects public health and to revise it as needed. In FY 2026, EPA will prioritize conducting reviews of air toxics-related actions for eight source categories for which the statutory deadlines passed and now are subject to court-ordered dates. EPA also has statutory and court-enforceable obligations to take action on SIPs and other types of actions under the CAA to support implementation of the NAAQS and the regional haze program. These actions support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*.

In FY 2026, EPA will provide assistance to state, local, and tribal air agencies for both NSR and Title V (operating) permits.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to operate and maintain the Air Quality System (AQS) which houses the nation's air quality data. The Agency's national real-time ambient air quality data system (AirNow) will maintain baseline operations. EPA will continue to operate and maintain the Emissions Inventory System (EIS), a system used to quality assure and store current and historical emissions inventory data, and to support development of the National Emissions Inventory (NEI). The NEI is used by EPA, states, and others to support state and local air agency SIP development. EPA will continue developing a Unified Platform that will replace these systems and reduce costs and improve data availability. EPA will continue to implement previously identified Lean strategies to streamline NEI development and reduce burden for industry to meet their emissions data reporting requirements through the Combined Air Emissions Reporting System (CAERS).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$1,129.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-\$19,798.0 / -108.8 FTE) This program change is a reduction in the Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program reflecting implementation of fewer grants, to refocus resources on EPA's core mission.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Stratospheric Ozone: Domestic Programs

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$6,655	\$1,472	\$5,895	\$4,423
Total Budget Authority	\$6,655	\$1,472	\$5,895	\$4,423
Total Workyears	23.0	25.3	28.2	2.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA implements provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to complete the U.S. phaseout of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) by 2030; the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2020 to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); and the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* (Montreal Protocol) to protect the stratospheric ozone layer.

The AIM Act addresses the impact of HFCs by phasing down their production and consumption, maximizing reclamation and minimizing releases of HFCs and their substitutes from equipment, and facilitating the transition to next-generation technologies through sector-based standards. EPA has established an allowance allocation program to implement the phasedown, as well as robust compliance assurance and enforcement mechanisms to provide a level playing field for producers and importers and ensure the Program delivers the intended clean air benefits.

In 2007, with U.S. leadership, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol agreed to a more aggressive phaseout for ozone-depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) equaling a 47 percent reduction in overall emissions during the period 2010 – 2040. The adjustment in 2007 also called on Parties to the Montreal Protocol to promote the selection of alternatives to HCFCs that minimize environmental impacts, in particular impacts on clean air.³⁶ The CAA provides the necessary authority to ensure EPA can collect and validate data, and where appropriate, report data on production and consumption of ODS on behalf of the United States. The Parties to the Montreal Protocol also agreed to the Kigali Amendment in 2016,³⁷ (later ratified by the U.S.) which seeks to globally phase down the production and consumption of HFCs consistent with the AIM Act.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 2: Unleashing American Energy Dominance* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

³⁶ *Montreal Protocol Decision XIX/6: Adjustments to the Montreal Protocol with regard to Annex C, Group I, substances (hydrochlorofluorocarbons).*

³⁷ Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Kigali 15 October 2016, found at: <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2016/CN.872.2016-Eng.pdf>.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to meet its ODS consumption caps and work toward the required gradual reduction in production and consumption of ODS. To meet lower consumption of HCFCs to 76.2 tons per year of ozone depletion potential,³⁸ EPA will issue allowances for HCFC production and import in accordance with the requirements established under CAA Sections 605 and 606; review petitions to import used ODS under sections 604 and 605; manage information that industry identifies as confidential under CAA Section 603; and implement regulations concerning the production, import, and export of ODS and maintenance of the tracking system used to collect the information. In FY 2026, EPA anticipates work to propose a rule on feedstock use of ODS. EPA also will prepare and submit the annual report under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol on U.S. consumption and production of ODS and HFCs consistent with the treaty.³⁹

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement the CAA Section 608 and 609 refrigerant management requirements related to the use and emissions of ODS, HFCs, and other substitutes. Regulations issued under CAA Section 608 include, among other things, the venting prohibition and sales restrictions for refrigerants; safe disposal of appliances; proper practices for the evacuation of refrigerant from appliances; required practices for appliance maintenance and leak repair; standards for recovery and/or recycling equipment; technician and reclaiming certification requirements; and reporting and recordkeeping requirements. In FY 2026, EPA expects to update the section 608 test bank of questions to include information on substitute refrigerants and make them available to organizations that certify technicians who maintain, service, repair, or dispose of stationary refrigeration appliances. CAA section 609 directs EPA to issue regulations establishing standards and requirements for the servicing of motor vehicle air conditioners (MVACs). In FY 2026, EPA intends to update Section 609 web and program materials to reflect changes in the MVAC servicing practices and the update of newer cooling fluids.

CAA Section 612 requires continuous review of alternatives for ODS through EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program to both find those that pose less overall risk to human health and the environment and ensure a smooth transition to safer alternatives.⁴⁰ Through these evaluations, SNAP generates lists of acceptable and unacceptable substitutes for approximately 50 end-uses across eight industrial sectors. In FY 2026, EPA expects to list substitutes through notice as well as a notice-and-comment rulemaking that would expand the list of acceptable alternatives, particularly for end-uses where there is an urgent need for more options. EPA also will explore a more efficient means for aligning program requirements with industry standards.

With the decline in allowable ODS production, a significant stock of equipment that continues to use ODS will need access to recovered and recycled/reclaimed ODS to allow for proper servicing. EPA will continue to review available market and reported data to monitor availability of recycled and reclaimed ODS where production and import of new material is phased out or in the process of being phased out to support this need. In addition, EPA will continue to implement a petition process to allow for the import of used ODS, primarily halon and HCFC-123 for fire suppression.

³⁸ The HCFC consumption cap of 15,240 ODP-weighted metric tons for the U.S. was effective January 1, 1996, and became the U.S. consumption baseline for HCFCs.

³⁹ The Article 7 report prepared by EPA on behalf of the United States contains chemical-specific production, import and export data. The data included in the report is aggregated and available at: <https://ozone.unep.org/countries/profile/usa>.

⁴⁰ For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/snap>.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement the AIM Act HFC phasedown through an allowance allocation program established in FY 2021. In FY 2026, resources are included to implement a rulemaking establishing requirements for the management of HFCs and their substitutes in equipment, and to provide program support for and coordination of implementation efforts within EPA and with other federal agencies.

EPA will continue to implement, administer, and improve an electronic HFC reporting system, which will begin collecting new reports required by regulations finalized in FY 2024 and FY 2025, and develop additional tracking, review, and data tools to better ensure compliance with the phasedown regulations, and work with other agencies to prevent illegal imports. In FY 2026, resources are included to implement innovative IT solutions, such as additional database integration across EPA and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) databases. Specifically, EPA will ensure that the phasedown is not undermined by illegal imports; implement a regulation finalized in FY 2024 to establish requirements for the management of HFCs and their substitutes in equipment servicing, repair, disposal, or installation, as appropriate; support enforcement by EPA and across the government by continuing to lead interagency HFC activity to address illegal trade; and stand up new protocols for rules finalized in FY 2024 addressing products containing HFCs. EPA will implement a regulation finalized in FY 2023 to issue allowances for HFC production and consumption for calendar years 2024 through 2028 and begin developing the next HFC allocation rule for 2029 and later years. EPA also will implement a rulemaking to be finalized in FY 2025 reauthorizing the issuance of application-specific allowances for uses of HFCs identified in subsection (e)(4)(B) that have been renewed beyond 2025.

Under subsection (h) of the AIM Act, in FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement a rule finalized in FY 2024 that controls certain practices, processes, or activities regarding: 1) the servicing, repair, disposal, or installation of equipment that involves a regulated substance; 2) a substitute for a regulated substance; 3) the reclaiming of a regulated substance used as a refrigerant; or 4) the reclaiming of a substitute for a regulated substance used as a refrigerant. In FY 2026, building on a FY 2024 rule under AIM subsection (h), EPA anticipates proposing a rule to address requirements for technician training and/or certification under subsection (h), which may include requirements for continuing education and recertification for technicians currently certified under CAA Section 608. In FY 2025, EPA also anticipates proposing a rule that would implement AIM subsection (i)(5) which provides EPA authority to assess substitutes under the AIM Act. The Agency would anticipate finalizing this rule in FY 2026.

In FY 2026, under both the AIM Act and the Montreal Protocol, EPA will be implementing a 40 percent reduction in HFCs from historic levels. EPA exchanges data with U.S. CBP and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on ODS and HFC importers and exporters to determine admissibility and target illegal shipments entering the United States, as well as reviews and approves imports flagged in the Automated Commercial Environment.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$3,315.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefit costs.
- (+\$1,108.0 / +2.9 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Stratospheric Ozone: Domestic program to align program funding with core CAA and AIM Act requirements and priority work.

Statutory Authority:

Title VI of the Clean Air Act and the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act.

Stratospheric Ozone: Multilateral Fund

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$8,326	\$8,326	\$0	-\$8,326
Total Budget Authority	\$8,326	\$8,326	\$0	-\$8,326

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Stratospheric Ozone: Multilateral Fund Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work under the Clean Air Act will be accomplished in other programs within the Clean Air Program Area. This will increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and allow for resources to focus on EPA's core mission.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$8,326.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate resources to support EPA participation in the Multilateral Fund in order to limit federal investment in lower priority activities that go beyond the EPA's core statutory requirements.

Statutory Authority:

Title VI of the Clean Air Act.

Compliance

Compliance Monitoring

Program Area: Compliance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$106,372</i>	<i>\$107,078</i>	<i>\$69,078</i>	<i>-\$38,000</i>
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$750	\$605	\$605	\$0
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$863	\$1,017	\$817	-\$200
Total Budget Authority	\$107,986	\$108,700	\$70,500	-\$38,200
Total Workyears	456.5	460.9	385.7	-75.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Compliance Monitoring Program directly supports all five pillars of the EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by promoting compliance with environmental laws through inspections and training, analysis and publication of data, and assisting states and regulated entities. Compliance monitoring activities, such as inspections, investigations, and data analysis, are conducted collaboratively by EPA and co-regulators (states, federally recognized tribes, and local and territorial governments) to determine if regulated entities are complying with environmental statutes, regulations, and permits.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Compliance Monitoring and Training for EPA, State, and Tribal Inspectors. In FY 2026, the Program will enable federal, state, and tribal inspectors to monitor and ensure compliance with environmental laws through the issuance of credentials, training, and guidance documents. Such activities directly supporting *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The EPA's National Enforcement Training Institute will deliver mission-critical courses to ensure the integrity of the Compliance Monitoring Program and meet the goals of the Comeback Initiatives. Recognizing the value of cooperative federalism, in FY 2026, the Program will focus its compliance monitoring activities on programs not delegated to the states and where EPA has a unique role or expertise, such as the NECIs and other issues of national significance like cybersecurity and emergency situations.

In FY 2024, the Program led or accompanied states and tribes on about 240 on-site inspections (200 included an evaluation of cybersecurity risks) and about 130 off-site compliance monitoring activities at community water systems, supporting the Increasing Compliance with Drinking Water Standards - NECI. In addition, the Program conducted over 180 on-site inspections in many

instances utilizing advanced monitoring tools, to efficiently identify sources of toxic air emissions, supporting the Reducing Air Toxics - NECI. In FY 2024, the Compliance Monitoring Program provided 733 trainings to over 21,000 participants, including EPA and external professionals, supporting all the NECIs. These inspections and compliance monitoring work directly advance *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

Collection and Publication of Compliance Data. In FY 2026, the Program will operate and maintain IT systems to collect and display Compliance Monitoring Program and permitting data, thereby enabling co-regulators, the public, and the regulated community to efficiently address noncompliance with environmental laws, promote clean air, land, and water, and advance all five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The Office of Enforcement Compliance Assurance (OECA's) current IT systems include: (1) the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) - EPA's national enforcement and compliance data system, (2) the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) - which makes critical enforcement and compliance information publicly available, (3) Report a Violation - which allows the public to notify EPA and its co-regulators of potential noncompliance, (4) the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Tool (NeT) - which implements the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule and facilitates efficient electronic permitting by EPA, states, and tribes and (5) the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Analytic Tool - which integrates national data related to PFAS and is used in support of the Addressing Exposure to PFAS - NECI. The Agency's centralized development of these and other IT systems saves EPA, states, and tribes significant resources. In FY 2026, OECA also will work with states and tribes to leverage advances in IT to make their Compliance Monitoring Programs more efficient, such as tools involving the use of artificial intelligence and advancing data analysis.

In FY 2024, OECA provided over 100 trainings on Compliance Monitoring Programs data systems and tools to about 8,000 participants from EPA, states, and tribes, enabling them to efficiently use data to mitigate environmental harm, in support of all the NECIs. These trainings advance *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*. The Program will continue planned FY 2025 and FY 2026 activities to further enhance the implementation of the Comeback Initiative.

Compliance Assistance to the Regulated Community and Co-Regulators. In FY 2026, the Program will collaborate with state, local, federal, tribal, industry, and third-party partners through technical, grant, and other assistance, supporting all five pillars of EPA's initiative. This assistance enables EPA and its partners to cost-effectively advance compliance with environmental laws. Specific compliance assistance programs include: (1) Compliance Advisors for Sustainable Water Systems - technical assistance to reduce noncompliance at small public water systems and small wastewater treatment facilities and support EPA's Increasing Compliance with Drinking Water Standards NECI and (2) Compliance Assistance Centers - web-based centers that help businesses, local governments, and federal facilities understand their sector-specific and multi-media regulatory requirements.

Work in this program supports the long-term performance goals. By September 30, 2026, 75 percent of EPA inspection reports to facilities within 70 days of inspections. In FY 2024, EPA increased the percentage of inspection reports provided to facilities within 70 days of inspection to 79 percent, above the target of 75 percent.

In FY 2024, through the Compliance Advisors for Sustainable Water Systems, the Program assisted 128 drinking water systems and 56 wastewater treatment facilities in 20 states and Puerto Rico and 37 tribes in returning to compliance, supporting *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*. Through the Compliance Assistance Centers, EPA supported over three million user sessions to help the regulated communities comply with environmental laws, advancing all five pillars of EPA's initiative.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$11,911.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$26,089.0 / -75.4 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and five pillars work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and returns to core compliance assistance work. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI); American Innovation and Manufacturing Act; Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Oil Pollution Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Rivers and Harbors Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Toxic Substances Control Act.

Congressional Priorities

Congressional Priorities

Program Area: Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$30,700</i>	<i>\$30,700</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$30,700</i>
Science & Technology	\$28,536	\$17,500	\$0	-\$17,500
Total Budget Authority	\$59,236	\$48,200	\$0	-\$48,200

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Water Quality Research and Support Grants Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

There are no resources requested for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$30,700.0) This program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

SDWA § 1442(e); Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; Food Quality Protection Act; Endangered Species Act; CWA § 104(b)(3).

Enforcement

Civil Enforcement
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$218,862	\$201,305	\$140,191	-\$61,114
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$619	\$635	\$435	-\$200
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$2,614	\$2,465	\$1,762	-\$703
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$45	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$222,140	\$204,405	\$142,388	-\$62,017
Total Workyears	959.1	971.0	789.3	-181.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Program investigates, develops, litigates, and settles administrative and judicial cases against serious violators of federal environmental laws. The Civil Enforcement Program directly supports the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through enforcement activities strategically implemented to ensure clean air, land, and water for every American, while advancing cooperative federalism by working in partnership with co-regulators.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program supports the Agency goal to reduce the number of open civil judicial cases more than 2.5 years old without a complaint filed. In FY 2024, EPA reduced the number of all referred no complaint filed (RNCF) civil judicial cases that are more than 2.5 years old to 57, exceeding the target of 95.

National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives. In FY 2026, EPA will focus enforcement efforts in support of all five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The Agency's enforcement actions address non-compliance that has the most substantial impacts to human health and the environment through the six *FY 2024 – FY 2027 National Enforcement Compliance Initiatives* (NECIs) (Updated March 12, 2025 by Acting Assistant Administrator Jeffrey A. Hall).⁴¹ EPA will focus its resources on these NECIs consistent with the Administrator's objectives to reduce toxic emissions in the air; ensure access to clean air, land and water; ensure chemical safety; stop illegal imports that put American companies that comply with the law at a competitive disadvantage; and improve compliance with our Nation's environmental laws while

⁴¹ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-03/necimemo-20250312.pdf>.

enhancing shared accountability between EPA, states and tribes with authorized environmental programs.

Direct Implementation. Recognizing the importance of cooperative federalism and the role of states and tribes as the primary implementers where authorized by EPA to implement the federal statutes, will focus civil enforcement resources largely on direct implementation responsibilities. EPA is responsible for direct implementation of programs that are not delegable or where a state or tribe has not sought or obtained the authority to implement a particular program (or program component). Examples of programs that are not delegable to states include the Clean Air Act (CAA) mobile source program, pesticide labeling and registration under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and enforcement in Indian Country. Examples of programs for which most states have not sought authority include the CAA Risk Management Program and the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting program. The Agency will carry out its statutory oversight responsibilities and address significant violations that a state has not timely or appropriately addressed and that impact other states. This includes matters affecting multiple states to ensure consistency and a level playing field and will take action in instances when a state or tribe lacks adequate equipment, resources, an emergency situation, or expertise to address an environmental enforcement problem. The Program will provide enforcement assistance as requested by a state or may take the lead in an action at the state's request.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$21,560.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$39,554.0 / -180.8 FTE) This program change aligns funding with core statutory requirements and five pillars work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and refocuses enforcement efforts. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI); American Innovation and Manufacturing Act; Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Oil Pollution Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Toxic Substances Control Act.

Criminal Enforcement
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$65,595</i>	<i>\$60,041</i>	<i>\$30,472</i>	<i>-\$29,569</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$9,890	\$7,944	\$3,999	-\$3,945
Total Budget Authority	\$75,485	\$67,985	\$34,471	-\$33,514
Total Workyears	276.0	262.8	190.8	-72.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. EPA's Criminal Enforcement Program enforces the Nation's environmental laws through targeted investigation of criminal conduct, committed by individual and corporate defendants, that threatens public health and the environment. EPA's criminal enforcement agents (Special Agents) investigate violations of environmental statutes and associated violations of Title 18 of the United States Code such as fraud, conspiracy, false statements, and obstruction of justice.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program will directly support implementation of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2026, the Program will focus its resources on the most egregious cases (those involving the most significant and direct human health and environmental harms) while balancing its overall case load across all environmental statutes. Prosecutions will focus on knowing violations of the environmental laws by those who seek to profit from those violations. The Criminal Enforcement Program will carefully coordinate with the Civil Enforcement Program and State partners to ensure the program uses the most appropriate enforcement tool effectively in the most egregious cases.

The Agency will perform targeted investigations of violations of environmental statutes and associated violations of Title 18 of the United States Code to protect human health and the environment with a specific emphasis in the following areas: 1) interdiction of illegal imports, distribution, and use of unregistered and toxic pesticides; and, 2) the investigation of conduct that threatens immediate harm, including sabotage to critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, reckless air and toxics exposures, and fraudulent lead-based paint and asbestos remediation, and 3) addressing other violations that undermine American business interests and competitiveness and allow foreign interests to profit off of polluting America, including the importation of non-compliant engines and vehicles.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$12,513.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$17,056.0 / -63.5 FTE) This program change aligns program funding with the Administration's policies to refocus enforcement efforts and realize efficiencies. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to use taxpayer dollars responsibly and to eliminate wasteful spending.

Statutory Authority:

Title 18 of the U.S.C.; 18 U.S.C. § 3063; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Clean Water Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Clean Air Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Ocean Dumping Act; Rivers and Harbors Act; Pollution Prosecution Act of 1990; American Innovation and Manufacturing Act.

Environmental Justice
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$109,912</i>	<i>\$94,124</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$94,124</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$7,283	\$5,876	\$0	-\$5,876
Total Budget Authority	\$117,196	\$100,000	\$0	-\$100,000
Total Workyears	173.6	79.3	0.0	-79.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and focuses resources on EPA's core mission. This change support the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative and advances Presidential Executive Order 14151 *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* and Executive Order 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*. All statutory work will be accomplished in Enforcement programs or other applicable Agency programs.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the EJ Program is proposed for elimination as the Agency returns to its core statutory requirements and *Pillar I: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$94,124.0 / -76.3 FTE) The Environmental Justice Program is proposed for elimination to align with Administration priorities in order to unleash American energy and economic growth and refocus EPA on its core mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2).

NEPA Implementation

Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$21,664</i>	<i>\$19,898</i>	<i>\$21,061</i>	<i>\$1,163</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$21,664	\$19,898	\$21,061	\$1,163
Total Workyears	79.7	89.0	106.9	17.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA implements its statutory authority through various permitting and environmental review programs, which directly support EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. EPA's Office of Federal Activities (OFA) primary statutory responsibilities include the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), §309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), and Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41). OFA serves as EPA's central point of contact for permitting and environmental review improvements and reform. These efforts include coordination agencywide, across 13 other federal agencies, the Permitting Council, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and the Office of Management and Budget. OFA supports EPA efforts across program and regional offices and with state and tribal co-regulators to implement permitting and environmental review best practices, coordination, streamlining efficiencies, national oversight, and automation.⁴² EPA works with its federal partners to ensure projects are authorized and/or approved, while safeguarding the environment in support of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. OFA's work aligns with several of pillars under this initiative.

OFA's implementation goals include:

- Protection of the environment and human health (e.g., ensuring quality permitting and environmental reviews);
- Streamlining, synchronizing, and preparing permitting and environmental review processes for technology applications and alignment;
- Education and empowerment of permit writers, applicants, and environmental review practitioners to complete permitting and environmental review processes better, faster, and/or more cost effectively;
- Enhancement and synchronizing coordination among program/sector permitting and environmental review elements;
- Building capacity, continuity, and institutionalization of improved and reformed permitting and environmental review processes; and
- Promotion and testing innovations in permitting and environmental reviews.

⁴² Per the Presidential Memoranda on Updating Technology for the 21st Century, EPA will maximize the use of technology in permitting and environmental reviews for infrastructure projects of all kinds.

NEPA

Pursuant to NEPA and §309 of the CAA, EPA's NEPA Implementation Program coordinates and comments on the environmental review of major federal actions and ensures the §309 draft and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) comment letters are made publicly available. The Program guides EPA's compliance with NEPA, and other related statutes and executive orders. The Program manages the official EIS filing system for all federal EISs, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CEQ.⁴³ EPA uses e-NEPA, a web-based system, as the official EIS filing system for federal agencies and EIS clearinghouse to meet the CEQ MOU commitments. All §309 comment letters are publicly available on e-NEPA. The Program also operates, uses, and promotes NEPAassist, a publicly available geographic information system to help users (EPA, other federal agencies, and the public) with environmental reviews under NEPA. The Program also is responsible for managing the review of Environmental Impact Assessments of non-governmental activities in Antarctica, in accordance with the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will focus its reviews on areas where EPA has statutory authority and subject matter expertise. EPA will support and underpin *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* to streamline processes for environmental reviews, by continuing to work with the Office of Management and Budget, CEQ, and other federal agencies to evaluate ways to coordinate, streamline, and improve the NEPA process. EPA will work with our federal partners to ensure projects are being approved while safeguarding our environment in support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3*.

It is crucial that EPA have funds to update and maintain existing NEPA IT platforms which support and provide the foundation to advance Artificial Intelligence (AI) progress for *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*. This includes eNEPA, NEPADS, and NEPAassist per MOU with CEQ. The annual operation and maintenance for these IT platforms has increased due to upgrades and CEQ-requested improvements in features. In addition, the recent update to CEQ regulations has prompted CEQ and EPA to pursue additional user inputs to the e-NEPA platform. This includes expanding document searchability and implementing an Application Programming Interface to enhance its functionality by enabling other websites to interface with the records and files stored in the database. The latter will allow for potential integration with the permitting portal as outlined in 42 U.S.C. § 4336d. Improvements also include a feature to enable interested parties to request and download the entire (or a subset) EIS database, which will maximize the use of technology in environmental reviews for infrastructure projects of all kinds to advance *Pillar 3* and *Pillar 4*. As a result, in FY 2026, EPA requests an additional \$1.2 million to support this effort.

EPA supports efforts to ensure transparency, efficiency, and accountability accordance in accordance with the FAST-41.⁴⁴ The Program will partner with federal agencies on proposed

⁴³ Memorandum of Agreement No. 1 Between the Council on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, October 1977.

⁴⁴ For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-114publ94/html/PLAW-114publ94.htm>.

projects throughout the NEPA process to provide expertise and recommendations and focus efforts on early engagement prior to the publication of the draft EIS. Early engagement by stakeholders in the NEPA process can support efficiencies and improved project outcomes. Additionally, per Executive Order 14154, EPA is updating the Agency's NEPA procedures. In FY 2026, EPA will provide technical assistance to CEQ and other agencies to implement their new NEPA procedures. EPA will develop internal guidance and training on the new NEPA procedures to promote a streamlined approach to quality environmental review processes across federal agencies.

Permitting Best Practices and Reform

The Program directly and indirectly advances *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance, Pillar 3, and Pillar 4* through implementation of permitting best practices and reform goals including: 1) FAST-41's covered and Transparency projects underpinning U.S. critical infrastructure needs including energy and mining; 2) Agency priorities for permit and environmental review reform and compatibility with 21st Century technology (for AI/automation); 3) addressing statutory and/or priority crosscutting permitting and environmental review topics identified as critical for infrastructure development (*e.g.*, mining, critical minerals, energy, data and quantum processing/manufacturing, etc.); and 4) coordination and support with other federal, state, and tribal co-regulating agencies to improve, streamline, and automate permitting and environmental reviews.

EPA's FY 2026 Permitting Best Practices and Reform Activities and Performance Plan includes:

- Support FAST-41 covered and *Transparency* projects, including national priority sectors through permitting best practices that ensure project certainty and transparency;
- Enhance EPA's tracking tools for permit and environmental reviews across priority sectors;
- Prepare and support transition of EPA's major permitting programs into 21st Century automation and AI-ready form;
- Strengthen engagement and coordination with co-regulating partners to use AI/automation, which enhances permit quality, timelines, and integrity;
- Continue development and accessibility of best practices resource libraries, standard operating procedures, and training to support crosscutting permitting topics (*e.g.*, Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act coordination) as well as expand crosscutting topical and regional advisory support (*e.g.*, mining, energy, and permit innovation/pilots); and
- Pilot and evaluate new permitting approaches (*e.g.*, such as new permitting under The Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act, permit by rule, etc.).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$4,137.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$5,300.0 / +17.9 FTE) This program change will build core capacity for the Program to streamline and accelerate permitting to unleash American energy.

Statutory Authority:

NEPA; CAA § 309; Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act; Clean Water Act § 511(c); Endangered Species Act; National Historic Preservation Act; Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act; Fishery Conservation and Management Act; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act.

Ensure Clean Water

Marine Pollution

Program Area: Ensure Clean Water

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$9,561</i>	<i>\$8,494</i>	<i>\$8,954</i>	<i>\$460</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$9,561	\$8,494	\$8,954	\$460
Total Workyears	27.8	27.4	29.8	2.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Marine Pollution Program aims to: 1) protect human health and the marine environment from pollution through implementation of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) permitting, site designation, and site management and monitoring program; 2) address incidental discharges from vessels, including sewage, under the Clean Water Act Section 312; and 3) reduce marine litter in the Nation's waterways and oceans, and improve trash capture and source reduction activities across the country, through the Trash Free Waters Program.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

MPRSA Program

The MPRSA regulates the transportation and disposition of any material in the ocean unless expressly excluded under MPRSA. In FY 2026, EPA will evaluate MPRSA permitting inquiries and requests for the transportation and disposition or release of all materials except dredged materials and, as appropriate, issue MPRSA emergency, research, general, and special permits for all materials other than dredged material. EPA will administer MPRSA general permits (some of which require consultation, for example, to ensure applicability or to identify an appropriate disposal location at sea) for the burial at sea of cremated or non-cremated human remains, the transport and disposal of vessels at sea, the transport of target vessels for ocean disposal by the U.S. Navy for the Sink Exercise Program (SINKEX), the ocean disposal of man-made ice piers by National Science Foundation in Antarctica, and the ocean disposal of marine mammal and turtle carcasses.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses EPA's environmental criteria when evaluating requests for MPRSA permits and MPRSA federal project authorizations for the ocean dumping of dredged material (e.g., to support the expansion of ports and harbors or maintenance of navigation channels). All dredged material MPRSA permits and federal project authorizations are subject to

EPA review and written concurrence, and EPA will continue to work expeditiously on these actions.

In FY 2026, EPA will manage approximately one hundred EPA-designated MPRSA ocean sites, conduct oceanographic surveys at approximately three to five EPA-designated MPRSA ocean sites to ensure that MPRSA-regulated activities will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health or the environment, to verify that unanticipated adverse effects are not occurring from past or continued use of the site, and to ensure that terms of the MPRSA permit/federal project authorization are met. EPA will continue to evaluate lessons learned from each survey and review and update, as necessary, MPRSA-required site management and monitoring plans established for each EPA-designated site. EPA will perform its MPRSA responsibilities to support new port and navigation infrastructure and energy projects. EPA will evaluate additional requests to designate new MPRSA sites and/or modify (*i.e.*, expand the capacity of) existing EPA-designated MPRSA sites (through rulemaking) for the disposal of dredged material (sediment) removed from the bottoms of the navigable waters to maintain the navigation channels and coastal ports of the U.S. marine transportation system. EPA will work to develop technical/regulatory tools to improve MPRSA permitting efficiency, site designation, and site management and monitoring. EPA will provide training for new Chief Scientist candidates and existing Chief Scientists who are responsible for designing and implementing ocean monitoring surveys to meet MPRSA requirements.

Vessels Program

EPA is responsible for developing regulations under the Clean Water Act to address vessel incidental discharges. The vessel regulations help protect the environment from harmful pollutants such as sewage, metals, and aquatic nuisance species. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to work with states on the designation of vessel sewage no-discharge zones as needed. EPA also will continue to work with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) on implementation of Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) regulations including but not limited to discharge standards, implementation standards, as well as guidance for no-discharge zones and emergency orders. Additionally, in FY 2026, EPA will continue working on the development of ballast water discharge regulations for vessels of the Armed Forces with the Navy. EPA will work to maintain national program capacity by training EPA staff and developing additional technical/regulatory support tools to improve implementation. EPA also will continue to provide support to the USCG in their role as the head of delegation at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with the responsibility to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for worldwide shipping. Lastly, in FY 2026, EPA will continue to conduct research on the management of ballast water in the Great Lakes consistent with congressional direction, which supports implementation and future evaluation of the regulation for possible amendments as envisioned by Congress in VIDA.

Trash Free Waters Program

The FY 2026 request will support trash prevention, capture, removal and research programs and projects across the United States tied to water quality and waste management goals, as well as to help implement the Section 301 strategy and Section 132 plan under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act.⁴⁵ This Program provides technical and limited financial support to states, tribes, municipalities and

⁴⁵ For more information, please see: <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ224/PLAW-116publ224.pdf>.

other organizations across the country to achieve these goals, with a special focus on EPA-designated place-based program locations.

In FY 2026, the Program will support regional, state, and local strategies and plans that articulate an array of initiatives and projects to effectively address the trash problem in that geographical area; support appropriate targeted interventions in particular locations that focus on the specific nature of the trash problem in the local area; and replicate the most effective approaches to improving water quality.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$702.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs
- (+\$1,162.0 / +2.4 FTE) This increase of resources and FTE builds program capacity, particularly in areas related to water infrastructure support, oversight, and permitting. This investment includes \$454.0 thousand in associated payroll.

Statutory Authority:

Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (Ocean Dumping Act); Clean Water Act; Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act of 2006; Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987; Save Our Seas 2.0 Act.

Surface Water Protection

Program Area: Ensure Clean Water

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$224,493	\$216,798	\$214,000	-\$2,798
Total Budget Authority	\$224,493	\$216,798	\$214,000	-\$2,798
Total Workyears	972.0	959.5	990.0	30.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Surface Water Protection Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. The Program, under the Clean Water Act (CWA), directly supports efforts to protect, improve, and restore the quality of the Nation's oceans, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and streams. EPA works with states and tribes to make continued progress toward clean water goals. EPA works with states and tribes to make continued progress toward clean water goals.

EPA uses a suite of regulatory and non-regulatory programs to protect and improve water quality and ecosystem health in the Nation's watersheds. In partnership with other federal agencies, tribes, states, territories, local governments, and non-governmental partners, EPA collaborates with public and private sector stakeholders nationally and locally to establish innovative, broad-scale, and location-appropriate programs to achieve the Agency's goals. This Program also supports implementation of water quality standards, effluent guidelines, impaired waters listing, water quality monitoring and assessment, water quality certification, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting, and management and oversight of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of the EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnerships*.

Water Quality Criteria and Standards. Water quality criteria and standards provide the scientific and regulatory foundation for water quality protection programs under the CWA. EPA will provide new and revised national recommended ambient water quality criteria as required by CWA Section 304. EPA will work expeditiously to review and act on state and tribal submitted WQS within the CWA 303(c) mandated timeframes of 60 and 90 days.

Effluent Limitations Guidelines (ELGs). As required under the CWA, EPA will continue to annually review industrial sources of pollution. In FY 2026, EPA will seek to finalize 1) a proposal and final deregulatory rulemaking to reconsider the supplemental steam electric 2024 final rule and several direct final rules to extend compliance dates, 2) a proposal and final deregulatory rulemaking to modernize an outdated regulation for oil and gas beneficial reuse for agriculture and wildlife, and 3) several rulemakings related to PFAS. EPA also will begin work on other deregulatory actions in the ELG Program per Executive Order 14219.⁴⁶

Biosolids. EPA will continue to implement the Biosolids Program as required under CWA Section 405, including reviewing the biosolids regulations at least every two years to identify additional toxic pollutants and promulgate regulations for such pollutants consistent with the CWA, conducting risk assessments for high priority chemicals, and considering the management of risks. EPA also will continue to develop tools to conduct risk assessments for chemicals and pathogens found in biosolids.

Impaired Waters Listings and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). EPA will continue the ongoing cooperative federalism partnership with states to implement the requirements of CWA Section 303(d). EPA will work with states, territories, tribes, and other partners to identify impaired waters and develop and implement TMDLs for listed impaired waterbodies. In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to support states, tribes, and territories in electronically reporting CWA Section 303(d) and Section 305(b) assessment conclusions through ATTAINS to track improvements in impaired waters.⁴⁷

Monitoring and National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS). The CWA Section 106 Program, including the Monitoring Initiative, is proposed for elimination in this budget, which will empower states to take full ownership of their environmental programs. EPA staff and extramural resources will be deployed to help states, territories, and tribes implement state-scale statistically representative monitoring of the condition of the Nation's waters and fish which supports CWA Section 305(b).

Managing Nonpoint Sources of Pollution. Nonpoint source pollution is the single largest contributor to water quality impairment in the United States. The CWA Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Management Grant Program is proposed for elimination in this budget, which will empower states to take full ownership of their environmental programs. EPA staff and extramural resources will be deployed to support state, tribal, and territorial efforts to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. EPA will provide enhanced technical assistance for states and forge and strengthen strategic partnerships with other EPA, federal agency programs, and private industry groups (particularly American Agriculture) to reduce nonpoint source pollution and promote other benefits.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/eg>.

⁴⁷ For more information please see: <https://www.epa.gov/tmdl>.

⁴⁸ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/nps>.

Waters of the United States. EPA and the Department of the Army published a final revised definition for the “Waters of the United States” rule in January 2023 which was then amended with the Conforming Rule (effective in September 2023) as a result of the *Sackett* decision. The agencies signed a memorandum in March 2025 to provide clarity post-*Sackett* and started early engagement for rulemaking. The finalization and implementation of the rule will occur in FY 2026 and EPA will continue to develop resources to further support field implementation practices. This work will help reduce uncertainty for landowners and potential permit-seekers, as well as reduce regulatory burden and overreach.

Water Quality Certification. EPA will continue to support the development of tools and resources with the federal licensing and permitting agencies as well as the certifying states, territories, and tribes and EPA when certifying on behalf of tribes. Section 401 of the CWA gives states and authorized tribes the authority to address potential adverse water quality impacts of discharges from federally permitted or licensed projects that may affect the “Waters of the United States.”

Water Quality Programs. The NPDES Program protects human health and the environment by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement the NPDES Program that helps control point source discharges through permitting and pretreatment programs. NPDES permits allow EPA and the states to set appropriate requirements for wastewater and stormwater discharges to protect water quality and public health.⁴⁹ EPA will issue general permits where appropriate to continue to reduce the backlog of permits. After program improvements, between March 2018 and the end of June 2024, the backlog of EPA-issued new and existing NPDES permits decreased from 106 to 10 and 547 to 235, respectively.

Water Reuse. To assure that communities have safe, reliable sources of water that are resilient to drought, flooding, and population growth, EPA is collaborating with a broad group of stakeholders, including states, local governments, and non-governmental organizations to advance water reuse nationwide. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to support the National Water Reuse Action Plan and the Federal Water Reuse Interagency Working Group. The Agency will develop and pursue actions that prioritize advancing technical, financial, and scientific knowledge on water reuse to ensure its safety across a range of uses and applications.⁵

Infrastructure. EPA will continue its support of the Nation’s infrastructure. This Program supports the policy and fiduciary oversight of the CWSRF Program, which has provided more than \$180 billion in low-interest loans and additional subsidization to help finance wastewater treatment facilities and other water quality projects.⁶ In FY 2026 EPA will continue funding organization that provide technical assistance to communities access financing, support decentralized systems, and provide reliable, objective information on proven innovative, and alternative technologies for decentralized and centralized alternative wastewater treatment.

⁴⁹ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes>.

⁵ For more information, please see <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse>.

⁶ For more information, please see <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$2,798.0 / + 30.5 FTE) This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act of 2006; Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987; Save Our Seas 2.0 Act.

Ensure Safe Water

Beach / Fish Programs
Program Area: Ensure Safe Water

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$1,696</i>	<i>\$1,571</i>	<i>\$1,819</i>	<i>\$248</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$1,696	\$1,571	\$1,819	\$248
Total Workyears	1.7	2.6	2.7	0.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Beach/Fish Program provides up-to-date science, guidance, technical assistance, and nationwide information to state, tribal, and federal agencies to protect human health of beachgoers from contaminated recreation waters, as well as recreational and subsistence fishers from consumption of contaminated fish.

The Agency implements the following activities under this Program:

- Develop and disseminate methodologies and guidance that states and tribes use to sample, analyze, and assess fish tissue in support of waterbody specific or regional consumption advisories.
- Develop and disseminate guidance that states and tribes can use to communicate the risks of consuming contaminated fish.
- Gather, analyze, and disseminate information to the public and health professionals that informs decisions on when and where to fish, and how to prepare fish caught by recreational and subsistence fishers.
- Provide best practices on public notification of beach closures and advisories.
- Develop tools such as the sanitary survey app, predictive modeling, and improved analytical methods.
- Maintain the E-Beaches IT system to collect data required by the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Help (BEACH) Act.

In addition to providing technical support to states and tribes on beach monitoring and data reporting, these programs are part of EPA's ongoing effort to increase public awareness of the risks to human health associated with contact with recreational water contaminated with pathogens or harmful algal blooms, and with eating locally caught fish that contain pollutants such as mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at levels of concern. These efforts are directly linked to the Agency's mission to protect human health.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to:

- Update science and public policy to assess and manage the risks and benefits of fish consumption.
- Provide analytical tools and collect data associated with beach monitoring.
- Provide technical support to states in the operation of their fish consumption advisories and beach monitoring programs.
- Build program capacity, particularly in areas related to water infrastructure support, resilience to national security threats, and regulatory reviews.
- Continue National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) analysis of fish tissue for contaminants including PFAS.
- Continue reporting PFAS levels in fish collected nationwide.

In FY 2026, EPA also will make investments in providing up-to-date science, guidance, and technical assistance so states and tribes have beach and fish advisory programs that effectively protect public health. This information allows Americans to make informed choices about recreational activities in local waters and eating locally caught fish. EPA will maintain the E-Beaches IT system and make updates if needed.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$147.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$395.0 / +0.1 FTE) This program change builds program capacity, particularly in areas related to water infrastructure support, resilience to national security threats, and regulatory reviews.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act, § 101, 104, and 303.

Drinking Water Programs

Program Area: Ensure Safe Water

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$123,122</i>	<i>\$115,429</i>	<i>\$124,181</i>	<i>\$8,752</i>
Science & Technology	\$4,111	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$127,233	\$120,129	\$128,881	\$8,752
Total Workyears	499.2	492.5	539.4	46.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Safe drinking water is critical for protecting human health and the economic vitality of the Nation. Approximately 320 million Americans rely on public water systems to deliver safe tap water that complies with national drinking water standards.⁵⁰ EPA's Drinking Water Program is based on a multiple-barrier and source-to-tap approach to protect public health from contaminants in drinking water.⁵¹ EPA protects public health through: Underground Injection Control (UIC) programs; promulgation of new or revised National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs); capacity building, technical assistance, and financial assistance programs to enhance public water system capacity; source water assessment and protection; resources for states and tribe to support water infrastructure financing; addressing drinking water contaminants; and ensuring water systems are more resilient to threats.⁵²

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of the EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative along with *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to support the Agency's national drinking water priorities, including: addressing lead and emerging contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS); improving resilience in drinking water systems to address natural hazards and human threats, including by enhancing cybersecurity; and improving drinking water access and water quality across the Nation.

⁵⁰ For more information on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/FED), please see: <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/drink/sdwisfed/index.cfm>.

⁵¹ For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/guide_swppocket_2002_updated.pdf.

⁵² For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

Water Emergencies. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to work to integrate preparation for emergencies and natural disasters into water programs, policies, and rulemaking processes, and consult and partner with states, tribes, territories, local governments, community groups, businesses, and other federal agencies to strengthen the adaptive capacity and increase the resilience of the Nation. The Agency is requesting resources to support regulatory analysis, development and capacity building, and technical assistance for state, tribal, and local communities to address drinking water emergencies, which could include addressing contaminants such as lead and PFAS.

Public Water System Supervision (PWSS). EPA oversees state drinking water programs by completing the annual PWSS Program review for each primacy agency as required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Information gained during the program reviews, which occur throughout the year, includes an analysis of the completion of sanitary surveys by primacy agencies and an evaluation of whether each primacy agency is implementing its programs in accordance with SDWA. The annual program reviews directly support the work of the states and the Agency to reduce the number of community water systems in noncompliance with health-based standards. As of March 2025, 3,127 of the 3,508 systems with health-based violations on September 30, 2017, have been returned to compliance (*i.e.*, 381 systems are still in violation). The Agency is continuing to work with states on completing the development of the Drinking Water State-Federal-Tribal Information Exchange System (DW-SFTIES) as the long-term replacement for the Safe Drinking Water Information System for states (SDWIS-State) in FY 2026.

Water Infrastructure. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to support improvements to the Nation's drinking water infrastructure, including through technical assistance for systems to identify infrastructure needs and access funding. The Agency will support activities to leverage and encourage public and private collaborative efforts and investments. Every four years, EPA is required to conduct the Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA) by working with states and community water systems to estimate the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) eligible needs of systems by state over the next 20 years.⁵³ By law, EPA uses this information as part of the formula for state allotments of the DWSRF. In FY 2026, the Agency will collect data and begin data analysis. The FY 2026 request includes up to \$1.5 million set aside from the DWSRF to ensure there are consistent and reliable resources to fund this important work.

Drinking Water Program Implementation. In FY 2026, the Agency will support continued work with states to implement requirements for all NPDWRs to ensure that systems install, operate, and maintain appropriate levels of treatment and effectively manage their drinking water plants and distribution systems. The program activities include developing guidance, tools, and trainings on rulemaking, work with water utilities to minimize exposure to lead, and focus on the reduction of the number of community water systems with health-based violations.

⁵³ For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSA_September2023_Final.pdf

Drinking Water Standards. To assure the American people that their water is safe to drink, EPA's drinking water regulatory program monitors for a broad array of contaminants, evaluates whether contaminants are a public health concern, and regulates contaminants when there is a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for persons served by public water systems. In FY 2026, the Agency will review and update regulations, conduct human health effect assessments for water contaminants, and provide technical assistance to states and tribes.⁵⁴

Source Water Protection. Protecting source water from contamination helps reduce treatment costs and may avoid or defer the need for complex treatment and/or costly capital improvements. In FY 2026 EPA will continue to partner with states, federal counterparts, drinking water utilities, and other stakeholders to identify and address current and potential threats to sources of drinking water.⁵⁵

Underground Injection Control (UIC). To safeguard current and future underground sources of drinking water from contamination, the UIC Program regulates the use of injection wells that place fluids underground for storage, disposal, enhanced recovery of oil and gas, and minerals recovery. Protecting groundwater requires proper permitting, construction, operation, and closure of injection wells. In FY 2026, EPA will continue supporting Class VI UIC permitting and providing technical assistance to states to improve implementation of UIC programs and help more states pursue primacy.⁵⁶

Water Reuse. To assure a safe and reliable source of water that is resilient to drought, flooding, and population growth, EPA is working to advance water reuse nationwide. This work is being done in collaboration with a broad group of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, states, tribes, and local governments. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to support the National Water Reuse Action Plan and the Federal Water Reuse Interagency Working Group. The Agency will develop and pursue actions that prioritize advancing technical and scientific knowledge on water reuse to ensure its safety across a range of uses and applications. EPA also will pursue actions that provide technical and financial tools for stakeholders to ensure the accessibility of water reuse.⁵⁷

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$248.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

⁵⁴ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-regulations>.

⁵⁵ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>.

⁵⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/uic>.

⁵⁷ For more information, please see <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse>.

- (+\$9,000.0 / +43.9 FTE) This program change will advance water emergency preparedness. The additional funding will help response efforts through building internal capacity and the external capacity of state and local governments, as well as water and wastewater systems, to respond to water emergencies.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act; Clean Water Act.

Geographic Programs

Geographic Program: Chesapeake Bay

Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$107,846</i>	<i>\$92,000</i>	<i>\$92,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$107,846	\$92,000	\$92,000	\$0
Total Workyears	36.9	38.7	41.2	2.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Chesapeake Bay (the Bay) is the largest estuary in the United States, with a drainage area that covers six states and the District of Columbia in the Mid-Atlantic and is home to a growing population of over 18 million people. The Bay serves as a vital resource for economic and ecological activities in the region and is treasured for its vast assortment of recreational and educational experiences. The Chesapeake Bay Program (the Program) is a unique, regional partnership which operates under the authority of Section 117 of the Clean Water Act and is led by the Chesapeake Executive Council, which includes the seven Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions (Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia), the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and EPA (representing the federal agencies).

The Program's priorities include enhancing water quality, restoring wetlands and riparian forest buffers, ensuring the longevity of fisheries and protecting habitats for regional ecological and economic security. In December 2024, the Chesapeake Executive Council charged the program with revising the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* by December 31, 2025, and the program also was directed to develop a simplified and streamlined structure for the partnership.⁵⁸

Another critical element of the program's activities is driven by the landmark Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) that was established in 2010 to satisfy a requirement of the Clean Water Act and EPA commitments under Court-approved consent decrees for Virginia and the District of Columbia dating to the late 1990s.⁵⁹ The Bay TMDL recognized the program goal to have all nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution control practices in place needed to restore the water quality standards of the Bay and its tidal rivers.

EPA directs more than three-fourths of the appropriated funding to grants and cooperative agreements to fulfill the requirements of the program under Section 117 of the Clean Water Act. The seven signatory jurisdictions are supported through grant programs that are designed to help them meet the goals of the Agreement and the Bay TMDL by expanding each jurisdiction's

⁵⁸ The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (2014) as amended in 2022, available at: <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/Chesapeake-Bay-Watershed-Agreement-Amended.pdf>.

⁵⁹ The Chesapeake Bay TMDL, available at: <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl/>.

implementation, monitoring, regulatory, accountability, and enforcement capabilities, with particular emphasis on activities to reduce nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay. Additional grant programs are targeted to local governments and non-governmental organizations to protect, restore, and enhance ecological resources, and to reduce nutrient and sediment loads through key sectors like land development and agriculture. Lastly, EPA awards grants and cooperative agreements to support implementation of best management practices, coordinate the activities of the partnership, monitor water quality, coordinate data collection, scientific research, and modeling, and fulfill other partnership priorities as emerging needs arise. Combined with these grants, interagency agreements and contracts ensure the Program's restoration efforts incorporate expertise from throughout the watershed and the executive branch.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue supporting implementation of the Agreement's goals until new standards are finalized. As of 2024, 18 outcomes in the Agreement are considered to be on course or have been completed, 12 are considered off course, and one is uncertain.⁶⁰ With respect to the Bay TMDL, the seven Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions have reported that, as of 2024, best management practices to reduce pollution are in place to achieve 52 percent of the nitrogen reductions, 92 percent of the phosphorus reductions, and 100 percent of the sediment reductions needed to attain applicable water quality standards when compared to the 2009 baseline established in the Bay TMDL.

While the 2014 Agreement does not sunset, many of the Agreement's outcomes established target milestone dates of 2025. To address this, in 2022, the Program's Executive Council, charged the program with recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025.⁶¹ A broad program evaluation was conducted between FY 2023 and FY 2024 and determined that three interrelated areas of program activity are necessary to critically assess further. Throughout FY 2025 and early in FY 2026, in response to the 2024 Executive Committee charge, the program will revise the vision, principles, preamble, goals and outcomes. Additionally, the Program will execute evidence building activities to determine if improvements to simplify and streamline program structure and process are necessary. Any recommendations for the updated structure and process will be incorporated into the Chesapeake Bay Program's governance framework by June 2026. It is anticipated that these activities will result in a strong partnership committed to the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, with some amended language.

The Program and its engaged network of jurisdictional, federal, academic, non-governmental organizations will continue to address existing goals of the Agreement, while also seeking improvements in effectiveness. Additional funds will be invested in monitoring, on the ground

⁶⁰ For details on progress of individual outcomes, please review: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/charting-a-course-to-2025> and <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/2023-bay-barometer>.

⁶¹ For more information, please see <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/how-we-are-organized>.

efforts to implement a wetlands strategy and increasing actions to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+2.5 FTE) This program FTE increase is to advance restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay. This is necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act, Section 117; Estuary Restoration Act of 2000; Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014; Clean Air Act; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Pub. L. 118-42.

Geographic Program: Gulf of America

Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$23,160</i>	<i>\$25,524</i>	<i>\$25,524</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$23,160	\$25,524	\$25,524	\$0
Total Workyears	18.5	17.0	22.7	5.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Gulf of America is an iconic and important body of water, providing ecological, economic, cultural, and recreational opportunities for millions of residents and visitors to the region. This body of water is one of the most abundant oil and gas regions in the world, providing roughly 14 percent of America's crude-oil production and a wealth of natural gas. EPA is committed to protecting the 1,630 miles of this watershed, comprised of a vibrant marine ecosystem made from 33 rivers draining from 31 U.S. states. Through the Gulf of America Division (GAD), EPA is committed to helping develop voluntary, nonregulatory actions and public-private solutions to improve water and habitat quality, benefiting approximately 16 million Americans.⁶²

EPA fulfills its statutory obligations of safeguarding human health and the environment to ensure cleaner, safer, and healthier air, land, and water for every American in ways consistent with the economic and ecological well-being of the region. The GAD competitively funds projects, and uses interagency agreements and strategic partnerships to accomplish its mission. All GAD projects and partnership work are linked to one or more of the following performance areas: 1) improve and/or restore water quality; 2) protect, enhance, or restore coastal and upland habitats; 3) promote and support environmental awareness to inhabitants of the Gulf watershed; and 4) support the demonstration of programs, projects, and tools which strengthen comprehensive planning for storm events. The GAD provides significant leadership and coordination among state and local governments, the private sector, tribes, scientists, and citizens to align efforts that address the challenges facing the communities and ecosystems of the Gulf Coast.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the Agency will continue supporting specific actions and solutions designed to improve the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of America region through

⁶² For more information please see: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/visualizations/2019/demo/coastline-america-print.pdf>.

cooperative efforts and partnerships. Specifically, the Agency will address nutrient reduction on working lands with targeted habitats. Additionally, GAD will center its focus on sustainable agriculture and resilience in the farming community. Through infrastructure practices such as artificial reefs, riparian buffers, prairies, and living shorelines, GAD will continue to build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities. The GAD projects are competitively funded and coordinated with and complement ongoing Resource and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, Revived Economies (RESTORE) and Natural Resource Damages Assessment (NRDA) activities related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The GAD directly funds assistance agreements, interagency agreements and partnerships, which support the following activities:

Environmental Awareness

Environmental Awareness efforts are vital to accomplishing the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment, and to meet the GAD-specific goals of promoting healthy and resilient coastal communities. In FY 2026, the GAD will continue to develop programs, establish partnerships, and competitively fund projects that increase environmental literacy. The GAD will enhance experiential learning opportunities for Gulf residents and visitors alike. GAD will evaluate success of this work by tracking the number of participants involved in environmental literacy and stewardship activities. Recipients of competitively funded projects are required to report on this data quarterly and personnel must input direct engagement efforts into the GAD's quarterly metrics tracking database.

Comprehensive Planning for Storm Events

Coastal and inland communities continuously face a range of natural and man-made challenges, including storm risk, land and habitat loss, depletion of natural resources, compromised water quality, and resulting economic instability. In FY 2026, the GAD will continue to emphasize robust partnerships and extensive community engagement to strengthen coastal and near-shore community preparedness. Through actions, activities, partnerships, and projects, communities throughout the Gulf will be better prepared for natural disasters or other emergencies.

GAD will evaluate success of this work by tracking the number of communities informed on vulnerabilities and risks and those with programs, projects, and tools developed and/or demonstrated to identify vulnerabilities and to manage risks as a way of improving the economy, and/or the environment. Recipients of competitively funded projects are required to report on this data quarterly and personnel must input direct engagement efforts into the GAD's quarterly metrics tracking database.

Water Quality

The Clean Water Act provides authority and resources to protect and improve the water quality in the Gulf of America and all waters of the United States. The GAD supports projects and works with partners, such as the Hypoxia Task Force, to improve water and habitat quality throughout the Gulf of America watershed. In FY 2026, the GAD will fund projects which improve water quality on a watershed basis through monitoring nutrient reduction, analyzing data, and assessing changes.

GAD will evaluate success of this work by tracking the number of water segments/bodies with improved understanding of water quality conditions and/or water quality parameters through competitively funded projects and partnerships with stakeholders. Recipients of competitively funded projects are required to report on this data quarterly and personnel must input direct engagement efforts into the GAD's quarterly metrics tracking database.

Enhance, Protect, or Restore Coastal Habitats

Managing critical ecosystems is widely recognized as a fundamental environmental priority throughout the Gulf Coast region. Critical issues include, but are not limited to, sediment management, marsh/habitat loss due to subsidence, and the continued reduction of freshwater inflow. For decades, the Gulf Coast has endured extensive natural and man-made damage to key habitats such as coastal wetlands, estuaries, barrier islands, upland habitats, seagrass vegetation, oyster reefs, coral reefs, and offshore habitats. In FY 2026, the GAD will continue to fund projects and work with partners to enhance coastal ecosystems, improve sediment movement/management, restore acreage where feasible and cost-effective, and reverse the effects of long-term habitat degradation.

GAD will evaluate success of this work by tracking the number of habitats restored, improved, or enhanced through competitively funded projects and partnerships with stakeholders. Recipients of competitively funded projects are required to report on this data quarterly and personnel must input direct engagement efforts into the GAD's quarterly metrics tracking database.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+5.7 FTE) This program change is an FTE increase to advance restoration activities in the Gulf of America. This is necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, (P.L. 118-42).

Geographic Program: Lake Champlain

Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$25,041</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>\$15,590</i>	<i>-\$9,410</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$25,041	\$25,000	\$15,590	-\$9,410
Total Workyears	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Lake Champlain Geographic Program is proposed for reduction in order to refocus the protection and restoration of this watershed with the State and local entities who are engaged and capable of managing the work.

The trans-boundary region of Lake Champlain is a resource of national significance and home to more than 600,000 people, about 35 percent of whom depend on the lake for drinking water. The 8,234-square mile Basin includes areas in Vermont, New York, and the Canadian Province of Quebec. Lake Champlain draws millions of visitors annually who provide over \$300 million in tourism to the region.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Through cooperative federalism, EPA's budget request will recognize needed efficiencies and empower EPA's implementing partners to take ownership of their environmental programs. It will support LCBP to address high levels of phosphorus by implementing priority actions identified in the *Opportunities for Action Management Plan*.⁶³ The 2016 Vermont Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Phosphorus for Lake Champlain is central to the planning and implementation work within the Lake Champlain Basin to reduce phosphorus loads and meet the waste load and load allocations specified in the TMDL. Phosphorus reductions from the New York portion of the Basin continue to be subject to the TMDL approved in 2002, and the state developed an updated *Lake Champlain Watershed Implementation Plan* in 2024 that identifies priority projects for restoration.⁶⁴ The LCBP also will lead efforts to better understand the causes of, and methods to, address harmful algal blooms (HABs), prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species to minimize their impacts, and restore aquatic connectivity to support ecosystem restoration and minimize disastrous flooding impacts.

⁶³ For additional information please see: https://www.lcbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/OFA_2022_Full-Plan.pdf.

⁶⁴ For additional information please see: <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/Lake%20Champlain%20WIP.pdf>.

In FY 2026, EPA will focus on the following activities:

- EPA and the LCBP will work with experts and program partners to develop a new updated management plan to direct activities in 2027-2031. As part of the effort, results of current metrics will be evaluated, and new program-specific metrics may be included to expand tracking and reporting of implementation efforts.
- Ninety-three percent of the total phosphorus load to the Lake is from stormwater or nonpoint source runoff, and seven percent is from wastewater treatment plant sources in Vermont, New York, and Quebec. EPA and its partners will continue to reduce phosphorous pollution from these sources to meet reductions specified in the Vermont and New York TMDLs. Specifically, EPA will focus on:
 - Implementing stormwater planning, design, and construction of green stormwater infrastructure at Vermont public schools and state universities, including implementing best management practices on rural roads in both Vermont and New York, thereby increasing their resiliency.
 - Supporting agricultural producers to make phosphorus reductions from nonpoint sources including continued research to determine the efficiency of agricultural best management practices; evaluating farm practices to identify where improvements to practices are needed; and providing technical agronomic support to farmers throughout the Basin.

The program also aims to restore healthy ecosystems to provide clean water for recreation and drinking water and intact habitat that is resilient to extreme events and invasive species. In FY 2026 the LBCP will support:

- Flood prevention and mitigation efforts in flood-prone waterways to improve riparian and floodplain resilience. Projects will include improved aquatic connectivity and culvert widening, dam removals, protection of river corridors, and research to better understand the implications of sediment transport for such projects.
- Compliance assistance for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System communities, and the regulated “three-acre” community in Vermont which must develop and implement stormwater treatment practices to reduce phosphorus loads in the Lake Champlain basin including at public schools, manufactured housing communities, and public-private partnership stormwater projects.
- Prevention of aquatic invasive species that harm the environment, economy, or human health, including aquatic plants, animals, and pathogens. EPA will continue to work with partners to understand the impact of any potential spread. The Agency also will continue to monitor invasive water chestnuts and fund efforts to reduce their density and distribution. Additionally, EPA and its partners will continue to implement the activities

identified in the *Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program Report* submitted to Congress under requirements of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act.⁶⁵

- Collection of cyanobacteria data that will increase public awareness of bloom conditions, the effects of excessive phosphorus in the Lake, and continue to document where algal blooms are prevalent across the Basin to inform management decisions.
- New York watershed groups and partners in the Lake Champlain Basin that will increase technical expertise, capacity, and workforce development to support clean water project implementation and funding initiatives. Training will include municipal wastewater treatment plant operator exam courses and/or equipment.
- Development of new ways to understand the high seasonal concentrations of harmful algal blooms, report on their potential health impacts, and provide necessary information to the health departments of New York and Vermont to close beaches, protect drinking water intakes, or take other actions to protect local citizens. In addition, the program will investigate developing new approaches for urban and agricultural stormwater control.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$44.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$9,419.0) This program decrease aligns funding with core statutory requirements, recognizes needed efficiencies, and empowers EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism. This program change would refocus the protection and restoration of this watershed with the State and local entities who are engaged and capable of managing the work. The decrease also helps to align EPA funding with core statutory requirements and program efficiencies that empower EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism.
- (+\$53.0 / +0.5 FTE) This increase will allow the program to focus on core statutory requirements supporting ecosystem restorations. This investment contains \$53.0 thousand in payroll. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

⁶⁵ For more information please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/great-lakes-and-lake-champlain-invasive-species-program-report>.

Statutory Authority:

Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909; Clean Water Act §120; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42).

Geographic Program: Long Island Sound

Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$42,108</i>	<i>\$40,002</i>	<i>\$40,002</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$42,108	\$40,002	\$40,002	\$0
Total Workyears	4.9	7.4	8.0	0.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Long Island Sound Program protects wildlife habitat and water quality in one of the most densely populated areas of the United States. It provides recreation for millions of people each year and provides a critical transportation corridor for goods and people, demonstrating that protecting our environmental and fostering economic growth go hand in hand. The Long Island Sound watershed's natural capital provides between \$17 and \$37 billion in ecosystem goods and services every year.⁶⁶

EPA has taken significant actions to fulfill its statutory obligations of safeguarding human health and the environment to ensure cleaner, safer, and healthier air, land, and water for every American while we work to Power the Great American Comeback. The Long Island Sound Program is making measurable differences in improving water quality and reducing nitrogen through upgrades to wastewater infrastructure. The annual nitrogen discharge in 2023 was 49 million pounds lower than 1990 levels, a 69 percent reduction in the effective load of nitrogen. This reduction surpasses the targets set in the nitrogen total maximum daily load (TMDL) 2000. Water quality is improving, with the average maximum area of waters not attaining dissolved oxygen criteria protective of aquatic life 50 percent smaller compared to 2010.

The Program also is focused on habitat protection and restoration. Program partners have restored 736 acres of coastal habitat between 2015 - 2024, well ahead of the pace needed to achieve the goal of restoring 1,000 coastal acres by 2035. In 2024, nine projects in coastal habitats were restored, totaling 55.1 acres. The Program also is ahead of schedule in meeting its *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) target of reopening 200 miles of river migratory corridors by 2035 for fish passage to Long Island Sound.⁶⁷ To meet the 2035 target, an average of 5.4 stream miles per year from 2015-2034 need to be reconnected to restore 200 stream miles for fish passage to Long Island Sound. The initiative has so far reconnected 140.1 river miles and is 70.1 percent of the way toward meeting the target.

⁶⁶ For more information please see: Kocian, M., Fletcher, A., Schundler, G., Batker, D., Schwartz, A., Briceno, T. 2015. The Trillion Dollar Asset: The Economic Value of the Long Island Sound Basin. Earth Economics, Tacoma, WA.

⁶⁷ For more information please visit: <https://longislandsoundstudy.net/2015/09/2015-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan/>.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the Program will empower its implementing partners through cooperative federalism to continue to oversee implementation of the Long Island Sound CCMP by coordinating the cleanup and restoration actions of Program partners. The CCMP, revised in 2025, is organized in four goal areas: 1) clean waters and healthy watersheds; 2) thriving habitats and abundant wildlife; 3) sustainable and resilient communities; and 4) an informed and engaged public.

In FY 2026, EPA will focus on the following:

- Implement the new five-year action plan for the period 2025 – 2029 contained in the revised 2025 CCMP.
- Continue to reduce point and nonpoint of nitrogen pollution and coordinate priority watershed protection programs. EPA will work cooperatively with Connecticut and New York to apply modeling and monitoring to develop numeric nitrogen targets that are protective of designated uses and set local nitrogen reduction targets, where necessary.
- Coordinate the protection and restoration of critical coastal habitats to improve the productivity of tidal wetlands, inter-tidal zones, and other key habitats that have been adversely affected by unplanned development, overuse, and land use-related pollution effects.
- Continue program evaluations in response to *GAO-Report 18-410 Long Island Sound Restoration: Improved Reporting and Cost Estimates Could Help Guide Future Efforts*.^[1] The purpose of the evaluation was to assess progress made toward meeting the goals, actions, and schedules of the Long Island Sound CCMP, including quantifiable targets of ecosystem condition.
- Continue coordinated water quality monitoring, modeling, and research.
- Support community sustainability and resiliency through the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group, which provides technical and financial assistance to plan for environmental impacts while strengthening ecological health and protecting communities.
- Support community partnerships to reduce pollution, protect and restore habitats, and increase sustainability and resiliency through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

^[1] To read the report, visit: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-18-410>.

- Provide technical and financial assistance to communities to build capacity and improve environmental conditions in Long Island Sound through the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund.
- Conduct focused scientific research into the causes and effects of pollution on the Sound's living marine resources, ecosystems, water quality, and human uses to assist managers and public decision-makers in developing policies and strategies to address environmental and human health impacts.
- Support the 33 Stewardship Areas, designated by Congress through the 2005 Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, to strengthen partnerships and to better protect and restore the Long Island Sound.
- Provide technical and financial support to establish a long-term seed-based eelgrass restoration program and to enhance ecosystem services and economic benefits to coastal communities of Long Island Sound.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+0.6 FTE) This program FTE increase is to oversee implementation of the Long Island Sound CCMP by coordinating the cleanup and restoration actions of program partners. This is necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act § 119.

Geographic Program: Other
Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$14,760</i>	<i>\$14,200</i>	<i>\$7,139</i>	<i>-\$7,061</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$14,760	\$14,200	\$7,139	-\$7,061
Total Workyears	5.1	4.6	6.7	2.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Geographic Program Other is proposed for reduction in order to refocus the protection and restoration of this watershed with the State and local entities who are engaged and capable of managing the work.

EPA targets efforts to protect and restore many of the unique communities and ecosystems across the United States through the Northwest Forest, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration (PRP), Southeast New England Program (SNEP), Columbia River Basin and geographic programs. To protect and restore these resources, the Agency develops and implements approaches to mitigate sources of pollution and risks posed by a variety of geographically distinct environmental stressors. These approaches improve water resource quality in ecosystems and the health and economic vitality of residents that rely on them.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Northwest Forest Program

In FY 2026, the Program will support the following activities: monitoring and assessment of wildfire impacts to water quality, including ongoing efforts in watersheds impacted by the catastrophic 2020 Labor Day fires in Oregon; table-top exercises with federal, tribal, and state, land management, water quality and air quality experts to address barriers to implementing the Wildfire Crisis Strategy; and EPA guidance on Best Management Practices to reduce impacts from forestry and States' implementation of forestry non-point source programs and development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (PRP)

In FY 2026, the Program will help restore the ecological health of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin by revising the *Comprehensive Management Plan* and *Comprehensive Habitat Management Plan* to meet the current needs of the basin and updating recommendations to meet current best

management practices and technology while working with the executive committee and management conference to expand the reach of the Program to communities who have not participated in the past and to reinvigorate participation in the management conference.

Southeast New England Program (SNEP)

In FY 2026, the Program will support technical assistance, grants, interagency agreements, and contracts to spur investment in regionally significant and/or landscape-scale restoration opportunities, more fully integrate restoration actions, build local capacity, promote policy and technology innovation, encourage ecosystem (water quality and habitat) approaches, and enact the Southeast New England Program's *Five-Year Strategic Plan*.⁶⁸ Specific activities include: investing in on-the-ground environmental restoration/protection projects through the SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG) Program; building capacity of municipalities and other organizations to actively participate in implementing restoration projects and effectively manage their environmental programs through the SNEP Network; promoting the use of next-generation watershed management tools; collaborating amongst stakeholders to identify, test, promote, and implement approaches that can be replicated across Southeastern New England, with a focus on the nexus between habitat, nutrients, and community resilience; and funding pilot projects and research to introduce innovations and practices that accelerate and guide ecosystem restoration and avoid or reduce nutrient impacts.

Columbia River Basin

The Columbia River Basin Program's vision is to be a catalyst for broad toxins reduction work efforts and basin-wide collaboration to achieve a healthy ecosystem with significantly reduced toxic levels in fish, wildlife, and water to enable communities to access unimpaired watersheds with healthy fish and wildlife habitat. Key actions for FY 2026 include: implement toxins reduction grant program; provide technical assistance and communication products for the working group and public; and continuing to update the EPA Columbia River Basin website which serves as a source of technical references and other information on understanding and reducing toxins in the basin.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$264.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$7,142.0) This program decrease aligns program funding with core statutory requirements. This program change would refocus the protection and restoration of this watershed with the State and local entities who are engaged and capable of managing the

⁶⁸ For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/snep/snep-strategic-plan>

work. The decrease also helps to align EPA funding with core statutory requirements and program efficiencies that empower EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism.

- (+\$345.0 / +2.1 FTE) This program increase will enable a stronger focus on core statutory requirements supporting water quality and ecosystems impacts. This investment contains \$345.0 thousand in payroll. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act.

Geographic Program: Puget Sound

Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$55,217</i>	<i>\$54,000</i>	<i>\$28,767</i>	<i>-\$25,233</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$55,217	\$54,000	\$28,767	-\$25,233
Total Workyears	8.1	7.5	9.0	1.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Puget Sound Program is proposed for reduction in order to refocus the protection and restoration of this watershed with the State and local entities who are engaged and capable of managing the work.

In December 2022, the Clean Water Act was amended to add Section 126, the Puget Sound Coordinated Recovery Section. This Section established the Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office within EPA. The Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office coordinates Puget Sound restoration and protection activities across EPA and manages the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Key FY 2026 activities for EPA's Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office include the following:

- EPA will continue to support stormwater, shellfish, and habitat work across Puget Sound through the Strategic Initiative Lead cooperative agreements and funding projects that result in direct water quality improvements.
- EPA will fund assistance agreements with the 19 federally recognized tribes in Puget Sound, three tribal consortia and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. EPA proposes to provide funding to tribes for both capacity building and implementing priority tribal water quality improvements and habitat restoration projects in the Puget Sound basin.
- EPA will continue to support voluntary riparian plantings and riparian restoration work to reduce nonpoint source pollution along salmon bearing streams, in partnership with Puget Sound's agricultural community.

- The program will continue to implement actions under the Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office and the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force as outlined in Clean Water Act Section 126, Puget Sound Coordinated Recovery. This includes a report to Congress due in May 2026.
- The FY 2026 budget request will help fulfill National Estuary Program responsibilities, including support for the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for recovering Puget Sound (the Action Agenda).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$267.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$25,230.0) This program change is a decrease to align funding with core statutory requirements and program efficiencies that empower EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism. This program change would refocus the protection and restoration of this watershed with the State and local entities who are engaged and capable of managing the work. The decrease also helps to align EPA funding with core statutory requirements and program efficiencies that empower EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism.
- (+\$264.0 / +1.5 FTE) This program increase will enable a stronger focus on core statutory requirements supporting water quality activities and projects to protect the nation's ecosystems. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42).

Geographic Program: San Francisco Bay

Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$41,881</i>	<i>\$54,500</i>	<i>\$12,897</i>	<i>-\$41,603</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$41,881	\$54,500	\$12,897	-\$41,603
Total Workyears	3.9	7.6	7.8	0.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Geographic Program San Francisco is proposed for reduction in order to refocus the protection and restoration of this watershed with the State and local entities who are engaged and capable of managing the work.

The San Francisco Bay Program Office, authorized as Section 125 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1276a (CWA 125), expands the original competitive grant program, the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund that began in 2008. The San Francisco Bay Program Office Program Priority List reflects the core mission of EPA to effectively and directly clean up the waters and wetlands of the San Francisco Bay.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the Program will focus on the following activities:

Program Administration

- Release a Notice of Funding Opportunity to competitively award grants to meet EPA and SF Bay Program priorities using available FY 2025 and FY 2026 funds.
- Continue to oversee San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund projects and gather evidence of progress, consistent with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Comprehensive CCMP.⁶⁹

⁶⁹ Please see the SFEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (2016) at <https://www.sfestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CCMP-v26a-all-pages-web.pdf>.

Program Priorities

- Provide funding to Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material to improve tidal restoration projects and ensure the cost effectiveness of reuse.
- Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team - Continue EPA's participation in the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT), a five-year, multi-agency pilot effort to facilitate efficient permitting in a complex permitting landscape for restoration projects. The goal of BRRIT is for agencies with permitting jurisdiction over multi-benefit habitat restoration projects to improve the permitting process.
- Stormwater Infrastructure and Special Studies Addressing Polychlorinated Biphenyls - Provide funding and technical support to implement large scale urban stormwater infrastructure projects including funding to support monitoring and analysis of the PCB Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan, on behalf of stormwater permittees in the San Francisco Bay.
- Shoreline Protection including Subtidal, Tidal and Watershed Restoration - Provide funding and technical support to implement large scale multi-benefit shoreline restoration projects including subtidal, eelgrass and oyster reef habitats.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$654.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$40,975.0) This program change is a decrease to align funding with core statutory requirements and program efficiencies that empower EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism. This program change would refocus the protection and restoration of this watershed with the State and local entities who are engaged and capable of managing the work.
- (+\$26.0 / +0.2 FTE) This program increase will enable a stronger focus on core statutory requirements supporting water quality improvements and the restoration of wetland habitats for communities. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42), Section 125 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1276a.

Geographic Program: South Florida

Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$8,508	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$8,508	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0
Total Workyears	2.4	2.4	3.0	0.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The South Florida ecosystem extends from Chain of Lakes near Orlando, Florida to the full extent of the Florida Keys including the Dry Tortugas which is over 250 miles south. Nine million people, two federally recognized Native American tribes: Seminole and Miccosukee, three national parks, 15 national wildlife refuges, Big Cypress National Preserve, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Everglades, and unique coastal resources: the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay, Florida Bay, Florida Keys, and coral reefs make up this unique and sensitive ecosystem. These ecosystems support a multi-billion-dollar economy through outdoor tourism, boating, recreational and commercial fishing, coral reef diving, and world-class beaches.

Challenges faced include: the long-term sustainability of sensitive natural areas, agriculture, and the expanding human population; balancing the region's often conflicting flood control, water supply and water quality needs; and mitigating and adapting to extreme weather events and sea-level rise.

EPA's South Florida Program (SFP) coordinates research and restoration activities in south Florida where water quality and habitat are directly affected by development and pollution. EPA implements, coordinates, and facilitates activities through a variety of programs in the region including: the Clean Water Act (CWA); the Everglades Water Quality Restoration Strategies Program; the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program; the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring Program; the Coral Reef Environmental Monitoring Program; the Benthic Habitat Monitoring Program; the Everglades Regional Monitoring and Assessment Program; the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative, as directed by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force; and other programs.^{70,2}

⁷⁰ For more information please see: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-epa-region-4-southeast>.

² For more information please see: <https://www.epa.gov/everglades>.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The SFP supports efforts to protect and restore ecosystems impacted by environmental challenges. In FY 2026, EPA will focus on the Florida Keys Water Quality Protection Program, Florida Coral Reef Tract, impacts of Everglades Restoration, nutrient reduction to reduce harmful algal blooms, shallow injection well impacts, and CWA implementation.

- The SFP will complete study reports associated with the Everglades Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (REMAP) in 2025 and 2026 based upon monitoring completed in 2023 and 2024. This is an EPA conducted extensive assessment of the Everglades' health which has been performed since 1993. Federal agencies, tribes, state agencies, agriculture, and the public use the data to understand water quality and ecological conditions and to assess restoration progress. The data also help to explain the effectiveness of pollution control and treatment systems.
- EPA will continue CWA and National Environmental Policy Act coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, South Florida Water Management District, and tribes for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and Western Everglades Restoration Plan planning and Implementation. CERP is a \$20 billion federal-state restoration effort with over 60 projects that affect aquatic resources throughout south Florida.
- The SFP will continue implementation of the Florida Keys Wastewater Master Plan to provide advanced wastewater treatment or best available technology services to all homes and businesses in the Florida Keys through EPA. The goal is to remove from service all non-functioning septic tanks, cesspits, and non-compliant wastewater facilities. The SFP also will consider the impacts of wastewater discharges on nearshore waters affecting the Keys and the Florida's Reef.
- The SFP will continue support for restoration, monitoring, and modeling of seagrass communities within St. Lucie Estuary, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay, and Florida Keys to address loss of seagrass meadows from phosphorus enrichment and chlorophyll increases resulting in dying seagrass beds, increasing harmful algal blooms, fish kills, and manatee deaths.
- EPA will continue work with state and local governments and universities to implement on-the-ground and satellite monitoring programs for the Florida Keys, Biscayne Bay, St. Lucie Estuary, Florida Bay, and Caloosahatchee Estuary. EPA has provided more than \$7 million to support water quality that includes water quality monitoring; harmful algal blooms detection, nutrient source identification and tracking; bacteria (enterococcus) tracking for healthy beaches; and submarine groundwater discharge to evaluate groundwater as a potential nutrient source.

- The FY 2026 budget request continues support for coral, oyster, seagrass, mangrove, and sponge restoration efforts that reestablish and rehabilitate these natural systems; identify and map habitat areas for protection, restoration, and management; and develop conservation/restoration plans for these resilient ecosystems that provide habitat, food, nutrient removal, water filtration, storm attenuation and shoreline stabilization in South Florida.
- EPA will develop an annual Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY 2026 funds and continue management of more than \$25 million in prior-year projects focused on enhancing water quality, coral, and seagrass monitoring; restoring coral, seagrass, and sponge ecosystems; developing models to identify pollutant sources; investigating emerging contaminants and researching water quality environments conducive to algal blooms.
- The Program will support CWA Section 404 implementation, including wetlands conservation, permitting, dredge and fill, and mitigation banking strategies through collaboration with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- EPA will continue to work with the State of Florida on Everglades Water Quality Restoration Strategies to address pollution. Part of this work will be tracking progress on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and consent orders within the Everglades, including discharge limits for phosphorus and corrective actions that are consistent with state and federal law and federal court consent decree requirements.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+0.6 FTE) This program FTE increase is to oversee implementation of the South Florida watershed. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act of 1990; National Marine Sanctuaries Program Amendments Act of 1992; Clean Water Act; Water Resources Development Act of 1996; Water Resources Development Act of 2000; National Environmental Policy Act.

Great Lakes Restoration
Program Area: Geographic Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$336,013	\$368,000	\$368,000	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$336,013	\$368,000	\$368,000	\$0
Total Workyears	60.1	60.5	77.0	16.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Great Lakes are the largest system of surface freshwater on Earth, containing 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater, 95 percent of the United States' surface freshwater, and span eight states and 35 tribes. The ecological restoration efforts in the Great Lakes are important to keep communities safe from environmental threats, as recognized by the May 9th Presidential memorandum *Protecting the Great Lakes from Invasive Carp*. EPA will effectively serve the taxpayers and protect the Great Lakes by focusing on greater value and real results for all communities. EPA will partner with the other federal agencies, states and tribes to ensure a thoughtful approach is used to maximize every Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) investment to restore and protect the Great Lakes. A key component of the GLRI's success depends on strong collaboration among all levels of government and private and non-governmental partners.

This restoration effort provides environmental and public health benefits to the region's twenty million Americans who rely on the Great Lakes for drinking water, recreation, and fishing. The restoration and protection of the Great Lakes also fuels local and regional economies and community revitalization efforts across the basin. An independent study from the University of Michigan showed that every dollar of federal spending on GLRI projects between 2010 and 2016 will produce \$3.35 in additional economic activity in the Great Lakes region through 2036.

This interagency collaboration accelerates progress, promotes leveraging, avoids potential duplication of effort, and saves money. EPA and GLRI federal agencies select the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration in accordance with the statutory obligation in Section 118(c)(7)(C)(i) of the Clean Water Act to "achieve strategic and measurable environmental outcomes" identified in the GLRI Action Plan. EPA and the GLRI federal agencies directly implement projects and fund projects performed by other entities such as states, tribes, and municipalities. GLRI funding supplements each agency's base funding.

EPA and its partners have achieved significant results since the GLRI started in 2010, including:⁷¹

- Six Areas of Concerns (AOCs) delisted. Prior to GLRI, only one AOC was delisted. Ten other AOCs have completed all actions necessary for ultimate delisting; and

⁷¹ For more information, please see <https://glri.us/>.

- 120 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) at 29 AOCs in the eight Great Lakes states have been removed, twelve times the total number of BUIs removed in the preceding 22 years.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the GLRI will continue to support activities that target the most significant environmental problems in the Great Lakes. Emphasis will continue to be placed on 1) cleaning up and delisting AOCs; 2) reducing phosphorus contributions that contribute to harmful algal blooms and other water quality impairments; and 3) invasive species prevention. The GLRI Action Plan IV targets actions within the following focus areas and objectives.

Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern Objectives:

- Remediate, restore, and delist AOCs: EPA and GLRI federal agencies will work with and fund partners to implement management actions necessary to remove BUIs (indicators of poor environmental health) that will ultimately lead to the delisting of AOCs. EPA will continue to remediate contaminated sediments under the cost-sharing provisions of Section 118(c)(11) of the Clean Water Act (Great Lakes Legacy Act). FY 2026 targets: eight BUIs removed and two AOCs delisted.
- Engage communities to share critical information on the risks and benefits of consuming Great Lakes fish, wildlife, and harvested plant resources with the people who consume them.
- Increase knowledge about contaminants that have impacted or pose the potential to impact the ecological health of the Great Lakes and their natural resources and/or pose a public health risk: EPA and GLRI federal agencies will coordinate with appropriate state and tribal partners to monitor priority contaminants and assess their impact on Great Lakes ecosystems.

Invasive Species Objectives:

- Protect native species and communities by preventing introductions of new non-native species: EPA and GLRI federal agencies with their partners will implement a prioritized plan to significantly reduce pathways by which non-native species may still enter the Great Lakes Basin. FY 2026 targets: one regional introduction pathway for non-native species invasion addressed.
- Reduce economic, ecological, and human health impacts by limiting range expansion of non-native species: EPA and GLRI federal agencies will maintain and enhance surveillance programs to detect non-native species, and support rapid response, eradication or containment efforts. FY 2026 targets: five percent increase to the percentage of aquatic, high-priority locations for potential new, non-native species occurrence under surveillance; and conduct 12 rapid responses.
- Provide ecosystem and human benefits through prioritized and collaborative invasive species control efforts: EPA and GLRI federal agencies with states, tribes, and other partners will

prioritize maintaining the benefits of previously completed aquatic and terrestrial invasive species control projects. FY 2026 targets: control invasive species on 10,000 acres.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Objectives:

- Reduce nutrient loads from agricultural watersheds to prevent harmful and nuisance algal blooms: EPA and GLRI federal agencies with their partners will continue to support direct farmer assistance and outreach to reduce nutrient losses in agricultural watersheds. FY 2026 targets: reduce 300,000 pounds of phosphorus; provide technical or financial assistance on nutrient management on 150,000 acres; and create or sustain three demonstration farms.
- Reduce or prevent stormwater runoff to improve and sustain water quality: EPA and GLRI federal agencies with their partners will continue to accelerate implementation of projects to reduce or prevent stormwater runoff. FY 2026 targets: reduce 75 million gallons of stormwater runoff; restore or protect 13 miles of Great Lakes streams and shoreline; and restore or reconnect 50 acres of riparian buffers, wetlands and floodplains.
- Improve effectiveness of nonpoint source control efforts to prevent harmful and nuisance algal blooms: EPA and GLRI federal agencies will continue to test new ways to achieve nutrient reductions; assess the potential for wetlands to act as sinks for nutrients; and monitor nutrient levels in the major tributaries and nearshore areas experiencing algal blooms. FY 2026 targets: conduct 30 monitoring activities; and implement 10 runoff reduction demonstration projects.

Habitats and Species Objectives:

- Protect, enhance, and increase resilience of habitats necessary for sustaining native aquatic and terrestrial species important to the Great Lakes ecosystem, including for recreational and commercial uses FY 2026 targets: protect or enhance 17,000 acres; and establish 150 miles of connectivity.
- EPA and GLRI federal agencies will continue to provide funding to stock, enhance and reach significant population milestones for native species.
- Foundations for Future Restoration Actions Objectives:
- Educate the next generations about the Great Lakes ecosystem: EPA and GLRI federal agencies will continue to promote Great Lakes-based ecosystem education and stewardship for K-12 school students and community members and teach people the skills needed to enter the environmental restoration and protection workforce that supports GLRI projects.
- Conduct targeted science to inform and assess Great Lakes restoration: EPA and GLRI federal agencies and their partners will continue to support targeted science projects and implement programs that will help track progress and inform future restoration actions. EPA will continue to “monitor the water quality of the Great Lakes” in accordance with the statutory obligation in Section 118(c)(1)(B) of the Clean Water Act.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+16.5 FTE) This program FTE increase provides funds for the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes through activities and projects safeguarding the largest system of surface freshwater in the world. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act Section 118.

Homeland Security

Homeland Security: Communication and Information

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$4,018</i>	<i>\$4,792</i>	<i>\$3,677</i>	<i>-\$1,115</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$4,018	\$4,792	\$3,677	-\$1,115
Total Workyears	9.5	12.8	11.3	-1.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Homeland Security: Communication and Information program is proposed for reduction to streamline activities related to communication, policies, and procedures to support and coordinate homeland security efforts across the Agency. The Office of National Security (ONS) provides leadership, support, and coordination for national/homeland security programs to ensure an informed and resilient EPA is prepared to protect human health and the environment with an appreciation of national security implications. ONS informs White House level homeland and national security decisions and policymaking efforts and shares sensitive information and intelligence, as warranted, throughout the Agency to support preparedness efforts to counter threats to EPA equities and interests.

ONS represents EPA's engagement with the White House National Security Council (NSC) on national security policy development, ensuring that EPA equities are properly represented. ONS engages on the Administration's efforts to ensure that national/homeland security is interwoven into the Agency's work, where appropriate.

As the Agency's Federal Intelligence Coordinating Office (FICO), ONS serves as the primary liaison with the Intelligence Community (IC) representing Agency equities, identifying and sharing intelligence products germane to programs and offices, and coordinating with EPA subject matter experts to inform products developed by the IC. ONS provides intelligence support to all programs and regions regarding threats to and mitigation strategies for key national infrastructure and critical resources with a focus on water sector cyber threat intelligence advisories, biodefense, supply chain resilience, national preparedness, response, and recovery, and emerging threats, among many others.

ONS' National Security Threat Mitigation Program (NSTMP) supports the following programs within the Agency: Insider Threat, Operational Security (OPSEC), Defensive Counterintelligence, International Visitors, and Research Security. The NSTMP also supports other risk management/security programs at the Agency, such as the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, Supply Chain Risk Management, Physical Security, Small Business Innovation Research, and Information Security. The NSTMP promotes sharing of information to prevent, detect, and mitigate risks to the EPA's employees, programs, facilities, research, and data.

National and homeland security IT efforts are closely aligned with agencywide information security and infrastructure activities. The Agency's IT support programs facilitate communication among localities, EPA program and regional offices, and laboratories during emergencies, primarily through the Enterprise Security Operations Division (ESOD). ESOD offers a centralized cybersecurity incident response capability, preventing and responding to unauthorized network activities via its Computer Security Incident Response Capability (CSIRC). Additionally, ESOD provides situational awareness, cyber defense infrastructure, vulnerability assessments, and threat intelligence. It employs tools, such as a security information and event manager (SIEM), enterprise logging, and endpoint detection to fulfill its mission.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

EPA's support for national security involves all pillars of the "Powering the Great American Comeback" Initiative. With the resources and FTEs requested in FY 2026, this program will:

- Continue to develop the Agency's cybersecurity intelligence capabilities to anticipate and address specific threats, mitigate attacks, assess evolving water sector cyber intelligence requirements, and support states, locals, and water sector operators.
- Continue to develop collaborative methods, with the IC, to enhance the cybersecurity of the water and wastewater sector, along with other critical sectors, to address increasingly sophisticated and complex threat actor tactics and techniques.
- Increase coordination with NSC, CISA, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and water sector entities regarding cyber-attacks on the water sector's IT and OT systems.
- Promote coordinated approaches to communicate classified information to EPA programs, laboratories, and regional offices via secure systems to support timely intelligence and information sharing to enable safe and effective operational preparedness and response.
- Enhance support for the regional Disaster Recovery Coordinators, increasing national disaster mitigation and recovery capacity. Support regional mitigation coordinators to increase mitigation planning and advance policy to increase resilience in support of Executive Order 14239: *Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness*.⁷²
- Support federal, state, tribal, and local efforts to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the impacts of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other emergencies by providing leadership and coordination across EPA's program offices and regions.
- Provide technical, policy, and intelligence advice to senior Agency leadership related to biodefense and pandemic preparedness.

⁷² For more information, please see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/21/2025-04973/achieving-efficiency-through-state-and-local-preparedness>.

- Ensure appropriate Agency representation in White House and federal national and homeland security policy activities.
- Expand EPA's secure video telecommunications (SVTC) capabilities.
- Fill critical policy, knowledge, and technology gaps essential for an effective EPA emergency response, working with our interagency partners to support state and local water sector resilience.
- Provide EPA personnel with relevant, accurate, reliable, objective, and timely intelligence bearing on all of EPA's pillars.

In FY 2026, EPA also will continue to protect the Agency's information and networks by monitoring the Agency's IT infrastructure to detect, remediate, and eradicate malicious activity/software from EPA's computer and data networks. Specific activities include:

- Enhance internal Computer Security Incident Response Capability to ensure rapid identification and reporting of suspicious activity through increased training and awareness of cybersecurity threats.
- Continue to support proactive detection of cybersecurity incidents within EPA, supporting active cyber threat hunting, containment, remediation, and incident response.
- Continue to support the implementation of the Agency's Zero Trust Architecture roadmap to enable increased visibility and use of analytics to help strengthen Information Security and Privacy governance.
- Continue to strengthen vulnerability management activities by improving scanning capabilities for web applications and databases as well as by using DHS' Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP) and paid bug bounty program.
- Continue to strengthen and mature the EPA's "Blue Team" to conduct operational network vulnerability evaluations and provide mitigation techniques to customers who have a need for an independent technical review of their network security posture.
- Support EPA's Mobile Application Vetting capability to ensure mobile devices operate safely.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$683.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$408.0 / -1.6 FTE) This program change streamlines activities related to communication, policies, and procedures to support and coordinate homeland security efforts across the Agency. This disinvestment includes \$320.0 thousand in payroll and workforce support costs.
- (-\$24.0 / + 0.1 FTE) This net program change is a decrease in resources due to a reduction in non-payroll contracting resources that is offset by an increase in federal FTE that enhances transparency, oversight, and public accountability by bringing Continuous Monitoring functions back in-house. This net program change includes \$20.0 thousand in payroll and workforce support costs.

Statutory Authority:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, §§ 1001, 2001, 3001, 3005; Safe Drinking Water Act; Clean Water Act, §§ 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107; Clean Air Act, §§ 102, 103, 104, 108; Toxic Substances Control Act, §§ 201, 301, 401; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, §§ 136a-136y; Bio Terrorism Act of 2002, §§ 303, 305, 306, 307; Homeland Security Act of 2002; Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act; Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act; Food Safety Modernization Act, § 208.

Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$987</i>	<i>\$914</i>	<i>\$1,361</i>	<i>\$447</i>
Science & Technology	\$11,253	\$10,427	\$10,214	-\$213
Total Budget Authority	\$12,240	\$11,341	\$11,575	\$234
Total Workyears	27.0	25.5	28.8	3.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Program supports EPA's efforts to coordinate and provide technical expertise to enhance the protection of the Nation's critical water infrastructure from terrorist threats and all-hazard events through effective information sharing and dissemination. This program provides water systems with current information on methods and strategies to build preparedness and resilience for natural and man-made threats.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will build capacity, at water systems, to identify and respond to threats to critical national water infrastructure by:

- Providing timely information on cybersecurity threats, contaminant properties, water treatment effectiveness, detection technologies, analytical protocols, and laboratory capabilities;
- Protecting the United States from foreign, domestic, and other national security threats by mitigating the risks of cyberattacks against the water sector and enhancing the Agency's capacity to respond to water emergencies;
- Supporting effective communication conduits to disseminate physical and cyber threat and incident information and to serve as a clearinghouse for sensitive information;
- Encouraging information sharing between the water sector and environmental professionals, scientists, emergency services personnel, law enforcement, public health agencies, the intelligence community, and technical assistance providers. Through this exchange, water systems can obtain up-to-date information on current technologies in water security, accurately assess their vulnerabilities to terror acts, and work cooperatively

with public health officials, first responders, and law enforcement officials to respond effectively in the event of an emergency;

- Providing water utilities, of all sizes, with access to a comprehensive range of important materials, including the most current information, tools, training, and protocols designed to enhance the security (including cybersecurity), preparedness, and resiliency of the water sector (including addressing natural hazards); and
- Ensuring that water utilities receive timely and informative alerts about changes in the homeland security advisory level and regional and national trends in certain types of water-related incidents. For example, should there be types of specific, water-related threats or incidents (including cybersecurity) that are recurring, EPA, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and other appropriate agencies, will alert utilities of the increasing occurrence of or trends in these incidents.

Providing this information, coupled with effective information sharing processes, allows the water sector to improve its understanding of the latest water security and resiliency protocols and threats. These protocols reduce risk by enhancing the water sector's ability to prepare for an emergency.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$112.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$559.0 / +2.3 FTE) This program change increases resources and FTEs to support the Administration's priorities of protecting the United States from foreign, domestic, and other national security and public safety threats by mitigating the risks of cyberattacks in the water sector and enhancing the Agency's ability to respond to such incidents. This investment includes \$313.0 thousand in payroll and workforce support costs.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act, §§ 1431-1435; Clean Water Act; Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Emergency and Response Act of 2002; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, §§ 301-305.

Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$4,973	\$4,665	\$4,986	\$321
Science & Technology	\$625	\$625	\$500	-\$125
Building and Facilities	\$6,225	\$6,676	\$6,176	-\$500
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,257	\$1,102	\$915	-\$187
Total Budget Authority	\$13,081	\$13,068	\$12,577	-\$491
Total Workyears	14.0	13.3	13.3	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 13.3 FTE to support Homeland Security working capital fund (WCF) services.

Program Project Description:

Environmental Programs and Management resources for the Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure Program ensure that EPA maintains a robust physical security and preparedness infrastructure, ensuring that its numerous facilities are secured and protected in accordance with the federally-mandated Interagency Security Committee (ISC) facility security standards. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by reducing bureaucratic delays and encouraging increased collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

In order to secure and protect EPA's personnel and physical infrastructure, the Agency operates a federally mandated Personal Identity Verification (PIV) program, which adheres to the requirements as set forth in Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12).⁷³ This program ensures the Agency complies with government-wide standards for the issuance of secure and reliable forms of identification to federal employees and contractors who require access to federally controlled facilities and networks.

The NSI Program manages and safeguards classified national security information processed, maintained, and stored throughout EPA by its federal workforce and contractors. The Program ensures federal programmatic and protection mandates are established, implemented, and adhered to. The mandates include providing training and conducting inspections and audits.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

As part of the nationwide protection of buildings and critical infrastructure, EPA performs vulnerability assessments on facilities each year. Through this program, the Agency also

⁷³ For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-presidential-directive-12>.

recommends and tracks the implementation of security risk mitigations, oversees access control measures, determines physical security measures for new construction and leases, and manages the lifecycle of security equipment.

As a part of the Classified National Security Information (CNSI) program management responsibility to safeguard the EPA's CNSI, the EPA will conduct CNSI inspections of its secure work areas, provide mandatory training, and track the implementation of corrective actions identified in inspections.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to partner with the General Services Administration (GSA) on issuing a PIV credential to all EPA federal personnel and contractors for physical and logical access in federal facilities. The PIV credentials are used in the Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS). ePACS supports the Agency's modernization of its security infrastructure in compliance with HSPD-12 and ensures that the Agency is undertaking every effort to enhance safety, security, and efficiency by effectively controlling access into all EPA-controlled physical space and networks. In addition, the Agency will continue to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office program, USAccess, for PIV card enrollment and issuance. USAccess is a GSA managed, shared services solution that provides the EPA with the ability to produce and maintain secure and reliable forms of identification, as required per HSPD-12, for all EPA employees and contractors.

The Agency will continue to implement Trusted Workforce 2.0 (TW 2.0). TW 2.0 is a whole-of-government background investigation reform effort overhauling the personnel vetting process by creating one government-wide system that allows reciprocity across organizations. This effort includes moving from periodic reinvestigations every five to ten years towards a Continuous Vetting program, which protects the trusted workforce in real-time. Transitioning from periodic reinvestigations to continuous vetting will require a higher frequency of adjudicative actions that must be addressed in a more rapid fashion due to the stream of information delivered by the continuous vetting program. An element of TW 2.0 is the enrollment of Agency personnel into FBI Rap Back (Rap Back) and the subsequent adjudication of Rap Back notifications. Rap Back identifies additional personnel risks to the Agency which must be addressed to ensure that the workforce remains trusted and in compliance with TW 2.0 requirements.

In FY 2026, EPA will complete projects that support the transition to TW 2.0 including: agencywide review of personnel position and background investigation information to meet prerequisite elements for continuous vetting enrollment; initiation and review of requisite investigative forms to meet enrollment requirements; administration of enrollment statuses of EPA personnel within the continuous evaluation program managed by the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency; and integration of EPA processes with National Background Investigation Services (NBIS), continuing to implement a new personnel vetting system for the background investigation process to deliver stronger security, faster processing, and better information sharing.

EPA complies with 5 *CFR 1400*, which requires that federal and non-federal positions are designated for both risk and sensitivity and that personnel have appropriate background investigations commensurate with their position's risk and sensitivity designation. EPA will continue to manage the personnel security, suitability, fitness, and CNSI programs and conduct background investigations following appropriate federal guidance, ensuring that personnel are

properly investigated for the positions they hold and that classified material and activity is properly handled. As federal guidelines and policies change or are introduced, the systems supporting background investigations and the CNSI program will be updated and enhanced, as needed.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$321.0) This program change is an increase in resources to reflect additional measures taken to protect EPA personnel and private information as well as to ensure accountability in the federal workforce.

Statutory Authority:

5 U.S. Code § 11001 - Enhanced Personnel Security Programs; Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; Privacy Act of 1974; REAL ID Act of 2005; Homeland Security Act of 2002; Americans with Disabilities Act; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Indoor Air and Radiation

Indoor Air: Radon Program
Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$2,627	\$3,123	\$0	-\$3,123
Science & Technology	\$169	\$22	\$0	-\$22
Total Budget Authority	\$2,796	\$3,145	\$0	-\$3,145
Total Workyears	8.0	7.9	0.0	-7.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Indoor Air: Radon Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work (e.g., Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Air Act, etc.) will be accomplished in other programs within the Indoor Air and Radiation Program Area. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this Program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$3,123.0 / -7.9 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Indoor Air: Radon Program, in the EPM account, in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local indoor radon reduction programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Title III of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Title IV of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Clean Air Act.

Radiation: Protection

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$8,791	\$9,520	\$2,470	-\$7,050
Science & Technology	\$2,295	\$1,740	\$1,047	-\$693
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$3,823	\$2,472	\$2,122	-\$350
Total Budget Authority	\$14,909	\$13,732	\$5,639	-\$8,093
Total Workyears	53.5	50.9	25.0	-25.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA has general and specific duties to protect human health and the environment from harmful and avoidable exposure to ionizing radiation under multiple statutes. EPA's Radiation Protection Program carries out these responsibilities through its federal guidance and standard-setting activities, including: regulatory oversight and implementation of radioactive waste disposal standards for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP); the regulation of airborne radioactive emissions; general standards for operations of the nuclear power fuel cycle; general disposal standards for nuclear waste repositories; and the development and determination of appropriate methods to measure and to model radioactive releases and exposures under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).⁷⁴ The Program also supports EPA, state, local and tribal authorities by providing radiation protection scientific analyses and recommendations needed to inform risk management policies, and provides support on the use of advanced and emerging nuclear technologies to ensure American energy dominance while safeguarding public health and the environment.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports Pillars 1, 2 and 3 of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, EPA will meet its statutory obligation to implement its regulatory oversight responsibilities for DOE activities at the WIPP facility, as mandated by the Congress in the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act of 1992, and thereby facilitating the cleanup of the nation's legacy nuclear weapons complex. EPA also will review regulations and guidance, as necessary, including the review of standards regarding the operation of the nuclear power fuel cycle; and disposal of spent nuclear fuel, which

⁷⁴ For more information on EPA's radiation protection program: <http://www.epa.gov/radiation>.

are critical to the adoption of new nuclear energy technologies critical to restoring American energy dominance and which could play an important role in meeting increased energy needs. In direct support of *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, the Program supports stakeholders by providing technical assistance and maintaining radiation dose assessment tools needed to demonstrate compliance. The Program ensures the best science is applied in radiation protection activities. Notably, the Program produces risk assessment tools, specifically derived and tailored for the U.S. population, which continue to be used nationally by federal and state partners, as well as industry, academia, the military, and the medical community.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$514.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefit costs.
- (-\$6,536.0 / -23.0 FTE) This program change is a reduction in the Radiation: Protection Program to align program funding with core statutory requirements and priority work, and to reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth. This program change reduces support to activities in the Radiation: Protection Program to focus Agency resources on priority activities, including implementation of waste disposal standards at the WIPP.

Statutory Authority:

Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Clean Air Act; Energy Policy Act of 1992; Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982; Public Health Service Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) of 1978; Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act of 1992; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Clean Water Act.

Radiation: Response Preparedness

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$2,044	\$2,262	\$2,350	\$88
Science & Technology	\$3,174	\$3,400	\$3,096	-\$304
Total Budget Authority	\$5,218	\$5,662	\$5,446	-\$216
Total Workyears	26.8	26.2	32.2	6.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Work within this program project includes EPA responding to radiological emergencies, conducting essential national and regional radiological response planning and training, and developing response plans for radiological incidents or accidents. Furthermore, EPA conducts assessments and preparedness for response to incidents involving foreign and domestic nuclear technology used in space nuclear systems and advanced reactor technologies. EPA generates policy guidance and procedures for the Agency's radiological emergency response under the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The Agency maintains its own Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT) and is a member of the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC), the Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Board, and leads the Federal Advisory Team for Environment, Food and Health (the "A-Team"). The A-Team includes radiation protection experts from EPA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and their function is to advise federal, state, local, and tribal authorities during radiological/nuclear emergencies on public safety issues including evacuation, sheltering, and contamination concerns for food, drinking water, and other resources.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to focus on essential preparedness work across the Agency's radiological emergency response activities. ~~OMB~~ The RERT will maintain essential readiness to support federal radiological emergency response and recovery operations under the NRF and NCP. EPA will participate in interagency training and exercises to maintain the RERT's ability to fulfill EPA's responsibilities.

Refinement of Response Plans

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to work with interagency partners under the FRPCC to revise federal radiation emergency response plans and develop radiological emergency response

protocols and standards as resources dictate. The Agency will continue to implement the Protective Action Guidance⁷⁵ and use guidance addressing lessons learned from incidents and exercises to ensure the effective delivery of EPA support in coordination with other federal and state response agencies.

Coordinating Preparedness Efforts

EPA will continue essential planning and participation in interagency table-top and field exercises, including radiological accident and incident response and anti-terrorism activities with the Advisory Team for Environment, Food, and Health, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of State (DOS), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Agency also will provide technical support on priority issues to federal, state, local, and tribal radiation, emergency management, solid waste, and health programs responsible for implementing radiological emergency response and preparedness programs.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$594.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefit costs.
- (+\$682.0 / +3.7 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Radiation: Response Preparedness Program to ensure sufficient resources and FTE are ready to respond to radiological emergencies.

Statutory Authority:

Homeland Security Act of 2002; Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Clean Air Act; Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (PKEMRA); Public Health Service Act (PHSA); Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

⁷⁵ For additional information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-01/documents/epa_pag_manual_final_revisions_01-11-2017_cover_disclaimer_8.pdf.

Reduce Risks from Indoor Air

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$14,343</i>	<i>\$12,495</i>	<i>\$11,642</i>	<i>-\$853</i>
Science & Technology	\$100	\$88	\$0	-\$88
Total Budget Authority	\$14,443	\$12,583	\$11,642	-\$941
Total Workyears	33.6	32.3	35.8	3.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Title IV of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) authorizes EPA to conduct and coordinate research on indoor air quality, develop and disseminate information, and coordinate risk reduction efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. Poor indoor air quality represents one of the most significant public health risks within EPA's responsibility.⁷⁶ EPA uses a range of strategies to reduce health risks from poor indoor air quality in homes, schools, and other buildings through partnerships with non-governmental, professional, federal, state, and local organizations. Through these partnerships EPA provides information, guidance, and technical assistance that equips industry, the health care community, the residential, school, and commercial building sectors, and the public to take action. As technical experts working at the intersection of the built environment and health, EPA is focused on guidance to improve building conditions, to reduce indoor air risk, and achieve improvements in environmental and health outcomes.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program is aligned with Executive Order 14212, *Establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission*, and supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will promote actions and interventions to make improvements in public health. The Program will include a particular focus on opportunities to accelerate the adoption of best indoor air quality practices including ventilation, filtration, and air cleaning to help suppress the transmission of airborne infectious disease and indoor exposure to wildfire smoke. EPA will continue to lead on these issues by providing technical assistance and guidance for residential, commercial, and public buildings, emphasizing that building improvements will be beneficial to preparedness and disaster resilience, as well as improved public health in the long-term.

⁷⁶ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/iaq>.

Through the Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program, EPA will continue to equip school leaders and the school sector to put in place comprehensive indoor air quality management programs that implement sustainable ventilation, filtration, and other indoor air quality improvements to promote healthy school environments for students and staff. EPA will provide and promote technical assistance, training, outreach, and other support to improve indoor air in schools nationwide.

Additionally, EPA will collaborate with public and private sector organizations to provide clear and verifiable protocols and specifications for promoting good indoor air quality and support adoption of these protocols and specifications into existing healthy, energy efficiency, and green building programs and initiatives. EPA also will equip the housing sector with guidance to promote the adoption of these best practices with the aim of creating healthier homes.

In FY 2026, EPA will build the capacity of community-based organizations to provide comprehensive asthma care that integrates management of indoor environmental asthma triggers and health care services. EPA, in collaboration with other federal agencies, and partners will continue to work to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. EPA will continue to work with partners to increase the sustained use of clean fuels and stoves, as well as cleaner and more efficient biomass cookstoves to address the more than three million premature deaths attributed annually to cookstove emissions.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,440.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$587.0 / +4.0 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Reduce Risks from Indoor Air program to align program funding with core statutory requirements and priority work.

Statutory Authority:

Title IV of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Title III Toxic Substances Control Act; Clean Air Act.

Information Exchange / Outreach

Children and Other Sensitive Populations: Agency Coordination

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$6,343	\$6,350	\$6,350	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$6,343	\$6,350	\$6,350	\$0
Total Workyears	18.4	15.9	18.4	2.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Program coordinates and advances the protection of children's environmental health across EPA. Protecting children's environmental health is foundational to EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment, as reducing environmental exposures in children at all developmental lifestages improves lifelong health for all Americans. Major environmental statutes recognize children's unique sensitivity to contaminants and include provisions to protect them. The Program provides scientific expertise into Agency actions to ensure consistency with these laws. Further, Executive Order 14212, *Establishing the President's Make America Health Again Commission*, directs agencies to understand and end childhood chronic disease from multiple causes, including exposure to toxic material and environmental factors. Program activities aim to reduce risk of chronic illness caused by exposure to pollution and ensure children are protected from the impacts of natural disasters and emergencies. These activities also are critical to advancing EPA's five pillars of the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, including:

Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American. Ensuring America's children have clean air, water, land, and are safe from harmful chemicals during their development sets Americans up for a lifetime of health benefits, resulting in a stronger economy and society. The Program uses science to inform solutions that strengthen protections for children throughout all stages of their development and tracks and communicates trends on indicators of progress on children's health. Program activities also protect children's environmental health and promote resiliency in the face of natural disasters, helping them get back on their feet quickly and safely where they live, learn, and play.

Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership. The Children's Health Program works collaboratively with our partners at the federal, state, and local levels, and with tribal governments. The Program supports the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, co-chaired by EPA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and works with state and local partners to communicate solutions that empower parents/caregivers, school officials, and others to take actions to protect children. The Program also leads agencywide facilitation on lead (Pb) activities to streamline coordination and provide for consistency in messaging and reporting of cross-agency progress.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Leveraging cross-agency partnerships, the Program will:

- Continue to ensure that EPA consistently and explicitly considers early life exposures and lifelong health in human health decisions. In FY 2024, EPA completed a total of 306 actions that considered children's health data and information, for a total of 604 actions over the past two years of reporting. As part of these activities and in support of Executive Order 14212, [*Establishing the President's Make America Health Again Commission*](#), the Program will contribute to government wide efforts to reduce or prevent childhood chronic disease. Additionally, the Program will continue to compile, analyze, and communicate national trend data on children's health in the America's Children and the Environment interactive online tool.
- Improve EPA's ability to monetize the economic benefits to children's health of environmental rules by quantifying children-related health endpoints that are not currently included in EPA benefit-cost analyses. This work will improve substantially EPA's ability to communicate to the public the impact of its regulations.
- Continue to serve as co-lead for the interagency efforts of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children alongside the Department of Health and Human Services. This effort will focus on co-chairing the Senior Steering Committee and coordinating cross-federal activities related to topics such as emergencies and disasters, asthma, lead exposure, and chemical exposure. The Program also will continue to build on partnerships with key stakeholders and leverage resources and work for durable, nationally relevant improvements in children's health protection.
- Support health care professionals via the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) to better address risks from childhood exposures, in collaboration with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. In FY 2024, the PEHSUs conducted 837 consultations to health professionals and 669 consultations for community members; educated 36,173 health professionals and 6,700 community members and developed 707 educational materials.
- Host a variety of activities to foster awareness at the regional, state, and community levels. For example, the Program marks Children's Health Month in October to educate parents, caregivers, teachers, and others on how to better protect children from adverse environmental exposure and continue to modernize its social media presence to improve outreach to affected communities.
- The Program also will coordinate meetings of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC), with delivery of expert responses to charge questions related to high priority children's environmental health issues.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$635.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$635.0 / +2.5 FTE) This program change is an increase to provide support for existing programs and workforce in the Children's Health Program. This includes concentrating on advancing "EPA's five pillars of the *Great American Comeback* initiative, by reducing potential health risks to children, implementing regionally selected community-based projects addressing local children's environmental health issues, and other children's health efforts.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

Environmental Education

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$9,705	\$9,500	\$0	-\$9,500
Total Budget Authority	\$9,705	\$9,500	\$0	-\$9,500
Total Workyears	10.1	9.9	0.0	-9.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Environmental Education (EE) program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. The Environmental Education (EE) Program provides guidance and financial support to nonprofit organizations, local educational institutions, universities, community colleges, and state and local environmental agencies. Financial support is via the competitive grants process and cooperative agreements. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Environmental Education Program is proposed for elimination. EPA will continue to find ways to streamline education activities and leverage funding outside the Agency for environmental stewardship activities via existing cooperative agreements and at the state and local level.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$9,500.0 / -9.9 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Environmental Education Program to focus Agency resources on its highest national priorities and core statutory work. This program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

National Environmental Education Act (NEEA); Clean Air Act (CAA), § 103; Clean Water Act (CWA), § 104; Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA), § 8001; Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), § 1442; Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), § 10; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), § 20.

Exchange Network

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$15,359</i>	<i>\$11,098</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$11,098</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,037	\$1,328	\$0	-\$1,328
Total Budget Authority	\$16,396	\$12,426	\$0	-\$12,426
Total Workyears	26.2	23.2	0.0	-23.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Exchange Network Program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental programs to state and local entities. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, resources and FTE for the EN Program are proposed for elimination.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$11,098.0 / -23.2 FTE) This change proposes to eliminate this program as part of the effort to limit federal investment in activities that go beyond the EPA's core statutory requirements and to focus Agency resources on its national priorities.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA); Clean Air Act (CAA); Clean Water Act (CWA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA).

Executive Management and Operations

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$61,072</i>	<i>\$56,574</i>	<i>\$38,984</i>	<i>-\$17,590</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$61,072	\$56,574	\$38,984	-\$17,590
Total Workyears	281.3	256.9	218.3	-38.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 8.3 FTE to support Executive Management and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services.

Program Project Description:

The Executive Management and Operations Program is proposed for reduction in order to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This Program supports various offices that provide direct executive and logistical support to EPA's Administrator. In addition to the Administrator's Immediate Office (IO), the Program supports the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR), Office of Administrative and Executive Services (OAES), Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OARA), Office of the Executive Secretariat (OEX), and the Office of External Engagement (OEE). This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in a cost-efficient manner.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports EPA's five pillars of the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2026, the Program will continue providing management, leadership, and direction to all of EPA's programs and activities and develop the guidance necessary to ensure achievement of the Agency's core statutory responsibilities. In FY 2026, resources of the Program will primarily support critical needs for staff, including essential travel and workforce support.

OCIR serves as EPA's principal point of contact for Congress, regions, and local governments and as coordination points for engagement amongst the regions and senior leadership. In FY 2026, OCIR will continue to: prepare EPA officials for hearings and briefings; respond to Congressional inquiries and oversight requests; engage state and local governments on regulatory and other EPA activities; advance federal cooperativism and cross-agency partnerships; enhance engagement data collection and reporting; and evaluate its processes for responding to congressional and gubernatorial correspondence. OCIR's work supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, which ultimately supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*.

OEE facilitates the exchange of information between EPA and relevant stakeholders, including public and media; broadly communicates EPA's mission; assists in public awareness of environmental issues; and informs EPA employees of important issues that affect them. As a part of OEE's core function in the Agency, OEE issues press releases; responds to media inquiries; and

oversees audio-visual productions, graphic productions, and event photographs. In addition, OEE develops content and provides information on the internet, including www.epa.gov and on EPA's social media accounts. Also, to facilitate communications with EPA employees nationwide, OEE issues two weekly e-newsletters - *This Week @ EPA* and *EPA's Call it a Comeback*. In FY 2026, OEE will continue to inform the public and media of Agency initiatives and deliver timely, accurate information.

In FY 2026, OEE will continue providing advice on activities surrounding EPA stakeholder groups, including generating and distributing outreach plans for most regulatory actions. Such plans often include: meeting regularly with stakeholder groups to communicate the Administration's agenda at EPA, providing advance notification communications to relevant stakeholder groups on upcoming regulatory actions, facilitating in-state visits by the Administrator and/or senior staff to collect regulatory feedback, communicating key dates to stakeholders pertaining to opportunities to comment on EPA rulemakings, and organizing conference calls on regulatory topics with impacted stakeholders.

As the central administrative management component of the Administrator's Office (AO), the OAES provides advice, tools, and assistance to the AO's programmatic operations. In FY 2026, OAES will continue to conduct the following activities: human resources management, budget and financial management, information technology and security, and audit management.

In FY 2026, OARA will continue efforts to improve coordination between rural and agricultural stakeholders, relevant federal and state partners, and the EPA. OARA will continue to support the Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee by providing independent policy recommendations on environmental issues.

In FY 2026, OEX will continue to provide critical administrative support to the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, senior Agency officials, and staff to comply with the statutory and regulatory requirements under the Federal Records Act, FOIA, Plain Writing Act, Privacy Act and related statutes and regulations. OEX will continue to manage the AO records management and privacy programs, the Administrator's and Deputy Administrator's executive correspondence and an enterprise information technology platform that supports administrative functions, including correspondence processing, federal advisory committee management and public comment management. OEX will continue to ensure that these programs are managed in an agile way, leverage best practices and technological solutions and support the EPA's dialogue with the public, stakeholders, tribal, state, territorial and local governments as the Agency advances work on EPA's five pillars.

Other OEX responsibilities include processing correspondence for the Administrator and Deputy Administrator; reviewing and preparing documents for their signature, managing the Administrator's email account; serving as custodian of the Administrator's, Deputy Administrator's and IO senior officials' records; overseeing the records management program for all AO staff offices; and reviewing and issuing ethics determinations for gifts received by the Administrator and Deputy Administrator. OEX also manages the privacy program for the AO and monitors, reviews and audits AO systems of records. Finally, OEX manages the AO FOIA

program and responds to all requests for records held by any of the AO's associate administrator offices, staff offices and the immediate office of the Administrator.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$8,588.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$9,002.0 / -38.6 FTE) This program change reflects EPA's efforts to focus on carrying out the Agency's core mission and shared responsibilities with states, localities, and tribal nations, recognizing the need for efficiencies and operating more efficiently. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA).

Small Business Ombudsman

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$2,460	\$1,925	\$1,983	\$58
Total Budget Authority	\$2,460	\$1,925	\$1,983	\$58
Total Workyears	3.6	5.3	4.6	-0.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Small Business Ombudsman Program includes the Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO),⁷⁷ housed within the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) and the Small Business Advocacy Chair (among other small business-related activities) located within the Office of Policy's (OP) Office of Regulatory Policy and Management Division. OP's Small Business Advocacy Chair is the lead on EPA's implementation of the Regulatory Flexibility Act 5 U.S.C. §§ 601, as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, Pub Law No. 104-121^{78, 79} while the ASBO serves the public and small business community informally through its hotline and conflict resolution services. This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2026, the Program will:

- Host, manage, and respond to questions, complaints and requests for assistance through the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Hotline. The hotline takes live calls during regular business hours, as well as receives questions and complaints through its program email box. Additionally, the ASBO manages several online resources, including ombuds FAQs, contact lists, resource guides and more.
- Continue to improve access for small businesses to stay up to date on the regulatory and environmental information necessary to improve environmental compliance and outcomes.

⁷⁷ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman>.

⁷⁸ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-policy-op#ORPM>.

⁷⁹ The Regulatory Flexibility Act was amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-121), [PLAW-104publ121.pdf](#).

In FY 2026, the ASBO will continue to leverage and expand readership of its monthly *SmallBiz@EPA* newsletter, using its subscription management and data analytic tools to improve awareness and familiarity to improve our content and outreach of EPA regulatory and environmental topics of interest to the small business community.

- Assist the public and small business community by collecting data which will be used in periodic reporting to help guide the Agency on issues related to asbestos, small business regulatory compliance questions, and adherence to the 507 Program requirements. The 1986 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) (15 U.S.C. §2641-2656) and the 1990 Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments' Small Business Stationary Source Technical and Environmental Compliance Assistance Program (42 U.S.C. § 7661f), provide for ASBO monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of EPA's asbestos resources and small business environmental compliance assistance programs.
- Continue to strengthen and support collaboration between the federal and state environmental organizations on compliance assistance. ASBO continues to maintain strong cooperative federalism activities with the state Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs). ASBO will continue to fund a cooperative agreement with the states in support of the small business compliance assistance resources, training, and web engagement across all U.S. states and territories.
- Under OP's Small Business Advocacy Chair, work with the SBA Office of Advocacy and OMB to convene and manage Small Business Advocacy Review Panels. These Panels develop recommendations to reduce the cost of EPA rules that may have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.
- Continue to provide analytical support for assessing the impacts of EPA rules on small entities and the business community on environmental compliance.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$217.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$159.0 / -0.7 FTE) This program change aligns funding with core statutory requirements and "EPA's five pillars of the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, while recognizing the need for efficiencies. EPA will prioritize activities mandated by statute. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 1986 (adding Title II to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)) (15 U.S.C. §2641-2656); Clean Air Act, Title 5, Section 507; Small Business Stationary Source Technical and Environmental Compliance Assistance Program (42 U.S.C. §7661f); Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-121, as amended by Pub. L. 110-28; Small Business Paperwork Relief Act, 44 U.S.C. 35; 42 U.S.C. § 7661f; and 15 U.S.C. §§ 2641-2656.

Small Minority Business Assistance

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$3,572	\$1,907	\$1,080	-\$827
Total Budget Authority	\$3,572	\$1,907	\$1,080	-\$827
Total Workyears	9.6	7.6	6.0	-1.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This Program manages the Agency's Small Business Contracting Program mandated under Section 15(k) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. § 644(k). As prescribed under that section, the Program provides expertise in ensuring small business prime and subcontracting opportunities to expand EPA's competitive supplier base in furthering the Agency's mission. This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of "EPA's Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative". In FY 2026, the Program will:

- Expand EPA's electronic tools and mechanisms for identifying the projected contract spending of individual offices to more effectively align small business contracting opportunities and structure agencywide small business vehicles to achieve greater efficiencies, costs savings, and value consistent with Cross-Agency Partnership for Category Management. OSDDBU crafted a strategy for ensuring the maximum practicable utilization of small businesses in Agency acquisitions of common goods and services within the Category Management framework. Building on that strategy, in FY 2026, OSDDBU will continue efforts to support the implementation of the government-wide Category Management initiative by training EPA's Small Business Specialists to serve as designated experts in each of EPA's primary categories of common contracting spend.
- Strengthen EPA's small business subcontracting program by providing contracting officer training on maximizing small business subcontracting opportunities and by developing a monitoring program to ensure large business compliance with their required small business subcontracting plans. EPA fully implemented the newly enacted provisions of Section 15(k)(20), which require each agency to review all subcontracting plans to "ensure that the plan provides the maximum practicable opportunity for small business concerns." In

addition to dedicating resources to conduct the reviews, OSDBU has standardized the review procedures. The training and compliance monitoring program planned for FY 2026 will further assist in expanding the utilization of small businesses on the subcontracting level.

- Issue a comprehensive small business contracting manual that will streamline, standardize, and simplify EPA's small business contracting processes and procedures to strengthen operational efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance with governing statutory requirements. The manual will serve as a centralized and authoritative repository of internal EPA small business contracting requirements, guidance, processes, and procedures. It will be accessible electronically agencywide.
- Leverage existing and emerging collaborative tools, resources, and technology to provide important small business technical assistance required under Section 15(k) of the Small Business Act, including releasing a new small business resource guide and electronic information to educate a broad and diverse spectrum of small businesses. In addition to supporting small businesses seeking to do business with the federal government, the planned access to additional information also will assist EPA in maintaining a qualified small business industrial base to help meet the Agency's mission needs.
- Continue to build on the successes of OSDBU's Small Business Contracting Dashboard by working with a developer to enhance the automated process in reporting granular real-time small business goal accomplishments designed to enlighten the Agency's acquisition team with small business planning and strategies.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (–\$291.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll changes, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs.
- (–\$536.0 / -1.6 FTE) This program change aligns funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, while recognizing the need for efficiencies. EPA will prioritize activities to maintain compliance with its statutory obligations under the Small Business Act. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

15 U.S.C § 644(k).

State and Local Prevention and Preparedness

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$15,308</i>	<i>\$14,940</i>	<i>\$10,862</i>	<i>-\$4,078</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$15,308	\$14,940	\$10,862	-\$4,078
Total Workyears	58.3	59.5	46.9	-12.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The State and Local Prevention and Preparedness program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

The Program provides the framework to protect air, land, and water from the impact of chemical releases through planning, preparedness, and response. Additionally, it equips emergency responders and facility workers with resources to plan for and prevent accidents, distribute emergency response messaging to the public, and enhance preventative safety mechanisms.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will support the *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Water, and Land for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through the following activities:

- Provide enhanced Risk Management Plan (RMP) and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance assistance and resources to protect human health and the environment for the American people.^{80, 81} Efforts will be focused on emergency response planning and preparedness to foster economic growth while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Strengthen partnerships at local, state, and federal levels to leverage resources and eliminate inefficiencies while partnering with industry and external groups to ensure the highest standards are maintained. These actions will incorporate best practices and ensure enhanced emergency response planning and preparedness while ensuring the safety of the American people. It also will safeguard the environment, boost infrastructure, and bring back American jobs that will allow the nation to thrive.

⁸⁰ For additional information about EPA's Risk Management Program, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/rmp>.

⁸¹ For additional information about EPCRA, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$998.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$3,080.0 / -12.6 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes the need for efficiencies, and empowers EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA); the Clean Air Act (CAA) § 112(r); the Clean Water Act (CWA) § 311(j)(5).

TRI / Right to Know

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$12,246</i>	<i>\$11,991</i>	<i>\$13,206</i>	<i>\$1,215</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$12,246	\$11,991	\$13,206	\$1,215
Total Workyears	31.6	32.2	28.0	-4.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program⁸² supports EPA's mission by annually publishing for the public: release, pollution prevention (P2), and other waste management (*e.g.*, recycling) data on over 800 toxic chemicals, including 200 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS),⁸³ from approximately 21,000 industrial and federal facilities. The Program collaborates with other environmental programs on additional sector analyses, such as with the food sector concerning reducing food waste, to describe relevant trends in toxic chemical releases and waste management practices, and to support innovative approaches by industry and other partners to reduce pollution. The TRI Program empowers local decision making by collecting and providing timely, accurate and relevant information and is a premiere source of cross-media toxic chemical release data for communities, non-governmental organizations, industrial facilities, academia, and government agencies at the local, state, tribal, federal, and global levels. This program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by reducing bureaucratic delays and encouraging increased collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to focus on the collection and distribution of chemical release and other waste management data and making the data available to governments and the public. As part of this effort, the TRI program will continue to update toxic chemical reporting requirements as appropriate, pursue additional chemical listings, extend program participation to additional industry sectors (as applicable), respond to petitions, improve the reporting experience, optimize the quality of TRI data, improve analytical functions, identify opportunities to mitigate the release of toxic chemicals, and engage with industry stakeholders to adopt proven pollution prevention practices, as well as emission reduction and waste.

⁸² For additional information, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/tri/>.

⁸³ Many per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were added to the TRI chemical list as a component of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA) when the Act was signed into law on December 20, 2019. The first year of TRI reporting these PFAS was calendar year 2020.

EPA will continue to provide reporting facilities with an online reporting application, *TRI-MEweb*, to facilitate the electronic preparation and submission of TRI reports through EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX).⁸⁴ EPA will continue to support and maintain the TRI Data Exchange (TDX)³ with state and tribal partners to streamline submissions from facilities. The Agency also will continue to support the TRI Processing System (TRIPS) database, which is the repository for TRI data. Maintaining these data includes data quality activities and transmitting the data to EPA's public access site.

EPA also will focus on the operations and maintenance of *TRI-MEweb*, TRIPS, and processes that contribute to quality control in the development of the annual TRI National Analysis. By leveraging Agency cloud services, the TRI systems will improve system performance, reliability, efficiencies, portability, and administrative services (security, upgrades, patches, etc.). This also will improve integration/consistency with other cloud-based systems and applications and will provide quicker data processing. Moreover, this will enhance the capabilities of EPA's public-facing TRI analytical tools.

In FY 2026, the Program will conduct at least 650 data quality checks to help optimize the accuracy and completeness of the reported data and thereby improve the Program's analyses of chemical releases and wastes. The Program will continue to publish the annual *TRI National Analysis*.⁸⁵ The TRI program will continue to provide support to the EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance programs by supplying them with information using data comparisons across programs (e.g., air permits required by the Clean Air Act) to highlight facilities for potential engagement or further review. The TRI program hopes to continue fostering discussions and collaborations in analyzing and using its data with stakeholders such as industry, government, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the public. Engagement will include organizing targeted webinars and, if resources permit, hosting an in-person TRI National Conference. The TRI Program's data and analyses will support EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Program, helping to identify conditions of use and to evaluate and estimate potential exposure for those chemicals undergoing risk evaluation.

Section 7321 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2020 requires EPA to assess certain PFAS to determine whether they meet EPCRA Section 313 chemical listing criteria. The NDAA automatically added nine additional PFAS to the TRI list, effective January 1, 2025. EPA expects similar automatic additions of PFAS to the TRI list over calendar years 2025 and 2026, which will be implemented in FY 2026 and FY 2027.

In FY 2025, EPA proposed a rule to add 16 individual PFAS and 15 PFAS categories to the TRI and to designate them as chemicals of special concern. EPA anticipates finalizing this proposal in a manner consistent with the Administration's priorities and policies in FY 2026 or FY 2027. The TRI Program will additionally pursue chemical listings important to the Agency.

⁸⁴ To access the CDX, please visit: <https://cdx.epa.gov/>.

⁸⁵ To access the TRI National Analysis, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis>. EPA publishes each National Analysis approximately six months after that year's data are reported.

As required by EPCRA, the Agency also will continue to respond to any TRI chemical petitions received during FY 2026 within 180 days after receipt.⁸⁶ The quantity and complexity of petitions are unknown until submitted to EPA.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$493.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$1,708.0 / -4.2 FTE) This net program change is an investment in increased capacity for workload associated with TRI chemical data collection information for states and tribes and for contract resources to support IT analytical tools. This increase is partially offset by a decrease in FTE and associated payroll owing to efficiencies gained through increased technical capabilities.

Statutory Authority:

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) § 313; Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (PPA) § 6607.

⁸⁶ Additional information on current petitions may be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/toxics-release-inventory-laws-and-regulatory-activities>.

Tribal - Capacity Building

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$14,414</i>	<i>\$14,715</i>	<i>\$14,715</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$14,414	\$14,715	\$14,715	\$0
Total Workyears	69.9	72.0	78.6	6.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA is responsible for protecting human health and the environment in Indian country under federal environmental statutes and therefore directly implements the statutory programs until legal authority is delegated to a federally recognized Indian tribe (tribe).

Under the EPA Indian Policy,⁸⁷ EPA works with federally recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis in recognition of the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes to build the tribal capacity to obtain the legal authority to implement federal environmental programs. This cooperative federalism approach is written into the EPA Indian Policy which states: "EPA recognizes tribes as the primary parties for setting standards, making environmental policy decisions, and managing programs for reservations consistent with agency [federal] standards and regulations." This program also supports the Categorical Grant: Tribal General Assistance Grants Program.

EPA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) leads the agencywide efforts to ensure environmental protection in Indian country. Please see <http://www.epa.gov/tribal> for more information.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in the program directly supports *EPA's Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Overall, the Agency has made steady progress towards strengthening human health and environmental protection on tribal lands. EPA will further its priority of strengthening tribal partnerships and continue to work toward its goal of building tribal capacity through a number of mechanisms in FY 2026. In addition, the Agency continues the direct implementation assessment effort to better administer EPA's direct implementation responsibilities and activities on a program-by-program basis in Indian country.

⁸⁷ EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations, available at <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/epa-policy-administration-environmental-programs-indian-reservations-1984-indian-policy>.

Capacity Building: EPA remains committed to empowering tribal governments with the tools and resources necessary to pursue environmental stewardship and to implement federal environmental programs, including the “treatment in a manner similar to a state” (TAS) process and the use of the Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreement (DITCA) authority. The Agency will continue to provide technical and financial assistance to ensure tribal governments have the opportunity to build the capacity to meaningfully participate and engage in environmental protection activities. To date, EPA has approved 107 TAS eligibility determinations to tribes, including 20 related to compliance and enforcement. EPA had approximately 15 active DITCAs with tribes in place in FY 2025.

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) Capacity Building Support: GAP grants to tribal governments and intertribal consortia help build the basic components of a tribal environmental program. The Agency manages GAP grants according to its *GAP Guidance on Financial Assistance Agreements*.⁸⁸ In FY 2026, EPA continues to prioritize GAP financial assistance to build tribal capacity and address environmental issues in Indian country. EPA’s work in FY 2026 also will continue to advance EPA-tribal partnerships through development and implementation of EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) and a continued focus on tracking and reporting measurable results of GAP-funded activities.

GAP Performance Measurement: EPA will utilize the GAP HUB performance management application to ensure data-driven decision-making, aligning with the 2022 GAP Guidance while optimizing resource allocation and accountability. The information technology-based performance application provides a data-driven basis for supporting funding decisions and priorities and contributes to program accountability. Increased GAP performance will complement tribal capacity in media programs, including efforts for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Funds tribal set-asides.

Tribal Consultation: In partnering with tribes, EPA follows its *Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes*.⁸⁹ The Consultation Policy builds on the EPA Indian Policy and establishes clear Agency standards for a consultation process promoting consistency and coordination. Since 2011, EPA has completed over 1,000 tribal consultations, an important Agency milestone under the EPA Tribal Consultation Policy. EPA completed 130 tribal consultations in FY 2024. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to support the Agency’s web-based Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System, a publicly accessible database used to communicate upcoming and current EPA consultation opportunities to tribal governments. The system provides a management, oversight, and tracking structure that helps ensure accountability and transparency.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

⁸⁸ Please refer to <https://www.epa.gov/general-assistance-program-gap/gap-guidance-financial-assistance-agreements> for further information.

⁸⁹ Please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-04/epa-policy-on-consultation-with-indian-tribes.pdf>.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,267.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$1,267.0 / +6.6 FTE) This provides additional resources and FTE that will support EPA's tribal capacity development program and increase the ability of tribes to implement federal environmental programs.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

International Programs

International Sources of Pollution

Program Area: International Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$7,748	\$7,683	\$5,339	-\$2,344
Total Budget Authority	\$7,748	\$7,683	\$5,339	-\$2,344
Total Workyears	33.7	32.3	14.2	-18.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The International Sources of Pollution Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program works to strengthen environmental protection abroad so that it is on par with practices in the U.S. helps end unfair practices that put U.S. companies at a disadvantage and promotes opportunities for technologies and innovation.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in the program directly supports *EPA's Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to engage both bilaterally and through multilateral institutions to improve international cooperation to prevent and address the transboundary movement of pollution. This includes broadening the uptake of U.S. performance standards internationally, providing expertise to others to reduce their pollution that impacts the United States, and reinforcing the Administration's policy agenda with international partners.

Critical Minerals

The United States is dependent upon strategic adversaries—most notably, the People's Republic of China (PRC)—for many of its critical minerals and materials. Mineral deposits in the United States and in allied countries are increasingly vulnerable to unstable commodity prices, fueled by PRC facilities in countries with lower environmental and human health standards. There are United States Government efforts to ensure the United States can maintain sufficient production of, and reliable access to critical minerals that are essential to our defense industrial base, energy, and advanced technologies/manufacturing.

EPA and other agencies support U.S. government efforts to strengthen international engagement on critical minerals, develop partnerships and agreements with like-minded trade partners and, through international standards, advance the global competitiveness of U.S. companies across critical minerals value chains and level the playing field.

Chemicals and Waste Cooperation

EPA will advance efforts to reduce environmental threats to U.S. citizens from global contaminants impacting air, water, and food. EPA will continue technical and policy assistance for global and regional efforts to address international sources of harmful pollutants.

Since seventy percent of the mercury deposited in the U.S. comes from global sources,⁹⁰ both domestic efforts and international cooperation are important to address mercury pollution. EPA will continue to work with international partners and key countries to fully implement obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury in order to protect the U.S. population from mercury emissions originating in other countries, including from artisanal and small-scale gold mining. In FY 2026, EPA will play a pivotal role for the United States in advancing international agreement among the countries that are party to the Convention in evaluating the effectiveness of this agreement to control mercury. In addition, EPA remains committed to advancing U.S. practices that reduce or eliminate use of mercury and encourage their uptake by other countries.

In 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly launched negotiations for a new global agreement on plastic pollution. The most significant issue in negotiations is the scope of the agreement. Specifically, whether it should include commitments on “upstream” aspects of plastic production, such as production caps, banning certain chemicals, additives, and polymers, or only “downstream” aspects, such as waste management, recycling, and product design to facilitate downstream measures. Given the potential scope of the agreement, EPA has significant equities and provides technical and negotiating expertise to the policy development on international plastic pollution. The Administration will be developing new positions in advance of the next round of negotiations, which EPA typically attends.

EPA also will continue to take a leadership role to work with other Arctic nations to reduce pollution in the U.S. Arctic. Areas of cooperation in FY 2026 include sharing proven strategies on U.S. alternatives to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) based firefighting foams in commercial and military arctic airports, as well as natural gas and oil sectors. Not only are the alternatives effective but they also reduce environmental contamination in Alaska and other Arctic communities and are more protective of firefighter human health. Other areas of cooperative efforts include facilitating solid waste management opportunities for our Arctic communities and identifying interventions to otherwise reduce pollution in our native and local Arctic villages.

Food Waste

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to build targeted collaboration with the United Nations and the Office of Management and Budget to guarantee that on methodologies used to track international progress on reducing food waste accurately reflect U.S. progress. With the requested funds, the Agency will identify and develop pilot projects to reduce food waste, addressing the growing

⁹⁰ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/minamata-convention-mercury> and www.mercuryconvention.org.

impact of landfill waste in rapidly urbanizing developing country cities. These projects are aimed at exporting U.S. technology and innovative strategies to improve the environment. For example, EPA will bring together experts from the U.S. government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, and the private sector to promote programs, best practices, and technologies related to food loss and waste.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$2,344.0 / -18.1 FTE) This reduction aligns program funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, empowers EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism, and deprioritizes international actions that do not align with Administration priorities. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

In conjunction with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) § 102(2)(F); Clean Air Act § 103(a); Clean Water Act § 104(a)(1)-(2); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1442(a)(1); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) § 8001(a)(1); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) §§ 17(d), 20(a); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) §10(a); Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) § 203(a)(1); E.O. 13547; E.O. 13689.

Trade and Governance

Program Area: International Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$5,232	\$4,558	\$0	-\$4,558
Total Budget Authority	\$5,232	\$4,558	\$0	-\$4,558
Total Workyears	14.4	13.9	0.0	-13.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Trade and Governance Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this Program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$4,558.0 / -13.9 FTE) This program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

In conjunction with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) § 102(2)(F); Clean Air Act § 103(a); Clean Water Act § 104(a)(1)-(2); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1442(a)(1); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) § 8001(a)(1); Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) §§ 17(d), 20(a); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) §10(a); Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) § 203(a)(1); E.O. 12915; E.O. 13141; E.O. 13277.

US Mexico Border

Program Area: International Programs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$2,853	\$2,936	\$2,791	-\$145
Total Budget Authority	\$2,853	\$2,936	\$2,791	-\$145
Total Workyears	12.1	12.0	12.4	0.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's U.S. Mexico Border is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program protects and improves the health and environmental conditions along the U.S. and Mexico border, extending from the Gulf Coast to the Pacific Ocean.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in the program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. EPA and Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) will sunset the U.S.-Mexico Border 2025 program and develop a successor program to continue efforts to address the environmental challenges along the border.

Air Pollution

In FY 2026, EPA remains committed to reducing air pollution in the U.S.-Mexico Border region. Several communities along both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border share airsheds and have strong economic linkages, so emissions-generating activities in one city can directly affect the other, whether in the same country or across the border. EPA will continue to build upon successful air quality efforts conducted during the Border 2020 and 2025 programs, which resulted in an improved understanding of the sources and nature of transboundary air pollution, among other outcomes relevant to the Clean Air Act. Ongoing priority concerns for the region may continue to include: improving emissions inventories to better characterize international transport, supporting air monitoring networks, increasing public awareness about health effects, improving coordination among regional, state, and local governments in binational air quality planning, and bolstering Mexican environmental compliance.

Ongoing work in this space is expected to improve air quality and reduce public health impacts for Americans living and working along the border. This mission-critical work directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Water Management

In FY 2026, the Agency will prioritize effective waste management in the Tijuana River Watershed to safeguard American communities and uphold environmental standards. The United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) authorizes and directs EPA to coordinate with specific federal, state, and local entities to plan and implement high-priority infrastructure projects that address transboundary pollution affecting San Diego County, California. EPA will build from projects in the Border 2025 Program and will advance the implementation of projects to prevent and reduce the levels of trash and sediment entering high-priority binational watersheds. Other projects that prevent/reduce marine litter should primarily focus on preventing waste at the source through improvements to solid waste management systems, education campaigns, monitoring, and reducing trash entering the aquatic environment through the capture of litter using river booms in known watershed litter hot spots. Additionally, EPA will improve access to transboundary water quality data by developing spill notification protocols, increasing awareness of beach contamination, displaying timely information on water quality in high-priority watersheds, and continuing the work of the binational water quality improvement plan.

Sustainable Materials Management

In FY 2026, EPA will strengthen collaboration and partner on sustainable materials management demonstration projects to prevent waste and improve the recovery of materials, such as plastic, e-waste, and scrap tires, through public-private partnership programs and infrastructure investments in the border region to mitigate public health and environmental impacts and avoid costly cleanup efforts. Additionally, EPA will work to increase institutional capacity for resource efficiency and sustainable management of materials and develop/implement strategies to reduce illegal dumping and landfill fires, maximize material recovery, and promote environmentally sound disposal practices and clean sites. Each border region has different economic, social, and cultural situations, with different capacities to mitigate the generation and management of waste and secondary materials.

EPA will continue to increase institutional capabilities in planning and technical assistance, enabling the development of programs, projects, or actions which consider the life cycle analysis on natural resource economics, manufacturing, transport, and other market factors to effectively collect and use materials and avoid them being lost to landfills.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Additionally, the United States and Mexico will work together to enhance joint preparedness for environmental emergency response by training emergency responders, improving binational notifications, and updating Sister City contingency and preparedness plans. As part of the efforts for binational emergency preparedness and response, the Program will continue updating the

Mexico-U.S. Joint Contingency Plan in both Spanish and English as well as conducting knowledge exchange and tabletop exercise activities to build partnership capacity and provide locals with the opportunity to test and improve emergency plans in their areas. In addition, both countries will coordinate binational efforts border-wide.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$378.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$233.0 / +0.4 FTE) This provides additional resources and FTE that will support EPA's work along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

Statutory Authority:

In conjunction with the 1983 Agreement between the United States of America and the Mexican United States on Cooperation for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in the Border Area (La Paz Agreement) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) §102(2)(I); Clean Air Act §103; Clean Water Act §104; Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) §1442; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) § 8001(a)(1); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) §20(a) & Appropriations Act of 2000 (PL 106-74)17(d); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) § 10(a) & PL 106-74; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) § 203; Solid Waste Disposal Act: Sec. 8001.

IT/ Data Management/ Security

Information Security

Program Area: IT / Data Management / Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$11,852</i>	<i>\$8,388</i>	<i>\$14,012</i>	<i>\$5,624</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$2,123	\$1,040	\$5,082	\$4,042
Total Budget Authority	\$13,975	\$9,428	\$19,094	\$9,666
Total Workyears	8.0	10.1	12.8	2.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Information Security and Privacy Program protects Agency assets and personnel from cybersecurity threats. Digital information is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset that enables EPA to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment. Information protection is accomplished by strengthening the Agency's information security and privacy posture, elevating EPA staff knowledge of information security and privacy awareness, maintaining Agency information security and privacy directives, increased adoption of information security and privacy practices, and optimizing processes to reduce the burden of compliance. This program supports *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* by helping secure Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology development and its supporting infrastructure.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program and Information Technology Security Governance will be maturing continuous monitoring functions which includes the Continuous Authorization to Operate (ATO) or "Ongoing Authorization," a foundational activity supporting Risk Management. The capabilities are designed to continuously monitor systems to address real-time threats. System controls are constantly evaluated and tested to identify vulnerabilities which allow the Agency to make risk-based decisions quickly and confidently engage in remediation efforts to minimize ongoing exposures. A component of this effort includes investment in the Enterprise Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) tool with machine-readable authorization capabilities. The Agency will continue to strengthen Personally Identifiable Information (PII) protection via the National Privacy Program, automate workflows, and enhance data labeling with Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) collaboration.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to leverage the Agency's Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) Roadmap and implementation of zero trust capabilities, addressing identified gaps to enable the development of networks which can resist malicious actions regardless of their origin. Proper permissions for a given user's needs are a critical component of ZTA, and coding for more granular control over the network environment is an information security priority. The Agency also will remain focused on

ensuring that all devices in EPA's environment are compliant with information security requirements prior to accessing network resources. EPA will continue to leverage capabilities through the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) Program. In addition to protecting EPA information assets, CDM will help the Agency identify and respond to federal-wide cybersecurity threats and incidents more quickly and efficiently.

Enterprise Security Operations - Incident Response Capability

EPA will continue to invest in providing a centralized, integrated, and coordinated cybersecurity incident response through its Computer Security Incident Response Capability, defending against unauthorized activity within Agency computer networks. This includes providing threat awareness, cyber network defense infrastructure, cybersecurity tool engineering, vulnerability and risk assessments, threat intelligence processing, threat hunting, and penetration testing capabilities. EPA will continue leveraging the Department of Homeland Security's Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP) and the "Bug Bounty" Program, which provides vetted cybersecurity researchers to identify vulnerabilities, and awarding bounties for high-risk findings.

Artificial Intelligence

The Agency will be making investments in securing mission activities from risks posed by leading edge technologies such as Generative AI, Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Quantum Computing. These investments in the implementation of the necessary controls to allow use of leading-edge technologies within the environment and prevent malicious actors from leveraging these technologies to disrupt business operations, will help to ensure that Agency personnel can perform their core mission activities efficiently and securely.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,332.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$6,956.0 / +2.7 FTE) This program change increases EPA's capacity to implement critical cybersecurity solutions, including the ability to ingest machine readable authorization artifacts, increasing the speed of implementing cloud solutions and minimizing burden in leveraging security capabilities related to information systems.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Cybersecurity Act of 2015; Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA).

IT / Data Management

Program Area: IT / Data Management / Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$89,592	\$88,112	\$79,164	-\$8,948
Science & Technology	\$2,484	\$3,079	\$2,890	-\$189
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$19,372	\$19,786	\$13,874	-\$5,912
Total Budget Authority	\$111,448	\$110,977	\$95,928	-\$15,049
Total Workyears	448.1	466.7	469.9	3.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 172.0 FTE to support IT/Data Management working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 12.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

EPA's IT/Data Management (IT/DM) Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This program supports the maintenance of EPA's Information Technology (IT) and Information Management (IT/IM) services that enable citizens, regulated facilities, states, and other entities to interact with EPA electronically to access, analyze and understand, and share environmental data on-demand.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

This program directly supports *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* by supporting the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and supporting infrastructure. Additionally, work performed under this program directly supports agencywide implementation of all five pillars through access to critical information technology and information management tools and solutions. This program plays an essential role in providing data sets to other federal and state agencies to enable cooperative federalism, empower permitting reform, and support smart regulations, which supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

In support of Executive Order (EO) 14179: *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*,⁹¹ EPA will continue to expand its AI capabilities and build AI capacity throughout the Agency while mitigating risks and promoting a foundation grounded in strong data practices. The EPA's Responsible AI Official and a Chief AI Officer will lead AI strategy, compliance, and governance for the Agency alongside mission and business partners, to harness AI in a manner that not only enhances EPA's operational efficacy but also aligns with EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. These efforts will build upon continual development and refinement of AI use cases and initiatives which have high operational impact,

⁹¹ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02172/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence>.

and through AI solutions and platforms which can improve the accuracy and speed of environmental assessments, optimize resource allocation, and develop modern solutions to pressing environmental issues.

The FY 2026 Budget includes resources for Agency contributions to the General Services Administration (GSA) in support of the Technology Transformation Services (TTS) reimbursable program. Adoption of GSA's Technology Transformation services apply modern methodologies and technologies to improve services, making them more accessible, efficient, and effective as required by statute and OMB policy.

In FY 2026, EPA will further strengthen its IT acquisition review process as part of the implementation of Federal Common Baseline Controls for the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) and in support of EO 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*. FITARA ensures Agency IT plans are cost-effective, well designed, directly drive EPA long-term performance goals, and follow best practices.

The Agency also will continue implementing the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (P.L. 115-336),⁹² which includes modernization of internal and public-facing websites and digital services, as well as digitization of paper forms and non-digital services. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to maintain and manage its core IT/DM services, including the Geospatial Information Program, Information Collection Requests, National Library Program, and EPA's Docket Center.

Key initiatives include:

- Leveraging AI and cost-effective solutions to convert internal administrative paper or analog workflows into modern digital workflows to speed up common administrative tasks and improve internal data collection and reporting, and improve cross-agency data interoperability and delivery to the public.
- Continuing to implement the agencywide records Digitization Strategy through two national digitization centers and leverage AI and machine learning capabilities to assist staff with their record responsibilities, including the appropriate scheduling of electronic records.
- Continuing to implement EPA's Controlled Unclassified Information Program, standardizing, simplifying, and improving information management and IT practices to facilitate the sharing of important sensitive data within the Agency, with key stakeholders outside of the Agency, and with the public, meeting federal standards.
- Increasing the use of registries and improving registry quality by modernizing from custom built solutions to cost-efficient commercial off-the-shelf tools with expanded capabilities. Registries are shared data services in which common data are managed centrally but shared

⁹² For additional information, please see <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ336/PLAW-115publ336.pdf>.

broadly to improve data quality, enable integration and interoperability of data across program silos, and facilitate discovery of EPA information publicly and internally.

- Continuing to modernize EPA's web presence to support internal and external users with information on EPA business, supporting employees with internal information, and providing a clearinghouse for the Agency to communicate initiatives and successes. EPA also will continue to upgrade its web infrastructure to ensure that it meets statutory and security requirements.
- Continuing to support the essential capabilities of GeoPlatform, a shared enterprise technology for geospatial information and analysis. By implementing geospatial data, applications, and services, EPA can integrate, interpret, and visualize multiple data sets and information sources to support environmental decisions and share information with state and local partners during emergency response operations, directly supporting *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.
- Continuing to transform the Agency's libraries to meet the needs of the 21st Century in a cost-efficient manner. This involves reducing the physical footprint of Agency libraries; providing online services and resources at the customer's point of need; and centralizing core services.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,583.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$3,365.0 / +12.3 FTE) This program change is a net decrease due to a reduction in contracting resources offset by an increase in federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical AI expertise, records digitization efforts, and registry quality improvement functions back in-house. An increase in 12.3 appropriated FTE is offset by a decrease of 12.7 reimbursable FTE as part of an effort to reduce costs to Agency mission partners. These adjustments are necessary to reduce unnecessary spending, to refocus EPA on its mission, and to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act; Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA); Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 508; Geospatial Data Act of 2018; 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (P.L. 115-336); Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (PL 115-435); 44 USC §3507; Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act.

Legal/ Science/ Regulatory/ Economic Review

Administrative Law

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$5,437	\$6,106	\$5,104	-\$1,002
Total Budget Authority	\$5,437	\$6,106	\$5,104	-\$1,002
Total Workyears	20.9	22.8	24.0	1.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce support and efficiency. This program supports EPA's Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) and the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB). This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by reducing bureaucratic delays and encouraging increased collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, OALJ will continue to convene formal hearings as required by statute. As the Agency continues its focus on reviewing FIFRA registrations and making determinations on certain claims against the Superfund under CERCLA into FY 2026, OALJ will support adjudication of these time-sensitive matters. In FY 2026, the EAB will continue to efficiently and fairly adjudicate permit and enforcement appeals under all statutes as well as petitions for reimbursement under CERCLA, and time sensitive FIFRA licensing proceedings.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,245.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$243.0 / +1.2 FTE) This program change is an increase to align with the Administration's priority to enhance efficiency by guaranteeing the regulated community the right to due process of the law.

Statutory Authority:

Administrative Procedure Act (APA); Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Clean Water Act (CWA); Clean Air Act (CAA); Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA); Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA); Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA); Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act (MCRBMA); the Act to Prevent Pollution From Ships (APPS); Oil Pollution Act (OPA); American Innovation and Manufacturing Act (AIM Act); Alternative Dispute Resolution Act (ADRA).

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$439	\$579	\$0	-\$579
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,006	\$644	\$0	-\$644
Total Budget Authority	\$1,445	\$1,223	\$0	-\$1,223
Total Workyears	0.8	2.9	0.0	-2.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and focus resources on EPA's core mission. This change supports the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The ADR Program provides facilitation, mediation, public involvement, training, and consensus building advice and support for the Agency. All statutory work will be accomplished in Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review programs or other applicable programs.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the ADR Program is proposed for elimination as the Agency returns to its core statutory requirements and *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$579.0 / -2.3 FTE) The Alternative Dispute Resolution Program is proposed for elimination to align with Administration priorities and refocus EPA on its core mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Administrative Dispute Resolution Act (ADRA) of 1996; Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1996; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Civil Rights Program

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$12,219</i>	<i>\$11,248</i>	<i>\$9,780</i>	<i>-\$1,468</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$12,219	\$11,248	\$9,780	-\$1,468
Total Workyears	51.8	59.0	48.3	-10.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 0.0 FTE in Civil Rights Working Capital Fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 1.0 FTE.

Program Project Description:

The Civil Rights Program enforces federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination by recipients of federal financial assistance and protect employees and applicants for employment from discrimination. This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program ensures merit system principles are followed, so no employee or applicant is discriminated against thereby providing the EPA with the most qualified staff to contribute to EPA's mission and EPA's five pillars of the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Office of Civil Rights' (OCR) programs seek to avoid disruptions to the workplace that result from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation complaints by proactively addressing these issues. OCR also promotes alternative dispute resolution to resolve workplace complaints, so its employees, supervisors, managers, and leadership can focus on the Agency's mission. Office of External Civil Rights and Compliance (OECRC) will align funding with core statutory requirements and administration's five pillar work to improve efficiencies that streamline and strengthen compliance with applicable federal nondiscrimination laws by recipients of and applicants for EPA financial assistance to ensure clean air, water and land for all individuals.

Office of Civil Rights

OCR strategic plans, include specific goals, implementation steps, and benchmarks that will serve as internal performance measures to ensure accountability for all its functions. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to advance its emphasis on process improvement, internal performance measures, technology resources, and strategic human capital planning.

Employment Complaints Resolution (ECR) Program

In FY 2026, the Civil Rights Program will dedicate most of its financial resources to the processing of discrimination complaints, including EEO counseling, investigations, and drafting Final Agency Decisions. The Program will focus on process improvements to 1) ensure prompt, effective, and efficient EEO complaint docket management; 2) enhance the EEO compliance program through strategic policy and training development; and 3) continue to strengthen the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program. The Program will continue to:

- Enhance the efficiency of collateral-duty EEO counselors, providing training and onboarding.
- Evaluate methods implemented to improve the timeliness of Final Agency Decisions, with a goal of reducing the time it takes to complete Final Agency Decisions.
- Strengthen the ADR Program by providing training and marketing specific to both employees and management.
- Implement cross agency training for supervisors and staff to remind them of EEO process, roles, and responsibilities.

Affirmative Employment Analysis and Accountability (AEAA) Program

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to focus on process improvements to 1) ensure prompt, effective, and efficient development of critical and required reports, such as MD-715; 2) develop strategic policy, training and the engagement of critical internal EPA partners; and 3) evaluate data and accomplishments. The Program will continue to:

- Work with EEO Officers and other agency stakeholders to improve the process for developing the MD-715.
- Increase the availability of data from the AEAA Program through visual management (*e.g.*, dashboards) and increase the use of technology to demonstrate progress.
- Provide effective training and tools for managers in carrying out their responsibilities under MD-715.

Reasonable Accommodations (RA) Program

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to focus on process and technological improvements to ensure prompt, effective, and efficient RA request docket management. The Program will enhance the RA compliance function through development of strategic policy, training, and the engagement of critical internal EPA partners. The Program will continue to:

- Evaluate and revise, as necessary, the Personal Assistant Services (PAS) procedures.
- Update RA processes and templates to improve the timeliness, efficiency, and consistency of communications and to avoid release of sensitive personally identifiable information.
- Deliver RA training for both employees and management, which incorporates aspects of PAS and the PWFA.
- Apply a user-based approach to the RA Program to enhance customer service and communication.

External Civil Rights

In FY 2026, OECRC will focus its work supporting the Administration's priorities, to include *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*. The Program will continue to:

- Advance cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnership, by providing guidance, training, and technical assistance to EPA applicants and recipients and other internal and external stakeholders.
- Conduct pre-and post-award reviews to ensure applicant and recipient compliance through review of regulatory requirements and the provision of technical assistance.
- Undertake timely and effective complaint investigations and/or resolutions to ensure compliance with applicable federal nondiscrimination laws.
- Update and refine processes and guidance, such as the case resolution manual, to ensure alignment with Agency priorities, and provide timely and effective resolution of complaints and reviews.
- Implement language and disability access policies and procedures consistent with federal law, Executive Orders, and Agency policies and priorities.
- Provide transparency to the public by affirmatively delivering information and case-related documents to the public through the online complaint docket.
- Engage in federal interagency collaboration and coordination on complaints, compliance reviews, and policy guidance to enforce federal civil rights laws consistent with law, Executive Orders, and Agency policies and priorities.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$345.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$1,813.0 / -9.7 FTE) This program is proposed for reduction to align with Administration priorities, to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 504; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 § 13; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 §§ 501, 505, 508; Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) of 1967; Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA).

Integrated Environmental Strategies

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$12,897</i>	<i>\$10,435</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>	<i>-\$2,435</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$12,897	\$10,435	\$8,000	-\$2,435
Total Workyears	47.7	44.1	15.0	-29.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in a cost-efficient manner. The Integrated Environmental Strategies (IES) Program advances the Agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment while promoting economic growth from the national level to the community level.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, this program will focus efforts on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the permitting process. Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross Agency Partnership*, and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. This program demonstrates new approaches to streamline and reduce unnecessary burdens and to help communities meet their environmental and economic needs. In FY 2026, the Program will focus on permit streamlining, with the goal of developing permitting technology standards.

Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century

On April 15, 2025, President Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum (PM) on Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century.⁹³ The memorandum directed the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to establish and lead an interagency Permitting Innovation Center that will design and test prototype tools that could be implemented pursuant to the Permitting Technology Action Plan for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews and other environmental permits and authorizations. On April 30, 2025, CEQ announced the establishment of a Permitting Innovation Center⁹⁴ that will coordinate implementation of the PM, develop the Permitting Technology Action Plan (PTAP) and oversee Agency implementation of

⁹³ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/updating-permitting-technology-for-the-21st-century/>.

⁹⁴ For additional information, please visit: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Memorandum-CEQ-Establishment-of-Permitting-Innovation-Center_4.30.2025.pdf.

the PTAP. The Center's work will support the Agency's ability to maximize the use of technology in environmental review and permitting processes for infrastructure projects. The objective of the Center is to develop a software system capable of tracking the permitting process including case management systems, application submission and tracking portals, automation of application and review processes, data exchange between Agency systems, and acceleration of complex reviews. EPA plays a crucial role in the NEPA process as it is responsible reviewing and filing all Agency environmental impact studies for compliance with NEPA. EPA will play a critical part in advancing the latest cutting-edge permitting software.

Permit Streamlining

EPA implements its statutory authority through various permitting and environmental review programs. The Agency continues to focus efforts across EPA program and regional offices and with state and tribal co-regulators to support and implement permitting and environmental review best practices, coordination, streamlining efficiencies, oversight, and automation. In FY 2026, the IES Program will focus its resources to accelerate permitting activities compatible with 21st Century technology (*i.e.*, AI/automation). The IES Program will maximize the use of technology in environmental reviews for infrastructure projects to advance the goals under *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*. EPA will prepare and support the transition of EPA's major permitting programs into the 21st Century with automation and AI while strengthening engagement and coordination with coregulating partners to use AI/automation to enhance permit quality, timelines, and integrity.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from the FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$3,807.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$6,242.0 / -29.1 FTE) This program change refocuses resources to advance permit automation and energy activities to drive economic growth in tandem with environmental protection. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Legal Advice: Environmental Program

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$61,776</i>	<i>\$58,876</i>	<i>\$50,263</i>	<i>-\$8,613</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,804	\$713	\$608	-\$105
Total Budget Authority	\$63,580	\$59,589	\$50,871	-\$8,718
Total Workyears	269.5	266.6	263.8	-2.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 5.5 FTE funded by TSCA fees and 22.0 FTE to support Legal Advice working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 1.4 FTE.

Program Project Description:

The Legal Advice: Environmental Program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency and focus on litigation support for core environmental programs. This program provides legal representational services, counseling, and support for all Agency activities directed at achieving the Agency's core mission to protect human health and the environment.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Program plays a central role in supporting the Administrator's top priorities by providing a legal framework to enable EPA's initiatives to move forward effectively, lawfully, and sustainably. In alignment with the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, the Program will ensure EPA actions withstand judicial review.

In FY 2025, the Program provided legal support regarding the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024, the Oil Pollution Act & Clean Water Act Section 311, and policies and actions centered on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), providing options for meeting Administration implementation goals. In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide essential legal support to ensure implementation in line with the Administration's goals.

The Program issued 1,571 final determinations for confidentiality claims under the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) submissions, provided legal counsel on TSCA confidential business information (CBI), developed streamlining measures to more quickly process a large influx of periodic reports, and kept its backlog of TSCA CBI reviews to a minimum. Additionally, the Program reviewed approximately 46 technology transfer agreements related to research with external partners, responded to 11 patent actions, and reviewed employee report of inventions. In FY 2026, EPA will continue this work to further the Agency's mission, aid in cross-agency partnerships, and generate licensing revenue for the Agency's research centers.

In FY 2025, the Program successfully managed over 110 litigations in federal court, including nearly 30 new cases filed in the first half of the fiscal year. These cases involved challenges to

several major rulemaking decisions and pesticide registration actions. The Program designed effective legal strategies for defending these decisions or reconsidering them, as appropriate, including challenges to the TSCA section 6 risk management rules for asbestos, methylene chloride, carbon tetrachloride, and the Framework rule for TSCA section 6 risk evaluations. In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide legal counseling for different rulemakings under TSCA, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and the Toxics Release Inventory program.

The Program provided legal support to DOJ in three Clean Air Act cases argued before the Supreme Court. These cases presented questions pertaining to proper venue in the context of good neighbor State Implementation Plans (*Oklahoma v. EPA*); small refinery exemptions from the Renewable Fuel Standards (*EPA v. Calumet*); and Article III standing in the context of waivers of preemption for California's motor vehicle standards (*Diamond Alternative Energy v. EPA*). The Program also provided legal support and counseling on: EPA rulemakings to revise regulations affecting the oil, gas, and power plant sectors to promote energy production; actions to approve State Implementation Plans that promote cooperative federalism; actions making New Source Review (NSR) permitting requirements more efficient; and actions revising greenhouse gas standards for the auto sector providing greater flexibility to auto manufacturers and supporting American auto jobs.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide counseling on deregulatory actions, including the development of expedited "good cause" rulemakings consistent with Executive Order 14219. The Program counsels on other transition-related administrative matters, including: Executive Orders 14192 and 14270; withdrawal of signed EPA rules from the Office of the Federal Register; delay of effective dates, or administrative stays of published EPA rules; extension of public comment periods for 15 regulations pursuant to the Presidential Memorandum "*Regulatory Freeze Pending Review*"; and "sunsetting" of multiple Federal Advisory Committees consistent with Agency and Administration priorities. The Program also co-leads efforts to support EPA priorities under *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* by leveraging and integrating Artificial Intelligence into Agency rulemaking efforts. Under *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs*, the Program advises on Agency-specific implications and considerations related to the America First Trade Policy and also advises on the Agency's complementary efforts to restore American energy dominance under *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*.

In FY 2026, the Program, together with DOJ, will represent EPA in court challenges to Agency actions and inactions. The Program's work supports EPA priorities under *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, including cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships with agencies such as DOJ, the Department of the Army, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Program will continue to provide timely and critical legal assistance such as with the kickoff of the Administration's 2025 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) reconsideration effort, which is designed to conform with the 2023 landmark Supreme Court "*Sackett*" decision, reduce red tape, and cut overall permitting costs, all while protecting the Nation's navigable waters from pollutants by, among other things, increasing the clarity of the rules that apply to discharges into them.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$7,577.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$1,036.0 / -4.2 FTE) This net program change aligns resources to focus on counseling and legal advice on the highest Agency priorities and on litigation support to help ensure that human health and the environment are protected. These adjustments are necessary to refocus EPA on its core mission and to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Legal Advice: Support Program

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$18,906</i>	<i>\$18,541</i>	<i>\$18,082</i>	<i>-\$459</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$18,906	\$18,541	\$18,082	-\$459
Total Workyears	73.4	77.8	79.9	2.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.5 FTE funded by TSCA fees and 0.2 FTE to support Legal Advice working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.6 FTE.

Program Project Description:

The Legal Advice: Support Program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency and focus on legal support for EPA's highest operational priorities. This program ensures compliance with laws and policies that govern EPA's operations. The Program provides legal representational services, legal counseling, and legal support for a wide variety of activities necessary for EPA's operation, including providing legal counseling and support on a range of employment, appropriations, intellectual property, national security, and information law-related matters.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide vital legal counsel to reinforce EPA's commitment to efficient, accountable, and transparent government principles that align directly with the Administrator's key priorities. The Program also provides legal defense for the Agency in complex, high-dollar litigations. These cases require expert legal representation to safeguard taxpayer dollars, uphold the law, and ensure fair outcomes that stand up to judicial scrutiny. The Program will continue to experience increased demand for legal guidance particularly in contracts, grants, appropriations, and employment matters. In FY 2025, the Program also worked closely with the Department of Justice on court filings in cases relating to the Agency's termination or pause in grants, and/or Constitutional issues.

The Program's counsel empowers EPA to operate more efficiently, reduce bureaucratic delays, and coordinate more effectively with federal, state, and local partners, aligning directly with *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide legal counsel to assist the Agency to provide technical assistance to Congress on appropriations in response to emergencies, such as Hurricanes Helene and Milton and Hawaii wildfire, the Flint Water Crisis litigation, and the East Palestine Federal Tort Claims Act. Throughout the litigation and claims processes, the Program works collaboratively with EPA programs, regions, and with the Department of Justice.

In FY 2026, the Program also will provide legal counsel to the Agency regarding artificial intelligence (AI); including appropriate use of AI systems by federal employees, AI use case inventory reporting, and development of Agency guidance and policies consistent with AI executive orders and OMB memoranda. This includes legal counsel on the rollout of Agency AI tools like GovChat and a pilot project using AI tools in Agency rulemaking, directly supporting *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*. Additionally, the Program provides critical counseling on litigation hold management, including a major project to reduce Agency litigation risk by ensuring non-responsive custodians acknowledged pending litigation holds. The Program will continue to review and process Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, FOIA appeals, and Touhy requests; fee waiver applications; and applications for expedited processing.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide legal counsel on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Confidential Business Information (CBI) issues. In FY 2025, the Program issued 1,571 final determinations for confidentiality claims under TSCA submissions. The Program also will continue to develop streamlining measures to more quickly process a large influx of periodic reports than previously possible and was able to keep its backlog of TSCA CBI reviews to a minimum. Additionally, the Program will review technology transfer agreements related to research with external partners, respond to patent actions, and review employee report of inventions. This work to further the Agency's mission, aid in cross-agency partnerships, and generate licensing revenue for the Agency's research centers.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$829.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$370.0 / +1.5 FTE) This program change aligns resources to focus on high priority FOIA cases and provide legal counseling and support for EPA's operations.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Regional Science and Technology

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$1,341</i>	<i>\$322</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$322</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$1,341	\$322	\$0	-\$322
Total Workyears	0.2	0.9	0.0	-0.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Regional Science and Technology (RS&T) Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026. The Agency continues to work toward establishing a comprehensive enterprise-wide laboratory approach.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$322.0 / -0.9 FTE) This program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authorities:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Clean Water Act (CWA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Clean Air Act (CAA); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Pollution Prevention Act (PPA); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Regulatory/Economic-Management and Analysis
Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$18,634</i>	<i>\$17,768</i>	<i>\$17,294</i>	<i>-\$474</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$18,634	\$17,768	\$17,294	-\$474
Total Workyears	75.8	71.6	74.0	2.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 0.2 FTE to support Regulatory/Economic, Management, and Analysis working capital fund (WCF) services.

Program Project Description:

The Regulatory/Economic, Management and Analysis Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This Program is responsible for reviewing the Agency's regulations to ensure that they are developed in accordance with the governing statutes, executive orders, and Agency commitments and are based on sound technical, economic, and policy assumptions. Further, the Program ensures consistent and appropriate economic analysis of regulatory actions, conducts analyses of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches, and considers interactions between regulations across different environmental media. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*, and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*, and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The Program assists the Administrator and senior Agency staff in implementing new regulatory policy priorities, including EO 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*,⁹⁵ EO 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation*, EO 14219, *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative*,⁹⁶ and the President's memorandum on Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis.⁹⁷ This Program also assists the Administrator and other senior agency leaders in implementing regulatory policy priorities.

⁹⁵ For more information, please see: <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2025-01956.pdf>.

⁹⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03138/ensuring-lawful-governance-and-implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency>.

⁹⁷ For more information, please see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/delivering-emergency-price-relief-for-american-families-and-defeating-the-cost-of-living-crisis/>.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue its efforts to assess and review the costs and benefits to businesses, jobs, communities, government entities, and the broader economy associated with each economically significant regulatory action to maximize the net benefits of policies protecting human health and the environment. EPA will collect data and build models to assess regulatory proposals and their impacts on costs, benefits, and economic performance. On March 12, 2025, the Administrator announced the Agency will undertake 31 deregulatory actions to advance the President's executive orders and *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Activities include:

- Continue to develop and deploy EPA's economy-wide model for analyzing the economic, distributional, and macroeconomic impacts of environmental regulatory actions as the costs savings or costs ripple through the broader economy. EPA will continue to update the model consistent with recommendations from EPA's Science Advisory Board, deploy the model in regulatory analysis where appropriate, and advance the development of open-source data resources to support transparent analysis.
- Continue to manage EPA's implementation of EOs, including development and management of the annual regulatory budget, analyzing potential areas of cost savings, ensuring EPA continues to meet or exceed the goal of repealing 10 regulations for each new regulation issued, pursuant to EO 14192.
- Provide analysis, technical assistance, and review for economic analyses prepared by EPA to ensure compliance with statutory and related requirements, such as OMB Circular A- 4 on Regulatory Analysis and EO 12866. Provide the Administrator and the public with high-quality analyses of the costs, benefits, and impacts on jobs, businesses, and communities to inform decision-making and ensure transparency about the consequences of regulation.⁹⁸
- Provide updates to EPA's *Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses* including a companion handbook, model, and data for analyzing regulatory impacts on domestic competitiveness and the costs of shifting production and jobs overseas. The guidelines help ensure EPA's analyses provide a complete and consistent accounting of the economic benefits, costs, and impacts of regulatory actions consistent with best economic methods.
- Assess the effect of environmental regulations or deregulation on the cost of living for American households. Develop open-source data, economic models, and guidance to support EPA analyses that provide decision makers with evidence on household budget impacts.
- Conduct more detailed employment analysis of regulatory actions (both the direct and indirect employment impacts) to identify options consistent with current policy goals, including developing data and models to help evaluate the impacts of regulatory job displacement and the benefits of avoiding those effects.

⁹⁸ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/guidelines-preparing-economic-analyses-3rd-edition>.

- Continue development and reach deployment of a modeling platform capable of assessing the benefits of national regulations that affect water quality. This effort will allow EPA to conduct required regulatory analysis consistent with the best available data and evidence in a more consistent, transparent, and cost-effective manner.
- Continue to develop EPA's semiannual unified Regulatory Agenda, while ensuring EPA complies with requirements under EO 14192, and manage EPA's compliance with the Congressional Review Act.⁹⁹
- Manage EPA's internal Action Development Process and expand and upgrade regulatory planning and tracking tools to facilitate timely decisions and coordination across programs.
- Serve as EPA's liaison with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within OMB.
- Serve as EPA's liaison with the Office of the Federal Register by reviewing, editing, and submitting documents for publication so that the public, states, other agencies, and Congress are informed about EPA's regulatory activities in a timely manner.
- Support EPA's Chief Statistical Officer, who will provide technical support for projects under EPA's statutorily required Learning Agenda, evaluation plan, and capacity assessment; design statistically-sound policy analyses and evaluations; and provide technical assistance for EPA's statistical activities.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,123.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$649.0 / +2.4 FTE) This program change increases resources to implement deregulatory policy priorities and to assess, review, and improve the Agency's regulations and underlying economic tools.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

⁹⁹ For more information on the Congressional Review Act, please see: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-104publ121/pdf/PLAW-104publ121.pdf>.

Science Advisory Board

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$3,972	\$3,415	\$4,031	\$616
Total Budget Authority	\$3,972	\$3,415	\$4,031	\$616
Total Workyears	15.5	16.2	18.0	1.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Congress established EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) in 1978, under the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Act, to advise the Administrator on a wide range of highly visible and important scientific matters. The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) was established in 1977, under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, to provide independent advice to the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The SAB and the CASAC, both statutorily mandated Federal Advisory Committees, draw from a balanced range of non-EPA scientists and technical specialists from academia, states, independent research institutions, and industry. The Program provides management and technical support to these advisory committees. The Committees provide EPA's Administrator independent advice and objective scientific peer review on the technical aspects of environmental issues as well as the science used to establish criteria, standards, regulations, and research planning, as requested.¹⁰⁰

On March 12, 2025, the Administrator announced the EPA would be reconstituting the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The SAB and CASAC are critical to ensuring that the Agency receives scientific advice consistent with its legal obligations to advance EPA's core mission of protecting human health and the environment. Membership on the SAB and CASAC typically include experts from state government and/or other Federal agencies. The scientific advice provided by the SAB and CASAC also may benefit and/or impact state government and other federal agency partners.

Maintaining a public facing website allows the Agency to receive nominations, ensure public transparency, and share peer review topics for CASAC and SAB which include a review of assessments, Agency decisions, scientific data, and various National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the Science Assessment and Integrated Review Plans. In FY 2025, SABSO organized an office-wide initiative to improve Special Government Employee (SGE) efficiency and effectiveness through standardized training materials for its peer reviewers. These actions are intended to reduce bottlenecks, promote efficiency, and improve the timeliness, and overall effectiveness of the SGEs.

¹⁰⁰ For more information, please see: <http://www.epa.gov/sab/> and <http://www.epa.gov/casac/>.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by providing scientific advice to advance the Agency's mission to provide clean air, land, and water for every American and supports the Cooperative Federalism portion of *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*. FY 2026 resource levels are an opportunity for EPA's SAB to reprioritize activities after resetting the Board and focus on meeting peer review needs which meet minimum standards for a successful independent review. In FY 2026, the Program will continue federally mandated CASAC reviews of assessments, health and ecological criteria for primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and other programmatic requests from the Administrator. The CASAC expects to conduct two such NAAQS reviews in FY 2026. The SAB also anticipates four reviews of supporting science associated with Agency rulemakings 2026 as made by EPA's Administrator or program in FY 2026. For FY 2026, the SAB and CASAC will continue focusing on efficiency, increasing transparency and public participation, and expects to complete nine advisory reports.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$116.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$500.0 / +1.8 FTE) This program change increases the Science Advisory Board Program to support conducting peer reviews and the logistical and website support provided to help the SAB and CASAC adhere to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Statutory Authority:

Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA); Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA); Clean Air Act (CAA).

Operations and Administration

Acquisition Management

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$34,401</i>	<i>\$32,223</i>	<i>\$32,247</i>	<i>\$24</i>
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$113	\$109	\$132	\$23
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$23,620	\$25,588	\$23,752	-\$1,836
Total Budget Authority	\$58,134	\$57,920	\$56,131	-\$1,789
Total Workyears	275.6	278.8	292.7	13.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in acquisition management will allow EPA to maintain existing program services while focusing resources on core mission and statutory work. EPA's Acquisition Management Program supports the Agency's contract activities, which cover planning, awarding, and administering contracts for the Agency.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Acquisition Management Program plays a critical role in advancing the Agency's mission while aligning operations with Executive Orders (EO) 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*¹⁰¹ and EO 14222: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency Cost Initiative."*¹⁰² Operations will focus on improving the acquisition lifecycle management, promoting fiscal responsibility, and increasing operational efficiencies across all procurement activities. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Additionally, work through the Acquisition Management Program supports all five pillars of EPA's initiative through cost-efficient procurement activity to advance core Agency mission priorities.

In FY 2026, EPA will prioritize implementation of the President's Made in America agenda¹⁰³ and Made in America laws. EPA will use all tools available, consistent with law, to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, minimize the use of waivers, and provide clear and consistent demand signals to industry on Federal demand for critical items.

¹⁰¹ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05197/eliminating-waste-and-saving-taxpayer-dollars-by-consolidating-procurement>.

¹⁰² For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/03/2025-03527/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-cost-efficiency-initiative>.

¹⁰³ For more information, see <https://www.madeinamerica.gov/>.

Acquisition Modernization Initiatives

In FY 2026, EPA will leverage available expanded functionalities to the Agency's contract writing system to help develop requirements, streamline solicitations, manage vendor evaluation, conduct best value assessment, promote data integrity and reporting. Additionally, EPA will explore the adoption of artificial intelligence to strengthen the following initiatives:

Policy Reformation and Simplification

In line with EO 14275: "*Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*,"¹⁰⁴ EPA will reform acquisition policies to streamline internal procedures, eliminate outdated guidance and promote plain language usage through artificial intelligence. These policy reforms will help staff and stakeholders better understand acquisition requirements, ensure compliance with evolving federal procurement directives, and support the President's call for common sense to federal procurement.

Strengthening Acquisition Planning

EPA will enhance acquisition planning, emphasizing early engagement with program offices using modern visualization tools. In addition, EPA will ensure procurement requirements align with mission critical priorities, are cost effective and reduce redundancy. Moreover, the Program will advance acquisition planning, resulting in reduced procurement lead-times, more competitive and compliant awards, and greater support of initiatives outlined in current Executive Orders.

Contract Closeout Unliquidated Obligation Reduction Initiative

EPA will prioritize the timely closeout of expired contracts by centralizing contract closeout to support financial stewardship of taxpayer resources. Proper closeout procedures ensure that all obligations under the contract and relevant regulations have been met, minimizing the risk of legal disputes. EPA will implement quick closeout procedures for each contract period resulting in the release of unused funds prior to funds expiration allowing redistribution for other mission critical priorities.

Obtaining resources for these initiatives will allow EPA to efficiently and effectively act by streamlining and strengthening acquisition procedures.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$42.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

¹⁰⁴ For more information, see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06839/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-procurement>.

- (-\$18.0 / -0.1 FTE) This program change is a decrease to reflect efficiencies gained through adoption of common-sense improvements to the federal acquisition process and contract consolidation efforts. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to eliminate the use of wasteful spending.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$81,953	\$80,928	\$76,603	-\$4,325
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$580	\$537	\$450	-\$87
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$35,335	\$31,378	\$22,462	-\$8,916
Total Budget Authority	\$117,868	\$112,843	\$99,515	-\$13,328
Total Workyears	443.7	446.9	394.3	-52.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 0.0 FTE in Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 42.4 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and statutory work. The Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance program supports integrated planning, budgeting, financial management, performance measurement, risk assessments, reporting, and financial systems to ensure effective stewardship of resources. Functions include financial payment and support services; general and specialized fiscal and accounting services; strategic planning and accountability for environmental, fiscal, and managerial results; executing an Enterprise Risk Management program to support effective and efficient mission delivery and decision-making; providing policy, systems, training, reports, and oversight essential for EPA's financial operations; managing the agencywide Working Capital Fund; and managing the Agency's annual budget process.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

EPA will continue to provide resource stewardship to align with the Administrator's five pillars as part of the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to achieve EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment while energizing the greatness of the American economy. The Program will ensure that all Agency programs operate with fiscal responsibility and management integrity. This Program provides support for the Agency's financial services will efficiently and consistently deliver nationwide results. EPA will maintain key planning, budgeting, performance measurement, and financial management activities. The Program will sustain operations and maintenance of core Agency financial management systems: Compass, PeoplePlus (Time and Attendance), Budget Formulation System (including Performance Module), and related financial reporting systems. The Program will apply Lean principles and leverage input from customer-focused councils, advisory groups, and technical workgroups to continue improving the Agency as a high-performance organization. The Program will modernize, standardize, and streamline internal business processes and use additional federal and/or internal shared services to support the Administrator's priorities. The Program will continue to perform critical work and

accomplish the Agency's mission in alignment with the Administration's and the Administrator's initiatives, including *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*.

During FY 2026, the Program will engage across the Agency to develop and finalize the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*. The plan will serve as a blueprint to implement the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative emphasizing both cross-agency partnerships and work with state and federal partners. EPA will develop quantitative Long-Term Performance Goals and FY 2026 - 2027 Agency Priority Goals as well as a focused program of evidence-building and evaluation to improve results.

In FY 2026, EPA will set policy and procedures to support offices and regions to develop process improvements for problem-solving. As part of this work, the Program will provide leadership in data tracking, analysis, and problem-solving to support EPA's permitting reforms. For example, the Program is implementing a continuous improvement project to reduce the time it takes for the Agency to issue Class VI well permits and standardize EPA's Class VI permitting process across regions.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to partner with environmental leaders from states and tribes through E-Enterprise for the Environment to streamline processes and optimize technologies to accomplish shared objectives for environmental program implementation.¹⁰⁵ Through E-Enterprise, the Program ensures early and meaningful engagement with co-regulators as the Agency works to modernize environmental programs. For example, E-Enterprise serves as a forum for EPA, states, and tribes to share permitting modernization efforts and assistance tools. Most environmental permitting is delegated or authorized to states and many of them have sophisticated permitting systems, data tools, and experienced staff. Working together, states, tribes, and EPA regional offices will identify opportunities to digitize permit applications, automate processes where appropriate, augment processes with artificial intelligence, and share project analyses across jurisdictions to reduce duplication and review timelines.

In FY 2026, the Program will leverage the Agency financial data to further align with the Administration's priority under Executive Order 14179, *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*; and Office of Management and Budget Memorandums M-25-21 Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust and M-25-22 Driving Efficient Acquisition of Artificial Intelligence in Government.^{106,107} The Agency, through responsible and effective use of AI in financial management, will ensure strong stewardship of taxpayer dollars as it increases data transparency and accountability. The Program will develop a Data Strategy, with a Data Maturity Assessment, to establish the foundation necessary for successful AI adoption across Agency partners. Within the Data Strategy, the Metadata Management Plan will enable AI to effectively locate and utilize data. The Program will continue to leverage Agency tools to connect the Agency's financial system with the Enterprise Data Catalog, providing the data foundation needed for AI.

¹⁰⁵ For more information please visit: <https://e-enterprisefortheenvironment.net/>.

¹⁰⁶ For more information please see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-21-Accelerating-Federal-Use-of-AI-through-Innovation-Governance-and-Public-Trust.pdf>.

¹⁰⁷ more information please see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-22-Driving-Efficient-Acquisition-of-Artificial-Intelligence-in-Government.pdf>.

In FY 2026, the Program will develop a comprehensive AI and automation strategy to guide the use of AI and automation in a responsible and effective manner as it incorporates AI and Automation in daily operations. The effort includes increasing data literacy for all OCFO staff, enhancing technical skills, and leveraging best practices by partnering with other Federal agencies. The effort includes piloting AI on key financial areas to ensure resources are utilized appropriately. By improving financial data quality, accessibility, and governance, the Program is creating a foundation where AI can thrive and provide essential data to support the mission.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to support FITARA requirements in accordance with EPA's Implementation Plan.¹⁰⁸ The Chief Information Officer will continue to be engaged throughout the budget planning process to ensure that IT needs are properly planned and resourced.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$3,791.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefit costs.
- (-\$534.0 / -4.0 FTE) This programmatic change to resources reflects the Agency's alignment with the Administrator's five pillars as part of *the Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to balance work efficiencies across the Agency. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to use taxpayer dollars responsibly and to eliminate wasteful spending.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5 App.) (EPA's organic statute).

¹⁰⁸ For more information please see: <http://www.epa.gov/open/fitara-implementation-plan-and-chief-information-officer-assignment-plan>.

Facilities Infrastructure and Operations

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
Science & Technology	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$55,023	-\$9,710
Building and Facilities	\$26,604	\$34,000	\$28,900	-\$5,100
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$625	\$637	\$541	-\$96
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$74,984	\$67,080	\$57,373	-\$9,707
Total Budget Authority	\$444,412	\$443,045	\$377,048	-\$65,997
Total Workyears	328.2	300.4	319.8	19.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce efficiency and facilities consolidation will allow EPA to reduce resources needed to maintain Agency facilities. Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) resources in the Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program fund the Agency's rent, utilities, and security.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to invest in the reconfiguration of EPA's workspaces, enabling the Agency to release office space and avoid long-term rent costs, consistent with HR 4465, the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016*. In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14274: *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management*,¹⁰⁹ as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*,¹¹⁰ EPA is implementing a space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA is working to reduce office, laboratory and warehouse space. This has the potential to provide a cumulative annual rent avoidance of approximately \$28 million across all appropriations. This will help offset EPA's escalating rent and security costs and reduce taxpayer burden. By the end

¹⁰⁹ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management>.

¹¹⁰ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

of FY 2025, EPA will have consolidated employees out of the Ronald Reagan Building and into existing space within the Federal Triangle in Washington, D.C. The consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 323,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$18 million. In addition to the Ronald Reagan Building, the Agency is vacating the Human Studies Facility located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 155,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$3.7 million. The Agency also is vacating its Houston regional laboratory and consolidating into the Ada, OK, facility for a rent savings of \$2.2 million and space reduction of 41,126 square feet. For FY 2026, the Agency is requesting \$127.6 million for rent, \$7.4 million for utilities, and \$29.4 million for security in the EPM appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level.

In FY 2026, the Agency will take action to reconfigure EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs. Space consolidation and reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace. EPA will continue to manage lease agreements with GSA and private landlords, and maintain EPA facilities, fleet, equipment, and fund costs associated with utilities and building security needs. EPA also will meet regulatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) obligations and provide health and safety training to field staff (e.g., inspections, monitoring, On-Scene Coordinators), and track capital equipment. In addition, the Agency will continue to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office, *USAccess*, and Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS) programs. *USAccess* provides standardized HSPD-12 approved Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card enrollment and issuance and ePACS provides centralized access control of EPA facilities, including restricted and secure areas.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$4,069.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$28,027.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy, rent, utilities, and security.
- (-\$9,214.0 / +15.3 FTE) This net program change is due to a reduction in contracting resources offset by an increase in federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical facility management and operations activities back in-house. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to shrink the federal real estate footprint by eliminating unused office space.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Property and Administration Services Act (FPAS); Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$28,386	\$28,202	\$27,147	-\$1,055
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$5,012	\$4,170	\$2,903	-\$1,267
Total Budget Authority	\$33,397	\$32,372	\$30,050	-\$2,322
Total Workyears	132.0	141.0	151.1	10.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA increases efficiencies of Agency operations while anticipating a lower need for grant and interagency agreements. Environmental Program and Management (EPM) resources in the Financial Assistance Grants and Interagency Agreement (IA) Management Program support the management of grants and IAs, and suspension and debarment activities.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

EPA will continue to implement activities to achieve efficiencies while enhancing quality and accountability. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by reducing bureaucratic delays and encouraging increased collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue implementation of the indirect cost policy in 2 CFR 200,¹¹¹ also known as the "Uniform Grants Guidance," to close loopholes, decrease complexity, increase transparency, and ultimately cap recoverable costs. In addition, the Agency will prioritize implementation of the President's Made in America agenda¹¹² and Made in America laws. EPA will use all tools available, consistent with law, to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, minimize the use of waivers, and provide clear and consistent demand signals to industry on federal demand for critical items.

EPA will continue to focus on reducing the administrative burden on EPA and grants recipients and on improving grants management procedures by: 1) streamlining EPA's grants management policies by creating a new comprehensive framework to guide policy development, implementation, compliance, and review; 2) developing the FY 2026-2030 Grants Management Plan that aligns with Administration priorities; and 3) using risk-based method of pre- and post-

¹¹¹ For more information, see <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>.

¹¹² For more information, see <https://www.madeinamerica.gov/>.

award monitoring for grants to more effectively ensure compliance with financial and administrative management requirements.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement Executive Order 14240: “*Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*” and transitioning procurement to the General Services Administration through interagency assisted acquisition agreements. Leveraging GSA-managed assisted acquisition for common goods and services will enable the Agency to focus more effectively on core mission at a reduced cost and administrative management burden.

The Agency will continue to make use of discretionary debarments and suspensions as well as statutory debarments under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act to protect the government’s business interests. In FY 2026, EPA will focus suspension and debarment activity on the most egregious violations. Congress and federal courts have long recognized federal agencies’ inherent authority and obligation to exclude non-responsible parties from eligibility to receive government contracts and non-procurement awards (for example: grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan guarantees). Several recent federal statutes, GAO reports, and OMB directives require that federal agencies administer effective suspension and debarment programs to protect the public’s interest and the integrity of federal programs.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$4,021.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$2,966.0 / +10.7 FTE) This program change is an increase to implement of Executive Order 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement* and transition many Agency contracts to interagency assisted acquisition actions. Resources will be used strategically to supplement grants and Interagency Agreement oversight and policy expertise of federal FTE.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act; Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act § 2455.

Human Resources Management

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$62,477</i>	<i>\$51,813</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>-\$11,813</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$10,904	\$7,424	\$5,704	-\$1,720
Total Budget Authority	\$73,381	\$59,237	\$45,704	-\$13,533
Total Workyears	270.6	307.6	223.0	-84.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 2.0 FTE to support Human Resources Management working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 57.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce planning, accountability, and efficiency while promoting fiscal responsibility and focusing on essential agency functions. Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) resources for the Human Resources (HR) Management Program support human capital (HC) activities throughout EPA.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The activities supported by EPA's HR Management Program contribute to effective workforce planning and management. EPA continues to ensure employees have the right skills to successfully achieve the Agency's core mission today and, in the future, as well as to ensure efficiency and accountability of the federal workforce. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by promoting government efficiency and collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue implementing workforce restructuring efforts in line with Executive Order (EO) 14217: *Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy*¹¹³ and EO 14210: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative*¹¹⁴ by eliminating non-essential functions and implementing hiring restrictions to minimize government waste. Following on initiatives carried out in FY 2025, such as eliminating the centrally funded paid internship program, EPA will continue implementing workforce reshaping initiatives in FY 2026 to align organizational structure with the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In addition, to support efforts to increase federal accountability and efficiency, EPA also will continue implementing EO 14171:

¹¹³ For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03133/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy>.

¹¹⁴ For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

*Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions within the Federal Workforce*¹¹⁵ by evaluating all of its policy-influencing positions and revamping performance standards for the entirety of the workforce to align with the Agency's core mission. EPA also will seek to eliminate race- and sex-based preferences in federal and private sectors, reinforcing civil rights laws to promote merit-based opportunities and individual achievement while revoking previous diversity and inclusion mandates by enforcing EO 14173: *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*.¹¹⁶ In addition, in order to enforce management decisions for the labor force, EPA will continue implementing EO 14251: *Exclusions from Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs*.¹¹⁷ The Agency also will enhance the federal hiring process by focusing on merit, efficiency, and dedication to constitutional values, while eliminating factors such as race, sex, or religion in hiring decisions by implementing EO 14148: *Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service*.¹¹⁸

EPA will continue to maintain and operate critical HR systems and dashboards related to Mission Critical Occupations, workforce demographics, attrition, and other important human capital data. These dashboards are critical and provide data visualizations and easy-to-understand information about the current workforce, assisting EPA with workforce planning, succession management by identifying workforce gaps due to anticipated retirements and attrition trends, and the development of strategic staffing plans. This is critical considering approximately 19 percent of EPA's workforce is retirement eligible and another 14 percent of the current workforce will become retirement eligible over the next five years.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$2,221.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$9,592.0 / -24.8 FTE) This program change is a decrease to reflect a lower need for human resource management activity resulting from efficiency gains agencywide, decreased hiring initiatives, and a lower FTE ceiling for the Agency. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to eliminate the use of wasteful spending.

¹¹⁵ For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03133/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy>.

¹¹⁶ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02097/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity>.

¹¹⁷ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/03/2025-05836/exclusions-from-federal-labor-management-relations-programs>.

¹¹⁸ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/30/2025-02094/reforming-the-federal-hiring-process-and-restoring-merit-to-government-service>.

Statutory Authority:

Title 5 of the U.S.C.; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Workforce Reshaping

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>
Science & Technology	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Budget Authority	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program provides resources to support organizational restructuring efforts throughout the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To help achieve its mission, EPA will develop, review, and analyze mission requirements and implement options to effectively align and redistribute the Agency's workforce based on program priorities, resource reallocation, and technological advances.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will examine its statutory functions and processes to eliminate inefficiencies and streamline the Agency's processes. Primary criteria will include effectiveness and accountability, as EPA is focused on greater value and real results. These analyses will likely create a need to reshape the workforce. The Agency anticipates the need to offer voluntary early out retirement authority (VERA), and potentially relocation expenses, as part of the workforce reshaping effort. This program will directly support efforts directed by Executive Order (EO) 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*¹¹⁹ and supports all five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2025, EPA will have completed implementation of E.O. 14151: *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* by terminating organizations and positions focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) and environmental justice. EPA also will continue agency restructuring efforts to align with Administration's priorities and a more efficient workforce.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

¹¹⁹ For more information, see <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative/>.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$8,000.0) This program change implements the Workforce Reshaping Program to align the Agency's organizational structure with the Administrator's five pillars and Powering the Great American Comeback.

Statutory Authority:

Title 5 of the U.S.C.; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Pesticides Licensing

Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$62,897</i>	<i>\$61,704</i>	<i>\$60,224</i>	<i>-\$1,480</i>
Science & Technology	\$2,996	\$2,889	\$2,442	-\$447
Total Budget Authority	\$65,892	\$64,593	\$62,666	-\$1,927
Total Workyears	389.1	373.1	416.5	43.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)¹²⁰ and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5),¹²¹ EPA is charged with protecting people from the health risks that pesticide use can pose. FIFRA requires EPA to register pesticide products before they are marketed for use in the U.S.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Pesticide Review and Registration

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to review and register new pesticides, new uses for existing pesticides, and other registration requests in accordance with statutory requirements, making sure exposure to infants and children is reflected in the human health risk assessments supporting these regulatory determinations. Many assessments also address potential exposure to pregnant women. In addition, the Agency will evaluate pesticides that are already in the market against current scientific standards for human health. Under the FQPA, EPA is statutorily required to ensure that its regulatory decisions are protective of children's health and other vulnerable subpopulations. The Agency, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), also will work to ensure that minor use registrations receive appropriate support and that needs are met for reduced

¹²⁰ For additional information on FIFRA, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-federal-insecticide-fungicide-and-rodenticide-act>.

¹²¹ On December 29, 2022, Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2022 (PRIA 5) was signed into law, which reauthorizes PRIA for 5 years through fiscal year 2027 and updates the fee collection provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

risk pesticides for minor use crops. EPA also will assist farmers and other pesticide users in learning about new, safer products and methods of using existing products through workshops, demonstrations, small grants, and materials on the website and in print. EPA also will continue to emphasize the registration of reduced risk pesticides, including biopesticides, to provide farmers and other pesticide users with new, safer alternatives.

As mandated by statute, the goal of the registration review process is to review pesticide registrations every 15 years to determine whether they continue to meet the FIFRA standard for registration.¹²² For pesticides registered before October 1, 2007, EPA is required to make registration review decisions by October 1, 2026. EPA will focus its FY 2026 resources on completing decisions for cases with the FY 2026 statutory deadline and on cases with 15-year due dates in FY 2026 and beyond. Regarding the 793 registration review cases due by October 1, 2026, through FY 2025 Q2, there were 719 cases for which draft risk assessments were completed or not needed, and 628 final or interim decisions completed.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue the IT data transformation of the pesticide programs management systems. Expanding the capabilities of the existing systems will streamline processes and increase transparency by converting paper-based processes into electronic processes and corresponding workflows for the Pesticide Program's regulated entities.

Protecting Workers from On-the-Job Pesticide Risks

Protecting pesticide applicators, handlers, and agricultural workers from potential effects of pesticides is an important role of the Pesticide Program. Pesticide handlers in a number of sectors may be exposed to pesticides when they prepare pesticides for use, such as by mixing a concentrate with water or loading and applying the pesticide. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to support the implementation of the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS)¹²³ and the Certification of Pesticide Applicators (CPA)¹²⁴ rules through guidance development, education and outreach, and grant programs. In FY 2024, 15,380 farmworkers received EPA-supported WPS pesticide safety training under a cooperative agreement that maintains a network of 37 participating community non-profit organizations in 32 states. In late FY 2024, EPA issued notices of funding opportunities to expand the grant programs as outlined in PRIA 5 for review and selection in FY 2025. In FY 2026, EPA will manage these grants to further support the implementation of the WPS, protect farmworkers and their families from pesticide exposure, and to support healthcare providers in the recognition and management of pesticide-related illnesses.

PRIA 5 also amended FIFRA to require bilingual labeling on end-use pesticide products for those parts of the label where translation exists in EPA's Spanish Translation Guide and provides a schedule for incremental implementation by registrants based on pesticide type and acute toxicity categories. In FY 2026 EPA will continue the implementation of these bilingual labeling requirements.

¹²² For additional information please visit the EPA Pesticide Registration Internet site: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration>.

¹²³ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/agricultural-worker-protection-standard-wps>.

¹²⁴ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revised-certification-standards-pesticide-applicators>.

Public Health Antimicrobials and Pandemic Preparedness

In FY 2026, the Pesticide Program will continue to update EPA's registered disinfectant lists. There are currently 13 disinfectant lists, lists A, B, G, H, J - Q & S, with different target public health microorganisms. In FY 2025, OCSPP completed participation as a co-lead for the PPDC (Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee) Emerging Pathogens Implementation Committee. The committee provided recommendations and proposed revisions to EPA's Emerging Viral Pathogen's guidance. In FY 2026, EPA expects to implement appropriate recommendations from the Workgroup.

In FY 2026, the Pesticide Program will continue to work on policy and method updates that will expand the range of public health antimicrobial products available. We anticipate finalizing minimum testing criteria to support chemical air treatment claims for unoccupied spaces and test considerations for treated air filters after posting for public comment.

Reducing Animal Testing

In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to use its guiding principles on data needs¹²⁵ to ensure that it has sufficient information to support strong regulatory decisions to protect human health, while reducing and, in some cases, eliminating unnecessary animal testing. EPA's Hazard and Science Policy Council (HASPOC) plays an important role in the implementation of the vision of the 2007 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on toxicity testing in the 21st Century—which recommended moving toward smarter testing strategies by waiving human health toxicity studies that do not provide useful information. Since its inception, HASPOC has waived hundreds of studies resulting in the saving of tens of thousands of animals and tens of millions of dollars without compromising the integrity of the science supporting EPA's regulatory decision-making for pesticides. There are additional efforts to waive and reduce required animal testing through the Chemistry and Acute Toxicology Science Advisory Council (CATSAC), guidance for selection of number of treatments for fish bioconcentration data requirements, and additional retrospective analyses of fish acute and reproductive avian studies.

Performance Measurement

EPA will be tracking metrics related to pesticide safety training of farmworkers funded through a cooperative grant for the National Farmworker Training Program that runs from 2019 - 2026; metric details will be provided by the grantee and will capture the number of farmworkers trained and knowledge comprehension based on pre- and post-training assessment.

Through the second quarter of FY 2025, 4,194 farmworkers have received pesticide training, exceeding the target through the second quarter of 4,000 farmworkers trained. Of those that were surveyed, there was 93.5 percent knowledge comprehension post-training (95 percent target).

Performance Measures Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

¹²⁵ Additional information on reducing animal testing may be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/new-epa-guidance-testing-pesticides-will-reduce-animal-testing>.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$610.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$870.0 / -2.0 FTE) This program change is a decrease for the modernization of the pesticides incident database. This includes a decrease of \$412.0 thousand in associated payroll. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408.

Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$46,586</i>	<i>\$45,511</i>	<i>\$45,832</i>	<i>\$321</i>
Science & Technology	\$2,151	\$2,143	\$2,616	\$473
Total Budget Authority	\$48,737	\$47,654	\$48,448	\$794
Total Workyears	301.0	248.0	268.4	20.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The goal of this program, authorized under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5), as well as the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), is to protect the environment from the potential of unreasonable adverse effects to human health and the environment posed by pesticide use. To achieve this goal, EPA evaluates risks and benefits before the initial registration of each pesticide for each use, new uses to registered pesticides, as well as re-evaluate each pesticide at least every 15 years. This periodic review is accomplished through EPA's Pesticide Registration Review Program.¹²⁶ In addition to FIFRA responsibilities, the Agency has distinct obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA),¹²⁷ which include ensuring that pesticide regulatory decisions will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or jeopardize the continued existence of species listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (jointly, "the Services").

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Protection of Endangered Species

EPA is responsible for complying with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and for ensuring that federally endangered and threatened species are not jeopardized or their designated critical habitat destroyed or adversely modified from exposure when it registers pesticides. This presents a great challenge given that there are approximately 1,200 active ingredients in more than 17,000 pesticide products. Endangered species risk assessments are complex, national in scope, and involve comprehensive evaluations that consider risks to over 1,700 listed endangered species and 800

¹²⁶ FIFRA requires EPA to register a pesticide if, among other things, the product "will also not generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment" when used in accordance with labeling and common practices.

¹²⁷ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species>.

designated critical habitats in the U.S. with diverse biological attributes, habitat requirements, and geographic ranges. Given the complexity of evaluating potential effects to diverse listed species under the ESA, EPA has been subject to numerous litigation challenges to registration and registration review actions. Many of these challenges have resulted in adverse rulings against EPA for failing to meet its ESA obligations.

EPA has been developing strategies that will help make the ESA consultation process more efficient when EPA consults with the Services on FIFRA actions. One such strategy is the ‘insecticide strategy’ released in April 2025. The insecticide strategy describes a framework for FIFRA actions to reduce pesticide exposure to federally listed invertebrates (*e.g.*, insects, mussels) and listed species that depend on invertebrates for food or pollination. The goal of the identified mitigations in the strategies is to minimize exposure to listed species and their designated critical habitat and thereby reduce potential population-level impacts to listed species. EPA finalized a similar strategy for herbicides (herbicide strategy) and rodenticides (pesticides intended to control rodents such as rats and mice). In FY26, EPA plans to release a draft fungicide strategy for public comment, consider and incorporate public comments as appropriate and finalize it. EPA also anticipates that it will be incorporating the strategies into evaluations in FY26 and develop tools to help facilitate efficiencies when incorporating the strategies.

EPA also plans to continue working with stakeholders to improve transparency and to obtain additional feedback on its ESA-related activities. EPA also is minimizing the impact of ESA mitigations on growers in cases where mitigations are only needed in specific places to protect a species or type of species or habitat (*e.g.*, listed flowering plants found in wetlands) but not in other locations by refining maps. EPA released a process, that can be used by EPA as well as non-governmental organizations, that it uses to create pesticide use limitation areas (PULAs) that are included the Bulletins Live! Two (BLT) system that EPA uses to communicate where pesticide mitigations apply. EPA is planning to only use refined maps to create PULAs.

Assessing the Risks Pesticides Pose to the Environment

To accomplish the goals set out in FIFRA, in FY 2026 EPA will continue to conduct ecological risk assessments¹²⁸ to determine what risks are posed by each pesticide to plants, animals, and ecosystems that are not the targets of the pesticide and whether changes are necessary to protect these resources.¹²⁹ In FY 2026, EPA will continue to examine all toxicity and environmental fate data submitted with each new pesticide registration application to determine what potential risks the new active ingredient may pose to the environment. EPA anticipates that it will be able to increase the number of pesticide registrations that include protections for listed species as it begins to apply the strategies described previously. When complex scientific issues arise, the Agency may solicit external review, such as consultation with the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel,¹³⁰ for independent scientific advice.

¹²⁸ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/factsheet-ecological-risk-assessment-pesticides>.

¹²⁹ Additional information may be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/overview-risk-assessment-pesticide-program>.

¹³⁰ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/sap>.

Ensuring Proper Pesticide Use through Labeling

In FY 2026, as part of its FIFRA obligations, EPA will continue to review and approve, as appropriate pesticide labeling to indicate what uses are approved for use and to ensure that the pesticide is used at the specified application rates and according to the methods and timing approved.¹³¹

Pesticide Registration Review

For pesticides registered before October 1, 2007, EPA is required to make registration review decisions by October 1, 2026. EPA will focus its FY 2026 resources on completing decisions for cases that meet the FY 2026 statutory deadline and on cases with 15-year due dates in FY 2026 and beyond. Regarding the 793 registration review cases due by October 1, 2026, through FY 2025 Q2, there were 719 cases for which draft risk assessments were completed or not needed, and 628 final or interim decisions completed.

Reducing Animal Testing

In FY 2026, EPA will continue its efforts to promote the use of alternative methods to whole animal toxicity testing for characterizing the effects of pesticide active ingredients on terrestrial and aquatic vertebrates. EPA also will continue its partnership with the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM). A focus area will be consideration of how to incorporate Collaborative Acute Toxicity Modeling Suite (CATMoS) estimates of acute oral toxicity in ecological risk assessment in lieu of mammalian testing. EPA will continue an evaluation of the feasibility of reducing the number of tested species of fish, based on the recently published results of a collaboration with NICEATM. Additionally, through stakeholder discussions and participation in intergovernmental working groups, the Agency will work to identify opportunities to reduce the use of animals in ecological hazard testing.

Pollinator Protection

Bees and other pollinators play a critical role in ensuring the production of food. USDA is leading the federal government's effort to understand the causes of declining pollinator health and identify actions that will improve pollinator health. EPA is part of this effort and is focusing on the potential role of pesticides while ensuring that the pesticides used represent acceptable risks to pollinators. EPA continues to carefully evaluate potential effects that pesticides may have on bees through the registration of new active ingredients and registration review, in cooperation with the Government of Canada and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to apply the best available science and risk management methods to reduce potential exposures to pollinators from pesticides.¹³²

Performance Measurement:

In FY 2024, EPA completed six pesticide registration review cases. EPA exceeded the target of four cases because cases moved more quickly through the registration review process than initially expected. In FY 2024, EPA opened 17 dockets for registration review cases, which was lower than the target of 25 dockets opened. EPA missed the target due to competing priorities, including

¹³¹ Under FIFRA, it is illegal to use a registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with the label instructions and precautions.

¹³² Additional actions EPA is taking to protect pollinators from pesticides can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>.

completing decisions for cases with initial registration before October 1, 2007, and development and implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) strategies. EPA completed two draft risk assessments for pesticide registration review cases, which was lower than the target of four draft risk assessments. Delays in completing draft risk assessments is due to delays in issuing data call-ins (DCIs) to pesticide registrants because the module that allows EPA to issue and track DCIs for additional information and data to support the development of risk assessment resided in a legacy IT system and ceased to function. The ability to issue and track DCIs is being developed as part of an overall IT upgrade and is a priority for continued development in FY 2026. In FY 2026, the Agency will be measuring performance for the registration review cases by tracking docket openings, draft risk assessment completion, and final registration review case completions under the 15-year cycle of pesticide registration review.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$3,117.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$2,796.0 / -13.4 FTE) This program change is a decrease in resources and FTEs for EPA to incorporate Endangered Species Act (ESA) considerations into pesticide regulatory decisions, including ESA compliance for all new active ingredient registrations.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$8,047</i>	<i>\$6,781</i>	<i>\$6,014</i>	<i>-\$767</i>
Science & Technology	\$823	\$868	\$684	-\$184
Total Budget Authority	\$8,870	\$7,649	\$6,698	-\$951
Total Workyears	32.8	29.8	46.3	16.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408 statutory authorities, this program seeks to realize the value of pesticides that can be used safely to yield many benefits, such as killing viruses and bacteria in America's hospitals. These benefits also include guarding the Nation's abundant food supply, protecting the public from disease-carrying pests, and protecting the environment from the introduction of invasive species from other parts of the world.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Meeting Agriculture's Need for Safe, Effective Pest Control Products

With the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), Congress acknowledged the importance of and need for "reduced-risk pesticides" and supported expedited agency review to help these pesticides reach the market sooner and replace other pesticides of higher risk.¹³³ In FY 2026, EPA will continue to support and develop procedures and guidelines for expedited review of applications for registration or amendments for reduced risk pesticides. EPA incentivizes this project area by reducing the review service fee and decision time periods for evaluating these actions. EPA expects to receive and review approximately five reduced risk pesticide applications in FY 2026.

¹³³ The law defines a reduced risk pesticide as one that "may reasonably be expected to accomplish one or more of the following: (1) reduces pesticide risks to human health; (2) reduces pesticide risks to non-target organisms; (3) reduces the potential for contamination of valued, environmental resources, or (4) broadens adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or makes it more effective."

Registration of Generic Pesticides

FIFRA authorizes EPA to register products that are identical to or substantially similar to already registered products (also known as “me too products”). Applicants for these products may rely on, or cite, data already submitted by another registrant. The entry of these new products into the market can cause price reductions resulting from new competition and broader access to products, benefitting farmers and consumers. The Agency will continue to prioritize and review generic registrations consistent with the statutory decision-making schedule. Application submissions for these actions can generally be reviewed in four months. The Agency completed 988 conventional pesticide, 181 antimicrobial pesticide, and 140 biopesticide new product actions and amendments in FY 2024. The Agency anticipates completing a reduced volume of registrations in FY 2026 due to reduced staff to review the applications. EPA is focused on reducing the backlog of actions through improved business processes.

Outreach and Education

The Pesticide Program is invested in outreach and training efforts for people who use pesticides and the public in general. In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to encourage Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which emphasizes minimizing the use of broad-spectrum chemicals and maximizing the use of sanitation, biological controls, and selective methods of application. Providing on-the-ground assistance to our partners, EPA’s regional offices work with states, tribes, and territories to implement their pesticide programs and carry out IPM projects that inform pesticide users about the pest control options, which pesticides to use, how to use them, and how to maintain the site so pests do not return. In addition, the Pesticide Program and its Center for IPM will provide outreach through webinars on a range of pest management and pollinator protection topics.

Review and Registration

During FY 2026, EPA will continue to review and register new pesticides and new uses for existing pesticides and act on other registration requests in accordance with FIFRA and Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act standards, and track these completions with respect to Pesticide Registration Improvement Act timeframes. Some of these actions will be for reduced-risk conventional pesticides and biopesticides, which, once registered and used by consumers, will increase societal benefits, including for infants and children as well as susceptible subpopulations. Working together with the affected communities, through IPM and related activities, the Agency plans to accelerate the adoption of lower-risk products.

During FY 2026, the Agency will continue to make progress on meeting its Endangered Species Act (ESA) obligations for registration and registration review. EPA will continue to only register new conventional active ingredients under conditions that are compliant with ESA. EPA will continue to improve protections to non-target species, including federally threatened and endangered (listed) species, earlier in the process through pesticide registration and registration review activities and other FIFRA actions. The Agency also will include protections for listed species impacted by use of conventional herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides and ensure protections across conventional outdoor pesticides for some of the most vulnerable listed species as it implements its final mitigation strategies for herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides and its vulnerable species action plan into applicable registration and registration review actions.

The Agency's work to harmonize pesticide tolerance levels with its top trade partners will reduce international trade barriers. For FY 2026, EPA will undertake regulatory decisions on a number of new chemicals with food uses. For each of these evaluations, EPA will consider whether there are existing Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) set by trade partners, and whether tolerance harmonization will be a component of a portion of these decisions. Also, during FY 2026, EPA will continue rulemaking and implementation efforts to improve its crop group system which provides the regulatory definitions for crops which are in inter-state and international commerce. Phase VI of this rulemaking project was completed in September 2022. The next steps for additional crop group expansion for a new group of crops will be undertaken in the second half of 2025, continuing in 2026 and will include a focus on harmonizing with Codex crop groups to further facilitate international trade.

Emergency, Quarantine, and Crisis Exemptions

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to prioritize emergency exemptions under FIFRA Section 18, which authorizes EPA to allow an unregistered use of a pesticide for a limited time in the event of an emergency, such as a severe pest infestation, public health emergency, or invasive pest species quarantine. The economic benefit of the Section 18 Program to growers is the avoidance of losses incurred in the absence of pesticides exempted under FIFRA's emergency exemption provisions. In addition, exemptions serve as important public health controls to avert pests that may cause significant risk to human health. In FY 2023, 2024, and 2025 (to date), the Agency received 39, 43 and 18 requests for emergency uses, respectively. Although the number of emergency exemption submissions EPA receives each year cannot be precisely predicted, EPA estimates it may receive approximately 45 requests in FY 2026.

Performance Measurement

In FY 2026, the Agency will be measuring performance for the registration review cases with 15-year due dates in FY 2026 and beyond, tracking intermediate stages such as docket openings, draft risk assessment completion, and final registration review case completions under the 15-year cycle of pesticide registration review. The Agency will continue to track metrics on the percentage of new active ingredient registrations and registration review risk assessments (conventionals, biopesticides, and antimicrobials) that incorporate considerations of threatened and endangered species and leverage those improvements for other related processes in subsequent years (*e.g.*, new uses). Additionally, EPA will be tracking metrics related to pesticide safety training of farmworkers funded through a cooperative grant for the National Farmworker Training Program that runs through March 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,650.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$883.0 / +5.8 FTE) This program change is an increase that supports enhancement of pesticides registration processes for the program.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408.

Science Policy and Biotechnology

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$1,613</i>	<i>\$1,379</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$1,379</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$1,613	\$1,379	\$0	-\$1,379
Total Workyears	5.4	4.6	0.0	-4.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Science Policy and Biotechnology Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary and unnecessary work. The Science Policy and Biotechnology Program provides scientific and policy expertise supporting independent, external scientific peer review of matters related to pesticides and toxic substances, including biotechnology. The Program primarily supports two federal advisory committees: the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel (FIFRA SAP), and the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC). This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,379.0 / -4.6 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Science Policy and Biotechnology Program to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act (FFDCA), §408; Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Protecting Estuaries and Wetlands

National Estuary Program / Coastal Waterways

Program Area: Protecting Estuaries and Wetlands

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	\$35,648	\$40,000	\$32,000	-\$8,000
Total Budget Authority	\$35,648	\$40,000	\$32,000	-\$8,000
Total Workyears	34.8	33.5	32.0	-1.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The National Estuary Program (NEP)/Coastal Waterways Programs are proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. The NEPs work to restore the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of estuaries of national significance and coastal watersheds by protecting and restoring water quality, habitat, and living resources.¹³⁴

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Provide Clean Water Act Section 320 grants for the 28 NEPs. This is a highly leveraged Program with projects that address coastal, estuarine, and inland freshwater ecosystem needs. Non-grant funding for this Program will enable EPA to support and manage core programmatic activities, including providing technical support for the implementation of each NEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, conducting regular program evaluations of individual NEPs and addressing findings, collecting and analyzing annual data from the NEPs, sharing lessons learned among the 28 NEPs, and performing oversight of the NEPs and the Clean Water Act Section 320 grant funds.
- Provide technical assistance to support local NEPs to address priority issues such as nutrient management, habitat protection and restoration, water quality, infrastructure, and marine litter reduction. NEPs engage and educate stakeholders and students and implement collaborative projects with regional, state, tribal, and local partners. These projects include restoration and recovery of submerged aquatic vegetation, dunes, shellfish and fish, and wetlands, and nutrient and harmful algal bloom reduction.

¹³⁴ For more information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/nep>.

- Support the Clean Water Act Section 319 Program to manage nonpoint source pollution in coastal waterways.
- Implement \$1.0 million for the competitive NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program to address urgent and challenging environmental issues.

EPA continues to work with states, tribes, trust territories, the local NEPs, and federal agencies to implement the National Aquatic Resource Survey (NARS) in coastal/estuarine waters. In FY 2024, the NARS coastal survey completed the draft web-report and results dashboard for the 2020 National Coastal Condition Assessment. It is scheduled to be released in FY 2025. In FY 2025, EPA, states, tribes and trust territories will implement the field sampling work for the 2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment. Laboratory processing and quality assurance will be conducted in FY 2026.

EPA, as the federal chair of the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force, will work with other Task Force member federal agencies and twelve member states to continue implementation of the 2008 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan. This activity complements other coordination and implementation resources in the Geographic Program: Gulf of America and Surface Water Protection Program. A key goal of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan is to improve water quality in the Mississippi River Basin and reduce the size of the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of America by implementing existing and innovative approaches to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the Basin and the Gulf.

EPA will continue to work with states, territories, tribes, and other partners to identify impaired waters in coastal watersheds, as required by CWA Section 303(d), and on developing and implementing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for listed impaired waterbodies. TMDLs focus on clearly defined environmental goals and establish a pollutant budget, which is then implemented through local, state, and federal watershed plans and programs to restore waters. EPA will work with and provide support to states, territories, and tribes to ensure that TMDLs for coastal waters are effective and ready for implementation. EPA also will support states, territories, and tribes develop other restoration approaches and plans for the protection of unimpaired or high-quality waters in coastal watersheds. In addition, EPA will continue to support development and application of tools and applications (*e.g.*, the Watershed Academy, How's My Waterway, and Restoration and Protection Screening (RPS)) that educate the public and help states and territories efficiently prioritize coastal waters for restoration and protection.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,118.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-\$6,882.0 / -1.5 FTE) This program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and empowers EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

2021 Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act; 1990 Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of the Clean Water Act; Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act of 2008; Clean Water Act; Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000; Protection and Restoration Act of 1990; North American Wetlands Conservation Act; Water Resources Development Act; 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; 1987 Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances; 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty; Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act of 2006; Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987, Save our Seas 2.0 Act, and the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note).

Wetlands

Program Area: Protecting Estuaries and Wetlands

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$21,404</i>	<i>\$20,884</i>	<i>\$20,884</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$21,404	\$20,884	\$20,884	\$0
Total Workyears	114.1	110.3	118.4	8.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Wetlands Protection Program has two primary components: 1) the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 regulatory program and 2) the state and tribal wetland development program. Major activities of the Wetlands Protection Program include timely and efficient review of CWA Section 404 permit applications submitted to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or authorized states; engaging and partnering with USACE, states, and other stakeholders to develop stream and wetland assessment tools, and improve compensatory mitigation effectiveness and availability of credits; assisting in building capacity and the development of state and tribal wetlands and other aquatic resource protection and restoration programs under CWA, including Section 404 Program assumption and Section 401 water quality certification; and providing technical assistance to the public on wetland management and legal requirements.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Working with federal, tribal, state, and local partners, EPA will strive to ensure an efficient, effective, and consistent approach to wetlands and other aquatic resource protection, restoration, and permitting. To achieve this goal, the Agency will continue its collaborative relationship with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the CWA Section 404 permitting program and Civil Works Program. In addition, EPA will continue its work with states and tribes to build their wetlands programs to monitor, protect, and restore wetlands.

CWA Section 404

Section 404 of the CWA is an established Program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for managing the day-to-day permit processes nationwide under CWA Section

404.¹³⁵ EPA engages in the CWA 404 permit process to ensure compliance with the CWA section 404(b)(1) guidelines as the permitting authority formulates their proposed permits. EPA will efficiently perform its CWA responsibilities to support new infrastructure and energy projects to ensure that companies can invest in this Nation. In 2008, EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a final rule governing compensatory mitigation for activities authorized by the CWA 404 and associated losses of aquatic resources. The regulation prescribes a review and approval process for the consistent and transparent establishment and management of mitigation banks and in-lieu of fees program to provide more efficient permit delivery. EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue to work together to evaluate the effectiveness of the Program, provide training and technical resources to regulators and the public, and consider further enhancements to the Program in preparation for the 20th anniversary of the compensatory mitigation rule in 2028.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to support the development of stream and wetland assessment methods, trainings for regulators, and regional crediting protocols for compensatory mitigation to improve the efficiency and environmental outcomes of federal and state agency review to enhance cooperative federalism. In addition, EPA will continue to improve efficiencies in federal CWA Section 404 permitting to help with reducing potential costs and delays; increasing consistency and predictability; reducing uncertainty for landowners; and improving protection of public health and the environment.

EPA also will continue carrying out its responsibilities as a member of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council authorized under the Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act, and as a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustee for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA). Under CWA Section 404, the RESTORE Act, and OPA, EPA's responsibilities include timely, environmentally sound, and compliant implementation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and associated permitting. Under NRDA, EPA is a cooperating or lead federal agency for NEPA on all Deepwater Horizon Trustee Implementation Group restoration plans and ensures the appropriate level of NEPA analysis is integrated into those referenced restoration plans. EPA's RESTORE responsibilities include NEPA analysis for projects that the Council assigns to EPA. As a NRDA Trustee, EPA undertakes mandatory independent third-party financial audits every three years to ensure accountability regarding the use of funds provided under a 2016 consent decree.¹³⁶ The first independent third-party financial audit was initiated in FY 2018 and concluded in FY 2020 with no significant findings. The second audit was initiated in FY 2021 and concluded in FY 2022 with no significant findings. The most recent audit was initiated in FY 2024 concluded in FY 2025 with no significant findings.¹¹⁵¹¹⁵

Building State and Tribal Aquatic Resource Programs

EPA will continue to work with states and tribes to target Wetlands Protection Program funds to core statutory requirements while providing states and tribes flexibility to best address their priorities. This includes providing assistance to states and tribes interested in assuming the

¹³⁵ Currently, two states, Michigan and New Jersey, have assumed the CWA Section 404 permit program. CWA Section 404(g) gives states and tribes the option of assuming, or taking over, the permitting responsibility and administration of the CWA Section 404 permit program for certain waters.

¹³⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/deepwaterhorizon>.

¹¹⁵ For more information, please see: <https://www.fws.gov/doiddata/dwh-ar-documents/1703/DWH-ARZ013259.pdf>.

administration of the CWA Section 404 Program. EPA finalized a regulation in FY 2025 that updated the existing state and tribal program regulations on CWA Section 404 Program assumption in response to requests from interested states. EPA will advance cooperative federalism by more effectively supporting states and tribes to achieve their specific program development priorities.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+8.1 FTE) This increase of FTE supports the implementation of the Clean Water Act to protect and restore wetlands and other aquatic resources.

Statutory Authority:

CWA § 404, § 104(b)(3).

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

RCRA: Corrective Action

Program Area: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$39,061</i>	<i>\$38,423</i>	<i>\$25,126</i>	<i>-\$13,297</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$39,061	\$38,423	\$25,126	-\$13,297
Total Workyears	164.7	159.6	142.0	-17.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The RCRA: Corrective Action Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under EPA's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Cleanup (Corrective Action) program, EPA and authorized states oversee the cleanup of contaminated facilities subject to RCRA requirements by the responsible parties.^{116,117} In areas where states and territories do not have authorization for the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program, EPA directly implements the Program.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2024, EPA approved 87 RCRA corrective action facilities as ready for anticipated use, bringing the total number of RCRA facilities ready for anticipated use to 2,127 out of 3,977 on the FY 2024 Corrective Action Progress Track (CAPTrack). This work supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the Program will focus its resources on working with states to return the responsibility for funding local environmental efforts and programs to state and local entities. EPA will focus on core statutory requirements, recognizing needed efficiencies, and empowering states as EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that resources are accomplishing direct environmental remediation or impacts. EPA will work with states to continue cleanup of 3,977 priority contaminated facilities on the current CAPTrack, which includes highly contaminated and technically challenging sites. As of the end of FY 2024, only 44 percent of these facilities have completed final and permanent cleanups, leaving approximately 2,200 facilities still needing oversight and technical support to reach final facility-wide cleanup objectives. Additionally, the CAPTrack is a subset of a larger group of facilities with potential

¹¹⁶ Additional information about EPA's RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/hw/hazardous-waste-cleanups>.

¹¹⁷ State implementation of the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program is currently funded through the STAG Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants program, which the FY 2026 President's Budget proposes to eliminate, and matching state contributions.

corrective action obligations under RCRA. The Program's goals are to control human exposures, control migration of contaminated groundwater, complete final cleanups for the CAPTrack facilities, and continue to identify, assess, and clean up additional priority facilities.

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Focus on implementing the program in states that are not authorized for the RCRA hazardous waste cleanup program, as well as in Indian Country.
- Support states in the areas of site characterization, sampling, remedy selection, remedy construction, reaching final cleanup goals, long-term stewardship for cleanups with contamination remaining in place, cleanup optimization tools, and other techniques to speed up and improve cleanups.
- Coordinate with states to develop their own RCRA data management system as EPA transitions efforts to state and local programs and shifts from a national RCRA Info system.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,276.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$8,021.0 / -17.6 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes the need for efficiencies, and empowers EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism by prioritizing resources for those facilities that present the highest risk to human health and the environment. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) §§ 3004, 3005, 8001.

RCRA: Waste Management

Program Area: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$74,277</i>	<i>\$71,879</i>	<i>\$40,399</i>	<i>-\$31,480</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$74,277	\$71,879	\$40,399	-\$31,480
Total Workyears	289.6	284.4	203.2	-81.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 15.0 FTE funded by e-Manifest fees.

Program Project Description:

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): Waste Management Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

The Program plays a role in establishing and updating standards for analytical test methods, maintaining updated permits and assuring proper closure and post-closure controls for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities, and overseeing the management of hazardous waste under RCRA Subtitle C and Subtitle D. The Program also conducts work pertaining to marine litter and the international movement of hazardous wastes.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2024, EPA and authorized state permitting programs issued RCRA initial hazardous waste permits and permit renewals to 124 facilities. In FY 2026, the RCRA Waste Management Program will work with states to return the responsibility for funding local environmental efforts and programs to state and local entities. EPA will focus on core statutory requirements, recognize needed efficiencies, and empower states as EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that resources are accomplishing direct environmental remediation or impact. In FY 2026, the RCRA: Waste Management Program will:

- Perform statutorily mandated work to review and approve PCB cleanup, storage, and disposal activities to reduce exposures, particularly in sensitive areas like schools and public spaces.
- Directly implement the RCRA Program in unauthorized states and on tribal lands, as well as other unauthorized portions of state RCRA programs. Issue and update permits, including continuing to improve permitting processes. Provide technical hazardous waste management assistance to tribes to encourage sustainable practices and reduce exposure to toxins.

- Provide technical assistance to regions, states, and tribes regarding the development and implementation of solid waste programs (e.g., the RCRA hazardous waste generator, transporter, treatment, storage, and disposal regulations and implementing guidance; the Waste Import Export Tracking System (WIETS)).
- Manage the hazardous waste import/export notice and consent process. EPA will continue to implement the WIETS improvements and upgrades in order to make shipping hazardous waste across borders more efficient. Managing hazardous waste imports and exports is a federal responsibility, non-delegable to states.
- Provide technical and implementation assistance, oversight, and support to facilities that generate, treat, store, recycle, and dispose of hazardous waste.
- Provide technical assistance to states in issuing permits more quickly.
- Take regulatory action, as necessary, to ensure protective management of coal combustion residuals (CCR). The Agency promulgated regulations specifying management and disposal practices to ensure people and ecosystems are protected. The Agency will continue to work with stakeholders as it develops and implements regulations through technical assistance and guidance.
- Implement applicable provisions of the WIIN Act, which enables states to submit for EPA approval state CCR permit programs. The Agency will work with state partners to review and make determinations on state programs. Subject to appropriations, EPA will implement a permit program for CCR disposal facilities on tribal lands as well as participating states.
- Initiate work, in coordination with other federal land management agencies, to create a pilot cleanup program at abandoned hardrock mines.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$3,817.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$27,663.0 / -81.2 FTE) EPA will prioritize resources for those facilities that present the highest risk to human health and the environment and align the Program with core statutory requirements and five pillar work. This change recognizes the need for efficiencies and will empower EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) §§ 3002, 3004, 3005, 3017; Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) § 6. Save our Seas 2.0, 2020, Pub. L. 116-224; Good Samaritan Remediation of Hardrock Mines Act of 2024, Pub. L. 118-155.

RCRA: Waste Minimization & Recycling

Program Area: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$12,776</i>	<i>\$10,348</i>	<i>\$4,253</i>	<i>-\$6,095</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$12,776	\$10,348	\$4,253	-\$6,095
Total Workyears	38.8	38.2	5.0	-33.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): Waste Minimization and Recycling Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

The Program provides national leadership on direction and approaches to recycling and food waste management, partners with USDA and FDA to prevent food waste and international organizations to manage recycling and reduce waste associated with large sporting events, works with stakeholders to implement solutions to help protect human health and the environment through improved materials management, and gathers and provides scientific information and data.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will work with states to return the responsibility for funding local environmental efforts and programs to state and local entities. EPA will focus on core statutory requirements, recognize needed efficiencies, and empower states as EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that resources are accomplishing direct environmental impacts. EPA will work to improve the U.S. recycling system and prevent food loss and food waste by implementing the following actions:

- Administer two grant programs:
 - Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program for state, local, and tribal governments to build or enhance recycling capacity and infrastructure around the country. The grant program will support pilot programs and infrastructure in communities seeking to enhance their capacity to recover and recycle materials.
 - Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) grant program to support local governments and/or non-governmental organizations in developing, implementing, and evaluating effective informational campaigns that educate the public about food waste and

organics management. This grant program will fund research that provides framework for effective food waste reduction methods and support composting markets.

- SWIFR and REO grants will continue to be supported by the remaining Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds. EPA anticipates IIJA funding to be fully obligated by the end of FY 2026.
- In addition, EPA will finalize a new methodology for measuring solid waste through various management pathways including recycling, composting, and anaerobic digestion.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$1,218.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$7,313.0 / -33.2 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes the need for efficiencies, and empowers EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58; Save our Seas 2.0, 2020, Pub. L. 116-224.

Toxics Risk Review and Prevention

Endocrine Disruptors

Program Area: Toxics Risk Review and Prevention

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$9,184</i>	<i>\$7,614</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>	<i>-\$4,614</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$9,184	\$7,614	\$3,000	-\$4,614
Total Workyears	8.2	7.6	5.0	-2.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. The Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP) was established to screen pesticide chemicals for effects in humans like those produced by a naturally occurring estrogen. As described in FFDCA (as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), EPA also has discretionary authorities to screen for endocrine effects beyond estrogen and to screen chemicals beyond pesticides.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Administration priorities as described in EPA's Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative, including *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's Powering the Great American Comeback initiative. The EDSP is committed to providing sound science to support efficient and robust regulatory decisions that meet EPA's legal obligations under FFDCA, FIFRA, and other statutory authorities. Imposing the full EDSP Tier 1 battery for all 10,000+ substances in the EDSP Universe of Chemicals would cost the regulated community more than \$10 billion in addition to EPA resources for staff to manage the regulatory infrastructure to order and review the tests.¹¹⁸ Given the current national and international laboratory testing capacity, it would take many years to complete and involve the sacrifice of many millions of animals. To address these issues, in FY 2026, the Agency will:

- Continue implementing a multi-year plan for the EDSP for pesticide active ingredients and inserts, focusing first on conventional pesticide active ingredients;
- Make chemical-specific decisions on whether the Agency has enough data through Tier 2 testing or other scientifically relevant information to issue FFDCA decisions for potential human endocrine effects such that Tier 1 data are not required, consistent with the policy that EPA announced in October 2023;

¹¹⁸ <https://www.epa.gov/endocrine-disruption/universe-chemicals-potential-endocrine-disruptor-screening-and-testing>

- Provide expert peer review to evaluate pesticide chemicals for potential exemption from endocrine data requirements, as authorized under FFDCA 408(p)(4);
- Continue collaborations with EPA's research programs to optimize available endocrine screening and testing methods and increase scientific confidence in HT approaches, which will support a more efficient, refined, and integrated approach to EDSP chemical screening and assessment;
- In collaboration with EPA's research programs, develop and validate new models to continue HT screening on pesticide substances that were not part of the *ToxCast* chemical sets, considering the priority groupings that were announced in October 2023; and
- Continue research to develop and refine methods to evaluate endocrine effects in wildlife.

In FY 2026, consistent with the implementation strategies announced in October 2023, EPA will continue to ensure that new, conventional pesticide active ingredients have adequate data to address endocrine effects in humans and will phase any additional human endocrine data needs for existing chemicals into the registration review process. The EDSP screening and testing framework explicitly includes evaluations on vulnerable subpopulations such as differences among life stages including pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood.

To achieve and amplify scientific advances necessary to accomplish Administration priorities, the EDSP will continue to collaborate with relevant bodies and international partners, such as the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and bilateral partners. These partnerships maximize the efficiency of EPA's resources and promote adoption of internationally harmonized test methods, particularly high throughput, or computational approaches, for evaluating the potential endocrine effects of chemicals. EPA represents the U.S. as either the lead or a participant in OECD and other international projects involving pesticide regulation and the improvement of assay systems, including the development of both animal and non-animal screening and testing methods.

Consistent with recommendations in the 2021 OIG report¹¹⁹, the October 2023 release of the EDSP Near-Term Strategies for Implementation represents the new strategic plan for the program. EPA has established both short-term and long-term performance measures in support of this strategic plan. As a short-term measure, EPA will track and communicate the status of EDSP-related DCIs. As a long-term measure, EPA is tracking and will report the completion of FFDCA 408(p) human health decisions (both completions and exemptions) for both new active ingredients and Registration Review cases. EPA intends to regularly update the public on implementation progress, including these measures, via the EPA website and other outreach.

¹¹⁹ <https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/report-epas-endocrine-disruptor-screening-program-has-made-limited>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$9.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$4,605.0 / -2.6 FTE) This is a programmatic decrease for endocrine disruption screening contractual support. This includes a decrease of \$632.0 thousand in associated payroll. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), § 408(p); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), § 1457.

Pollution Prevention Program

Program Area: Toxics Risk Review and Prevention

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$12,583</i>	<i>\$11,865</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$11,865</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$12,583	\$11,865	\$0	-\$11,865
Total Workyears	53.6	42.3	0.0	-42.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Pollution Prevention (P2) Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary and unnecessary work. The P2 Program seeks to alleviate environmental problems by helping businesses and others with developing and implementing source reduction practices before pollution is created. The program includes a counterpart P2 Categorical Grants Program in the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account that also is proposed for elimination.¹³⁷ This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$11,865.0 / -42.3 FTE) This program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (PPA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Toxic Substances: Chemical Risk Review and Reduction

Program Area: Toxics Risk Review and Prevention

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$91,338</i>	<i>\$96,406</i>	<i>\$73,042</i>	<i>-\$23,364</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$91,338	\$96,406	\$73,042	-\$23,364
Total Workyears	323.4	351.2	351.9	0.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total program workyears in FY 2026 include 51.6 FTE funded by TSCA fees. TSCA Service Fees and associated FTE are not included in the budget formulation nor in the Explanations of Change. TSCA fee collections are dependent on full funding of the program.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. With significant responsibilities under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Chemical Risk Review and Reduction ensures the safety of chemicals in or entering commerce and addressing unreasonable risks to human health and the environment.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to emphasize adherence to statutory requirements and deadlines, including pre-market review of new chemicals, existing chemical evaluations and risk management, data development and collection, review of Confidential Business Information (CBI) claims, and other statutory requirements. Resources are essential for EPA to address its substantial and expanding workload, including:

New Chemical Reviews

- Conducting risk assessments for approximately 500 new chemical notices and exemption submissions and managing the unreasonable risks associated with these chemicals helps spur innovation and allow for the manufacture of newer, safer chemical substances.
- Reducing the new chemical backlogs for Premanufacture Notices – and Exemption Submissions.
- Improving methodologies to assess new chemical substances that represent novel and complex chemistries, including implementation of collaborative program to develop new scientific approaches for increasing the scientific defensibility and timeliness of risk assessments for new chemical substances.
- Increasing transparency by making information generated in the review of notices available to the public, including, for example, TSCA Sections 5 and 8(e) data, CDR data, and TSCA section 4 test data.

Information Technology and Data Tools Infrastructure Improvements

- Enhancing the TSCA Chemical Information System to reduce manual handling of data, to increase internal EPA access to data relevant to chemical assessments, and to expedite review of chemicals.
- Initiating development of new tools for hazard identification, exposure assessments and risk characterization while improving existing tools to better assess chemical risks.
- Aligning EPA with the international regulatory community's standard approaches to capture, store, maintain, and exchange data on chemical substances. Along with integration and consolidation of other legacy data systems, this initiative will modernize EPA's chemical data management infrastructure and deliver more efficient searching, collating, managing, and integrating of data on chemicals, resulting in significant time and cost savings for industry and other stakeholders.
- Maintaining the functionality of ChemView, continuing to increase transparency, and expanding the information ChemView makes available to the public, including newly completed chemical assessments, worker protection information, and other new data reported to EPA under TSCA.
- Continuing TSCA CBI LAN network, Central Data Exchange (CDX), and Chemical Information System stabilization and modernization efforts.
- Establishing systems and IT capabilities to begin implementation of the TSCA CBI Sunset Program starting in June 2026.

Existing Chemical Prioritization, Risk Evaluation and Risk Management

- Implementing statutory requirements to prioritize, evaluate, and address the unreasonable risks of existing chemicals, including prioritization, risk evaluation, and risk management.
- Maintaining the pipeline of chemicals to be prioritized for future risk evaluation, consistent with TSCA's requirement.
- Completing existing chemical risk evaluations – both EPA-initiated and those requested by manufacturers consistent with statutory deadlines.
- Revising to the Agency's procedural framework for risk evaluations consistent with this Administration's policy and EO 14219 *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Deregulatory Initiative*
- To increase efficiency of chemical reviews while safeguarding public health and the environment and helping advance American competitiveness.

- Promulgating risk management actions under TSCA Section 6(a) to address unreasonable risks and engaging in implementation activities associated with these final actions, including development of compliance guides and outreach to impacted entities.

Collection/Development of Chemical Information

- Using test orders and data collection to develop data critical to existing chemical risk evaluation and risk management activities, and systematically collecting, reviewing, and synthesizing data for risk assessments in a transparent manner.
- Continue to refine and implement a testing strategy for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which may include the issuance of additional test orders.
- Maintaining and updating the statutorily required TSCA Inventory under Section 8(b).

Confidential Business Information (CBI)

- Reviewing and making determinations on CBI claims contained in TSCA submissions; making certain non-CBI information available to stakeholders; and publishing identifiers for each chemical substance for which a confidentiality claim for specific chemical identity is approved.
- Beginning efforts related to the expiration of CBI claims as required per statute, including the collection of reassertions and review of these CBI claims.

Other Activities

- *Chemical Data Reporting (CDR)*¹²⁰ In FY 2025, EPA will publish the non-CBI CDR data collected for the 2024 CDR reporting cycle and in early FY 2026 will publish a National Review on the data.
- *Other Section 8 Activities.* In FY 2026, EPA will implement as appropriate, data gathering requirements to obtain data needed for chemicals undergoing Section 6 prioritization and risk evaluations or other chemicals of concern. In FY 2026, EPA plans to finalize modifications to the 8(a)(7) PFAS Data Reporting rule.
- *PFAS Support.* Continuing to support Agency priorities on reducing PFAS contamination, including implementing a PFAS testing strategy to seek scientific information informed by hazard characteristics and exposure pathways; prioritizing risk-based reviews of new and existing PFAS; and implementing TSCA section 8(a)(7) reporting requirements to smartly collect additional PFAS information.
- *Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs).* Continuing work related to use determinations and site-specific exposure evaluations, and providing recommendations and specialized technical support to address the risks associated with PCBs.

¹²⁰ Section 8(a) of TSCA requires manufacturers (including importers) to provide EPA with information on the production and use of chemicals in commerce.

- *Mercury*. Maintaining the Mercury Electronic Reporting Application and assess data submitted by the July 1, 2025 reporting deadline.
- *TSCA Citizen Petitions*. Continuing to meet the requirements of section 21 of TSCA to grant or deny citizen petitions for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of certain actions (rules and orders) promulgated under specific components of TSCA sections 4, 5, 6, and 8.
- *Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products*. Continuing to implement regulations under the TSCA Title VI Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act (Public Law 111-199), which established national emission standards for formaldehyde in new composite wood products.
- *TSCA User Fees*. TSCA authorizes EPA to collect user fees to offset 25 percent of the Agency's full costs for implementing TSCA sections 4, 5, 6, and 14.¹²¹ In FY 2024, EPA collected \$4.2 million. Based on its current workplan, EPA is projected to collect \$4.8 million in FY 2025 and \$26.2 million in FY 2026.¹²²

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$3,979.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$19,385.0 / -30.2 FTE) This decrease is for EPA to implement the revised and expanded TSCA more efficiently. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

¹²¹ TSCA, as amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, Section 26(b) (1) and (4).

¹²² Estimated \$4.8 million in Section 5 submissions and \$21.4 million from the next round of Section 6 EPA-initiated chemical risk evaluations, possibly to be spread out over FY26 and FY27 per the revised Fee Rule schedule, plus a yet to be determined amount from the final cost calculations of two MRREs submitted in FY20.

Toxic Substances: Lead Risk Reduction Program

Program Area: Toxics Risk Review and Prevention

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$12,551</i>	<i>\$14,068</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$14,068</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$12,551	\$14,068	\$0	-\$14,068
Total Workyears	52.1	55.9	0.0	-55.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Lead Risk Reduction Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations. The Lead Risk Reduction Program contributes to the overall goal of reducing lead exposure. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$14,068.0 / -55.9 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Lead Risk Reduction Program to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.* – Sections 401-412.

Underground Storage Tanks (LUST/UST)

LUST / UST

Program Area: Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Environmental Programs & Management</i>	<i>\$12,333</i>	<i>\$11,500</i>	<i>\$6,863</i>	<i>-\$4,637</i>
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$11,474	\$9,591	\$7,149	-\$2,442
Total Budget Authority	\$23,807	\$21,091	\$14,012	-\$7,079
Total Workyears	88.1	88.5	68.8	-19.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Leaking Underground Storage Tanks / Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST) program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) resources in the LUST / UST program help prevent releases of petroleum from USTs by providing states and tribes with technical assistance and guidance and by funding work that assists states and tribes.¹²³ This funding supports direct implementation of UST programs in Indian Country.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Implement a targeted UST tribal program, including inspections, enforcement, compliance assistance, and data management, in support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.
- Continue to coordinate with and support state UST prevention programs, fostering cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships.
- Provide technical assistance, compliance help, and expert consultation to state, tribal, and other stakeholders on both policy and technical matters. This support strives to strengthen EPA's network of federal, state, tribal, and local partners (specifically communities and people living and working near UST sites) and assists implementation of the UST regulations.

¹²³ States as referenced here also include the District of Columbia and five territories as described in the definition of state in the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

- Provide guidance, training, and assistance to the regulated community to improve understanding and compliance.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,300.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$3,337.0 / -15.7 FTE) This program change reflects a decreased need for state grant oversight due to the proposed elimination of the LUST Prevention and the Categorical Grant: Underground Storage Tanks programs. This aligns program funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and empowers EPA's partners at the state, tribal, and local level through cooperative federalism. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act §§ 8001, 9001-9011, and 9013

Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Inspector General
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Inspector General				
Budget Authority	\$40,042	\$43,250	\$43,250	\$0
Total Workyears	178.8	227.5	227.5	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

Bill Language: Office of Inspector General

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$43,250,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

Program Projects in IG

(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations				
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations	\$40,042	\$43,250	\$43,250	\$0
TOTAL IG	\$40,042	\$43,250	\$43,250	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations

Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations
Program Area: Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Inspector General</i>	<i>\$40,042</i>	<i>\$43,250</i>	<i>\$43,250</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$12,470	\$11,328	\$11,328	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$52,513	\$54,578	\$54,578	\$0
Total Workyears	224.8	270.0	270.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Created pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General (OIG) is an independent office within the Agency receiving a separate appropriation within the Agency's budget. The mission of the OIG is to promote economy and efficiency in, and detect fraud, waste, and abuse related to programs and operations of EPA and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), as well as to help ensure ethical conduct and program integrity. To this end, the OIG conducts, supervises, and coordinates audits, evaluations, and investigations relating to EPA's and CSB's programs. These services are directly supported through the OIG's management and administrative functions of information technology, human resources, human capital, budget, planning and performance, legal advice and counseling, report publishing and communications, and congressional outreach.

The OIG's activities add value and enhance public trust and safety by keeping the head of the Agency and Congress fully and immediately informed of problems and deficiencies, and the necessity for and progress of corrective actions. The OIG consistently provides a significant positive return on investment to the public in the form of recommendations for improvements in the delivery of EPA's mission, reduction in operational and environmental risks, costs savings and recoveries, and improvements in program efficiencies and integrity.

Audits

The OIG Office of Audit (OA) is responsible for conducting financial and performance audits of EPA's and CSB's programs and operations. Utilizing a cadre of auditors with specialized training and experience in environmental, financial, and information technology programs, the OA conducts its projects in compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards, as applicable based upon the work performed. The OA conducts performance audits to assess the economy, efficiency, internal control, and compliance of EPA programs and EPA business operations. In addition, the OA conducts ten or more mandated audits each year, including financial audits of EPA's and CSB's financial statements as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 and audits of EPA's and the CSB's information security practices as required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014.

Impact is measured both in terms of recommendations and in potential monetary benefits. In the first half of FY 2025, the OA issued nine reports and two letters to the Office of Management and Budget with over 30 recommendations for operations and program improvements. For example, in a February 2025 report, the OA found that EPA did not consistently manage its Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants, or OSG Program, in accordance with some applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidance. As a result, EPA had not awarded approximately \$20 million, or about 18 percent, of the approximately \$110 million allocated to states within the OSG Program for FYs 2020 through 2022. This led the OA to conclude that needed infrastructure projects may have gone unfunded and that these funds potentially could have been put to better use. The OA also has identified over \$1 billion in potential monetary benefits and impacts. For example, in the OA's independent audit of EPA's FYs 2024 and 2023 (restated) consolidated financial statements, it found that EPA failed to implement internal controls to make sure funding was properly allocated in the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates Program. Specifically, the EPA awarded over \$836 million in rebates benefitting 360 schools to purchase 2,243 buses under the 2022 CSB Rebates Program. However, the Agency did not monitor deployment status of the buses and recipient use of the funds. As a result, the Agency was not aware of whether recipients had the new buses in operation by the program closeout date or whether recipients were mixing funds with other accounts and, in some cases, earning interest. The Agency's lack of oversight of this rebate program puts the funds at increased risk of fraud, waste, and abuse. With an additional \$1 billion of funds planned to be issued via rebates, the EPA needs to conduct reviews to confirm the deployment status of the buses and develop funds management guidance for recipients to properly safeguard these taxpayer dollars.

Investigations

The OIG Office of Investigations (OI) is the oversight component responsible for investigating allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse related to EPA and CSB programs and operations including the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. Consisting of Special Agents with statutory authority under the IG Act to carry firearms, make arrests, execute search and seizure warrants, and perform other law enforcement duties, the OI's Special Agents are authorized to conduct criminal, civil, and administrative investigations. With a geographical area of responsibility spanning from Saipan to Maine and Alaska to the U.S. Virgin Islands, the OI prioritizes work based on return on investment, as well as the impact of the alleged fraud or misconduct on EPA's programs and operations. The OI leverages a data- and intelligence-driven framework to identify high-impact investigations.

The OI's criminal and civil investigations are often done in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice and with various other federal and state law enforcement organizations. In FY 2024, the OI's investigations led to criminal charges against 29 subjects, representing a 383 percent increase over FY 2023 and a 190 percent increase over FY 2022. Additional investigative results included \$1,361,041 in criminal fines/recoveries and \$508,429 in civil recoveries. The OI works with EPA's Suspension and Debarment Program, "whose actions protect the government from doing business with entities that pose a business risk to the government." In FY 2024, the OI initiated 138 OIG investigations on fraud, waste, and abuse within the OI's investigative priorities to include grant and contract fraud, laboratory fraud, and employee and program integrity. The OI published five

Management Implication Reports, highlighting weaknesses and deficiencies in EPA programs, including EPA's failure to implement laws designed to protect federally funded research and EPA's failure to report fraud. The OI published "Fraud Alerts" and participated in "Fraud casts," highlighting fraud schemes and changes to the Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards.

Evaluations

The OIG Office of Special Review and Evaluation (OSRE) is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of EPA's and the CSB's programs. Its oversight projects focus on the efficiency and effectiveness of program operations, such as program performance from implementation to outcome. A cadre of engineers, scientists, social scientists, and other environmental and public health professionals conduct projects in compliance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*. Evaluations span every EPA program office and EPA's ten regional offices, EPA's state, local, and tribal partners, as well as activities that support clean air, clean water, safer chemicals, cleaner communities, scientific research and integrity, and effective oversight and enforcement.

The OIG's evaluations identify waste and areas for improvements in EPA programs and operations. These result in waste avoidance, policy changes, improvements to agency guidance documents and other written materials, increased transparency on regulatory and other decision-making, and process changes to eliminate barriers and improve program outcomes. These evaluations also provide EPA and Congress with information that is useful in policymaking. For example, in FY 2025, OSRE found that the design and execution of the 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment did not result in allotments of lead service line, or LSL, funds that accurately reflected the needs in each state. It also identified \$943.8 million in funds that could be put to better use based on significant flaws in the data submitted by the states of Texas and Florida. As a result of this report, the Agency sent deobligation notices for FY 2023 to Texas in the amount of \$88 million and to Florida in the amount of \$226 million. In both instances, the EPA cited the reporting of unreliable data as the reason for the deobligation of funds. The Agency also determined that Florida may only apply for and receive \$28.6 million for FY 2024, which is \$200 million less than originally allotted. EPA decided to use more reliable data for FYs 2025 and 2026, so the \$400 million OSRE identified in recommendations will be more appropriately allotted. In another example, in FY 2024, OSRE completed a comprehensive evaluation on the drinking water crisis in Jackson, Mississippi. This five-chapter report highlighted the sequence of events and programmatic failures of a drinking water system that serves over 160,000 residents. EPA, as a result, is taking steps to strengthen Mississippi's drinking water program and holding Mississippi accountable for its responsibilities required under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Administrative Investigations

The OIG Administrative Investigations Directorate (AID), located in OSRE, conducts statutorily mandated civil and administrative investigations into allegations of misconduct by senior employees and complaints of whistleblower reprisal by Agency or Board employees, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, subgrantees, or personal services contractors. The AID performs special reviews of significant events and emergent issues of concern that involve a suspected or alleged

violation of law, regulation, or policy, as well as allegations of serious mismanagement. Along with select evaluation staff, this directorate regularly meets with EPA's scientific integrity official, updates coordination procedures between the OIG and EPA's Scientific Integrity Office, and reviews documents to make EPA aware of all identified allegations of violations of its Scientific Integrity Policy.

Since its creation in 2021, the AID has made an immediate impact in helping promote ethical conduct in EPA and the CSB, particularly in the areas of senior employee misconduct and scientific misconduct. The AID consistently carries a large docket of complex and highly sensitive civil and administrative investigations. It also has issued significant reports related to ethical misconduct and whistleblower protection, among other matters. In August 2024, the AID issued a report of investigation that found multiple ethics lapses concerning financial conflicts of interest by the Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. In September 2024, the AID issued a series of reports of investigation addressing allegations from five Agency scientists who reported retaliation for expressing differing scientific opinions in chemical assessments.

The AID also manages the OIG Hotline, which is statutorily required under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the OIG's primary method of receiving complaints of fraud, waste, and abuse in EPA and the CSB. Hotline operations include triaging each complaint, tracking referrals, monitoring the progress of referrals, and communicating with complainants. In FY 2024, the OIG Hotline received over 9,500 contacts through the OIG website, email account, and telephone number, a 54 percent increase from FY 2023. The number of hotline referrals increased in FY 2024 by 101 percent. Furthermore, the OIG employs authorities under 5 U.S.C. § 4512 to incentivize the disclosure of fraud, waste, or mismanagement through cash awards.

Data Analytics

The Data Analytics Directorate (DAD) supports OIG wide oversight planning and execution by leveraging advance analytics to identify and highlight key risk areas to EPA or CSB program integrity. Specifically, the DAD uses programming languages and database software to automate the acquisition, transformation, and analysis of large and disparate data sets that support audits, evaluations, and investigations. It also provides statistical sampling and survey creation support for audits and evaluations. The DAD's oversight products, created by a team of data analysts and data scientists, allow the OIG and the public to visualize the extent of EPA programs and operations.

The DAD has been leading the OIG's efforts to use data analytics for proactive oversight. In March 2024, the DAD published a report highlighting EPA's insufficient internal controls to detect and prevent procurement fraud within its multibillion-dollar transactional procurement database. Another report in October 2024 focused on the states' poor data management of clean and drinking water state revolving funds documentation and how that hindered the OIG's ability to provide effective oversight of those multibillion-dollar programs. In November 2024, the DAD coauthored a report with the OIG's OI addressing potential critical and high cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the U.S. drinking water systems potentially disrupting water access for millions.

In FY 2024, the DAD created an Artificial Intelligence Working Group for the purpose of developing and adopting artificial intelligence solutions to increase efficiencies across the OIG. The DAD is in the process of developing machine learning applications to improve its data analytical detection and prevention capabilities in areas such as purchase card fraud.

OIG Support

The OIG and its oversight programs are supported by the Office of Counsel, the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, the Office of Information Technology, the Office of Mission Support, and the Office of Strategic Analysis and Results. These offices provide legal, professional, and technical support to the oversight programs, as well as support the recruitment, retention, and training of the OIG's employees, manage public outreach efforts and congressional and public engagements, and engage traditional and social media and the internet.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The OIG takes a rigorous approach to the planning and execution of its oversight work, starting with the statutory mandate to prepare an annual statement summarizing "the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency" and to assess the Agency's progress in addressing those challenges. To identify these top management challenges, the OIG reviews the work and recommendations of the OIG and the U.S. Government Accountability Office, solicits input from senior EPA leadership and program offices, and considers the public statements of EPA, administration, and congressional leaders, as well as EPA planning documents. The OIG also maintains its responsibility to statutory or regulatory mandates, such as the oversight of the financial and operation audits of the over 100 state revolving funds, as well as work requested by Congress or resulting from an OIG Hotline contact. In FY 2026, the OIG will continue to target initiatives addressing EPA's and the CSB's top management challenges and stated priorities. The OIG also will continue to expand upon its oversight of EPA's implementation of the IIJA and IRA to assess whether the approximately \$60 billion in IIJA funding and the approximately \$41 billion in IRA funding provided to EPA is effectively and properly spent.

Audits

The Office of Audit (OA) is responsible for nearly all the OIG's mandates, which routinely comprise over a third of the office's oversight work. However, the OIG will need to continue its oversight of EPA spending, to include funding received through the IIJA and IRA. To support this need in a constrained budget environment, the OA is developing a process to enhance its utilization of EPA spending data related to programs under review and to support audit planning. The OA will continue to conduct oversight work in response to congressional requests or hotline contacts, which routinely comprise 10-15 percent of the OA's work. Based on OIG funding trends, the OIG estimates that by FY 2026 more than half of the OA's work will be non-discretionary work.

Additional resources to complete mandatory, requested, and discretionary oversight projects in FY 2026 will greatly support the OA's ability to conduct oversight work.

Investigations

The Office of Investigations (OI) will prioritize its investigations based on the impact of the fraud or misconduct on EPA's programs and operations. The OI continually seeks to demonstrate return on investment while creating value for agency leadership and fulfilling congressional expectations. The OI assists EPA with maintaining a culture of integrity within its employees, programs, and operations. The OI also must consider the U.S. Department of Justice's prosecutorial priorities and the U.S. Attorney Offices' prosecutorial guidelines. The OI uses technology, engages stakeholders, and shares information with and works alongside other federal, state, local, and tribal governments, and law enforcement agencies. An enduring priority will be the prevention and detection of fraud and public corruption of EPA funding, including cybercrime investigations.

Evaluations

The Office of Special Review and Evaluation (OSRE) will continue to conduct oversight projects in response to congressionally requested work, emerging environmental emergencies, and hotline contacts. Its discretionary oversight will continue to focus on promoting economy and efficiency in the administration of EPA's programs. For example, planning a series of efficient, repeatable site inspections to assess compliance with domestic preference and signage requirements for State Revolving Fund projects and with institutional controls for Superfund projects. OSRE also will have, into FY 2026, ongoing evaluations of one or more IRA programs.

Administrative Investigations

The Administrative Investigations Directorate (AID) generally initiates investigations in response to allegations of misconduct and special reviews in reaction to unique circumstances. However, over the last two years, the number of investigations on the AID's docket has significantly outnumbered the AID's ability to complete those investigations in a timely fashion. Many of these matters, particularly those involving allegations of ethical misconduct and financial conflicts of interest, are particularly complex, requiring rigorous and highly technical investigations. The AID saw a 200 percent increase in the number of agency contractor and grantee reprisal complaints under 41 U.S.C. § 4712 in FY 2024. Under this statute, the AID must conduct mandatory investigations of these reprisal complaints within 180 days after receipt. Recent staff departures will constrain the AID's abilities to consistently meet the statutory deadline for these investigations in FY 2026.

The OIG Hotline continues to experience a notable increase in contacts. As of March 31, 2025, the FY 2025 midpoint, the hotline received 8,062 contacts, a 48 percent increase over the FY 2024 midpoint. The AID expects hotline contacts will continue to increase for the remainder of FY 2025 and into FY 2026 resulting in increased allegations of fraud, ethical misconduct, and whistleblower retaliation that will need to be investigated.

Data Analytics

The Data Analytics Directorate (DAD) supports the OIG’s oversight by obtaining agency data and conducting data or statistical analysis. The result is often a dashboard or other visualization of data, providing easy identification of complex problems or otherwise hidden relationships. The DAD’s efforts to automate data acquisition and analysis processes creates time and cost efficiencies for audits, investigations, and evaluations. The DAD also provides oversight products to the public through the OIG website, including a geographical dashboard showing EPA IJA spending by program, region, and district. Sustaining this work will require continued investment in both personnel and analytic tools, such as computer hardware and database software. In FY 2026, the DAD will continue to develop and provide better analytic support for our audits, investigations, and evaluations and oversight products for the public.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. §§ 401–424.

Budget Requests:

The OIG requests the following, provided pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 406(g):

- The aggregate President’s Budget request from the Inspector General for the operations of the OIG is \$54.6 million (\$43.3 million OIG; \$11.3 million Superfund Transfer)
- The portion of the aggregate President’s Budget needed to support the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency is estimated at \$218 thousand (\$173 thousand OIG; \$45 thousand Superfund Transfer).

“I certify as the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency that the amount I have requested for training satisfies all OIG training needs for FY 2026.”

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**APPROPRIATION: Building and Facilities
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Building and Facilities				
Budget Authority	\$32,830	\$40,676	\$35,076	-\$5,600
Total Workyears	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Bill Language: Buildings and Facilities

For construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the Environmental Protection Agency, \$35,076,000, to remain available until expended.

Program Projects in B&F

(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$6,225	\$6,676	\$6,176	-\$500
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$26,604	\$34,000	\$28,900	-\$5,100
TOTAL B&F	\$32,830	\$40,676	\$35,076	-\$5,600

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Homeland Security

Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$4,973	\$4,665	\$4,986	\$321
Science & Technology	\$625	\$625	\$500	-\$125
<i>Building and Facilities</i>	\$6,225	\$6,676	\$6,176	-\$500
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,257	\$1,102	\$915	-\$187
Total Budget Authority	\$13,081	\$13,068	\$12,577	-\$491
Total Workyears	14.0	13.3	13.3	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 13.3 FTE to support Homeland Security working capital fund (WCF) services.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Buildings and Facilities Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure Program is proposed for reduction in anticipation of space consolidation plans that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage, yielding cost savings to the American taxpayer. This program supports the protection of federal employees, contractors, grantees, and private citizens (occupants) who work within or visit EPA facilities nationwide. EPA's buildings are a combination of headquarters and regional administrative offices, program and research laboratories, and support facilities/warehouses. These facilities are either EPA owned/leased or GSA owned/leased. This funding ensures federal mandates are met as they relate to physical security and local emergency preparedness for all Agency locations. These funds support the physical security protection equipment and mechanisms required to protect occupants during facility relocation (e.g., moves, new leases, consolidations, etc.), physical equipment upgrades/modernization, or corrective actions required to address security vulnerabilities identified during security assessments.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue the adoption of GSA's Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS) at EPA facilities. ePACS supports the Agency's modernization of its security infrastructure in compliance with *Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12* (HSPD-12)¹³⁸ and ensures that the Agency is undertaking every effort to enhance safety, security, and efficiency by more effectively controlling access into all EPA-controlled physical space and networks. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by reducing bureaucratic delays and encouraging increased collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

¹³⁸ For additional information, please see: <https://www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-presidential-directive-12>.

In FY 2026, EPA will complete security projects to ensure protection of occupants and compliance with federal mandates for physical security, including:

- Migrating to ePACS at the Research Triangle Park, NC Laboratory; Region 2 Edison Laboratory, Edison, NJ; Region 3 Wheeling Field Office, Wheeling, WV; Headquarters Landover Warehouse Hyattsville, MD; Region 4 Field Annex SAF Athens, GA; and Region 5 Duluth Environmental Laboratory, Duluth, MN.
- Upgrading physical security in response to vulnerabilities identified from previously conducted physical security assessments.
- Continuing to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office program, USAccess, for Personal Identity Verification card enrollment and issuance. USAccess is a GSA managed, shared services solution that provides the EPA with the ability to produce and maintain secure and reliable forms of identification, as required per HSPD-12, for all EPA employees and contractors.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$500.0) This program change will reduce physical security funding in anticipation of space consolidation plans that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage, yielding cost savings to the American taxpayer.

Statutory Authority:

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; Homeland Security Act of 2002; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Operations and Administration

Facilities Infrastructure and Operations

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
Science & Technology	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$55,023	-\$9,710
<i>Building and Facilities</i>	<i>\$26,604</i>	<i>\$34,000</i>	<i>\$28,900</i>	<i>-\$5,100</i>
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$625	\$637	\$541	-\$96
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$74,984	\$67,080	\$57,373	-\$9,707
Total Budget Authority	\$444,412	\$443,045	\$377,048	-\$65,997
Total Workyears	328.2	300.4	319.8	19.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce efficiency and facilities consolidation will allow EPA to reduce resources needed to maintain Agency facilities. EPA's Buildings and Facilities (B&F) appropriation supports the design, construction, repair, and improvement of EPA's federally owned and leased land and structures in accordance with applicable codes and standards.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In accordance with the Office of Budget and Management (OMB)'s M-25-25 Implementation of the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act, and HR 4465, the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016,¹³⁹ the Agency will continue to review its space needs. EPA is implementing a space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage. B&F resources support facility-related construction and the repair and improvement (R&I) of EPA's aging real estate inventory. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by reducing bureaucratic delays and encouraging increased collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners. Through master planning and nationwide efforts to use space more efficiently, EPA identifies B&F projects to be conducted each fiscal year. These projects support the long-term conditions and efficiency of EPA facilities.

¹³⁹ For more information, see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4465/text>.

EPA is working to reduce unused office and warehouse space. By the end of FY 2025, EPA will have consolidated employees out of the Ronald Reagan Building, and into existing space within the Federal Triangle in Washington, D.C. The consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-spaced footprint by approximately 323,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$18 million as part of the Administration's commitment to being exceptional stewards of tax dollars. In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to explore opportunities to reconfigure EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs. Space consolidation and reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace. Lease savings from space consolidations will allow the Agency to make upgrades to the existing buildings and enhance buildings for the in-person environment. Each move, even with minimum modifications, requires B&F funding.

The FY 2026 request also includes resources for ongoing projects that will provide critical maintenance for aging facilities, including laboratories that are key to ensuring that the Agency has access to safe and functional workspace. EPA has consolidated its headquarters space into the William Jefferson Clinton complex where all 36 elevators in the building are overdue for modernization. Currently, over 10 percent of the elevators are inoperable since 2021. These projects maintain a safe workplace, provide for high quality science, support Agency priorities, and advance the Agency's mission. Delaying essential repairs results in the deterioration of EPA's facilities, which increases long-term repair costs and presents safety risks. EPA will focus on critical facility repairs and infrastructure upgrades to maintain an acceptable Facility Condition Index (FCI) in line with the Laboratory Study completed in 2014.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue its phased approach to accomplish major B&F projects across the country including those that involve the replacement of mechanical systems nearing the end of their useful life that also will ultimately result in energy savings. The lab consolidation projects in Athens, Georgia as well as moving the R6 Houston, Texas laboratory to Ada, Oklahoma, further reduces the Agency's laboratory footprint.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,100.0) This program change will reduce facility infrastructure funding in anticipation of space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage, yielding cost savings to the American taxpayer. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to shrink the federal real estate footprint by eliminating unused federal office space

Statutory Authority:

Federal Property and Administration Services Act (FPAS); Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

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<u>Superfund: Federal Facilities</u>	330
<u>Superfund: Remedial</u>	331
<u>Superfund Special Accounts</u>	332
<u>Superfund Special Accounts</u>	334
<u>Superfund Tax Receipts</u>	335
<u>Superfund Tax Receipts</u>	432

**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Hazardous Substance Superfund
Resource Summary Table
(Dollars in Thousands)**

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Hazardous Substance Superfund				
Budget Authority	\$1,478,962	\$537,700	\$282,749	-\$254,951
Total Workyears	2,726.2	2,492.2	2,610.0	117.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

Bill Language: Hazardous Substance Superfund

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including sections 111(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611), and hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$282,749,000, to remain available until expended, consisting of such sums as are available in the Trust Fund on September 30, 2025, and not otherwise ap- propriated from the Trust Fund, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and up to \$282,749,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund for purposes as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA: Provided, That funds appropriated-under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: Provided further, that for fiscal year 2026, section 122(b)(3) of CERCLA (42 U.S. C. 9622(b)(3)) shall be applied by inserting before the period at the end: “, including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft”; Provided further, that for fiscal year 2026, the matter preceding the first proviso in section 443(b) of title IV of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) shall be applied by inserting before the semicolon “, including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft”; Provided further, that amounts in the preceding proviso shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118-5; Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$11,328,000 shall be paid to the "Office of Inspector General" appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2027, and \$17,607,000 shall be paid to the "Science and Technology" appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2027.

**Program Projects in Superfund
(Dollars in Thousands)**

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations				

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations	\$12,470	\$11,328	\$11,328	\$0
Compliance				
Compliance Monitoring	\$863	\$1,017	\$817	-\$200
Enforcement				
Criminal Enforcement	\$9,890	\$7,944	\$3,999	-\$3,945
Environmental Justice	\$7,283	\$5,876	\$0	-\$5,876
Forensics Support	\$1,474	\$1,286	\$1,040	-\$246
Superfund: Enforcement	\$185,418	\$0	\$0	\$0
Superfund: Federal Facilities Enforcement	\$8,463	\$1,793	\$1,784	-\$9
Subtotal, Enforcement	\$212,528	\$16,899	\$6,823	-\$10,076
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	\$35,472	\$34,588	\$35,192	\$604
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$1,257	\$1,102	\$915	-\$187
Subtotal, Homeland Security	\$36,729	\$35,690	\$36,107	\$417
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Radiation: Protection	\$3,823	\$2,472	\$2,122	-\$350
Information Exchange / Outreach				
Exchange Network	\$1,037	\$1,328	\$0	-\$1,328
IT / Data Management / Security				
Information Security	\$2,123	\$1,040	\$5,082	\$4,042
IT / Data Management	\$19,372	\$19,786	\$13,874	-\$5,912
Subtotal, IT / Data Management / Security	\$21,495	\$20,826	\$18,956	-\$1,870
Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review				
Alternative Dispute Resolution	\$1,006	\$644	\$0	-\$644
Legal Advice: Environmental Program	\$1,804	\$713	\$608	-\$105
Subtotal, Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review	\$2,810	\$1,357	\$608	-\$749
Operations and Administration				
Acquisition Management	\$23,620	\$25,588	\$23,752	-\$1,836
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$35,335	\$31,378	\$22,462	-\$8,916
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$74,984	\$67,080	\$57,373	-\$9,707
Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management	\$5,012	\$4,170	\$2,903	-\$1,267

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Human Resources Management	\$10,904	\$7,424	\$5,704	-\$1,720
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$149,854	\$135,640	\$112,194	-\$23,446
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Health and Environmental Risk Assessment	\$5,208	\$5,238	\$5,714	\$476
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$8,457	\$7,723	\$0	-\$7,723
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$13,665	\$12,961	\$5,714	-\$7,247
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$20,147	\$16,937	\$11,448	-\$5,489
Superfund Cleanup				
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Superfund: Emergency Response and Removal	\$277,004	\$59,181	\$47,311	-\$11,870
Superfund: EPA Emergency Preparedness	\$7,782	\$8,056	\$7,700	-\$356
Superfund: Federal Facilities	\$32,149	\$26,189	\$21,621	-\$4,568
Superfund: Remedial	\$686,559	\$187,819	\$0	-\$187,819
Subtotal, Superfund Cleanup	\$1,003,495	\$281,245	\$76,632	-\$204,613
TOTAL Superfund	\$1,478,917	\$537,700	\$282,749	-\$254,951

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations

Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations

Program Area: Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Inspector General	\$40,042	\$43,250	\$43,250	\$0
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$12,470</i>	<i>\$11,328</i>	<i>\$11,328</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$52,513	\$54,578	\$54,578	\$0
Total Workyears	224.8	270.0	270.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Created pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General (OIG) is an independent office within the Agency, receiving a separate appropriation within the Agency's budget. The mission of the OIG is to promote economy and efficiency in, and detect fraud, waste, and abuse related to programs and operations of EPA and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), as well as to help ensure ethical conduct and program integrity. To this end, the OIG conducts and supervises independent audits, evaluations, and investigations while reviewing existing and proposed legislation and regulations relating to the programs and operations of the Agency; provides leadership and coordination; makes evidence-based policy recommendations; and works to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in Agency, grantee, and contractor operations of the Agency's Superfund Program. These services are directly supported through the OIG's management and administrative functions of information technology, human resources, human capital, budget, planning and performance, legal advice and counseling, report publishing and communications, and congressional outreach.

The OIG's activities add value and enhance public trust and safety by keeping the head of the Agency and Congress fully and immediately informed of problems and deficiencies, and the necessity for and progress of corrective actions. The OIG consistently provides a significant positive return on investment to the public in the form of recommendations for improvements in the delivery of EPA's mission, reduction in operational and environmental risks, costs savings and recoveries, and improvements in program efficiencies and integrity.

Audits

The Office of Audit (OA) is responsible for conducting financial and performance audits of EPA's and CSB's programs and operations. Utilizing a cadre of auditors with specialized training and experience in environmental, financial, and information technology programs, the OA conducts its projects in compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards, as applicable based upon the work performed. The OA conducts performance audits to assess the economy, efficiency, internal control, and compliance of EPA programs and EPA business operations. In

addition, the OA conducts ten or more mandated audits each year, including financial audits of EPA's and CSB's financial statements as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 and audits of EPA's and the CSB's information security practices as required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014.

Impact is measured both in terms of recommendations and in potential monetary benefits. In the first half of FY 2025, the OA issued nine reports and two letters to the Office of Management and Budget with over 30 recommendations for operations and program improvements. These reports have focused on, among other things, numerous barriers to implementing effective resource management and program improvements in EPA's Superfund Program.

Investigations

The OIG Office of Investigations (OI) is the oversight component responsible for investigating allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse related to EPA and CSB programs and operations including EPA's Superfund Program, the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. Consisting of Special Agents with statutory authority under the IG Act to carry firearms, make arrests, execute search and seizure warrants, and perform other law enforcement duties, the OI's Special Agents are authorized to conduct criminal, civil, and administrative investigations. With a geographical area of responsibility spanning from Saipan to Maine and Alaska to the U.S. Virgin Islands, the OI prioritizes work based on return on investment, as well as the impact of the alleged fraud or misconduct on EPA's programs and operations. The OI leverages a data- and intelligence-driven framework to identify high-impact investigations.

The OI's criminal and civil investigations are often done in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice and with various other federal and state law enforcement organizations. In FY 2024, the OI's investigations led to criminal charges against 29 subjects, representing a 383 percent increase over FY 2023 and a 190 percent increase over FY 2022. Additional investigative results included \$1,361,041 in criminal fines/recoveries and \$508,429 in civil recoveries. The OI works with EPA's Suspension and Debarment Program, "whose actions protect the government from doing business with entities that pose a business risk to the government." In FY 2024, the OI initiated 138 OIG investigations on fraud, waste, and abuse within the OI's investigative priorities to include grant and contract fraud, laboratory fraud, and employee and program integrity. The OI published five Management Implication Reports, highlighting weaknesses and deficiencies in EPA programs, including EPA's failure to implement laws designed to protect federally funded research and EPA's failure to report fraud. The OI published "Fraud Alerts" and participated in "Fraudcasts," highlighting fraud schemes and changes to the Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards.

Evaluations

The OIG Office of Special Review and Evaluation (OSRE) is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of EPA's and the CSB's programs. Its oversight projects focus on the efficiency and effectiveness of program operations, such as program performance from implementation to outcome. A cadre of engineers, scientists, social scientists, and other environmental and public health professionals conduct projects in compliance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*. Evaluations span

every EPA program office and EPA's ten regional offices, EPA's state, local, and tribal partners, as well as EPA Superfund programs, and activities that support clean air, clean water, safer chemicals, cleaner communities, scientific research and integrity, and effective oversight and enforcement.

The OIG's evaluations identify waste and areas for improvements in EPA programs and operations. These result in waste avoidance, policy changes, improvements to Agency guidance documents and other written materials, increased transparency on regulatory and other decision-making, and process changes to eliminate barriers and improve program outcomes. These evaluations also provide EPA and Congress with information that is useful in policymaking. An example of OSRE's Superfund-related work is an evaluation of community engagement related to the Findett Corp. Superfund Site. The site has a history of soil and groundwater contamination. OSRE initiated the evaluation after reports of contamination of the drinking water source in St. Charles, Missouri. The FY 2024 report details improvements that EPA's Region 7 can make in the areas of dispute resolution, technical assistance, and community involvement, among others.

Administrative Investigations

The Administrative Investigations Directorate (AID), located in OSRE, conducts statutorily mandated civil and administrative investigations into allegations of misconduct by senior employees and complaints of whistleblower reprisal by Agency or Board employees, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, subgrantees, or personal services contractors. The AID performs special reviews of significant events and emergent issues of concern that involve a suspected or alleged violation of law, regulation, or policy, as well as allegations of serious mismanagement. Along with select evaluation staff, this directorate regularly meets with EPA's scientific integrity official, updates coordination procedures between the OIG and EPA's Scientific Integrity Office, and reviews documents to make EPA aware of all identified allegations of violations of its Scientific Integrity Policy.

Since its creation in 2021, the AID has made an immediate impact in helping promote ethical conduct in EPA and the CSB, particularly in the areas of senior employee misconduct and scientific misconduct. The AID consistently carries a large docket of complex and highly sensitive civil and administrative investigations. It also has issued significant reports related to ethical misconduct and whistleblower protection, among other matters. In August 2024, the AID issued a report of investigation that found multiple ethics lapses concerning financial conflicts of interest by the Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. In September 2024, the AID issued a series of reports of investigation addressing allegations from five Agency scientists who reported retaliation for expressing differing scientific opinions in chemical assessments.

The AID also manages the OIG Hotline, which is statutorily required under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the OIG's primary method of receiving complaints of fraud, waste, and abuse in EPA and the CSB. Hotline operations include triaging each complaint, tracking referrals, monitoring the progress of referrals, and communicating with complainants. In FY 2024, the OIG Hotline received over 9,500 contacts through the OIG website, email account, and telephone number, a 54 percent increase from FY 2023. The number of hotline referrals increased

in FY 2024 by 101 percent. Furthermore, the OIG employs authorities under 5 U.S.C. § 4512 to incentivize the disclosure of fraud, waste, or mismanagement through cash awards.

Data Analytics

The Data Analytics Directorate (DAD) supports OIG wide oversight planning and execution by leveraging advance analytics to identify and highlight key risk areas to EPA or CSB program integrity. Specifically, the DAD uses programming languages and database software to automate the acquisition, transformation, and analysis of large and disparate data sets that support audits, evaluations, and investigations. It also provides statistical sampling and survey creation support for audits and evaluations. The DAD's oversight products, created by a team of data analysts and data scientists, allow the OIG and the public to visualize the extent of EPA programs and operations.

The DAD has been leading the OIG's efforts to use data analytics for proactive oversight. In FY 2024, the DAD created an Artificial Intelligence Working Group for the purpose of developing and adopting artificial intelligence solutions to increase efficiencies across the OIG. The DAD is in the process of developing machine learning applications to improve its data analytical detection and prevention capabilities in areas such as purchase card fraud.

OIG Support

The OIG and its oversight programs are supported by the Office of Counsel, the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, the Office of Information Technology, the Office of Mission Support, and the Office of Strategic Analysis and Results. These offices provide legal, professional, and technical support to the oversight programs, as well as support the recruitment, retention, and training of the OIG's employees, manage public outreach efforts and congressional and public engagements, and engage traditional and social media and the internet.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The OIG takes a rigorous approach to the planning and execution of its oversight work, starting with the statutory mandate to prepare an annual statement summarizing "the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency" and to assess the Agency's progress in addressing those challenges. To identify these top management challenges, the OIG reviews the work and recommendations of the OIG and the U.S. Government Accountability Office, solicits input from senior EPA leadership and program offices, and considers the public statements of EPA, administration, and congressional leaders, as well as EPA planning documents. The OIG also maintains its responsibility to statutory or regulatory mandates, such as the oversight of the financial and operation audits of the over 100 state revolving funds, as well as work requested by Congress or resulting from an OIG Hotline contact. In FY 2026, the OIG will continue to target initiatives addressing EPA's and the CSB's top management challenges and stated priorities. The OIG also will continue to expand upon its oversight of EPA's implementation of the IJA to assess whether the approximately \$60 billion in IJA funding.

Audits

The Office of Audit (OA) is responsible for nearly all the OIG's mandates, which routinely comprise over a third of the office's oversight work. However, the OIG will need to continue its oversight of EPA spending, to include funding received through the IIJA. To support this need in a constrained budget environment, the OA is developing a process to enhance its utilization of EPA spending data related to programs under review and to support audit planning. The OA will continue to conduct oversight work in response to congressional requests or hotline contacts, which routinely comprise 10-15 percent of the OA's work. Based on OIG funding trends, the OIG estimates that by FY 2026 more than half of the OA's work will be non-discretionary work. Additional resources to complete mandatory, requested, and discretionary oversight projects in FY 2026 will greatly support the OA's ability to conduct oversight work.

Investigations

The Office of Investigations (OI) will prioritize its investigations based on the impact of the fraud or misconduct on EPA's programs and operations. The OI continually seeks to demonstrate return on investment while creating value for Agency leadership and fulfilling congressional expectations. The OI assists EPA with maintaining a culture of integrity within its employees, programs, and operations. The OI also must consider the U.S. Department of Justice's prosecutorial priorities and the U.S. Attorney Offices' prosecutorial guidelines. The OI uses technology, engages stakeholders, and shares information with and works alongside other federal, state, local, and tribal governments, and law enforcement agencies. An enduring priority will be the prevention and detection of fraud and public corruption of EPA funding, including cybercrime investigations.

Evaluations

The Office of Special Review and Evaluation (OSRE) will continue to conduct oversight projects in response to congressionally requested work, emerging environmental emergencies, and hotline contacts. Its discretionary oversight will continue to focus on promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of the EPA's Superfund programs.

Administrative Investigations and Special Reviews

The Administrative Investigations Directorate (AID) generally initiates investigations in response to allegations of misconduct and special reviews in reaction to unique circumstances. However, over the last two years, the number of investigations on the AID's docket has significantly outnumbered the AID's ability to complete those investigations in a timely fashion. Many of these matters, particularly those involving allegations of ethical misconduct and financial conflicts of interest, are particularly complex, requiring rigorous and highly technical investigations. The AID saw a 200 percent increase in the number of Agency contractor and grantee reprisal complaints under 41 U.S.C. § 4712 in FY 2024. Under this statute, the AID must conduct mandatory investigations of these reprisal complaints within 180 days after receipt. Recent staff departures will constrain the AID's abilities to consistently meet the statutory deadline for these investigations in FY 2026.

The OIG Hotline continues to experience a notable increase in contacts. As of March 31, 2025, the FY 2025 midpoint, the hotline received 8,062 contacts, a 48 percent increase over the FY 2024 midpoint. The AID expects hotline contacts will continue to increase for the remainder of FY 2025 and into FY 2026 resulting in increased allegations of fraud, ethical misconduct, and whistleblower retaliation that will need to be investigated.

Data Analytics

The Data Analytics Directorate (DAD) supports the OIG's oversight by obtaining Agency data and conducting data or statistical analysis. The result is often a dashboard or other visualization of data, providing easy identification of complex problems or otherwise hidden relationships. The DAD's efforts to automate data acquisition and analysis processes creates time and cost efficiencies for audits, investigations, and evaluations. The DAD also provides oversight products to the public through the OIG website, including a geographical dashboard showing EPA IIJA spending by program, region, and district. Sustaining this work will require continued investment in both personnel and analytic tools, such as computer hardware and database software. In FY 2026, the DAD will continue to develop and provide better analytic support for our audits, investigations, and evaluations and oversight products for the public.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. §§ 401-424.

Budget Requests:

The OIG requests the following, provided pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 406(g):

- The aggregate President's Budget request from the Inspector General for the operations of the OIG is \$54.6 million (\$43.3 million OIG; \$11.3 million Superfund Transfer)
- The portion of the aggregate President's Budget needed to support the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency is estimated at \$218 thousand (\$173 thousand OIG; \$45 thousand Superfund Transfer).

"I certify as the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency that the amount I have requested for training satisfies all OIG training needs for FY 2026."

Compliance

Compliance Monitoring

Program Area: Compliance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$106,372	\$107,078	\$69,078	-\$38,000
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$750	\$605	\$605	\$0
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$863</i>	<i>\$1,017</i>	<i>\$817</i>	<i>-\$200</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$107,986	\$108,700	\$70,500	-\$38,200
Total Workyears	456.5	460.9	385.7	-75.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Superfund Compliance Monitoring program promotes compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or "Superfund" law. The states and EPA use compliance monitoring tools and activities to identify whether regulated entities are in compliance with environmental laws enacted by Congress, as well as applicable regulations and permit conditions.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will directly support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative in Superfund compliance work. The Program will support a variety of tools and activities for states and EPA to conduct cooperative federalism in identifying compliance status of regulated entities with environmental laws enacted by Congress. Specifically, the Program will streamline and support tracking efforts of CERCLA enforcement activities in SEMS, ICIS, and ECHO.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$291.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+\$91.0 / +0.1 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and returns to core compliance assistance work.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.).

Enforcement

Criminal Enforcement
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$65,595	\$60,041	\$30,472	-\$29,569
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$9,890</i>	<i>\$7,944</i>	<i>\$3,999</i>	<i>-\$3,945</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$75,485	\$67,985	\$34,471	-\$33,514
Total Workyears	276.0	262.8	190.8	-72.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Criminal Enforcement program investigates and helps prosecute criminal violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and associated violations of Title 18 of the United States Code such as fraud, conspiracy, false statements, and obstruction of justice. EPA's criminal enforcement agents (Special Agents) do this through targeted investigation of criminal conduct, committed by individual and corporate defendants, that threatens human health and the environment.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will directly support EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiatives *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

The Program will work closely with the Superfund Program across all ten EPA regions to identify and investigate environmental crimes where a response action is triggered by a release or substantial threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that presents an imminent and substantial danger to human health or the environment. Investigations will be conducted to ensure responsible parties are identified and that cost recovery for Superfund expenses are considered if the investigation results in a successful prosecution. The Program will focus the resources on the most egregious cases (*e.g.*, significant human health, environmental, and deterrent impacts), while balancing its overall case load.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,770.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$2,175.0 / -8.5 FTE) This program change aligns resources with the Administration's policies to refocus enforcement efforts and realize efficiencies. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Title 18 of the U.S.C.; 18 U.S.C. § 3063; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Environmental Justice
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$109,912	\$94,124	\$0	-\$94,124
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	\$7,283	\$5,876	\$0	-\$5,876
Total Budget Authority	\$117,196	\$100,000	\$0	-\$100,000
Total Workyears	173.6	79.3	0.0	-79.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Environmental Justice (EJ) program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and focuses resources on EPA's core mission. This change supports the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative and advances Presidential Executive Order 14151 *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* and Executive Order 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*. All statutory work will be accomplished in Enforcement programs or other applicable programs.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the EJ Program is proposed for elimination as the Agency returns to its core statutory requirements and *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,876.0 / -3.0 FTE) The Environmental Justice Program is proposed for elimination to align with Administration priorities in order to unleash American energy and economic growth and refocus EPA on its core mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Forensics Support
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	\$14,668	\$14,895	\$10,095	-\$4,800
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$1,474</i>	<i>\$1,286</i>	<i>\$1,040</i>	<i>-\$246</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$16,142	\$16,181	\$11,135	-\$5,046
Total Workyears	60.7	69.0	61.0	-8.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Forensics Support program provides expert scientific and technical support for criminal and civil environmental enforcement cases, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's compliance efforts. EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) is an environmental forensic center accredited for both laboratory and field sampling operations that generate environmental data for the Agency.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will directly support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The Forensics Support program provides expert scientific and technical support for EPA's criminal and civil enforcement efforts. The NEIC will streamline forensics work and identify enhancements to sampling and analytical methods by leveraging emerging technologies. The NEIC will provide critical support to enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act and other regulations, including developing and conducting cutting-edge laboratory techniques for lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The program maximizes the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, produce timely and high-quality work products, identify and implement further efficiencies in laboratory operations, and develop new capabilities. The Program will enhance operations that align with the Administrator's *Pillar 2: Restore Energy Dominance*, *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*, and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs*.

The NEIC supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* by continuing to provide field and laboratory services to state and federal partners, including: on-the-job training on how to conduct process-based inspections, effectively review environmental regulations, and conduct an engineering review of a permit. NEIC also will continue

to support civil and criminal programs through laboratory analysis and method development such as toxicology (*i.e.*, expert reports) and statistical support (*i.e.*, site sampling plan development).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$127.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$119.0 / +0.1 FTE) This net program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements, five pillar work, and recognizes needed efficiencies. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI); Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act; Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act; Noise Control Act; Oil Pollution Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Rivers and Harbors Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; American Innovation and Manufacturing Act.

Superfund: Enforcement
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$185,418</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$185,418	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Workyears	801.8	743.5	745.3	1.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Starting in FY 2024, the Superfund Enforcement program was solely transferred from the annual Superfund appropriation to the Superfund tax receipts. The Program's FTE are built into the Agency's FTE ceiling. The Superfund Enforcement Program advances the five pillars of EPA's *Powering Great American Comeback* initiative, and protects communities by ensuring prompt site cleanup using an "enforcement first" approach to maximize the participation of responsible parties in performing cleanups, which preserves federal dollars for sites where there are no viable contributing parties. The Superfund Enforcement Program obtains potentially responsible parties' (PRP) commitments to perform and pay for cleanups through civil judicial and administrative site actions. The Superfund Enforcement Program works closely with the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to combine litigation, legal, and technical skills to bring enforcement actions and address emerging issues. Superfund enforcement efforts ensure that Superfund sites with responsible parties or interested third parties are cleaned up in a timely manner and result in more site cleanups than would be possible using only government funds, which in turn supports reuse of those sites.

The Superfund Enforcement Program:

- Secures cleanups through orders and settlements from responsible parties and third parties, thereby providing clean air, land, and water for every American and making contaminated properties available for reuse.
- Takes enforcement actions, including negotiating agreements to recover costs from responsible parties, thereby preserving American taxpayer dollars for sites where there are no viable responsible parties.
- Develops cleanup enforcement policies, model documents, and trainings.
- Issues guidance and tools to clarify potential cleanup liability to support cleanup, reuse, and revitalization of contaminated properties.

In FY 2024, the Superfund Enforcement Program secured private-party commitments for cleanup and cost recovery and billed for oversight amounts totaling approximately \$1.25 billion. The use of Superfund enforcement tools resulted in cleanup and redevelopment at 97 private party sites in FY 2024.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Superfund Enforcement Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every America* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*. Many of these sites may be profitably reused, including mining sites that may provide critical minerals. In FY 2026, the Agency will strengthen EPA's Superfund Enforcement Program by complementing work in the Superfund Remedial and Superfund Emergency Response and Removal Programs, providing financial support for DOJ to pursue judicial actions to compel PRP cleanup, and supporting actions in response to lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) releases. EPA will continue its work to achieve prompt site cleanups, maximize the participation by PRPs, and secure third-party funding of cleanups. In addition, the Agency will prioritize its efforts on the most significant sites in terms of human health and environmental impact. EPA also will pursue prospective purchaser agreements and liability protections to return sites to profitable use, particularly at mining sites.

EPA can deposit payments received pursuant to settlement agreements with PRPs into site-specific special accounts established for use consistent with settlement agreements for specific sites. These accounts can include both reimbursed payments for past response costs as well as cashout payments received from parties for future site cleanup. Site-specific special accounts provide needed cleanup dollars at many sites that otherwise may not have received funding. In FY 2024, EPA created 12 special accounts and collected \$237.8 million for response work. The Agency disbursed or obligated \$278.4 million from special accounts for response work (including reclassifications).

DOJ's participation in Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cases is statutorily mandated for settlements related to remedial action cleanups, most cost recovery settlements, and all judicial enforcement matters. DOJ's support will be sought to negotiate and enter into consent decrees with PRPs to perform remedial actions, to pursue judicial actions to compel PRP cleanup, and to pursue judicial actions to recover monies spent in cleaning up contaminated sites. EPA provides financial support to DOJ for these activities through an interagency agreement.

Cost Recovery Support

The Agency will continue to pursue an "enforcement first" and "polluter pays" approach that maximizes PRP participation at Superfund sites by performing enforcement activities such as conducting PRP searches, negotiating site-specific settlements, pursuing insurance and bankruptcy recoveries, and recovering costs through appropriate cashout settlements. These activities ensure that responsible parties conduct or pay for cleanups and preserve federal dollars for sites where there are no viable contributing parties.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+1.8 FTE) This program change aligns resources with Administration priorities and core statutory requirements.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Superfund: Federal Facilities Enforcement

Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	\$8,463	\$1,793	\$1,784	-\$9
Total Budget Authority	\$8,463	\$1,793	\$1,784	-\$9
Total Workyears	40.8	35.6	40.9	5.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

In FY 2024, the Superfund Federal Facilities Enforcement Program was partially transitioned from the annual Superfund appropriation to the Superfund tax receipts. The Program's FTE are built into the Agency's FTE ceiling. The Superfund Federal Facilities Enforcement Program supports the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through close compliance monitoring and enforcement at sites where there is federal ownership or a federal operator, whether full or partial, and the federal owner conducts or is involved in cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund"). After years of service and operation, many federal facilities are contaminated with, among other things, hazardous substances, pollutants, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), solvents, munitions, and radioactive wastes. Enforcement actions and facilitating cleanup promote potential redevelopment of these sites in the future. The Program enforcement against federal facilities ensures that the U.S. government complies with environmental laws and requirements in the same manner and to the same extent as any other regulated entity, as required by law.

Consistent with *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, and pursuant to CERCLA Section 120, EPA must enter into Interagency Agreements, commonly referred to as Federal Facility Agreements (FFAs), with responsible federal agencies to ensure that the cleanups at their National Priorities List (NPL) sites are protective of public health and the environment. The Program provides enforceable oversight of the investigation and cleanup processes. These FFAs govern cleanups at 176 federal facility Superfund sites, including many of the Nation's largest and most complex cleanup projects. While only 10 percent of the NPL sites are federal facility sites, over 41 percent of the total operable units in the Superfund Program are at federal facilities.¹⁴⁰ In the Federal Facilities Enforcement Program, EPA assesses the compliance of federal facilities with environmental statutes and regulations that works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. The Program encourages compliance, compels regulated entities to correct and/or mitigate violations, and assess appropriate penalties for violations.

¹⁴⁰ Operable units often comprise discrete areas of a cleanup site, depending on the complexity of the problems associated with the site. These operable units may address geographic areas of a site, specific site problems, or areas where a specific action is required. An example of a typical operable unit could include removal of drums and tanks from the surface of a site.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to act in response to significant contamination from federal facilities. EPA will focus its resources on the highest priority sites, particularly those that may present an imminent and/or substantial endangerment, have human exposure not yet under control, or have the potential for beneficial redevelopment. EPA also will negotiate and amend, as appropriate, FFAs for federal facility sites on the NPL and continue to monitor FFAs for compliance. EPA will expedite cleanup and redevelopment of federal facility sites and will use dispute resolution processes and other approaches to timely resolve formal and informal cleanup disputes. The Agency will continue to seek ways to improve its engagement with other federal agencies and state, tribal, and local governments, emphasizing protective, timely cleanups that address communities' needs.

In FY 2026, the Agency also will work to address PFAS contamination by developing information and, where needed, initiating investigations to support possible actions under multiple statutory authorities, consistent with the Addressing Exposure to PFAS National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative.¹⁴¹ Federal facilities (*e.g.*, Department of Defense military installations and Department of Energy sites) are starting to address PFAS contamination at their NPL sites. As federal agencies conduct this work at their federal facility NPL sites, CERCLA requires EPA to oversee the work.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$9.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 120.

¹⁴¹ For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/national-enforcement-and-compliance-initiative-addressing-exposure-pfas>.

Homeland Security

Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	\$25,348	\$23,598	\$25,542	\$1,944
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$35,472</i>	<i>\$34,588</i>	<i>\$35,192</i>	<i>\$604</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$60,820	\$58,186	\$60,734	\$2,548
Total Workyears	120.9	112.4	128.8	16.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Homeland Security Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Program is critical to protecting the Nation from the devastating effects of an attack with a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threat agent. The Program deploys the Portable High-Throughput Integrated Identification System (PHILIS), a suite of mobile analytical “all hazards” confirmatory laboratories, with specific performance capabilities, to assess the presence of chemical warfare agents in samples during an emergency response. PHILIS deploys rapidly and transmits on-scene, high-throughput analysis of air, soil, and water samples in areas that have experienced a release or require site mitigation from contamination, ensuring prompt laboratory analysis in the event of an incident. The Program also utilizes the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft, which aids first responders by detecting chemical and radiological vapors, plumes, and clouds with real-time data delivery.

Cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships are essential to keeping the American people safe from hazardous agents. This Program conducts inter-agency workgroups with dedicated training initiatives and exercise opportunities on CBRN preparedness and other response related content. These efforts expand training and exercises to include multi-media refinement for efficiency and effectiveness, tactical assistance for prompt identification of agent breaches and incidents, and dedicated mechanisms to enhance communication and safeguard databases storing sensitive data and legacy information. Further, it broadens operational engagement and support when using the Emergency Management Portal (EMP) and WebEOC response systems.

Cultivation of highly skilled, well-trained, and well-equipped personnel is vital to supporting multiple incidents and threats involving CBRN substances. Engaging with federal partners (e.g., DHS) enables knowledge sharing to determine the best approaches to address large-scale incidents and results in highly specialized expertise that advances responsiveness and builds incident response awareness for federal, state, local partners, and industry. Overall, the Program is critical in not only deciphering and understanding vulnerabilities and threats, but also in addressing current and future incidents that pose harm to the American people.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will support the Administration's focus on *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through the following activities:

- Develop site characterization, decontamination, waste management, clearance methods, and strategies for priority chemical, biological, and radiological threats to protect the human health and environment of the American people. This enables site remediation while reducing time and cost and promotes site reoccupation to ensure clean air, land, and water for every American.
- Advance cleanup of hazardous waste sites, support reduced toxic emissions in the air, and foster economic growth and restoration to impacted families across the country while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Develop partnerships, at state and federal levels, to ensure projects are approved by external entities that support continuity in the development of sample collection protocols and analysis methods for infusion of the Environmental Sampling & Analytical Methods (ESAM)¹⁴² on-line tool. The ESAM detection and sampling and analysis tool helps external incident response partners and those working in an emergency response field capacity to respond more efficiently to incidents, enabling smooth site to laboratory transition of data and knowledge. This will streamline business operations performed to safeguard the environment.
- Conduct research, through the Homeland Security Research Program (HSRP), to enhance response capabilities by developing methods, tools, and information for site characterization, decontamination, waste management, and clearance for priority chemical, biological, and radiological threats, all while reducing time and cost and ensuring safety. This research includes testing commercially available technologies to support response and site cleanup capabilities. The HSRP showcases many efforts that highlight the commitment to advancing emergency response capabilities for every American by leveraging cooperative federalism and cross-Agency partnerships and pioneering AI innovation in environmental protection.
- HSRP, in collaboration with Program and Regional Office partners and other federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal stakeholders, will generate resources, tools, and training to advance capabilities to respond to environmental emergencies.
- HSRP will advance environmental remediation capabilities through updating sampling and analyses procedures, adapting augmented reality tools for training, evaluating drones for

¹⁴² For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/esam>.

application in decontamination, and continuously assessing emerging technologies for environmental clean-up.

- Operate, enhance, and continue to overhaul the aging PHILIS capability. PHILIS units provide the Nation with mobile analytical “all hazards” confirmatory labs (qualitative and quantitative) with unique capability to analyze chemical threat agents. EPA is modernizing PHILIS (PHILIS 2.0); this modernization will upgrade the platform (mobility) and the laboratory (analytical equipment). The platform replacements will provide greatly improved long-distance mobility, reliability, maintenance and operating costs, and operational uniformity.
- Utilize the ASPECT aircraft. ASPECT aids first responders by providing aerial surveillance screening for wide-area chemical, radiological, and nuclear detection, as well as infrared and advanced imagery products with real-time data delivery.
- Participate in trainings and exercises on CBRN preparedness and response topics with key federal response partners on select inter-agency workgroups. Maintain a highly skilled, well-trained, and well-equipped response workforce (*i.e.*, On-Scene Coordinators) that has the capacity to respond to simultaneous incidents as well as threats involving CBRN substances. Provide knowledge products for and expertise on detection, environmental characterization, decontamination, and waste disposal methods following the release of a CBRN agent.
- Maintain Environmental Response Laboratory Network, a network of accredited public and private laboratories with capabilities to analyze environmental samples for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear contaminants, providing EPA emergency responders with access to vetted laboratories with a broad spectrum of analytical laboratory services.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$818.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$1,431.0 / +12.2 FTE) This program change is an increase in resources and FTEs to support modernization of PHILIS.
- (-\$9.0) This program change reduces homeland security research resources.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, §§ 104, 105, and 106;
Homeland Security Act of 2002.

Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$4,973	\$4,665	\$4,986	\$321
Science & Technology	\$625	\$625	\$500	-\$125
Building and Facilities	\$6,225	\$6,676	\$6,176	-\$500
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$1,257</i>	<i>\$1,102</i>	<i>\$915</i>	<i>-\$187</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$13,081	\$13,068	\$12,577	-\$491
Total Workyears	14.0	13.3	13.3	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 13.3 FTE to support Homeland Security working capital fund (WCF) services.

Program Project Description:

The Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This program plays an integral role in preparing essential personnel and establishing an effective blueprint for the Agency's Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and procedures. Cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships are incorporated into the process to promote efficiency and streamline performance for Mission Essential Functions (MEFs) and Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) administered during an emergency response incident. COOP follows the National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan (NCPIC) and the National Security Presidential Directive-51/Homeland Security Presidential Directive-20 (NSPD-51/HSPD-20), and other authorities and references which include, but are not limited to, the National Security Act of 1947, 50 U.S.C. § 3042 and the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-21, Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience. These partnerships result in a strong and efficient succession of critical duties in the event of an incident to protect human health and the environment and ensure clean air, land, and water for every American.

To remain in a posture of continuity and effective readiness, the Program follows and incorporates FEMA's Federal Mission Resiliency (FMR) directives and incident response recommendations and practices to complement current National Continuity Policy, enhance training and exercise supplies for FMR concept integration, and strengthen evaluation mechanisms. Aligning internal processes with FEMA's National Continuity Policy actions ensures essential functions and resources are in place and pinpoints COOP program challenges and solutions.

To measure sustainability of current COOP plans and procedures, conscientious assessments and inspections will occur to identify areas of improvement and streamline efficiency throughout the process. This will safeguard the Nation from unexpected vulnerabilities, threats, and attacks while pursuing approaches that will benefit the American people. Cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships will be introduced with the invitation of in-person FEMA personnel performing semiannual assessments of the Program's COOP processes. Monthly reviews of the headquarters' COOP Program also will occur to attest essential functions are in place, risk management initiatives have been considered, and multiple program plans and techniques have been proposed, tested, and implemented to cover a variety of conditions that could occur.

This Program supports the Administration's goal to protect human health and the environment. This Program also ensures continuity of critical operations to protect the American people when faced with disasters that threaten the Nation.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will support the Administration's focus on *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through the following activities:

- Reinforce COOP plans and procedures to protect the human health and environment of the American people.
- Implement advanced conservation to clean up hazardous sites, support reduced toxic emissions in the air and foster economic growth and restoration to impacted families during COOP activation efforts all while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Develop partnerships, at state and federal levels, to ensure projects are approved that external entities can support to restore trust and fulfill the needs of the American people. This will incorporate monitoring continuity programs across the Agency and those external to the Agency by focusing on testing, training, and exercises to accelerate general COOP awareness and procedures. In addition, it will streamline COOP processes to safeguard the environment and boost infrastructure that will allow the nation to thrive.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$187.0) This program change reduces funding for COOP assessments and updates and this program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, §§ 104, 105, 106; Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; Homeland Security Act of 2002; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Indoor Air and Radiation

Radiation: Protection

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$8,791	\$9,520	\$2,470	-\$7,050
Science & Technology	\$2,295	\$1,740	\$1,047	-\$693
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	\$3,823	\$2,472	\$2,122	-\$350
Total Budget Authority	\$14,909	\$13,732	\$5,639	-\$8,093
Total Workyears	53.5	50.9	25.0	-25.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

This Program provides radioanalytical laboratory services and field-based technical support for screening and identifying radiological contaminants at Superfund sites. Program activities are in direct support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. EPA's National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama, is the only EPA laboratory with in-house world-class radiochemical analytical capability. It performs thousands of radiochemical analyses annually on a variety of sample matrices (soil, sediment, water, air filters) from sites contaminated with radioactive materials. The high-quality analytical data produced by NAREL informs Agency decisions at Superfund sites across the country. The National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada, provides field deployable instrumentation and expert staff to response to radiological emergencies anywhere in the nation. They also support the Superfund Program by providing field-based technical support, specialized instrumentation, site assessment and document review, as requested by EPA regions, in support of Superfund site cleanup activities.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA's National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) will continue to provide laboratory analytical and field-based technical support for the characterization and cleanup of Superfund and federal facility sites. Their mission is to provide fixed and mobile analytical capability and expertise to inform Agency actions.

Work in this Program directly supports protecting communities from hazardous waste and environmental damage, thereby protecting human health and the environment, and contributing to

the well-being of communities that may be disproportionately impacted by radioactive releases. In FY 2026, EPA's National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama, and National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada, will continue to provide analytical and field support to manage and mitigate radioactive releases and exposures. These two organizations provide data and technical support for the characterization and cleanup of Superfund and hazardous waste sites.

NAREL and NCRFO provide data evaluation and assessment, document review, and field support through ongoing laboratory and fixed analytical capability. Thousands of radiochemical analyses are performed annually at NAREL on a variety of samples from contaminated sites. NAREL is EPA's only radiological laboratory with in-house radiochemical analytical capability. NCRFO provides field-based technical support for screening and identifying radiological contaminants at Superfund and non-Superfund sites across the country, including air sampling equipment and expert personnel.

More specifically, these organizations focus on providing technical support and high-quality data to support Agency decisions at sites across the country. They also develop guidance for cleaning up Superfund and other sites that are contaminated with radioactive materials.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$12.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$151.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a reduction due to the recalculation of lab utilities.
- (-\$187.0 / +0.7 FTE) This net program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Information Exchange / Outreach

Exchange Network

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$15,359	\$11,098	\$0	-\$11,098
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$1,037</i>	<i>\$1,328</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$1,328</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$16,396	\$12,426	\$0	-\$12,426
Total Workyears	26.2	23.2	0.0	-23.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Exchange Network (EN) Program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental programs to state and local entities. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, resources and FTE for the EN Program are proposed for elimination.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,328.0) This change eliminates this program as part of the effort to limit federal investment in activities that go beyond the EPA's core statutory requirements and to focus Agency resources on its national priorities.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA); Clean Air Act (CAA); Clean Water Act (CWA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA).

IT/ Data Management/ Security

Information Security

Program Area: IT / Data Management / Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$11,852	\$8,388	\$14,012	\$5,624
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$2,123</i>	<i>\$1,040</i>	<i>\$5,082</i>	<i>\$4,042</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$13,975	\$9,428	\$19,094	\$9,666
Total Workyears	8.0	10.1	12.8	2.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Information Security and Privacy Program protects Agency assets and personnel from cybersecurity threats. Digital information is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset that enables EPA to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment. Information protection is accomplished by strengthening the Agency's information security and privacy posture, elevating EPA staff knowledge of information security and privacy awareness, maintaining agency information security and privacy directives, increased adoption of information security and privacy practices, and optimizing processes to reduce the burden of compliance. This program supports *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by helping secure Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology development and its supporting infrastructure.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program and Information Technology Security Governance will be maturing continuous monitoring functions which include the maturation of the Continuous Authorization to Operate (ATO) or "Ongoing Authorization," a foundational activity supporting Risk Management. The capabilities are designed to continuously monitor systems to address real-time threats. System controls are constantly evaluated and tested to identify vulnerabilities which allow the Agency to make risk-based decisions quickly and confidently and engage in remediation efforts to minimize ongoing exposures. A component of this effort includes investment in the Enterprise Governance, Risk, Compliance (GRC) tool with machine-readable authorization capabilities. The Agency will continue to strengthen Personally Identifiable Information (PII) protection via the National Privacy Program, automating workflows, and enhancing data labeling with Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) collaboration.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to leverage the Agency's Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) Roadmap and implementation of zero trust capabilities, addressing identified gaps to enable the development of networks which can resist malicious actions regardless of their origin. Proper permissions for a given user's needs are a critical component of ZTA, and coding for more granular control over the network environment is an information security priority. The Agency also will remain focused on

ensuring that all devices in EPA's environment are compliant with information security requirements prior to accessing network resources. EPA will continue to leverage capabilities through the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) Program. In addition to protecting EPA information assets, CDM will help the Agency identify and respond to federal-wide cybersecurity threats and incidents more quickly and efficiently.

Enterprise Security Operations - Incident Response Capability

EPA will continue to invest in providing a centralized, integrated, and coordinated cybersecurity incident response through its Computer Security Incident Response Capability, defending against unauthorized activity within Agency computer networks. This includes providing threat awareness, cyber network defense infrastructure, cybersecurity tool engineering, vulnerability and risk assessments, threat intelligence processing, threat hunting, and penetration testing capabilities. EPA will continue leveraging the Department of Homeland Security's Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP) and the "Bug Bounty" Program, which provides vetted cybersecurity researchers to identify vulnerabilities, and awarding bounties for high-risk findings.

Artificial Intelligence

The Agency will be making investments in securing mission activities from risks posed by leading edge technologies such as Generative AI, Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Quantum Computing. These investments in the implementation of the necessary controls to allow use of leading-edge technologies within the environment and prevent malicious actors from leveraging these technologies to disrupt business operations, will help to ensure that Agency personnel can perform their core mission activities efficiently and securely.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$4,042.0) This program change increases EPA's capacity to implement critical cybersecurity solutions, including the ability to ingest machine readable authorization artifacts, increasing the speed of implementing cloud solutions and minimizing burden in leveraging security capabilities related to information systems.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Cybersecurity Act of 2015; Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA).

IT / Data Management

Program Area: IT / Data Management / Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$89,592	\$88,112	\$79,164	-\$8,948
Science & Technology	\$2,484	\$3,079	\$2,890	-\$189
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$19,372</i>	<i>\$19,786</i>	<i>\$13,874</i>	<i>-\$5,912</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$111,448	\$110,977	\$95,928	-\$15,049
Total Workyears	448.1	466.7	469.9	3.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 172.0 FTE to support IT/Data Management working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 12.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

EPA's IT/Data Management (IT/DM) Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This program supports the maintenance of EPA's Information Technology (IT) and Information Management (IT/IM) services that enable citizens, regulated facilities, states, and other entities to interact with EPA electronically to access, analyze and understand, and share environmental data on-demand.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

This program directly supports the *Pillar 4: Making the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by supporting the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and supporting infrastructure. Additionally, work performed under this program directly supports agencywide implementation of all five pillars through access to critical information technology and information management tools and solutions. This program plays an essential role in providing data sets to other federal and state agencies to enable cooperative federalism, empower permitting reform, and supporting smart regulations, which supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

In support of Executive Order (EO) 14179: *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*,¹⁴³ EPA will continue to expand its AI capabilities and build AI capacity throughout the Agency while mitigating risks and promoting a foundation grounded in strong data practices. The EPA's Responsible AI Official and a Chief AI Officer will lead AI strategy, compliance, and governance for the Agency alongside mission and business partners, to harness AI in a manner that not only enhances EPA's operational efficacy but also aligns with EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. These efforts will build upon continual

¹⁴³ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02172/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence>.

development and refinement of AI use cases and initiatives which have high operational impact, and through AI solutions and platforms which can improve the accuracy and speed of environmental assessments, optimize resource allocation, and develop modern solutions to pressing environmental issues.

In FY 2026, EPA will further strengthen its IT acquisition review process as part of the implementation of Federal Common Baseline Controls for the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) and in support of Executive Order 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*. FITARA ensures Agency IT plans are cost-effective, well designed, directly drive EPA long-term performance goals, and follow best practices.

The Agency also will continue implementing the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (P.L. 115-336),¹⁴⁴ which includes modernization of internal and public-facing websites and digital services, as well as digitization of paper forms and non-digital services. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to maintain and manage its core IT/DM services, including the Geospatial Information Program, Information Collection Requests, National Library Program, and EPA's Docket Center.

Key initiatives include:

- Leveraging AI and cost-effective solutions to convert internal administrative paper or analog workflows into modern digital workflows to speed up common administrative tasks and improve internal data collection and reporting, and improve cross-agency data interoperability and delivery to the public.
- Continuing to implement the agencywide records Digitization Strategy through two national digitization centers and leverage AI and machine learning capabilities to assist staff with their record responsibilities, including the appropriate scheduling of electronic records.
- Continuing to implement EPA's Controlled Unclassified Information Program, standardizing, simplifying, and improving information management and IT practices to facilitate the sharing of important sensitive data within the Agency, with key stakeholders outside of the Agency, and with the public, meeting federal standards.
- Increasing the use of registries and improving registry quality by modernizing from custom built solutions to cost-efficient commercial off-the-shelf tools with expanded capabilities. Registries are shared data services in which common data are managed centrally but shared broadly to improve data quality, enable integration and interoperability of data across program silos, and facilitate discovery of EPA information publicly and internally.
- Continuing to modernize EPA's web presence to support internal and external users with information on EPA business, supporting employees with internal information, and providing a clearinghouse for the Agency to communicate initiatives and successes. EPA also will continue to upgrade its web infrastructure to ensure that it meets statutory and security requirements.
- Continuing to support the essential capabilities of GeoPlatform, a shared enterprise technology for geospatial information and analysis. By implementing geospatial data,

¹⁴⁴ For additional information, please see <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ336/PLAW-115publ336.pdf>.

applications, and services EPA can integrate, interpret, and visualize multiple data sets and information sources to support environmental decisions and share information with state and local partners during emergency response operations, directly supporting *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

- Continuing to transform the Agency's libraries to meet the needs of the 21st Century in a cost-efficient manner. This involves reducing the physical footprint of Agency libraries; providing online services and resources at the customer's point of need; and centralizing core services.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$944.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$4,968.0 / +2.7 FTE) This program change is a net decrease due to a reduction in contracting resources offset by an increase in federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical AI expertise, records digitization efforts, and registry quality improvement functions back in-house. These adjustments are necessary to reduce unnecessary spending, to refocus EPA on its mission, and to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act; Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA); Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 508; Geospatial Data Act of 2018; 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (P.L. 115-336); Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (PL 115-435); 44 USC §3507; Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act.

Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$439	\$579	\$0	-\$579
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$1,006</i>	<i>\$644</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$644</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$1,445	\$1,223	\$0	-\$1,223
Total Workyears	0.8	2.9	0.0	-2.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and focuses resources on EPA's core mission. This change supports the EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The ADR Program provides facilitation, mediation, public involvement, training, and consensus building advice and support for the Agency. All statutory work will be accomplished in Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review programs or other applicable programs.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the ADR Program is proposed for elimination as the Agency returns to its core statutory requirements and *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$644.0 / -0.6 FTE) The Alternative Dispute Resolution Program is proposed for elimination to align with Administration priorities and refocus EPA on its core mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Administrative Dispute Resolution Act (ADRA) of 1996; Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1996; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485

(codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Legal Advice: Environmental Program

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$61,776	\$58,876	\$50,263	-\$8,613
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$1,804</i>	<i>\$713</i>	<i>\$608</i>	<i>-\$105</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$63,580	\$59,589	\$50,871	-\$8,718
Total Workyears	269.5	266.6	263.8	-2.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 5.5 FTE funded by TSCA fees and 22.0 FTE to support Legal Advice working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 1.4 FTE.

Program Project Description:

The Legal Advice: Environmental Program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency and focus on litigation support for core clean up programs. This program provides legal representation, counseling, and support for Agency activities taken pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This funding supports legal counseling activities necessary for the Superfund Program's work to clean up contaminated sites, supporting EPA's state, tribal, and local partners.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, the Program will play a critical role in advancing EPA's Superfund mission under CERCLA. Through sound legal counsel, the Program ensures that EPA will fulfill its statutory obligations and that environmental cleanups are lawful and focused on delivering tangible results for American communities. To this end, the Program will advise on the full lifecycle of Superfund cleanups—from emergency response efforts, identifying liable parties and recovering taxpayer dollars, to helping support remedy decisions that restore land and water to safe, productive use. This includes defending EPA's actions in court, often in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ). These efforts are vital to ensuring every American has access to clean air, land, and water while also relieving American taxpayers of undue financial burden. In FY 2026, the Program also will continue to support federal facility cleanups and complex site work through strategic legal guidance that facilitates interagency collaboration, respects state and tribal authorities, and ensures that site decisions withstand legal scrutiny. This work strengthens cooperative federalism and accelerates progress at some of the nation's most contaminated sites. Additionally, by reinforcing legal integrity, enabling enforcement, and promoting accountability, the Program helps EPA protect public health, revitalize communities, and return contaminated land to productive use.

In FY 2025, the Program provided legal counsel on EPA’s response authority relating to several complex challenges, including many of the Superfund matters listed in EPA’s *100 Environmental Accomplishments* in the first 100 days. For example, the Program provided key counseling on issues related to the Tijuana River sewage crisis and the California wildfires. The Program also provided legal review of CERCLA Action Memos for removal actions valued at over \$187 million. In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide legal counsel on CERCLA responses at abandoned uranium mines. In FY 2025, the Program’s legal counsel also was instrumental in supporting numerous remedial action legal issues at high-profile sites such as the Upper Columbia River, West Lake Landfill, and St. Regis Paper Co.; in implementing the Agency’s updated guidance on the cleanup of lead in soil at residential sites; and in addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) issues.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide support on litigation matter. In FY 2025, the program provided support by: working with DOJ on novel and precedent-setting CERCLA litigation matters at private sites, such as *August Mack Environmental, Inc. v. EPA*, No. 1:23-cv-36 Klee (N.D.W. Va.) (claims against the Superfund by a private contractor) and *United States v. Alden Leeds Inc., et al.*, No. 25-1049 (3rd Cir.) (challenge to the entry of a CERCLA settlement). The Program also worked with DOJ and federal entities on litigation involving allegations of CERCLA violations at federal facilities, such as *Greenaction v. United States Department of the Navy, et al.*, No. 3:24-cv-03899 (N.D. Cal.) (challenging Navy’s response and EPA’s oversight activities at a federal National Priorities List “NPL” site); and *California Institute of Technology v. City of Pasadena and United States of America*, No. 2:23-cv-07681-AB-AJR (C.D. Cal.) (involving a federal facility on the NPL).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$133.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$28.0 / +0.2 FTE) This net program change is an increase to provide legal support and advice for the Superfund Remedial, Removal, and Enforcement programs.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Operations and Administration

Acquisition Management

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$34,401	\$32,223	\$32,247	\$24
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$113	\$109	\$132	\$23
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$23,620</i>	<i>\$25,588</i>	<i>\$23,752</i>	<i>-\$1,836</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$58,134	\$57,920	\$56,131	-\$1,789
Total Workyears	275.6	278.8	292.7	13.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in acquisition management will allow EPA to maintain existing program services while focusing resources on core mission and statutory work. EPA's Acquisition Management Program supports the Agency's contract activities, which cover planning, awarding, and administering contracts for the Agency.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Acquisition Management Program plays a critical role in advancing the Agency's mission while aligning operations with Executive Orders (EO) 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*¹⁴⁵ and EO 14222: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Cost initiative*.¹⁴⁶ Operations will focus on improving the acquisition lifecycle management, promoting fiscal responsibility, and increasing operational efficiencies across all procurement activities. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Additionally, work through the Acquisition Management Program supports all five pillars of EPA's initiative through cost-efficient procurement activity to advance core Agency mission priorities.

In FY 2026, EPA will prioritize implementation of the President's Made in America agenda¹⁴⁷ and Made in America laws. EPA will use all tools available, consistent with law, to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, minimize the use of waivers, and provide clear and consistent demand signals to industry on federal demand for critical items.

¹⁴⁵ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05197/eliminating-waste-and-saving-taxpayer-dollars-by-consolidating-procurement>.

¹⁴⁶ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/03/2025-03527/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-cost-efficiency-initiative>.

¹⁴⁷ For more information, see <https://www.madeinamerica.gov/>.

Acquisition Modernization Initiatives

In FY 2026, EPA will leverage available expanded functionalities to the Agency's contract writing system to help develop requirements, streamline solicitations, manage vendor evaluation, conduct best value assessment, promote data integrity and reporting. Additionally, EPA will explore the adoption of artificial intelligence to strengthen the following initiatives:

Policy Reformation and Simplification

In line with EO 14275: "*Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*,"¹⁴⁸ EPA will reform acquisition policies to streamline internal procedures, eliminate outdated guidance and promote plain language usage through artificial intelligence. These policy reforms will help staff and stakeholders better understand acquisition requirements, ensure compliance with evolving federal procurement directives, and support the President's call for common sense to federal procurement.

Strengthening Acquisition Planning

EPA will enhance acquisition planning, emphasizing early engagement with program offices using modern visualization tools. In addition, EPA will ensure procurement requirements align with mission critical priorities, are cost effective and reduce redundancy. Moreover, the Program will advance acquisition planning, resulting in reduced procurement lead-times, more competitive and compliant awards, and greater support of initiatives outlined in current Executive Orders.

Contract Closeout Unliquidated Obligation Reduction Initiative

EPA will prioritize the timely closeout of expired contracts by centralizing contract closeout to support financial stewardship of taxpayer resources. Proper closeout procedures ensure that all obligations under the contract and relevant regulations have been met, minimizing the risk of legal disputes. EPA will implement quick closeout procedures for each contract period resulting in the release of unused funds prior to funds expiration allowing redistribution for other mission critical priorities.

Obtaining resources for these initiatives will allow EPA to efficiently and effectively act by streamlining and strengthening acquisition procedures.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,714.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

¹⁴⁸ For more information, see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06839/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-procurement>.

- (+\$3,878.0 / +14.0 FTE) This program change is an increase to reflect increased workload to ensure compliance with EO 14222: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative*, bringing additional oversight and accountability to federal procurement actions.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$81,953	\$80,928	\$76,603	-\$4,325
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$580	\$537	\$450	-\$87
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$35,335</i>	<i>\$31,378</i>	<i>\$22,462</i>	<i>-\$8,916</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$117,868	\$112,843	\$99,515	-\$13,328
Total Workyears	443.7	446.9	394.3	-52.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 0.0 FTE in Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 42.4 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and statutory work. Superfund resources for the Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance program provides a full array of financial management support services and systems necessary to pay Superfund bills, recoup cleanup and oversight costs for the Trust Fund. The Program also supports integrated planning, budget formulation and execution, financial management, performance and accountability processes, financial cost recovery, and systems to ensure effective stewardship of Superfund resources.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

EPA will continue to provide resource stewardship in alignment with the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to achieve EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment while energizing the greatness of the American economy. EPA will ensure that all Agency programs operate with fiscal responsibility and management integrity, financial services are efficiently and consistently delivered nationwide, and programs demonstrate results. EPA will maintain key planning, budgeting, and financial management activities. The Program will ensure secure efficient maintenance operations of core Agency financial management systems: Compass, PeoplePlus (Time and Attendance), Budget Formulation System, which includes a Performance Module, and related financial reporting systems. The Agency will continue to review its financial systems for modernization and innovation opportunities to support greater effectiveness of targeting legacy systems for replacement while remaining fiscally responsible. EPA will continue to use dashboards to support payroll, FTE management, and GPRMA performance planning and systematic tracking of progress.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to modernize and streamline business processes to promote transparency and efficiency. The Program will apply Lean principles and leverage input from customer-focused councils, advisory groups, and technical workgroups to continue improving as

a high-performance organization. In line with *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, EPA will continue to standardize and streamline internal business processes and additional federal and/or internal shared services to include GSA when supported by business case analysis.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to focus on core responsibilities in the areas of strategic planning and budget preparation, financial reporting, transaction processing, and Superfund Cost Recovery. The Program will continue to implement FITARA requirements in accordance with EPA's Implementation Plan.¹⁴⁹ The Chief Information Officer will continue to be engaged throughout the budget planning process to ensure that IT needs are properly planned and resourced in accordance with FITARA.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to conduct internal control program reviews and use the results and recommendations from the Office of Inspector General (OIG). This effort will provide evidence of the soundness of EPA's financial management program and identify areas for further improvement to align with cost savings to American taxpayers. Annually, the Program conducts internal control reviews of multiple programs to collect key operational statistical data for the financial management program to further evaluate its operations and for management decision-making.

EPA will continue to strive to strengthen programs considered susceptible to improper payment. The Agency will remain vigilant in reducing fraud, waste, and abuse, and strengthening internal controls over improper payments. In addition, as required by the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA) (P.L. 116-117),¹⁵⁰ and OMB Memorandum *M-21-19 Appendix C*,¹⁵¹ EPA conducts risk assessments of all its payment streams.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$3,221.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$5,695.0 / -5.4 FTE) This program change streamlines processes and priorities to align with the Administrator's five pillars as part of the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative resulting in anticipated efficiencies in operations. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to use taxpayer dollars responsibly and to eliminate wasteful spending.

¹⁴⁹ For more information please see: <http://www.epa.gov/open/fitara-implementation-plan-and-chief-information-officer-assignment-plan>.

¹⁵⁰ For more information, please see: <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ117/PLAW-116publ117.pdf>.

¹⁵¹ For more information, please see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/M-21-19.pdf>.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Facilities Infrastructure and Operations

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
Science & Technology	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$55,023	-\$9,710
Building and Facilities	\$26,604	\$34,000	\$28,900	-\$5,100
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$625	\$637	\$541	-\$96
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$74,984</i>	<i>\$67,080</i>	<i>\$57,373</i>	<i>-\$9,707</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$444,412	\$443,045	\$377,048	-\$65,997
Total Workyears	328.2	300.4	319.8	19.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce efficiency and facilities consolidation will allow EPA to reduce resources needed to maintain Agency facilities. Superfund (SF) resources in the Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program fund the Agency's rent, utilities, and security.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to invest in the reconfiguration of EPA's workspaces, enabling the Agency to release office space and avoid long-term rent costs, consistent with HR 4465, the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016*. In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14274: *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management*,¹⁵² as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*,¹⁵³ EPA is implementing an ambitious space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA is working to reduce office, laboratory and warehouse space. This has the potential to provide a cumulative annual rent avoidance of approximately \$28 million across all appropriations. This will help offset EPA's escalating rent and security costs and reduce taxpayer burden. By the end

¹⁵² For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management>.

¹⁵³ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

of FY 2025, EPA will have consolidated employees out of the Ronald Reagan Building and into existing space within the Federal Triangle buildings in Washington, D.C. The consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 323,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$18 million. In addition to the Ronald Reagan Building, the Agency is vacating the Human Studies Facility located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 155,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$3.7 million. The Agency also is vacating its Houston regional laboratory and consolidating into the Ada, OK, facility for a rent savings of \$2.2 million and space reduction of 41,126 square feet. For FY 2026, the Agency is requesting \$34.2 million for rent, \$2.5 million for utilities, and \$9.7 million for security in the SF appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level.

In FY 2026, the Agency will take action to reconfigure EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs. Space consolidation and reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace. EPA will continue to manage lease agreements with GSA and private landlords, and maintain EPA facilities, fleet, equipment, and fund costs associated with utilities and building security needs. EPA also will meet regulatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) obligations and provide health and safety training to field staff (e.g., inspections, monitoring, On-Scene Coordinators), and track capital equipment. In addition, the Agency will continue to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office, *USAccess*, and Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS) programs. *USAccess* provides standardized HSPD-12 approved Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card enrollment and issuance and ePACS provides centralized access control of EPA facilities, including restricted and secure areas.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$642.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$8,247.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy, rent, utilities, and security.
- (-\$818.0 / +3.4 FTE) This program change is a net decrease due to a reduction in contracting resources offset by an increase in federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical facility management and operations activities back in-house. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to shrink the federal real estate footprint by eliminating unused office space

Statutory Authority:

Federal Property and Administration Services Act (FPAS); Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$28,386	\$28,202	\$27,147	-\$1,055
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$5,012</i>	<i>\$4,170</i>	<i>\$2,903</i>	<i>-\$1,267</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$33,397	\$32,372	\$30,050	-\$2,322
Total Workyears	132.0	141.0	151.1	10.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA increases efficiencies of Agency operations while anticipating a lower need for Superfund-related grants and interagency agreements. Superfund resources in the Financial Assistance Grants and Interagency Agreement (IA) Management Program support the management of grants and IAs, and suspension and debarment activities.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

EPA will continue to implement activities to achieve efficiencies while enhancing quality and accountability. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by reducing bureaucratic delays and encouraging increased collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue implementation of the indirect cost policy in 2 CFR 200,¹⁵⁴ also known as the "Uniform Grants Guidance," to close loopholes, decrease complexity, increase transparency, and ultimately cap recoverable costs. In addition, the Agency will prioritize implementation of the President's Made in America agenda¹⁵⁵ and Made in America laws. EPA will use all tools available, consistent with law, to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, minimize the use of waivers, and provide clear and consistent demand signals to industry on federal demand for critical items.

EPA will continue to focus on reducing the administrative burden on EPA and grants recipients and on improving grants management procedures by: 1) streamlining EPA's grants management policies by creating a new comprehensive framework to guide policy development, implementation, compliance, and review; 2) developing the FY 2026-2030 Grants Management Plan that aligns with Administration priorities; and 3) using risk-based method of pre- and post-award monitoring for grants to more effectively ensure compliance with financial and administrative management requirements.

¹⁵⁴ For more information, see <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>.

¹⁵⁵ For more information, see <https://www.madeinamerica.gov/>.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement Executive Order 14240: “*Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*” and transitioning procurement to the General Services Administration through interagency assisted acquisition agreements. Leveraging GSA-managed assisted acquisition for common goods and services will enable the Agency to focus more effectively on core mission at a reduced cost and administrative management burden.

The Agency will continue to make use of discretionary debarments and suspensions as well as statutory debarments under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act to protect the government’s business interests. In FY 2026, EPA will focus suspension and debarment activity on the most egregious violations. Congress and federal courts have long recognized federal agencies’ inherent authority and obligation to exclude non-responsible parties from eligibility to receive government contracts and non-procurement awards (for example: grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan guarantees). Several recent federal statutes, GAO reports, and OMB directives require that federal agencies administer effective suspension and debarment programs to protect the public’s interest and the integrity of federal programs.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$966.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$301.0 / -0.6 FTE) This program change is a decrease to reflect a lower need for Superfund-related grant and interagency agreements resulting from increased efficiencies and technical capabilities. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to eliminate the use of wasteful spending.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (FGCAA); Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act § 2455 (FASA).

Human Resources Management

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$62,477	\$51,813	\$40,000	-\$11,813
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$10,904</i>	<i>\$7,424</i>	<i>\$5,704</i>	<i>-\$1,720</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$73,381	\$59,237	\$45,704	-\$13,533
Total Workyears	270.6	307.6	223.0	-84.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 2.0 FTE to support Human Resources Management working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 57.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce planning, accountability, and efficiency while promoting fiscal responsibility and focusing on essential agency functions. Superfund (SF) resources for the Human Resources (HR) Management Program support human capital (HC) activities throughout EPA.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The activities supported by EPA's HR Management Program contribute to effective workforce planning and management. EPA continues to ensure employees have the right skills to successfully achieve the Agency's core mission today and, in the future, as well as to ensure efficiency and accountability of the federal workforce. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by promoting government efficiency and collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue implementing workforce restructuring efforts in line with Executive Order (EO) 14217: *Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy*¹⁵⁶ and EO 14210: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative*¹⁵⁷ by eliminating non-essential functions and implementing hiring restrictions to minimize government waste. Following on initiatives carried out in FY 2025, such as eliminating the centrally funded paid internship program, EPA will continue implementing workforce reshaping initiatives in FY 2026 to align organizational structure with the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In addition, to support efforts to increase federal accountability and efficiency, EPA also will continue implementing EO 14171:

¹⁵⁶ For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03133/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy>.

¹⁵⁷ For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

*Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions within the Federal Workforce*¹⁵⁸ by evaluating all of its policy-influencing positions, and revamping performance standards for the entirety of the workforce to align with the Agency's core mission. EPA also will seek to eliminate race- and sex-based preferences in federal and private sectors, reinforcing civil rights laws to promote merit-based opportunities and individual achievement while revoking previous diversity and inclusion mandates by enforcing EO 14173: *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*.¹⁵⁹ In addition, in order to enforce management decisions for the labor force, EPA will continue implementing EO 14251: *Exclusions from Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs*.¹⁶⁰ The Agency also will enhance the federal hiring process by focusing on merit, efficiency, and dedication to constitutional values, while eliminating factors such as race, sex, or religion in hiring decisions by implementing EO 14148: *Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service*.¹⁶¹

EPA will continue to maintain and operate critical HR systems and dashboards related to Mission Critical Occupations, workforce demographics, attrition, and other important human capital data. These dashboards are critical and provide data visualizations and easy-to-understand information about the current workforce, assisting EPA with workforce planning, succession management by identifying workforce gaps due to anticipated retirements and attrition trends, and the development of strategic staffing plans. This is critical considering approximately 19 percent of EPA's workforce is retirement eligible and another 14 percent of the current workforce will become retirement eligible over the next five years.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$676.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$2,396.0 / -2.1 FTE) This program change is a decrease to reflect a lower need for human resource management activity resulting from efficiency gains agencywide, decreased hiring initiatives, and a lower FTE ceiling for the Agency. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to eliminate the use of wasteful spending.

¹⁵⁸ For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03133/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy>.

¹⁵⁹ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02097/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity>.

¹⁶⁰ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/03/2025-05836/exclusions-from-federal-labor-management-relations-programs>.

¹⁶¹ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/30/2025-02094/reforming-the-federal-hiring-process-and-restoring-merit-to-government-service>.

Statutory Authority:

Title 5 of the U.S.C.; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability

Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	\$93,399	\$88,305	\$66,952	-\$21,353
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	\$8,457	\$7,723	\$0	-\$7,723
Total Budget Authority	\$101,856	\$96,028	\$66,952	-\$29,076
Total Workyears	273.6	259.0	241.4	-17.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Chemical Safety for Sustainability Research Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination in this program in FY 2026. This budget focuses on statutorily required research in support of core mission areas that help the American people.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$7,723.0) This program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 104; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Children's Health Act; 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act; Clean Water Act; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Pollution Prevention Act (PPA); Resource Conservation

and Recovery Act (RCRA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Health and Environmental Risk Assessment

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	\$42,055	\$38,732	\$24,694	-\$14,038
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	\$5,208	\$5,238	\$5,714	\$476
Total Budget Authority	\$47,263	\$43,970	\$30,408	-\$13,562
Total Workyears	160.9	148.9	109.9	-39.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) Research Program is focused on advancing assessment science and generating robust health assessments that provide the scientific basis for decisions made by EPA and others, including states and tribes, under an array of environmental laws, including: the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

There are over 1,300 Superfund sites on the National Priorities List.¹⁶² Communities near Superfund sites are faced with an urgent need for coordinated assistance to assess and address environmental contamination issues. HERA supports the assessment needs of the Agency's Superfund Program and its regional risk assessors by providing Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Values (PPRTVs),¹⁶³ technical support, and rapid assessments to respond to emergent scenarios, supporting management decisions at contaminated Superfund and hazardous waste sites. HERA's Superfund research efforts leverage new data, computational tools, and modernized knowledge bases to inform new assessment approaches that enhance rapid response and screening capabilities.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the HERA Research Program's work will focus explicitly on efforts integral to achieving the Agency's priorities and informing EPA's implementation of key environmental regulations with the express purpose of safeguarding *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Examples of this work include:

Delivering PPRTV Assessments: HERA will provide five to six high-priority PPRTVs as prioritized by the Office of Land and Emergency Management to support CERCLA and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) implementation. These assessments will streamline site

¹⁶² For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-national-priorities-list-npl>.

¹⁶³ To learn more about HERA's PPRTVs, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pprtv>.

screening and remediation processes, reducing compliance costs for industry while upholding environmental stewardship.

Developing Fit-for-Purpose Assessment Products: HERA will complement the PPRTVs with additional human health assessment products for industrial chemicals. HERA will prioritize the development of peer-reviewed toxicity values for per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) to support federal, state, and tribal risk assessment and management decisions. By tailoring assessment scope to program needs, the Program will enhance efficiency and support timely regulatory outcomes. This work will expand the availability of high-quality toxicity values and inform regulatory decisions while maintaining rigorous scientific standards.

Enhancing Data Integration for increased cooperation and efficiency: Collaborate with the Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program to integrate assessment databases and literature management tools, including *Health and Environmental Research Online*,¹⁶⁴ the Health Assessment and Workplace Collaborative,¹⁶⁵ and the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard.¹⁶⁶ This will streamline data access and improve decision-making speed, aligning with Agency priorities for efficient program execution.

Providing Rapid Technical Support: Continue delivering rapid technical assistance to EPA programs and regions, expediting evaluations of chemical-specific exposures at Superfund and contaminated sites, particularly in urgent situations, without imposing additional regulatory burdens.

Supporting Lead Exposure Assessments: Enhance and apply lead biokinetic models to estimate blood lead levels for regulatory determinations and site assessments, prioritizing childhood lead exposure.¹⁶⁷ Update the Exposure Factors Handbook¹⁶⁸ with current data on human factors, such as soil and dust ingestion rates, to support risk assessors in making efficient, science-based decisions.

Within the given resource levels for this Program, research will be internally driven only, and external partnerships, grants, and research agreements will not continue.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

¹⁶⁴ For more information on HERO, please visit: <https://hero.epa.gov/>.

¹⁶⁵ For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/risk/health-assessment-workspace-collaborative-hawc>.

¹⁶⁶ The CompTox Chemicals Dashboard can be found at: <https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard/>.

¹⁶⁷ For more information about HERA's assessments of Lead at Superfund sites, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/lead-superfund-sites-risk-assessment>.

¹⁶⁸ The EFH can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/expobox/about-exposure-factors-handbook#about>.

EPA's state engagement¹⁶⁹ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs, and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies. Key partners at the state level include: the Environmental Council of the States, with its Environmental Research Institute of the States and the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council; the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; as well as state media associations, such as the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$349.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$825.0 / +14.0 FTE) This program change reflects an increase for the Health and Environmental Risk Assessment program to continue statutorily required work.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 108, 109, and 112; Clean Water Act §§ 101(a)(6), 104, 105; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) § 3(c)(2)(A); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1458; Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); CERCLA; RCRA.

¹⁶⁹ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

Research: Sustainable Communities

Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	\$134,581	\$132,205	\$58,597	-\$73,608
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$354	\$327	\$304	-\$23
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$681	\$670	\$522	-\$148
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$20,147</i>	<i>\$16,937</i>	<i>\$11,448</i>	<i>-\$5,489</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$155,764	\$150,139	\$70,871	-\$79,268
Total Workyears	436.8	397.2	294.6	-102.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program supports Superfund law requirements for a comprehensive and coordinated federal "program of research, evaluation, testing, development, and demonstration of alternative or innovative treatment technologies... which may be utilized in response actions to achieve more permanent protection of human health and welfare and the environment."¹⁷⁰

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Within the given resource levels for this program, research will be internally driven only, and external partnerships, grants, and research agreements will not continue.

In FY 2026, SHC will conduct research and provide technical assistance and support to inform analyses and decisions by the Office of Land and Emergency Management, regional offices, tribes, and states regarding characterization, remediation, and management of contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater. The tools developed under the SHC Research Program will help the Agency address complex contamination problems at Superfund, Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), and Brownfields sites in the United States. EPA research personnel and associated support staff also will identify, monitor, and develop options to control vapor intrusion to reduce exposures, reduce contaminant sources, and define sampling strategies that address when, where, and how to sample. SHC researchers will evaluate source control technologies at mine waste sites and investigate remediation and recovery for reuse of critical minerals from contaminated sites. Scientific journal articles, datasets, models, and tools will be published and used to support communities.

¹⁷⁰ 42 U.S.C. § 9660(b).

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) will continue to be a priority research topic for SHC. EPA researchers will support the needs of EPA partners, states, tribes, and local communities by developing methods to evaluate PFAS in waste, soil, sediment, groundwater, and homes and investigate PFAS fate and transport in the environment as well as its disposal and destruction. Researchers also will identify locations and source contributors to potentially high PFAS exposure in children and other populations by evaluating multimedia PFAS sources and pathways.¹⁷¹ SHC's research supports implementation of the *PFAS Strategic Roadmap*¹⁷² and EPA guidance on PFAS destruction and disposal that is required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.¹⁷³

In FY 2026, EPA's Superfund Technical Support Centers (TSC) for Engineering¹⁷⁴ and Groundwater¹⁷⁵ will continue to provide rapid technical assistance. EPA's Engineering Technical Support Center (ETSC) will provide expertise regarding critical topics of broad application to site remediation across the United States. The Ground Water Technical Support Center (GWTSC) will provide help with subsurface contamination, contaminant fluxes from groundwater to other media, and ecosystem restoration issues. In a given year, the ETSC and GWTSC can respond to over 100 requests for assistance per year, 75-80 percent of which are from National Priority List sites.¹⁷⁶ Requests come from Superfund and RCRA corrective action staff from all 10 EPA Regions. Most requests are for document review or for technical advice. Some requests require field work, sampling, or laboratory analysis.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement program¹⁷⁷ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies. Key partners at the state level include: the Environmental Council of the States, with its Environmental Research Institute of the States and Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council; the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; as well as state media associations, such as the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials.

¹⁷¹ For more information, please see, for example:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39526893/>, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11874334/>.

¹⁷² See EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap at: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap_final-508.pdf.

¹⁷³ <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/interim-guidance-destruction-and-disposal-pfas-and-materials-containing-pfas>.

¹⁷⁴ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/engineering-technical-support-center-etsc>.

¹⁷⁵ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/ground-water-technical-support-center-gwtsc>.

¹⁷⁶ [Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report Office of Research and Development Technical Support Coordination Division | Science Inventory | US EPA](#).

¹⁷⁷ For more information on EPA's state engagement efforts, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$586.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$4,903.0 / +9.5 FTE) This net program change for the Sustainable and Healthy Communities Program reflects a refocusing of resources to continue statutorily required work. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5 App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Superfund Cleanup

Superfund: Emergency Response and Removal

Program Area: Superfund Cleanup

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$277,004</i>	<i>\$59,181</i>	<i>\$47,311</i>	<i>-\$11,870</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$277,004	\$59,181	\$47,311	-\$11,870
Total Workyears	262.8	231.6	244.7	13.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Emergency Response and Removal Program (Superfund Removal) is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations that use appropriated funds. EPA plans to sufficiently fund this program with available Superfund tax receipts.

The Emergency Response and Removal Program (Superfund Removal) is the responsible entity for protecting the Nation against releases containing hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants to ensure every American has access to clean air, land, and water. These substances include chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or other hazardous materials that can impact public safety, natural resources, waterways, neighborhoods with large populations and open rural spaces. The active presence of the Program is critical for emergency response efforts that mitigate, contain, prevent, or limit the severity of an incident once it occurs. The Program acts as an emergency response instrument within the Agency that supports EPA's mission to protect the human health and the environment.

The Program has a primary role in supporting the Agency's National Contingency Plan, a 24/7/365 days response operation designed to answer the call and address emergency responses without delay.¹ This role extends to managing the Agency's Primary Mission Essential Function and it also includes Superfund Removal cleanups of lead, mercury, asbestos, and other complex contaminants that require dedicated and specialized expertise of federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs).² OSCs are trained with unique skillsets that equip them with customized and comprehensive tools required for effective deployment actions. Through cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships, OSCs have delivered a high-level of efficiency and effectiveness using technical assistance and purposeful outreach to combat disastrous emergencies and detect underlying sources that threaten the health and safety of the American people.

The Emergency Response and Removal Program has completed over 3,066 cleanups across the country since 2010. Cleanup actions are multifaceted and can shift unexpectedly based on a range of varying factors to include size, location, nature and if a fire or explosion is present, a natural

¹ For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/national-oil-and-hazardous-substances-pollution-contingency-plan-ncp-overview>.

² Data from US EPA Superfund Enterprise Management System.

disaster has occurred, and if the identification of a chemical release and/or other threat can be minimized to reduce exposure to the public. Almost 40 million Americans, essentially 12 percent of the US population, live less than 3 miles from a Superfund Removal site where the Program has completed a removal action between FY 2019 and FY 2023.³ Starting in FY 2024, the Program was partially transitioned from the annual Superfund appropriation to the Superfund tax receipts.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The level of urgency and demands have increased in the Emergency Response and Removal Program due to recent wildfires, hurricane disasters, contaminant growth and other incidents that remain a detriment to the public. Severe weather events have led to subsequent multiple releases of hazardous substances, impacting clean air, land, and water and causing severe outcomes if not identified and secured immediately. The Program is focused on increasing efficiency, providing clean air, land and water to the American people, protecting natural resources, and securing human health. Activities in FY 2026 include:

- Working to ensure that every emergency response action to protects the human health and environment of the American people.
- Implement actions to clean up hazardous sites, support reduced toxic emissions in the air and foster economic growth and restoration to impacted families during emergency response efforts all while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Develop partnerships at state and federal levels to ensure projects are approved that external entities can support and meet the needs of the American people. This will incorporate streamlining emergency incident response processes to safeguard the environment and boost infrastructure that will allow the Nation to thrive.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$4,693.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$7,177.0 / +13.1 FTE) This net program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements, five pillar work, and recognizes the need for efficiencies. EPA will focus the increase in FTE and prioritize efforts on the highest-risk sites to save lives and reduce harm. EPA also will prioritize available Superfund tax receipts to clean up sites.

³ U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management Estimate 2017. Data collected includes (1) site information from FY 2019-FY2023 and (2) census data from the American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2018-2022).

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Sections 104, 105, 106; Clean Water Act (CWA).

Superfund: EPA Emergency Preparedness

Program Area: Superfund Cleanup

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	\$7,782	\$8,056	\$7,700	-\$356
Total Budget Authority	\$7,782	\$8,056	\$7,700	-\$356
Total Workyears	31.4	28.8	37.2	8.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Superfund Emergency Preparedness Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and to focus resources on EPA's core mission. The Superfund Emergency Preparedness Program prepares the country for responding to releases of hazardous substances, ensuring that responses are swift and effective in protecting public health and the environment.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Water, and Land for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through the following activities:

- Working to ensure that emergency response management performance and controls review protects the human health and environment of the American people.
- Gauge the reach and abilities of reimagined exercises and regional drills, clean up hazardous sites, support reduced toxic emissions in the air and foster economic growth and restoration to impacted families while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Develop partnerships at state and federal levels by governing and co-administering 13 RRTs and the NRT to ensure projects are approved that external entities can support, restoring trust and fulfilling the needs of the American people. This includes streamlining multi-agency coordination and communication efforts to safeguard the environment, boost infrastructure, and create American jobs that will allow the Nation to thrive.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$653.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$297.0 / +8.4 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and five pillar work. Through cross-agency partnerships, EPA will work to streamline emergency preparedness exercises and trainings to keep the public safe.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), §§ 104, 105, 106; Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Superfund: Federal Facilities

Program Area: Superfund Cleanup

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$32,149</i>	<i>\$26,189</i>	<i>\$21,621</i>	<i>-\$4,568</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$32,149	\$26,189	\$21,621	-\$4,568
Total Workyears	115.8	102.9	109.7	6.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Superfund Federal Facilities Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative and voluntary work. The Program conducts oversight and provides technical assistance for the protective and efficient cleanup and reuse of Federal Facility sites pursuant to Section 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and as mandated by Congress.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Superfund Federal Facilities Program will support the *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by cleaning up hazardous sites, while fostering economic growth for families across the country and by working with our partners at the state and federal levels to ensure projects are being approved to streamline processes that follow the necessary steps to safeguard the environment.

In FY 2026, the Superfund Federal Facilities Program, as part of its statutorily mandated oversight responsibilities, will support EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap by overseeing the growing number of PFAS cleanups at Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Energy (DOE), and OFA sites. The Program will continue to work with our federal partners in support of the Administration's priority on PFAS and PFAS cleanups under CERCLA. EPA will adjust core program capacity as resources permit. Currently, the Program provides oversight at over 110 Federal Facility NPL sites with PFAS detections.

The Program also will prioritize and continue to partner with OFAs; state, local, and tribal governments; and communities to limit human exposure to potentially harmful levels of lead in the environment. EPA will continue to provide oversight of complex cleanups at Federal Facility NPL sites, such as contamination in groundwater, munitions and explosives of concern, contaminants of emerging concern, and contamination from legacy nuclear weapons development and energy research. For example, while the DOE has completed cleanup work at many of its sites, DOE estimates that the remaining legacy Cold War sites will take decades to complete due to groundwater, soil, and waste processing. Similarly, the DoD inventory includes sites that contain chemical and explosive compounds which require special handling, storage, and disposal

practices, as well as cleanup. EPA will continue to provide oversight and technical assistance at DoD's military munitions response sites and support DoD's development of new technologies to streamline cleanups.

To ensure the long-term protectiveness of the remedies, the Agency will continue monitoring, overseeing progress, and improving the quality and consistency of Five-Year Reviews conducted at federal sites where waste has been left in place and land use is restricted. Five-Year Reviews are required under Section 121(c) of CERCLA, and EPA's role is to concur or make its own independent protectiveness determination. EPA has been working collaboratively with DoD, DOE, and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve the technical quality, timeliness, and cost of the five-year review reports. In FY 2026, the Superfund Federal Facilities Program will review 50 five-year review reports to fulfill statutory requirements and to inform the public about the protectiveness of remedies.

In FY 2026, the Superfund Federal Facilities Program will target the highest risk sites and focus on activities that bring human exposure and groundwater migration under control. In addition, EPA manages the Docket which contains information reported by federal facilities that manage hazardous waste or from which hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants have been or may be released. The Docket: 1) identifies all federal facilities that must be evaluated through the site assessment process; 2) determines whether they pose a risk to human health and the environment sufficient to warrant inclusion on the NPL; and 3) provides a mechanism to make the information available to the public. The Docket is updated semi-annually and has approximately 2,400 facilities listed. EPA anticipates additional engagement on non-NPL federal facilities on the Docket to address new information and ensure appropriate assessment and referral of these sites to appropriate cleanup programs.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$2,368.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$2,200.0 / +6.8 FTE) This net program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements, five pillar work, and recognizes the need for efficiencies. EPA will focus the increase in FTE and prioritize efforts on Federal Facility NPL sites. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective manner.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 120.

Superfund: Remedial

Program Area: Superfund Cleanup

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i>	<i>\$686,559</i>	<i>\$187,819</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$187,819</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$686,559	\$187,819	\$0	-\$187,819
Total Workyears	921.8	823.1	868.8	45.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Superfund Remedial Program is proposed to be transitioned from annual Superfund appropriated resources to Superfund tax receipts to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and focuses resources on EPA's core mission. The Program addresses many of the worst contaminated areas in the United States. by investigating contamination and implementing long-term cleanup remedies at sites on the National Priorities List (NPL). The Program also oversees response work conducted by potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at NPL and Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA) sites. Completing response actions, such as soil excavation or capping remedies, can take a few months, while implementing remedies at complex, large area-wide groundwater, sediment, or mining sites may take decades. Conducting cleanup at NPL and SAA sites directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Remedial construction projects enhance national infrastructure while addressing harmful exposures.

By addressing the human health and environmental risks posed by releases at NPL and SAA sites, the Superfund Remedial Program strengthens the economy and spurs economic growth for all Americans by returning Superfund sites to productive use. As of FY 2024, EPA data shows that approximately 1,200 Superfund sites are in reuse, more than half the number of sites ever placed on the NPL. EPA has data on 10,622 businesses at 718 of these sites. In FY 2024 alone, these businesses generated \$71.8 billion in sales. These businesses employed more than 242 thousand people who earned a combined income of over \$20 billion. Over the last fourteen years, these businesses generated at least \$778 billion in sales.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the President's Budget proposes to transition the Superfund Remedial Program, including FTE, from annual Superfund appropriated resources to available Superfund tax receipts. EPA will continue to execute its non-delegable, federal responsibility to remediate sites and protect human health, welfare, and the environment. EPA endeavors to maximize the use of special account resources collected from PRPs for site-specific response actions as stipulated in settlement agreements so that available EPA Superfund resources are prioritized for sites without other

sources of funding. More than half of non-federal sites on the final NPL do not have an associated open special account and must rely on other available Superfund resources.

In FY 2026, the Superfund Remedial Program will continue to start and complete critical pre-construction projects such as site characterization and construction design, continue ongoing construction projects, and initiate new work on remedial construction projects at NPL sites across the country. EPA will accelerate the pace of residential lead cleanups to deliver results to communities sooner.

EPA will move swiftly to continue to support the cleanup of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and will collaborate on agencywide crosscutting strategies, including advancing testing and remediation technologies, stopping PFAS from entering drinking water systems, and ensuring the polluter pays for significant sources of legacy contamination and that passive receivers are protected. EPA will provide the foundation and investment necessary for a toolbox that will help states and communities dealing with PFAS contamination.

EPA's regional laboratories will continue to provide cutting-edge science to inform immediate and near-term multi-media decisions on environmental conditions, emergency response, and enforcement. Regional laboratory science also helps inform communities about the risks the sites may pose in terms of chemical exposures and cumulative environmental impacts. This work will support the ambitious environmental and cleanup goals of the Program.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$187,819.0 / -823.1 FTE) In FY 2026, the Superfund Remedial Program is proposed to be transitioned from annual Superfund appropriated resources to Superfund tax receipts. In FY 2025, the U.S. Treasury forecasts collecting a total of \$1.6 billion in Superfund taxes which will be available for use in FY 2026 across EPA Superfund programs. The Agency will continue its efforts to sustain cleanup work to prevent developing a backlog.
- (+868.8 FTE) In FY 2026, The Agency proposes to fund 868.8 Superfund Remedial FTE from the Superfund tax receipts as reimbursable FTE rather than annual Superfund appropriated resources.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Superfund Special Accounts

Superfund Special Accounts

Background

EPA has the authority to collect funds from parties to support Superfund investigations and cleanups. Section 122(b)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) authorizes EPA to retain and use funds received pursuant to a settlement agreement with a party to carry out the purpose of that agreement. Funds are deposited in Superfund special accounts for cleanup at the sites designated in individually negotiated settlement agreements. Through use of special accounts, EPA ensures responsible parties pay for cleanup so that annually appropriated resources from the Superfund Trust Fund, resources made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, and available Superfund tax receipts are generally conserved for sites where no viable or liable potentially responsible parties (PRPs) can be identified. Each account is set up separately and distinctly and may only be used for the sites and uses outlined in the settlement(s) with the party or parties.

Special accounts are sub-accounts in the Superfund Trust Fund. Pursuant to the specific agreements, which typically take the form of an Administrative Order on Consent or a Consent Decree, EPA uses special account funds to finance site-specific CERCLA response actions at the site for which the account was established. Of the current 1,341 Superfund sites listed as final on the National Priorities List, more than half do not have special account funds available for use. As special account funds may only be used for sites and uses specified in the settlement agreement, special account resources, Superfund tax receipts and annually appropriated resources are critical to the Superfund Program to clean up Superfund sites.

Special account funds are used to conduct many different site-specific CERCLA response actions, including, but not limited to, investigations to determine the nature and extent of contamination and the appropriate remedy, design, construction and implementation of the remedy, enforcement activities, and post-construction activities. EPA also may provide special account funds as an incentive to another PRP(s) who agrees to perform additional work beyond the PRP's allocated share at the site, which EPA might otherwise have to conduct. Because response actions may take many years, the full use of special account funds also may take many years. Once all site-specific response work pursuant to the settlement agreement is complete and site risks are addressed, special account funds may be used to reimburse EPA for site-specific costs incurred using appropriated or Superfund tax resources (*i.e.*, reclassification), allowing the appropriated and Superfund tax resources to be allocated to other sites. Any remaining special account funds are transferred to the Superfund Trust Fund, where they are available for future appropriation by Congress to further support response work.

FY 2024 Special Account Activity

Since the inception of special accounts through the end of FY 2024, EPA has collected more than \$8.5 billion from parties and earned approximately \$934.3 million in interest. Approximately 63 percent of the funds have been disbursed or obligated for response actions at sites and plans have been developed to guide the future use of the remaining 37 percent of available special account funds. In addition, at sites with no additional work planned or costs to be incurred by EPA, EPA

has transferred approximately \$86.3 million to the Superfund Trust Fund. As of the end of FY 2024, approximately \$5.3 billion has been disbursed for site response actions and approximately \$605.8 million has been obligated but not yet disbursed.

The Agency continues to receive site-specific settlement funds that are placed in special accounts each year, so progress on actual obligation and disbursement of funds may not be apparent upon review solely of the cumulative available balance. In FY 2024, EPA deposited approximately \$237.8 million into special accounts and disbursed over \$278.4 million from special accounts (including reclassifications). At the end of FY 2024, the cumulative amount available in special accounts was approximately \$3.5 billion.

Special accounts vary in size. A limited set of accounts represent the majority of the funds available. At the end of FY 2024, 4 percent of open accounts had greater than \$10 million available and held approximately 71 percent of all available funds in open accounts. There are many accounts with lower available balances. 71 percent of all open accounts with up to \$1 million available represent approximately 5 percent of available funds in all open accounts.

The balance of approximately \$3.5 billion is not equivalent to an annual appropriation. Unlike annually appropriated, IJIA, and Superfund tax funds, the funds collected under settlements and deposited in special accounts are intended to finance future response work at particular sites for the length of the project(s). EPA is carefully managing those funds that remain available for site response work and develops plans to utilize the available balance. EPA will continue to plan the use of funds received to conduct site-specific response activities or reclassify and/or transfer excess funds to the Superfund Trust Fund to make annually appropriated and Superfund tax funds available for use at other Superfund sites.

For some Superfund sites, although funds are readily available in a special account, remedial action(s) selected for a site may take time to initiate and complete. The timeframe required to implement selected remedial actions for a site is driven largely by site-specific conditions, such as the specific requirements for special account use set forth in the settlement agreement, the stage of site cleanup, the viability of other responsible parties to conduct site cleanup, and the nature of the site contamination. EPA has plans to spend approximately \$912.4 million of currently available special account funds over the next five years, but funds also are planned much further into the future to continue activities, such as conducting five-year reviews or remedy optimization, at sites where waste has been left in place.

Over the past five fiscal years, the EPA has obligated or disbursed more than \$1.3 billion from special accounts (excluding reclassifications), resulting in the Superfund Program performing a significant amount of work in addition to work the Agency performed using annually appropriated, Superfund tax, and IJIA funds. In FY 2024, EPA disbursed and obligated approximately \$276.7 million from special accounts (excluding reclassifications) for response work at more than 680 Superfund sites. Site-specific examples of this work include \$22.7 million to support work at the Welsbach & General Gas Mantle (Camden Radiation) site in New Jersey, \$17.0 million for the Bonita Peak Mining District site in Colorado, \$16.5 million for the Asarco Taylor Springs site in Illinois, \$11.4 million for the Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines on the Navajo Nation, \$10.6 million for the Combe Fill South Landfill site in New Jersey. In the absence of special account

funds, annually appropriated, Superfund tax and/or IIJA funds would have been necessary for these response actions to be funded. In other words, EPA was able to fund approximately \$276.7 million in response work at sites in addition to the work funded through appropriated, Superfund tax and IIJA funds obligated or disbursed in FY 2024.

The summary charts below provide additional information on the status of special accounts. Exhibit 1 illustrates the cumulative status of open and closed accounts, FY 2024 program activity, and planned multi-year uses of the available balance. Exhibit 2 provides the prior year (FY 2024), current year (FY 2025), and estimated future budget year (FY 2026) activity for special accounts. Exhibit 3 provides prior year data (FY 2024) by EPA regional offices to exhibit the geographic use of the funds.

**Exhibit 1: Summary of FY 2024 Special Account Transactions
and Cumulative Multi-Year Plans for Using Available Special Account Funds**

Account Status¹		Number of Accounts
Cumulative Open		1,058
Cumulative Closed		577
FY 2024 Special Account Activity		\$ in Thousands
	Beginning Available Balance	\$3,511,146.8
	FY 2024 Activities	
	+ Receipts	\$237,800.6
	- Transfers to Superfund Trust Fund (Receipt Adjustment)	(\$20,522.7)
	+ Net Interest Earned	\$38,331.7
	- Net Change in Unliquidated Obligations	(\$9,574.1)
	- Disbursements - For EPA Incurred Costs	(\$261,215.4)
	- Disbursements - For Work Party Reimbursements under Final Settlements	(\$5,889.2)
	- Reclassifications	(\$11,316.4)
	End of Fiscal Year (EOFY) Available Balance ²	\$3,478,761.3
Multi-Year Plans for EOFY 2024 Available Balance³		\$ in Thousands
	2024 EOFY Available Balance	\$3,478,761.3
	- Estimates for Future EPA Site Activities based on Current Site Plans ⁴	\$3,320,238.9
	- Estimates for Potential Disbursement to Work Parties Identified in Final Settlements ⁵	\$90,342.2
	- Estimates for Reclassifications for FYs 2025-2027 ⁶	\$55,383.5
	- Estimates for Transfers to Trust Fund for FYs 2025-2027 ⁶	\$9,301.3
	- Available Balance to be Planned for Site-Specific Response ⁷	\$3,495.4

¹ FY 2024 data is as of 10/01/2024. The Beginning Available Balance is as of 10/01/2023.

² Numbers may not add due to rounding.

³ Planning data were recorded in the Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) as of 10/30/2024 in reference to special account available balances as of 10/01/2024.

⁴ "Estimates for EPA Future Site Activities" includes all response actions that EPA may conduct or oversee in the future, such as removal, remedial, enforcement, post-construction activities as well as allocation of funds to facilitate a settlement to encourage PRPs to perform the cleanup. Planning data are multi-year and cannot be used for annual comparisons.

⁵ "Estimates for Potential Disbursements to Work Parties Identified in Finalized Settlements" includes those funds that have already been designated in a settlement document, such as a Consent Decree or Administrative Order on Consent, to be available to a PRP for reimbursements but that have not yet been obligated.

⁶ "Reclassifications" and "Transfers to the Trust Fund" are estimated for three FYs only. These amounts are only estimates and may change as the EPA determines what funds are needed to complete site-specific response activities.

⁷ These include resources received by the EPA at the end of the fiscal year and will be assigned for site-specific response activities.

Exhibit 2: Actual and Estimated Special Account Transactions FY 2024 – FY 2026¹

	FY 2024	FY 2025 estimate	FY 2026 estimate
	\$ in Thousands		
Beginning Available Balance	\$3,511,146.8	\$3,478,761.3	\$3,682,474.7
Receipts ¹	\$237,800.6	\$350,000.0	\$350,000.0
Transfers to Trust Fund (Receipt Adjustment) ²	(\$20,522.7)	(\$10,392.3)	(\$10,392.3)
Net Interest Earned ³	\$38,331.7	\$165,000.0	\$159,000.0
Net Obligations ^{2,4}	(\$276,678.7)	(\$289,516.5)	(\$289,516.5)
Reclassifications ²	(\$11,316.4)	(\$11,377.8)	(\$11,377.8)
End of Year Available Balance ⁵	\$3,478,761.3	\$3,682,474.7	\$3,880,188.1

¹ The estimates for Receipts are in line with more typical years.

² The estimates for Transfers to Trust Fund, Net Obligations, and Reclassifications are based on a three-year historical average.

³ Net interest earned in FY 2025 and FY 2026 are estimated utilizing economic assumptions for the FY 2026 President's Budget.

⁴ Net Obligations reflect special account funds no longer available for obligation, excluding reclassifications and receipts transferred to the Trust Fund.

Exhibit 3: FY 2024 Special Account Transactions by EPA Regional Offices

\$ in Thousands

	Beginning Available Balance	Receipts	Transfers to Trust Fund (Receipt Adjustment)	Net Interest Earned	Net Obligations	Reclassifications	End of Year Available Balance ^{1,2}
Region 1	\$165,393.1	\$5,119.4	(\$3,203.5)	\$1,707.9	(\$21,699.4)	(\$2,365.1)	\$144,952.4
Region 2	\$441,635.3	\$125,137.2	\$0.0	\$6,571.2	(\$63,424.1)	(\$1,881.4)	\$508,038.2
Region 3	\$146,957.2	\$7,787.1	\$0.0	\$1,697.9	(\$21,216.4)	(\$530.2)	\$134,695.6
Region 4	\$59,728.1	\$9,872.5	(\$91.6)	\$457.8	(\$9,064.5)	(\$1,923.8)	\$58,978.6
Region 5	\$495,968.8	\$35,986.7	(\$195.8)	\$7,492.5	(\$23,954.6)	(\$299.5)	\$514,998.2
Region 6	\$425,128.1	\$2,168.9	\$0.0	\$4,018.8	(\$11,777.7)	(\$130.1)	\$419,408.1
Region 7	\$129,737.6	\$8,927.6	(\$227.7)	\$1,141.8	(\$14,446.9)	(\$824.6)	\$124,307.8
Region 8	\$369,710.9	\$10,269.8	\$0.0	\$4,106.7	(\$41,980.9)	(\$20.3)	\$342,086.2
Region 9	\$1,113,581.7	\$14,798.6	(\$4,010.4)	\$10,929.3	(\$41,786.9)	(\$2,590.5)	\$1,090,921.9
Region 10	\$163,305.9	\$17,732.6	(\$12,793.7)	\$207.8	(\$27,327.4)	(\$750.9)	\$140,374.3
Total	\$3,511,146.8	\$237,800.6	(\$20,522.7)	\$38,331.7	(\$276,678.6)	(\$11,316.4)	\$3,478,761.3

¹ FY 2024 data is as of 10/01/2024. The Beginning Available Balance is as of 10/01/2023.

² Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Superfund Tax Receipts

Superfund Tax Receipts

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024¹⁷⁸	FY 2025 Collections Available¹⁷⁹	FY 2026 Estimates of Collections to Be Available¹⁸⁰
Superfund Chemical Taxes	\$760,000	\$557,419	\$697,000
Superfund Taxes on Oil and Petroleum Products	\$680,000	\$904,838	\$895,000
Hazardous Substance Superfund Tax Total Receipts¹⁸¹	\$1,440,000	\$1,462,257	\$1,592,000

Background

On November 15, 2021, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), P.L. 117-58, reinstated and modified the excise taxes on certain listed chemicals and imported substances that use as materials in their manufacture or production one or more of those listed chemicals (“Superfund chemical taxes”).¹⁸² The Superfund chemical taxes went into effect beginning July 1, 2022, and will expire on December 31, 2031. On August 16, 2022, the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA), (P.L. 117-169), reinstated and modified the taxes on oil and petroleum products. The oil and petroleum taxes went into effect on January 1, 2023. On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) included legislative language that allows all tax receipts collected in the Superfund Trust Fund from the prior fiscal year to be available to implement the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act* (CERCLA) without further congressional appropriation and to be designated as emergency funding.

FY 2024 Superfund Tax Receipts Activity

In August 2024, EPA submitted its FY 2024 Superfund Tax Operating Plan as required by the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024* (P.L. 118-42). As established in law, the funds available to the Agency in FY 2024 represent realized collections from the prior fiscal year, totaling \$1.44 billion. The plan included \$745 million allocated as part of EPA’s FY 2024 Enacted Operating Plan. The Superfund taxes are used to advance priority work across the Agency’s Superfund programs. Of these resources, \$1.21 billion went to the Superfund Emergency Response and Removal Program, the Superfund Remedial Program, and the Superfund Federal Facilities Program. Some of the major program investments include: more than \$1 billion for the Superfund Remedial program which includes \$560 million for ongoing construction projects and to start some new construction projects; \$174.6 million for the Superfund Emergency Response and Removal

¹⁷⁸ On April 12, 2024, the U.S. Treasury recertified Superfund tax collections for the tax period ending September 30, 2023, which was made available to the EPA in FY 2024.

¹⁷⁹ On February 21, 2025, the U.S. Treasury certified Superfund tax collections for the tax period ending September 30, 2024 which is now available to the EPA in FY 2025.

¹⁸⁰ Estimates are developed by the U.S. Treasury and based on their economic assumptions.

¹⁸¹ Superfund tax receipts are subject to change based on U.S. Treasury certified collections.

¹⁸² The original Superfund taxes expired on December 31, 1995, and applied to crude oil and imported petroleum products, chemicals used in the production of hazardous substances listed in Title 26 section 4661 and imported substances that use hazardous chemicals as a feedstock, and corporate modified alternative minimum taxable income more than \$2 million a year.

program which includes \$30.6 million to expand the Program's capacity to complete additional Superfund removals; and \$7.1 million to expand the capacity for the Portable High-throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System (PHILIS).¹⁸³ In addition, more than \$208 million has been invested in the Superfund Enforcement and Superfund Federal Facilities Enforcement programs to ensure that responsible parties conduct cleanups, preserving federal dollars for sites where there are no viable contributing parties. These programs assist the Superfund cleanup programs to ensure contaminated sites across the country are remediated to protect human health and the environment. EPA will continue to prioritize the Superfund tax receipts to support site-specific response activities. Superfund tax receipts, special accounts, and annually appropriated resources are critical to the Superfund Program to clean up Superfund sites.

FY 2025 and FY 2026 Superfund Tax Receipt Activity

In FY 2024, the U.S. Treasury collected \$1.46 billion of tax receipts in the Superfund Trust Fund which are available to utilize in FY 2025. EPA is in the process of developing its budget priorities for the Superfund tax receipts available in FY 2025. EPA will use the Superfund tax receipts to implement CERCLA and continue to plan for the use of available tax receipts in FY 2026.

In FY 2025, the U.S. Treasury forecasts collecting a total of \$1.59 billion in Superfund tax receipts which will be available for use in FY 2026. The FY 2026 President's Budget proposes to transition the remaining \$187.9 million for the Superfund Remedial program from the Agency's annual Superfund appropriation to be solely on the tax receipts like the Superfund Enforcement program. EPA intends to fully replace the Superfund Remedial and Superfund Enforcement programs from tax receipts. EPA also will sufficiently fund the Superfund Emergency Response and Removal program and Federal Facilities Enforcement programs which are funded by both tax receipts and annual appropriations. EPA will then evaluate available budgets and resources across the Agency's Superfund programs to determine the most appropriate use of the tax receipts. EPA will prioritize the Superfund tax receipts to clean up Superfund sites. The Agency also will continue to maximize the participation of liable and viable parties to conduct response work or finance cleanups. By doing so, annually appropriated and Superfund tax receipt resources will be conserved for cleanups at sites and activities where potentially responsible party resources are not available. This will allow the Agency to maximize progress in cleaning up sites to return to beneficial use. As resources are available, EPA also will continue to start new construction projects; fund ongoing construction projects; promptly address emergency and short-term CERCLA response actions; and implement Administration and Agency priorities.

¹⁸³ For additional information, please see: [PHILIS \(Portable High-throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System\) | US EPA](#).

Environmental Protection Agency
2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Leaking Underground Storage Tanks
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks				
Budget Authority	\$95,778	\$89,214	\$47,922	-\$41,292
Total Workyears	43.2	43.4	41.0	-2.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Bill Language: Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program

For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, \$47,922,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$38,840,000 shall be for carrying out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; Provided, That the Administrator is authorized to use appropriations made available under this heading to implement section 9013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide financial assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes for the development and implementation of programs to manage underground storage tanks.

Program Projects in LUST

(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Enforcement				
Civil Enforcement	\$619	\$635	\$435	-\$200
Operations and Administration				
Acquisition Management	\$113	\$109	\$132	\$23
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$580	\$537	\$450	-\$87
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$1,290	\$1,332	\$1,194	-\$138
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$354	\$327	\$304	-\$23
Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)				
LUST / UST	\$11,474	\$9,591	\$7,149	-\$2,442

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
LUST Cooperative Agreements	\$55,740	\$52,838	\$38,840	-\$13,998
LUST Prevention	\$26,301	\$24,491	\$0	-\$24,491
Subtotal, Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)	\$93,515	\$86,920	\$45,989	-\$40,931
TOTAL LUST	\$95,778	\$89,214	\$47,922	-\$41,292

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Enforcement

Civil Enforcement
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$218,862	\$201,305	\$140,191	-\$61,114
<i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i>	\$619	\$635	\$435	-\$200
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$2,614	\$2,465	\$1,762	-\$703
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$45	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$222,140	\$204,405	\$142,388	-\$62,017
Total Workyears	959.1	971.0	789.3	-181.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Civil Enforcement Program directly supports the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to ensure compliance with the Nation's environmental laws so that all Americans have access to clean air, land, and water. The Program advances cooperative federalism and strengthens cross-agency partnerships through collaboration with the United States Department of Justice, states, local agencies, and tribal governments to ensure consistent and fair enforcement of environmental laws. The Civil Enforcement Program develops, litigates, and settles administrative and civil judicial cases against violators of environmental laws.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will provide civil enforcement inspections to support and align with *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The Program will continue to work with state and tribal partners to ensure every UST system is inspected at least once every three years, as required by statute (over 200,000 systems nationwide). As appropriate, actions will be taken to ensure necessary compliance and cleanup measures are taken to prevent harm to human health and ensure clean water and land for all Americans.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$308.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$108.0 / +0.8 FTE) This program change aligns funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and refocuses enforcement efforts.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic authority); Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Operations and Administration

Acquisition Management

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$34,401	\$32,223	\$32,247	\$24
<i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i>	<i>\$113</i>	<i>\$109</i>	<i>\$132</i>	<i>\$23</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$23,620	\$25,588	\$23,752	-\$1,836
Total Budget Authority	\$58,134	\$57,920	\$56,131	-\$1,789
Total Workyears	275.6	278.8	292.7	13.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Acquisition Management Program supports the Agency's contract activities, which cover planning, awarding, and administering contracts for the Agency. Program efforts include issuing acquisition policy and interpreting acquisition regulations; administering training for contracting and program acquisition personnel; and providing advice and oversight to regional procurement offices.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Acquisition Management Program plays a critical role in advancing the Agency's mission while aligning operations with Executive Orders (EO) 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*¹⁸⁴ and EO 14222: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Cost* initiative.¹⁸⁵ Operations will focus on improving the acquisition lifecycle management, promoting fiscal responsibility, and increasing operational efficiencies across all procurement activities. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Additionally, work through the Acquisition Management Program supports all five pillars of EPA's initiative through cost-efficient procurement activity to advance core Agency mission priorities.

In FY 2026, EPA will prioritize implementation of the President's Made in America agenda¹⁸⁶ and existing Made in America laws. EPA will use all tools available, consistent with law, to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, minimize the use of

¹⁸⁴ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05197/eliminating-waste-and-saving-taxpayer-dollars-by-consolidating-procurement>.

¹⁸⁵ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/03/2025-03527/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-cost-efficiency-initiative>.

¹⁸⁶ For more information, see <https://www.madeinamerica.gov/>.

waivers, and provide clear and consistent demand signals to industry on federal demand for critical items.

Acquisition Modernization Initiatives

In FY 2026, EPA will leverage available expanded functionalities to the Agency's contract writing system to help develop requirements, streamline solicitations, manage vendor evaluation, conduct best value assessment, promote data integrity and reporting. Additionally, EPA will explore the adoption of artificial intelligence to strengthen the following initiatives:

Policy Reformation and Simplification

In line with EO 14275: "*Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*,"¹⁸⁷ EPA will reform acquisition policies to streamline internal procedures, eliminate outdated guidance and promote plain language usage through artificial intelligence. These policy reforms will help staff and stakeholders better understand acquisition requirements, ensure compliance with evolving federal procurement directives, and support the President's call for common sense to federal procurement.

Strengthening Acquisition Planning

EPA will enhance acquisition planning, emphasizing early engagement with program offices using modern visualization tools. In addition, EPA will ensure procurement requirements align with mission critical priorities, are cost effective and reduce redundancy. Moreover, the Program will advance acquisition planning, resulting in reduced procurement lead-times, more competitive and compliant awards, and greater support of initiatives outlined in current Executive Orders.

Contract Closeout Unliquidated Obligation Reduction Initiative

EPA will prioritize the timely closeout of expired contracts by centralizing contract closeout to support financial stewardship of taxpayer resources. Proper closeout procedures ensure that all obligations under the contract and relevant regulations have been met, minimizing the risk of legal disputes. EPA will implement quick closeout procedures for each contract period resulting in the release of unused funds prior to funds expiration allowing redistribution for other mission critical priorities.

Obtaining resources for these initiatives will allow EPA to efficiently and effectively act by streamlining and strengthening acquisition procedures.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

¹⁸⁷ For more information, see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06839/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-procurement>.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$23.0) This program change is an increase to acquisition operations in support of the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Program.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026* President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$81,953	\$80,928	\$76,603	-\$4,325
<i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i>	<i>\$580</i>	<i>\$537</i>	<i>\$450</i>	<i>-\$87</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$35,335	\$31,378	\$22,462	-\$8,916
Total Budget Authority	\$117,868	\$112,843	\$99,515	-\$13,328
Total Workyears	443.7	446.9	394.3	-52.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 0.0 FTE in Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 42.4 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency of Agency operations and to focus resources on EPA's core mission and statutory work. The Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance Program supports integrated planning, budgeting, financial management, performance and accountability processes, and systems to ensure effective stewardship of LUST resources. This includes providing financial payment and support services for specialized fiscal and accounting services for the LUST Programs.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program supports the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to achieve EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment while energizing the greatness of the American economy.

In FY 2026, the Program will ensure secure, efficient, and sound financial and budgetary management of the LUST Program using routine and ad hoc analysis, statistical sampling, and other evidence-based decision-making tools. EPA will continue to monitor and strengthen internal controls with a focus on sensitive payments and property. In addition, in an effort to provide taxpayer cost savings, the Agency is reviewing its financial systems for efficiencies and effectiveness and identifying gaps while providing taxpayer cost savings.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$121.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$34.0 / +0.2 FTE) This program change increases the Agency's ability to manage and oversee LUST financial activities.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Facilities Infrastructure and Operations

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026* President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
Science & Technology	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$55,023	-\$9,710
Building and Facilities	\$26,604	\$34,000	\$28,900	-\$5,100
<i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i>	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$625	\$637	\$541	-\$96
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$74,984	\$67,080	\$57,373	-\$9,707
Total Budget Authority	\$444,412	\$443,045	\$377,048	-\$65,997
Total Workyears	328.2	300.4	319.8	19.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce efficiency and facilities consolidation will allow EPA to reduce resources needed to maintain Agency facilities. Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) resources in the Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program fund the Agency's rent, utilities, and security.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to invest in the reconfiguration of EPA's workspaces, enabling the Agency to release office space and avoid long-term rent costs, consistent with HR 4465, the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016*. In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14274: *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management*,¹⁸⁸ as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*,¹⁸⁹ EPA is implementing an ambitious space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA is working to reduce office, laboratory and warehouse space. This has the potential to provide a cumulative annual rent avoidance of approximately \$28 million across all appropriations. This will help offset EPA's escalating rent and security costs and reduce taxpayer burden. By the end

¹⁸⁸ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management>.

¹⁸⁹ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

of FY 2025, EPA will have consolidated employees out of the Ronald Reagan Building and into existing space within the Federal Triangle in Washington, D.C. The consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 323,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$18 million. In addition to the Ronald Reagan Building, the Agency is vacating the Human Studies Facility located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 155,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$3.7 million. The Agency also is vacating its Houston regional laboratory and consolidating into the Ada, OK, facility for a rent savings of \$2.2 million and space reduction of 41,126 square feet. For FY 2026, the Agency is requesting \$0.5 million for rent in the LUST appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level.

In FY 2026, the Agency will take action to reconfigure EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs. Space consolidation and reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace. EPA will continue to manage lease agreements with GSA and private landlords, and maintain EPA facilities, fleet, equipment, and fund costs associated with utilities and building security needs. EPA also will meet regulatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) obligations and provide health and safety training to field staff (e.g., inspections, monitoring, On-Scene Coordinators), and track capital equipment. In addition, the Agency will continue to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office, *USAccess*, and Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS) programs. *USAccess* provides standardized HSPD-12 approved Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card enrollment and issuance and ePACS provides centralized access control of EPA facilities, including restricted and secure areas.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$14.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy.
- (-\$60.0) This program change is a net decrease due to a reduction in contracting resources to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical facility management and operations activities back in-house. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to shrink the federal real estate footprint by eliminating unused federal office space.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Property and Administration Services Act; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Research: Sustainable Communities

Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	\$134,581	\$132,205	\$58,597	-\$73,608
<i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i>	<i>\$354</i>	<i>\$327</i>	<i>\$304</i>	<i>-\$23</i>
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$681	\$670	\$522	-\$148
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$20,147	\$16,937	\$11,448	-\$5,489
Total Budget Authority	\$155,764	\$150,139	\$70,871	-\$79,268
Total Workyears	436.8	397.2	294.6	-102.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program under the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) appropriation assists EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks, regions, tribes, and states to assess the degradation of Underground Storage Tanks (USTs). This assessment identifies vulnerable tanks before leaks occur and helps develop the tools to track and monitor the status of existing and abandoned USTs and their impact on the community.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program will aim to characterize sites and contaminants released from LUSTs identified under the LUST Trust Fund with an emphasis on assisting the Agency, tribes, and states in addressing the backlog of sites for remediation. SHC research will help remediate contaminated sites at an accelerated pace and lower costs, while reducing human health and ecological impacts. Resulting methodologies and tools will help localities, tribes, and states return properties to productive use, supporting the Agency's work to safeguard and revitalize communities.

In FY 2026, EPA research will continue to develop models, metrics, and spatial tools for EPA regions, tribes, and states to evaluate the vulnerability of groundwater to LUSTs. SHC will continue to focus on developing national datasets in partnership with the states to better understand the potential vulnerabilities to LUSTs, such as flooding and drought, and vulnerabilities from LUSTs (e.g., on groundwater) to inform decisions to manage tanks. SHC will assist EPA's Underground Storage Tanks Program, tribes, and states by updating technical guidance manuals and evaluations of risk to underground storage tank systems.

SHC will continue to build on its FY 2024 accomplishments to advance partnerships with state, territorial, and tribal partners related to the National Database on Underground Storage Tank

Infrastructure (UST Finder).¹⁹⁰ This includes continued training on the UST Finder capabilities and functions with federal and state partners (and their identified industries and communities). This training provides geospatial data on facilities and tanks in association with drinking water sources, critical data on the aging infrastructure, and facilities that may be impacted by flooding and wildfires. The training also helps EPA partners assess facility risk and triage sites for cleanup and protection of drinking water sources. Building on UST Finder 1.0, released in FY 2020, which provides partners with both spatial and attribute information of USTs, UST Finder 2.0 and 3.0 will be developed to incorporate dynamic data entry of state data as it becomes available. This information is critical to identifying vulnerabilities and mitigating risks related to USTs and supports decision-making on-site cleanups and program management.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement¹⁹¹ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental agencies. Key partners at the state level include: the Environmental Council of the States, with its Environmental Research Institute of the States and Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council; the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; as well as state media associations, such as the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$110.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$87.0 / +0.6 FTE) This reflects a program change for the Sustainable and Healthy Communities program to continue statutorily required work.

¹⁹⁰ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/ust/ust-finder>.

¹⁹¹ For more information on EPA's engagement with states, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5 App.) (EPA's organic statute); Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Underground Storage Tanks (LUST/UST)

LUST / UST

Program Area: Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$12,333	\$11,500	\$6,863	-\$4,637
<i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i>	<i>\$11,474</i>	<i>\$9,591</i>	<i>\$7,149</i>	<i>-\$2,442</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$23,807	\$21,091	\$14,012	-\$7,079
Total Workyears	88.1	88.5	68.8	-19.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Leaking Underground Storage Tanks / Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST) Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

LUST resources in the LUST / UST Program ensure that petroleum contamination is properly assessed and cleaned up. Under this Program, EPA issues, monitors, and oversees LUST cleanup cooperative agreements to states.¹⁹² EPA also provides technical assistance and training to states and tribes on how to conduct cleanups and improve the efficiency of state programs, as well as direct implementation of UST programs in Indian Country.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Work with states and tribes within available resources to implement strategies to reduce the number of sites that have not reached cleanup completion and to address new releases as they continue to be confirmed, in support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.
- Provide targeted training, such as remediation process optimization and rapid site assessment techniques, to states and tribes.
- Provide support in Indian Country for site assessments, investigations, and remediation of high priority sites; enforcement against responsible parties; cleanup of soil and groundwater; alternate water supplies; oversight of responsible party-led cleanups; and technical expertise and assistance to tribal governments.

¹⁹² States as referenced here also include the District of Columbia and five territories as described in the definition of state in the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

- EPA will continue to monitor the soundness of financial mechanisms. This includes insurance and state cleanup funds that serve as financial assurance for LUST releases, ensuring that money is available to pay for cleanups. In addition, EPA will continue to provide analysis and technical assistance to states to help them improve the environmental and financial performance of their cleanup funds, supporting the Administration's goals of cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,180.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$1,262.0 / -4.0 FTE) This program change reflects a focus on cleaning up the highest priority LUST sites in Indian Country and making more efficient use of resources that provide subject matter and technical expertise to states and tribes. Additionally, this program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work and empowers EPA's partners at the state, tribal, and local level through cooperative federalism. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act §§ 8001, 9001-9014.

LUST Cooperative Agreements

Program Area: Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i>	\$55,740	\$52,838	\$38,840	-\$13,998
Total Budget Authority	\$55,740	\$52,838	\$38,840	-\$13,998

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The LUST Cooperative Agreements Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

The LUST Program ensures that petroleum contamination is properly assessed and cleaned up by providing states with funding to address releases, including in groundwater. LUST funding supports states in managing, overseeing, and enforcing cleanups at LUST sites through the provision of cooperative agreements.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will work with states to pursue strategies to maximize effectiveness or efficiency in proactively completing cleanups and reducing their backlogs.

The Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 2005 requires that states receiving LUST Cooperative Agreements funding meet certain release prevention requirements, such as inspecting every facility at least once every three years. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to factor state compliance with EPAct requirements into LUST Cleanup Cooperative Agreement decisions.

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Collaborate with states to develop and implement flexible, state-driven strategies to reduce the number of remaining LUST sites that have not reached cleanup completion in support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Through the cooperative efforts between EPA and states, the backlog was reduced by approximately 46 percent between the end of 2008 and the end of 2024 (from 102,798 to 55,334).¹⁹³
- Continue to leverage funding by developing best practices and supporting management, guidance, and enforcement activities through LUST Cleanup Cooperative Agreements. LUST Cleanup Cooperative Agreements will help achieve nearly 5,000 cleanups annually.

¹⁹³ Please see EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/ust/ust-performance-measures>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$13,998.0) This program change reflects a focus on cleaning up the highest priority LUST sites, recognizes needed efficiencies, and promotes cooperative federalism by empowering states to run their own LUST cleanup programs. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act § 9003(h)(7).

LUST Prevention

Program Area: Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i>	<i>\$26,301</i>	<i>\$24,491</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$24,491</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$26,301	\$24,491	\$0	-\$24,491

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Prevention Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the LUST Prevention Program is proposed for elimination, empowering states and tribes to fund their own programs.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$24,491.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the LUST Prevention Program in alignment with the Administration's priorities, including promoting cooperative federalism by empowering states and tribes to take full ownership of their LUST prevention programs.

Statutory Authority:

Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1976, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, § 2007(f); Energy Policy Act, § 9011.

**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: State and Tribal Assistance Grants
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
State and Tribal Assistance Grants				
Budget Authority	\$3,499,285	\$4,380,245	\$744,844	-\$3,635,401
Total Workyears	9.6	6.9	0.5	-6.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Bill Language: State and Tribal Assistance Grants

For environmental programs and infrastructure assistance, including capitalization grants for State revolving funds and performance partnership grants, \$744,844,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) \$155,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and of which \$150,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2026, to the extent there are sufficient eligible project applications and projects are consistent with State Intended Use Plans, not less than 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2026, funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants may, at the discretion of each State, be used for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities: Provided further, That the Administrator is authorized to use up to \$1,500,000 of funds made available for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under this heading under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381) to conduct the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the limitation on the amounts in a State water pollution control revolving fund that may be used by a State to administer the fund shall not apply to amounts included as principal in loans made by such fund in fiscal year 2026 and prior years where such amounts represent costs of administering the fund to the extent that such amounts are or were deemed reasonable by the Administrator, accounted for separately from other assets in the fund, and used for eligible purposes of the fund, including administration: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (g)(1), (h), and (l) of section 201 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, grants made under title II of such Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia may also be made for the purpose of providing assistance: (1) solely for facility plans, design activities, or

plans, specifications, and estimates for any proposed project for the construction of treatment works; and (2) for the construction, repair, or replacement of privately owned treatment works serving one or more principal residences or small commercial establishments: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the provisions of such subsections (g)(1), (h), and (l) of section 201 and section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, funds reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act may also be used to provide assistance: (1) solely for facility plans, design activities, or plans, specifications, and estimates for any proposed project for the construction of treatment works; and (2) for the construction, repair, or replacement of privately owned treatment works serving one or more principal residences or small commercial establishments: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2026, funds reserved under section 518(c) of such Act shall be available for grants only to Indian tribes, as defined in section 518(h) of such Act and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) and Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92–203: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, and notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 1452(i) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, for State Revolving Funds under such Acts may be reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) and section 1452(i) of such Acts: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the amounts specified in section 205(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate funds appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program under the Act less any sums reserved under section 518(c) of the Act, may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and United States Virgin Islands: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the limitations on amounts specified in section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act: Provided further, That 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and 14 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these), and shall be so used by the State only where such funds are provided as initial financing for an eligible recipient or to buy, refinance, or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act, or where such debt was incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act if the State, with concurrence from the Administrator, determines that such funds could be used to help address a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in drinking water or if a Federal or State emergency declaration has been issued due to a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in a municipal drinking water supply before the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That in a State in which such an emergency declaration has been issued, the State may use more than 14 percent of the funds made available under this title to the State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 1452(o) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(o)), the Administrator shall reserve up to \$2,000,000 of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2026 for making

capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to pay the costs of monitoring for unregulated contaminants under section 1445(a)(2)(C) of such Act: Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending grants in this or prior appropriations Acts are not subject to compliance with Federal procurement requirements for competition and methods of procurement applicable to Federal financial assistance, if a Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending recipient has procured services or products through contracts entered into prior to the date of enactment of this legislation that complied with state and/or local laws governing competition;

(2) \$10,000,000 shall be for architectural, engineering, planning, design, construction and related activities in connection with the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities in the area of the United States-Mexico Border, after consultation with the appropriate border commission: Provided, That no funds provided by this appropriations Act to address the water, wastewater and other critical infrastructure needs of the colonias in the United States along the United States-Mexico border shall be made available to a county or municipal government unless that government has established an enforceable local ordinance, or other zoning rule, which prevents in that jurisdiction the development or construction of any additional colonia areas, or the development within an existing colonia the construction of any new home, business, or other structure which lacks water, wastewater, or other necessary infrastructure;

(3) \$10,000,000 shall be for grants to the State of Alaska to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native Villages: Provided, That of these funds: (A) the State of Alaska shall provide a match of 25 percent; (B) no more than 5 percent of the funds may be used for administrative and overhead expenses; and (C) the State of Alaska shall make awards consistent with the Statewide priority list established in conjunction with the Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all water, sewer, waste disposal, and similar projects carried out by the State of Alaska that are funded under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301) or the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) which shall allocate not less than 25 percent of the funds provided for projects in regional hub communities;

(4) \$80,000,000 shall be to carry out section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including grants, interagency agreements, and associated program support costs;

(5) \$67,800,000 shall be for targeted airshed grants in accordance with the terms and conditions in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act);

(6) \$28,000,000 shall be for grants under section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-24(d));

(7) \$20,000,000 shall be for grants under section 1459B of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19b);

(8) \$6,500,000 shall be for grants under section 1459A(l) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–19a(l));

(9) \$10,000,000 shall be for grants under section 104(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)(8));

(10) \$41,000,000 shall be for grants under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301);

(11) \$5,000,000 shall be for grants under section 4304(b) of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–270);

(12) \$5,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4282(a)), of which not more than 2 percent shall be for administrative costs to carry out such section: Provided, That notwithstanding section 302(a) of such Act, the Administrator may also provide grants pursuant to such authority to intertribal consortia consistent with the requirements in 40 CFR 35.504(a), to former Indian reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), and Alaska Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92–203;

(13) \$7,000,000 shall be for grants under section 103(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act for wildfire smoke preparedness grants in accordance with the terms and conditions in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): Provided, That not more than 3 percent shall be for administrative costs to carry out such section;

(14) \$2,250,000 shall be for grants under section 1459F of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–19g);

(15) \$31,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 2001 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–270, 42 U.S.C. 300j–3c note): Provided, That the Administrator may award grants to and enter into contracts with tribes, intertribal consortia, public or private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals, without regard to section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31 and section 6101 of title 41, United States Code, and enter into interagency agreements as appropriate;

(16) \$2,000,000 shall be for grants under section 50217(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (33 U.S.C. 1302f(b); Public Law 117–58);

(17) \$3,500,000 shall be for grants under section 124 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1276); and

(18) \$100,794,000 shall be for grants, including associated program support costs, to States, federally recognized tribes, interstate agencies, tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement, and related activities, including activities pursuant to the provisions set forth under this heading in Public Law 104–134, of which: \$72,200,000 shall be for grants under the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act (42 U.S.C. 4368b); \$16,300,000 shall be for grants to Tribes and

Intertribal Consortia authorized under section 103 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7403), section 105 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7405), and section 301(d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7601(d)); and \$12,294,000 shall be for grants under section 1443(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-2(b)).

Program Projects in STAG
(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Categorical Grants				
Categorical Grant: Beaches Protection	\$9,051	\$9,737	\$0	-\$9,737
Categorical Grant: Brownfields	\$45,404	\$46,187	\$0	-\$46,187
Categorical Grant: Environmental Information	\$12,085	\$9,487	\$0	-\$9,487
Categorical Grant: Lead	\$16,507	\$14,980	\$0	-\$14,980
Categorical Grant: Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319)	\$175,311	\$174,263	\$0	-\$174,263
Categorical Grant: Pesticides Enforcement	\$24,397	\$24,217	\$0	-\$24,217
Categorical Grant: Pesticides Program Implementation	\$13,842	\$12,982	\$0	-\$12,982
Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106)				
<i>Monitoring Grants</i>	\$16,765	\$18,487	\$0	-\$18,487
<i>Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106) (other activities)</i>	\$208,390	\$206,892	\$0	-\$206,892
Subtotal, Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106)	\$225,155	\$225,379	\$0	-\$225,379
Categorical Grant: Pollution Prevention	\$516	\$4,717	\$0	-\$4,717
Categorical Grant: Public Water System Supervision (PWSS)	\$113,479	\$115,833	\$0	-\$115,833
Categorical Grant: Radon	\$10,450	\$9,118	\$0	-\$9,118
Categorical Grant: Toxics Substances Compliance	\$4,733	\$4,754	\$0	-\$4,754
Categorical Grant: Tribal Air Quality Management	\$18,224	\$16,278	\$16,300	\$22
Categorical Grant: Tribal General Assistance Program	\$76,823	\$72,102	\$72,200	\$98
Categorical Grant: Underground Injection Control (UIC)	\$13,059	\$12,277	\$12,294	\$17
Categorical Grant: Underground Storage Tanks	\$1,316	\$1,473	\$0	-\$1,473
Categorical Grant: Wetlands Program Development	\$22,315	\$14,085	\$0	-\$14,085
Categorical Grant: Multipurpose Grants	\$206	\$0	\$0	\$0
Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management	\$222,969	\$235,602	\$0	-\$235,602
Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants (Formerly - Categorical Grant: Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance)	\$98,036	\$101,362	\$0	-\$101,362
Subtotal, Categorical Grants	\$1,103,880	\$1,104,833	\$100,794	-\$1,004,039
Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants				
Congressionally Mandated Projects	\$6,538	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)				
Brownfields Projects	\$98,700	\$98,000	\$80,000	-\$18,000
Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program	\$170,185	\$90,000	\$0	-\$90,000
Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability	\$0	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0
Enhanced Aquifer Use and Recharge	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program	\$0	\$4,000	\$31,000	\$27,000
Infrastructure Assistance: Alaska Native Villages	\$40,116	\$39,000	\$10,000	-\$29,000
Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF	\$922,125	\$1,638,861	\$155,000	-\$1,483,861
Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF Congressionally Directed Spending	\$214,719	\$0	\$0	\$0
Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF	\$570,096	\$1,126,101	\$150,000	-\$976,101
Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF Congressionally Directed Spending	\$139,857	\$0	\$0	\$0
Infrastructure Assistance: Mexico Border	\$17,830	\$35,000	\$10,000	-\$25,000
Lead Testing in Schools	\$46,121	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0
Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability	\$0	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$0
Recycling Infrastructure	\$10,612	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Reducing Lead in Drinking Water	\$1,638	\$22,000	\$20,000	-\$2,000
Safe Water for Small & Disadvantaged Communities	\$48,124	\$28,500	\$0	-\$28,500
San Juan Watershed Monitoring (Formerly - Gold King Mine Water Monitoring)	\$56	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants (Formerly - Sewer Overflow Control Grants)	\$53,149	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$0
Stormwater Infrastructure Technology	\$952	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Targeted Airshed Grants	\$27,258	\$67,800	\$67,800	\$0
Technical Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Works (Formerly - Technical Assistance for Treatment Works)	\$580	\$25,500	\$10,000	-\$15,500
Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment (Formerly - Water Infrastructure and Workforce Investment)	\$16,078	\$5,400	\$5,000	-\$400
Water Sector Cybersecurity	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Wildfire Smoke Preparedness	\$10,670	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0
Subtotal, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)	\$2,388,866	\$3,275,412	\$644,050	-\$2,631,362
TOTAL STAG	\$3,499,285	\$4,380,245	\$744,844	-\$3,635,401

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Categorical Grants

Categorical Grant: Beaches Protection

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$9,051</i>	<i>\$9,737</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$9,737</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$9,051	\$9,737	\$0	-\$9,737

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Beaches Protection Grant Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources for this program are proposed for elimination in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$9,737.0) The Beaches Protection Grant Program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act, BEACH Act of 2000.

Categorical Grant: Brownfields

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$45,404</i>	<i>\$46,187</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$46,187</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$45,404	\$46,187	\$0	-\$46,187

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Categorical Grant: Brownfields Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. EPA's Categorical Grant: Brownfields Program was intended to assist states and tribes in establishing State and Tribal Response Programs to build local capacity to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields sites.¹⁹⁴

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Categorical Grant: Brownfields Program is proposed for elimination, empowering states and tribes to fund their own programs.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$46,187.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Categorical Grant: Brownfields Program in alignment with Administration priorities, including promoting cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility of funding local brownfields programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 128(a).

¹⁹⁴ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding#StateTribalResources>.

Categorical Grant: Environmental Information

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$12,085</i>	<i>\$9,487</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$9,487</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$12,085	\$9,487	\$0	-\$9,487

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Environmental Information categorical grants are proposed for elimination in FY 2026 in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental programs to state and local entities. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, resources and FTE for the Categorical Grant: Environmental Information are proposed for elimination.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$9,487.0) This change proposes to eliminate all funding for this program in alignment with Administration priorities to decentralize responsibility for funding environmental activities away from the federal government and to empower states.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Full Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, Pub. L. 119-4.

Categorical Grant: Lead
Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$16,507</i>	<i>\$14,980</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$14,980</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$16,507	\$14,980	\$0	-\$14,980

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Lead Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$14,980.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Lead Categorical Grant Program. This grant program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental pesticides programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), §§ 401-412.

Categorical Grant: Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319)

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	\$175,311	\$174,263	\$0	-\$174,263
Total Budget Authority	\$175,311	\$174,263	\$0	-\$174,263

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances Pillar 3: *Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources for this program are proposed for elimination in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$174,263.0) The Nonpoint Source Grant Program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

CWA § 319(h).

Categorical Grant: Pesticides Enforcement

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$24,397</i>	<i>\$24,217</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$24,217</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$24,397	\$24,217	\$0	-\$24,217

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Pesticides Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Cooperative Agreement Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, this program is proposed for elimination.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$24,217.0) This grant program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental compliance programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) §23(a)(1); Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2024, Pub. L. 119-4.

Categorical Grant: Pesticides Program Implementation

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$13,842</i>	<i>\$12,982</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$12,982</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$13,842	\$12,982	\$0	-\$12,982

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Pesticide Program Implementation Grants Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$12,982.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Pesticide Program Implementation Grants Program. This grant program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental pesticides program implementation to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) § 23(a)(1); Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA); Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996; Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106)

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	\$225,155	\$225,379	\$0	-\$225,379
Total Budget Authority	\$225,155	\$225,379	\$0	-\$225,379

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Section 106 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources for this program are proposed for elimination in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$225,379.0) The Pollution Control Grant Program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act § 106.

Categorical Grant: Pollution Prevention

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	\$516	\$4,717	\$0	-\$4,717
Total Budget Authority	\$516	\$4,717	\$0	-\$4,717

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Pollution Prevention (P2) Categorical Grants Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$4,717.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Pollution Prevention (P2) Categorical Grants Program. This grant program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental pesticides programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Pollution Prevention Act of 1990; Toxic Substances Control Act.

Categorical Grant: Public Water System Supervision (PWSS)

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	\$113,479	\$115,833	\$0	-\$115,833
Total Budget Authority	\$113,479	\$115,833	\$0	-\$115,833

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources for this program are proposed for elimination in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$115,833.0) The PWSS Grant Program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act § 1443.

Categorical Grant: Radon
Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$10,450</i>	<i>\$9,118</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$9,118</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$10,450	\$9,118	\$0	-\$9,118

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Categorical Grant: Radon Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 as responsibility for funding local indoor radon reduction programs is best placed with states and localities. This elimination focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$9,118.0) This grant program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local indoor radon reduction programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) § 306; Clean Air Act (CAA); Radon Gas and Indoor Air Quality Research Act; Title IV of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	\$222,969	\$235,602	\$0	-\$235,602
Total Budget Authority	\$222,969	\$235,602	\$0	-\$235,602

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Project Description:

The Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 as the responsibility for local environmental air quality management programs is best placed with states and localities. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this Program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$235,602.0) This grant program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental air quality management programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 105, 106.

Categorical Grant: Toxics Substances Compliance

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$4,733</i>	<i>\$4,754</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$4,754</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$4,733	\$4,754	\$0	-\$4,754

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Compliance Monitoring Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, this program is proposed for elimination.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$4,754.0) This grant program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental compliance programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Toxic Substances Control Act.

Categorical Grant: Tribal Air Quality Management

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$18,224</i>	<i>\$16,278</i>	<i>\$16,300</i>	<i>\$22</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$18,224	\$16,278	\$16,300	\$22

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program includes funding for tribal air pollution control agencies and/or tribes implementing projects and programs to address air pollution issues in Indian Country. Using Section 105 authority of the Clean Air Act (CAA), tribal air pollution control agencies and tribes may develop and implement programs for the prevention and control of air pollution and implementation of primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Using Section 103 authority of the CAA, tribal air pollution control agencies or tribes, colleges, universities, and multi-tribe jurisdictional air pollution control agencies may conduct and promote research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, studies, and training related to ambient or indoor air pollution in Indian Country. EPA provides technical assistance and resources to help tribes build their program capacity and ensure successful project completion.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Tribes will assess environmental and public health conditions in Indian Country by developing emission inventories and, where appropriate, siting and operating air quality monitors. Tribes will continue to develop and implement air pollution control programs for Indian Country to prevent and address air quality concerns. EPA will continue to fund organizations for the purpose of providing technical support, tools, and training for tribes to build capacity to develop and implement programs at reduced levels.

Currently, there are 574 federally recognized tribes. Of those, 62 tribes have treatment in a manner similar to a state or treatment as a state with regard to implementing functions pertaining to the management and protection of air resources within reservation boundaries or other areas under the tribe's jurisdiction and have the capability to implement the CAA program(s) for which they have received approval. In addition, EPA awards financial support under the CAA to help build tribal knowledge and increase tribes' capacity to manage air quality issues and encourages tribes to partner with the EPA to carry out CAA protections within reservations and tribal communities. Work with tribes that have treatment in a manner similar to a state is very similar to how EPA works with states. EPA will support these tribes in carrying out mandatory duties under the CAA as it pertains to attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. This work supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, a key activity is to work to reduce the number of days in violation of the NAAQS. This program supports building stronger partnerships with individual tribes and with the National Tribal Air Association, whose priorities include tribes' participation in the Agency's policy and rule development and the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center. The TAMS Center supports the tribes' ability to collect and provide monitoring data to protect the health of their tribal members. EPA will continue working with tribes on tribal involvement in air quality issues, such as increasing the number of tribes with an up-to-date emissions inventory, increasing the number of tribes implementing programs, and increasing the number of tribes moving from project grants to program implementation grants.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$22.0) This program change is an increase in grant funding available in the Tribal Air Quality Management Program in the STAG account.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 105.

Categorical Grant: Tribal General Assistance Program

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$76,823</i>	<i>\$72,102</i>	<i>\$72,200</i>	<i>\$98</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$76,823	\$72,102	\$72,200	\$98

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

In 1992, Congress established the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP), a program that provides grants and technical assistance to tribes to plan, develop, and establish tribal environmental protection programs consistent with other applicable provisions of law administered by EPA. The Agency works collaboratively with tribal partners on mutually identified environmental and public health priorities to achieve these aims. Funding provided under the GAP is for the administrative, technical, legal, enforcement, communication, and outreach capacities tribes need to effectively administer environmental regulatory programs that EPA may delegate to tribes. GAP funds also may be used to assist in the development and implementation of solid and hazardous waste programs for Indian lands, including solid waste service delivery costs.^{195,196}

Some uses of GAP funds include:

- Assessing the status of a tribe's environmental conditions;
- Developing environmental programs, codes, and ordinances;
- Developing the capacity to administer environmental regulatory programs that EPA may delegate to a tribe;
- Conducting public education and outreach efforts to ensure that tribal communities (including non-members residing in Indian Country) are informed and able to participate in environmental decision-making; and
- Establishing tribal program capacity to communicate and coordinate with federal, tribal, state, and local government officials on environmental and human health actions and issues.

GAP supports tribal capacity development through financial assistance to over 500 tribal governments and intertribal consortia. Tribes leverage GAP to strengthen their environmental programs, especially in key statutory areas: Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Clean Air Act. For example:

¹⁹⁵ The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115 – 141).

¹⁹⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/general-assistance-program-gap>.

- GAP helped support the establishment of 62 tribal water quality monitoring programs nationwide.
- GAP helped tribes receive 107 eligibility determinations for the administration of a variety of programs across a number of statutes, including the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Clean Air Act.
- Tribes have developed capacity to assist EPA in directly implementing federal environmental programs, in the absence of an EPA-approved tribal program, through Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements (DITCAs). As of FY 2025, there are approximately 15 active DITCAs supporting EPA's direct implementation activities.
- GAP helped to train tribal government inspectors who are able to conduct compliance monitoring activities under tribal laws. Trained tribal inspectors also may obtain EPA federal inspector credentials.
- GAP supports tribes with the development of their waste management programs, with 287 tribes having Integrated Waste Management Plans.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, GAP grants will help strengthen tribal governments in developing environmental protection program capacity to assess environmental conditions, use relevant environmental information to improve long-range strategic environmental program development planning, and develop programs tailored to tribal government needs consistent with those long-range strategic plans. Work in the program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The current GAP guidance promotes joint strategic planning through development and implementation of EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) to document intermediate and long-range tribal environmental program development priorities. These tribe-specific strategic planning documents inform funding decisions by linking annual GAP assistance agreement work plans to ETEP goals and provide a mechanism to measure tribal progress in meeting their program development goals. All Tribal GAP grant recipients have developed or are developing a current ETEP. In FY 2026, OITA will maintain an emphasis on training and resource development for internal and external audiences, on the 2022 GAP Guidance to support nationally consistent GAP guidance interpretation and implementation.

Funding supports GAP Hub, an internal performance management application for GAP that uses existing data from work plans, progress reports, and EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) to help AIEO evaluate how well GAP is fulfilling its statutory purpose to help tribe's build capacity to implement federal programs and to implement solid and hazardous programs. Importantly, GAP Hub establishes a consistent national GAP performance reporting mechanism by tracking a suite of capacity indicators from which Tribes select and place in their ETEPs. Data collection and analysis of data in GAP Hub will continue in FY 2026.

To reinforce strong GAP management, EPA will continue to develop and strengthen tools that empower tribes to track measurable progress in advancing self-sustaining environmental protection programs in Indian country.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$98.0) This increase reflects additional assistance to tribes to plan, develop, and establish tribal environmental protection programs.

Statutory Authority:

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act.

Categorical Grant: Underground Injection Control (UIC)

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$13,059</i>	<i>\$12,277</i>	<i>\$12,294</i>	<i>\$17</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$13,059	\$12,277	\$12,294	\$17

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Grant Program was established by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to protect groundwater that is a source of drinking water. The Program supports federal, state, and tribal government agencies that oversee underground injection activities to prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water from fluid injection practices.

The UIC Program protects underground sources of drinking water by ensuring proper permitting, construction, operation, and closure of injection wells used to place fluids underground for storage, disposal, enhanced recovery of oil and gas, and mineral recovery. The grants are made to states and tribes that have primary enforcement authority (primacy) to implement and manage UIC programs and ensure safe injection well operations that prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water. Eligible tribes that demonstrate an intent to achieve primacy also may receive grants for the initial development of UIC programs and be designated for "treatment as a state" if their programs are approved. Where a jurisdiction does not have primacy, EPA uses these funds for direct implementation of federal UIC requirements.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The FY 2026 request will support implementation of the UIC Program, which manages approximately 831,398 injection wells across six well types to protect groundwater resources.¹⁹⁷ There are currently 71 jurisdictions across the Nation (federal, state, tribal, and territorial) that implement the UIC Program. EPA directly implements UIC programs in seven states, two territories, and the District of Columbia and shares responsibility in eight states and with two tribes. As of April 2025, EPA also administers the UIC programs for all other tribes and for Class VI wells in all states but Louisiana, North Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁷As represented in FY 2023 annual inventory.

¹⁹⁸ For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/uic/primary-enforcement-authority-underground-injection-control-program-0>.

The UIC Program is improving efficiency and reducing the UIC permit application processing time and will continue implementing the recently developed UIC well permit review process. This effort includes applying identified permit review and processing efficiencies to all well classes.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$17.0) This funding change is an increase in resources available for EPA's state and tribal partners through the Underground Injection Control grants program to ensure safe and efficient injection operations.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act § 1443.

Categorical Grant: Underground Storage Tanks

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$1,316</i>	<i>\$1,473</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$1,473</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$1,316	\$1,473	\$0	-\$1,473

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Categorical Grant: Underground Storage Tanks (UST) program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the UST Categorical Grant Program is proposed for elimination, empowering states to fund their own programs.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,473.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Categorical Grant: Underground Storage Tanks Program in alignment with Administration priorities, including promoting cooperative federalism by empowering states to take full ownership of their UST programs.

Statutory Authority:

Solid Waste Disposal Act § 2007(f); Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, Pub. L. 119-4.

Categorical Grant: Wetlands Program Development

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$22,315</i>	<i>\$14,085</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$14,085</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$22,315	\$14,085	\$0	-\$14,085

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Wetland Program Development Grants Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources for this program are proposed for elimination in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$14,085.0) The Wetlands Program Development Grant Program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Water Act § 104(b)(3).

Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants (Formerly - Categorical Grant: Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance)

Program Area: Categorical Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$98,036</i>	<i>\$101,362</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$101,362</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$98,036	\$101,362	\$0	-\$101,362

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants (formerly known as Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance) program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. The Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants Program supports states, territories, and tribes to implement the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Currently, 48 states and two territories are authorized to implement the RCRA Program. EPA directly implements the RCRA program in the states of Iowa and Alaska and in Indian Country.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants program is proposed for elimination. Statutorily required Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) work will be accomplished through authorized state programs or through other applicable RCRA programs in locations where EPA directly implements the Program.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$101,362.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants Program in alignment with Administration priorities, including promoting cooperative federalism by empowering states and territories to take full ownership of their RCRA programs.

Statutory Authority:

Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act § 3011;
Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, Pub. L. 119-4.

State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

Brownfields Projects

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$98,700</i>	<i>\$98,000</i>	<i>\$80,000</i>	<i>-\$18,000</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$98,700	\$98,000	\$80,000	-\$18,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Brownfields Projects Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

The Program awards grants and provides technical assistance to help states, tribes, local communities, and other stakeholders involved in environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment to work together to plan, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfields sites.¹⁹⁹

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2024, EPA assessed 1,543 sites, cleaned up 128 sites, and made 702 properties ready for anticipated reuse using appropriated funds. In FY 2026, EPA will build on current work to revitalize communities across the country by providing financial and technical assistance to assess, cleanup, and plan reuse at brownfields sites. The Brownfields Projects Program will continue to foster federal, state, tribal, local, and public-private partnerships to return properties to productive reuse. The activities described below will leverage approximately 10 thousand jobs and \$1.46 billion in other funding sources.²⁰⁰

- Funding will support approximately 75 assessment cooperative agreements that recipients may use to inventory, assess, and conduct cleanup and reuse planning at brownfields sites. Approximately 460 site assessments will be completed under these agreements.
- EPA will provide funding for Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBAs) in up to 50 communities without access to other assessment resources or those that lack the capacity to manage a brownfields assessment grant. There is special emphasis for small and rural communities to submit requests for this funding to ensure equal access to brownfields assessment resources. These assessments will be performed through contracts and interagency agreements.

¹⁹⁹ For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/brownfields.

²⁰⁰ U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management Estimate. All estimates of outputs and outcomes are supported by the data that is entered by cooperative agreement recipients via EPA's ACRES database.

- Funding also will support training, research, technical assistance cooperative agreements, interagency agreements, and contracts to support states, tribes, and communities for both the Brownfields and Land Revitalization programs and other assistance mechanisms, as authorized under CERCLA 104(k)(7).
- Funding will be provided for technical assistance to an estimated 25 small and disadvantaged communities as defined in the BUILD Act and as authorized in Section 128(a)(B)(III), pending eligible and open CERCLA 128(a) cooperative agreements.
- Multipurpose, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), Job Training, and Cleanup cooperative agreements will continue to be supported by the remaining Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds. EPA expects IIJA funding to be fully obligated by the end of FY 2026.

All estimates of outputs and outcomes are supported by the data that is entered by cooperative agreement recipients via the Assessment Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) database and analyzed by EPA. Maintenance of ACRES focuses on the input of high-quality data, and robust analysis regarding program outcomes and performance will continue to be priorities during FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$18,000.0) This program change reflects a focus on more efficient use of resources for assessment cooperative agreements, targeted brownfield assessments, and direct technical assistance to communities to address brownfields sites. Additionally, this program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work and empowers EPA's partners at the state, tribal, and local level through cooperative federalism. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) §§ 101(39) and 104(k).

Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program
Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$170,185</i>	<i>\$90,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$90,000</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$170,185	\$90,000	\$0	-\$90,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* Land of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$90,000.0) This program is proposed for elimination to align with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local programs to state and local entities and refocus EPA on its core mission.

Statutory Authority:

Diesel Emissions Reduction Act: Energy Policy Act of 2005, Title VII, Subtitle G, as amended and reauthorized by the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-364) and subsequent appropriations acts and codified at 42 USC 16131, *et seq.*

Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$6,500</i>	<i>\$6,500</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$0	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program assists public water systems in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project that increases resilience to natural hazards. This program focuses on increasing water infrastructure investment and improving drinking water and water quality across the country.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA is requesting \$6.5 million for the Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant Program. This program supports the Administration's priority of assisting eligible entities in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project that increases resilience to natural hazards. This grant program provides opportunities for communities to invest in critical resilience projects that protect the delivery of safe drinking water.

The FY 2026 request would allow EPA to fund projects across the country, accelerating the ability of public water systems to take action to improve their resilience, especially in natural hazard occurrences, to help prevent drinking water emergencies. The FY 2026 grants would support a wide range of locally relevant activities specified in statute, including:

- Conservation of water or the enhancement of water use efficiency;
- Modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure made, or that is at risk of being, significantly impaired by natural hazards, including risks to drinking water from flooding;
- Design or construction of desalination facilities to serve existing communities;
- Enhancement of water supply through watershed management and source water protection;
- Development and implementation of activities to increase the resilience of the eligible entity to natural hazards.

The Program conducted outreach and launched the inaugural competition with a Request for Applications (RFA) on September 7, 2023, for \$25.5 million in funding (combined funding from FY 2020 through FY 2024). EPA received a robust response from many highly qualified applicants and announced 16 awards in August 2024. Approximately a third of the applicants were funded through this inaugural competition.

These grants help ensure that water systems across the country, especially those serving rural and small communities, have the resources needed to reduce the vulnerability of their water infrastructure to natural hazards.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

America's Water Infrastructure Act, P.L. 115-270, Section 2005.

Enhanced Aquifer Use and Recharge

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 (DWWIA) was enacted to help address numerous drinking water and wastewater issues nationwide. Implementing the Act will strengthen the federal government's ability to engage in Cooperative Federalism by investing in water infrastructure in communities in every state so that all Americans can continue to have access to safe drinking water and the Nation's waterways can remain clean and free from pollution. DWWIA strengthens many existing programs within EPA while creating new programs to upgrade aging infrastructure, invest in new technologies, and assist underserved communities.

Section 50222 of DWWIA authorizes EPA to provide grants to carry out groundwater research of enhanced aquifer use and recharge in support of sole-source aquifers.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Investing in water infrastructure in communities in every state so that all Americans can continue to have access to safe drinking water and the Nation's waterways can remain clean and free from pollution directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act, P.L. 117-58, Section 50222.

Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program
Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>\$31,000</i>	<i>\$27,000</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$0	\$4,000	\$31,000	\$27,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Enacted as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, 42 U.S.C. § 300j–3c, established a National Assistance Program for Water Infrastructure. Sec. 2001 of the 2018 American Water Infrastructure Act adds a note to 42 U.S.C. § 300j–3c, establishing the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program and directing EPA to implement a program for connecting, expanding, or repairing existing public water systems that are on Indian Reservations in the Upper Missouri River Basin or the Upper Rio Grande Basin. Sec. 50111 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) amended the program to include wastewater systems and expanded the geographical focus to also include the Columbia River Basin, the Lower Colorado River Basin, and the Arkansas-White-Red River Basin. The program’s area of eligibility therefore covers the five river basins where Tribes are eligible for receiving funding through this program, and spans 972,284 square miles or approximately 26% of the land mass of the country and 82% of the nation’s tribal population. These river basins include Tribes in the following EPA Regional offices: 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and these Regions represent the western Regions of the country where the majority of federally recognized Tribes reside.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA is requesting \$27 million for the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Grant Program. This funding program supports EPA’s priorities by aligning with *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA’s *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by supporting the implementation of infrastructure projects that help to ensure access to clean water in Indian Country; *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* by expanding EPA’s longstanding cross-agency partnership with the Indian Health Service through the use of interagency agreements – supporting the streamlining of processes to implement tribal water infrastructure projects.

Activities expected in FY 2026 include the following: finalizing the funding program implementation plan, including project selection criteria; finalizing project selection with feedback from the Indian Health Service; developing an Interagency Agreement funding package; and to start funding projects.

This funding helps ensure that tribal drinking water and wastewater systems across Indian Country, within the eligible river basins, have the resources needed to support public health by enhancing their capacity to address urgent water quality challenges, including such activities as addressing the causes of drinking water quality violations and providing engineering planning for necessary infrastructure improvements.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$27,000.0) This program increase is an investment that will support both drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and ensure support for tribal infrastructure.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act - 42 U.S.C. § 300j-3c (as initiated by the American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) 2018 Sec. 2001 and amended by IIJA Sec. 50111)

Infrastructure Assistance: Alaska Native Villages

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$40,116</i>	<i>\$39,000</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>-\$29,000</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$40,116	\$39,000	\$10,000	-\$29,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Alaska Native Villages Program is proposed for reduction in order to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The Alaska Rural and Native Village (ANV) Program provides drinking water and sanitation infrastructure (*e.g.*, flushing toilets and running water) in rural and Native Alaskan communities.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The FY 2026 request will fund water infrastructure in rural Alaskan homes and maintain the existing level of wastewater and drinking water infrastructure that meets public health standards. The funding will be used to leverage funds provided to the IHS by Congress. Additionally, the request will continue to support training, technical assistance, and educational programs that protect existing federal investments in infrastructure by improving operation and maintenance of the systems. Improved operation and maintenance will improve system performance and extend the life of the asset.

In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to work with the State of Alaska to address sanitation conditions and maximize the value of the federal investment in rural Alaska. EPA will continue to implement the Alaska Rural and Native Village "*Management Controls Policy*," adopted in June 2007, to ensure efficient use of funds by allocating them to projects that are ready to proceed or are progressing satisfactorily.²⁰¹ The Agency has made great strides in implementing more focused and intensive oversight of the ANV grant program through cost analyses, post-award monitoring, and timely closeout of projects.

²⁰¹ To request a copy of this policy, contact the ANV program contacts listed at: <https://www.epa.gov/small-and-rural-wastewater-systems/alaska-native-villages-program-contacts>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$29,000.0) This program decrease allows the Program to support core statutory requirements to empower EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism. The proposed reduction is to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 § 303; Clean Water Act § 1263a.

Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF
Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$922,125</i>	<i>\$1,638,861</i>	<i>\$155,000</i>	<i>-\$1,483,861</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$922,125	\$1,638,861	\$155,000	-\$1,483,861
Total Workyears	4.8	3.6	0.0	-3.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program capitalizes state revolving loan funds in all 50 states and Puerto Rico to finance infrastructure improvements for public wastewater systems and projects to improve water quality. However, the SRFs have been capitalized for decades, with \$55 billion in federal funding supporting over \$181 billion moving through the CWSRF since its creation. The FY 2026 request level reflects a return of the SRFs to their intended structure of funds revolving at the State level, encouraging states to take responsibility of funding their own water infrastructure projects.

This Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnerships* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The federal investment in the CWSRF in FY 2026 will continue to support progress toward meeting the Nation's clean water needs and infrastructure priorities while creating good paying jobs and enabling states to take ownership over their own programs.

EPA continues to work with states to meet several key objectives, such as:

- Linking projects to environmental results;
- Targeting funding and technical assistance to rural, small, and other communities with limited ability to repay loans; and
- Ensuring the CWSRFs remain reliable sources of affordable funding.

In FY 2026, EPA is requesting \$155 million to provide funding for wastewater infrastructure and other eligible projects through the CWSRF Program. EPA is not proposing funding for earmarks,

as they divert away from core state funding. The reduced level of funding requested in FY 2026 will shift more responsibility to the state programs, protecting local dollars from being lost to federal overhead, and provide loans to borrowers from existing revolving funds. This funding level, along with available monies from the revolving funds and supplemental funding, will advance infrastructure repair and replacement and would allow states, municipalities, and other eligible borrowers to continue to finance high-priority investments that improve water quality and protect human health. EPA will complete annual reviews of each State CWSRF Program to help evaluate if states are effectively implementing the CWSRF program.

In addition to capitalizing the CWSRF Program, a portion of the appropriation also will provide grants to tribes, the District of Columbia, and four territories. To ensure sufficient resources are directed toward these communities, EPA continues to request a tribal set-aside of two percent of the funds appropriated in FY 2026. EPA also continues to request a set-aside of 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Funding future Clean Watershed Needs Surveys (CWNS) remains a priority.²⁰² The CWNS is a comprehensive assessment of the capital needed to meet the water quality goals of Sections 205(a) and 516 of the Clean Water Act. This assessment and documentation of future needs is critical in the effort to manage and fund our nation's wastewater infrastructure. A comprehensive CWNS is an important tool for identifying critical water quality needs in communities across the Nation, including rural, small, and other communities. It also helps assess the scope of investments needed to reduce the vulnerability of water infrastructure to natural hazards. Since FY 2022, annual appropriations have provided a \$1.5 million set-aside from the CWSRF allowing EPA to continue to conduct the CWNS. The EPA requests that this appropriation language continue in FY 2026 to ensure sufficient resources for the next CWNS.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$80.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$726.0 / -3.6 FTE) This program change is a decrease in resources and FTEs for the set-asides.
- (-\$1,483,055.0) This program change is a decrease to return responsibility to the states for capital water infrastructure projects and activities. State operating Clean Water SRF programs can continue to fund water infrastructure by using funds that already have been paid back by past loans. This program is proposed for reduction to decrease spending,

²⁰² For additional information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/cwns>

realign the EPA with its core mission, and ensure the Agency fulfills its cooperative federalism responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient way.

Statutory Authority:

Title VI of the Clean Water Act.

Provided further, That notwithstanding sections 1383(d)(7) and 1383(k) of the Clean Water Act and 1452(g)(2) and 1452(k)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act and respective implementing regulations, states may withdraw from the Fund an amount up to or equal to the amount of set-asides reserved by the state from the FY 2026 capitalization grant to support the work authorized by those set-asides.

Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF Congressionally Directed Spending

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$214,719</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$214,719	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Workyears	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The purpose of the Congressionally Directed Spending is to provide grants to specific communities to work on specific water infrastructure projects. In recent years, Congress has set aside funding from the SRFs to fund these Congressionally Directed Spending projects, which do not move through the State Revolving Funds, and do not recycle to facilitate future projects. Grants and work provided by this program can be accomplished with the restoration of funding for non-Congressionally Directed Spending projects within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Title VI of the Clean Water Act.

Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF
Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$570,096</i>	<i>\$1,126,101</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>	<i>-\$976,101</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$570,096	\$1,126,101	\$150,000	-\$976,101
Total Workyears	0.8	1.2	0.0	-1.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program capitalizes state revolving loan funds in all 50 states and Puerto Rico to finance infrastructure improvements for public drinking water systems and projects to improve water quality and safety. However, the SRFs have been capitalized for decades, with \$30.7 billion in federal funding supporting nearly \$63 billion moving through the DWSRF since its creation. The FY 2026 request level reflects a return of the SRFs to their intended structure of funds revolving at the State level, encouraging states to take responsibility of funding their own water infrastructure projects.

This Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnerships* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The federal investment in the DWSRF in FY 2026 will continue to support progress toward meeting the Nation's safe drinking water needs and infrastructure priorities while creating good paying jobs and enabling states to take ownership over their own programs.

For FY 2026, EPA requests \$150 million for the DWSRF to help finance public drinking water system infrastructure projects. EPA is not proposing funding for earmarks, which come at the expense of state funds. The reduced level of funding requested in FY 2026 will shift more responsibility to the state programs to provide loans to borrowers from existing revolving funds. The funding will enhance infrastructure replacements and investments across the nation.

EPA will continue to foster its strong partnership with the states to provide small system technical assistance with a focus on compliance with rules, operational efficiencies, and system sustainability and resiliency to ensure public health protection. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to

work with states to review and update their capacity development strategies to include asset management as required by AWIA. In addition, EPA will complete annual reviews of each State DWSRF Program to help evaluate if states are effectively implementing the DWSRF program effectively and implementing the Drinking Water Revolving Fund program to facilitate community water system compliance with the SDWA.

In FY 2026, the DWSRF Program will continue to implement the Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy. This policy focuses on promoting system-wide planning that helps water systems: align water infrastructure system goals; analyze infrastructure alternatives; and ensure they have the financial capacity and rate structures to construct, operate, maintain, and replace infrastructure over time.

The SDWA requires EPA to conduct a comprehensive Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment of the country's capital improvement needs over the next 20 years. That survey is used to allocate DWSRF revolving fund grants to states per statute; and documentation of future needs is critical in the effort to manage and fund our nation's drinking water infrastructure. A comprehensive DWINSA is an important tool for identifying critical water quality needs in communities across the Nation, including rural, small, and other communities. It also helps assess the scope of investments needed to reduce the vulnerability of water infrastructure to natural hazards.

State Set-Asides

States have considerable flexibility to tailor their DWSRF program to their unique circumstances. This flexibility ensures that each state can carefully and strategically consider how best to achieve the maximum public health protection. To achieve this, states may set aside and award funds for targeted activities that can help them implement and expand their drinking water programs. The four DWSRF statutory state set-asides are:²⁰³ Small System Technical Assistance (up to two percent); Administrative and Technical Assistance (up to four percent, \$400,000 or one-fifth percent of the current valuation of the fund, whichever is greater); State Program Management (up to ten percent); and Local Assistance and Other State Programs (up to fifteen percent).

Non-Federal Funding Leveraging

The revolving nature of the funds, substantial state match contributions and leveraging have greatly multiplied the federal investment. These features have enabled the states to provide assistance exceeding 235 percent of the federal capitalization since the Program's inception in 1997. For every dollar the federal government invests in this Program, the states, in total, have delivered over two dollars in assistance to water systems.²⁰⁴

²⁰³ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf/how-drinking-water-state-revolving-fund-works#tab-5>.

²⁰⁴ Of all the funds the states have to lend over time, about 91% have been committed to loans as of 2024 (based on the state FY calendar, which ended on June 30, 2024) and is based on the cumulative dollar amount of loan agreements divided by cumulative funds available for projects.

The FY 2026 capitalization of the DWSRF would supplement \$62.9 billion in total assistance provided over the life of the Program, from all funding sources. The assistance provided in FY 2024 from federal capitalization, state contributions, and repayments was \$5.6 billion.

National Set-Asides

Prior to allotting funds to the states, EPA reserves certain national level set-asides.²⁰⁵ The statute requires that \$2 million be allocated to small systems to monitor for unregulated contaminants to facilitate their compliance with the monitoring and reporting requirements of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR).²⁰⁶ Section 2021 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 requires, subject to availability of appropriations and adequate laboratory capacity, all Public Water Systems (PWSs) serving 3,300 to 10,000 persons to monitor under future UCMR cycles. It also requires EPA to ensure that a nationally representative sample of PWSs serving fewer than 3,300 persons monitor under future UCMR cycles.

EPA will direct up to two percent of annually appropriated funds to tribes and ANVs. These funds are awarded either directly to tribes or, on behalf of tribes, to the Indian Health Service through interagency agreements. Additionally, EPA will continue to set aside up to 1.5 percent for territories per statute. EPA also uses a small percentage of these funds to carry out American Iron and Steel requirements.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$975,833.0) This program change is a decrease to return responsibility to the states for capital water infrastructure projects and activities. State operating Drinking Water SRF programs can continue to fund water infrastructure by using funds that already have been paid back by past loans. This program is proposed for reduction to decrease spending, realign the EPA with its core mission, and ensure the Agency fulfills its cooperative federalism responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient way.
- (-\$268.0 / -1.2 FTE) This program change is a decrease in resources and FTEs requested for the set-asides.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act § 1452.

²⁰⁵ Safe Drinking Water Act Sections 1452(i)(1), 1452(i)(2), 1452(j), and 1452(o), as amended.

²⁰⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr>.

Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF Congressionally Directed Spending

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$139,857</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$139,857	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Workyears	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The purpose of the Congressionally Directed Spending is to provide grants to specific communities to work on specific water infrastructure projects. In recent years, Congress has set aside funding from the SRFs to fund these Congressionally Directed Spending projects, which do not move through the State Revolving Funds, and do not recycle to facilitate future projects. Grants and work provided by this program can be accomplished with the restoration of funding for non-Congressionally Directed Spending projects within the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act § 1452.

Infrastructure Assistance: Mexico Border
Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$17,830</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>-\$25,000</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$17,830	\$35,000	\$10,000	-\$25,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Infrastructure Assistance Mexico Border Program is proposed for reduction in order to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA investments in the Mexico Border wastewater projects are protecting public health from waterborne diseases and have been a key factor in significant water quality improvements in U.S. waterbodies, such as the Rio Grande (Texas and New Mexico), Santa Cruz River (Arizona), New River (California), and Tijuana River and Pacific Ocean (California).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

With the request for FY 2026, the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program will continue to fund high-priority water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Projects that receive funding have been evaluated and ranked using a risk-based prioritization system, which enables the Program to direct grant funding to projects that demonstrate human health benefits, cost-effectiveness, institutional capacity, and sustainability. EPA coordinates at local, national, and bi-national levels to assess the environmental needs and make prioritized funding decisions. All Program funding is required to be invested in projects that provide a clear and positive public health and/or environmental benefit to the U.S. These benefits include improved quality of U.S. water bodies and shared waters and reduced health risk to the U.S. population. The demonstration of a U.S. benefit is one of the fundamental eligibility criteria for projects seeking program assistance.

FY 2026 funding will be allocated to a portion of the construction of projects that have completed planning and design and are ready to move to construction. Final decisions on the use of FY 2026 funding will be based on balancing the construction needs of fully designed projects with the planning and design needs of prioritized projects.

Performance Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$25,000.0) This program decrease allows the Program to support core statutory requirements to empower EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism. The proposed reduction is to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Treaty entitled “*Agreement between the United States of America and the United Mexican States on Cooperation for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in the Border Area, August 14, 1983.*”

Lead Testing in Schools

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$46,121</i>	<i>\$28,000</i>	<i>\$28,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$46,121	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The goals of the Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools Grant Program are to: 1) reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water; 2) help states target funding to schools and childcare facilities unable to pay for testing; 3) use the Training, Testing, and Taking Action (3Ts) approach to establish best practices for a lead in drinking water prevention program;¹ 4) foster sustainable partnerships at the state and local level to facilitate both exchange of information among experts in the education and health sectors and more efficient use of existing resources; and 5) enhance community, parent, and teacher cooperation and trust. In November 2021, the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act amended the grant statute to allow for funding to include remediation of lead in drinking water and replacement of lead service lines in schools and childcare facilities.

In FY 2024, EPA announced the total availability of \$26 million in FY 2024 grant funding for states and territories. Additionally, EPA announced \$7.24 million in combined FY 2021-2024 for tribes. Non-tribal program participants include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The full funding amount has been allocated and is available for participant states, territories, and tribes to use for eligible programmatic activities.

To date, this Program has supported testing for lead in drinking water in over 38 thousand schools and childcare facilities, directly impacting over ten million children. The Agency also continues to work with the seven Tribal consortia that were awarded \$4.4 million in grants to support lead testing in Tribal schools and childcare programs.²

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Expanding on the above reference, the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 amended Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Section 1464 (Lead Testing in Schools grant) to

¹ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/individual-modules-3ts#:~:text=EPA's%203Ts%20%2D%20Training%2C%20Testing%2C,reduce%20lead%20in%20drinking%20water>.

² For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/tribaldrinkingwater/wiia-act-section-2107-lead-testing-school-and-child-care-program-drinking-water>.

include remediation (termed “lead reduction”) in the statutory language. This amendment allows program grants to support both water testing and remediation of the sources of the lead in drinking water in schools and childcare facilities. In FY 2026, EPA is requesting resources to provide grants to support voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities and for remediation of sources of lead in the drinking water in those facilities. The FY 2026 funding will improve drinking water quality to help schools and childcare facilities protect children in overburdened communities.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act § 1464(d), as amended by the America's Water Infrastructure Act, Pub. L. 115-270 § 2006.

Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$2,250</i>	<i>\$2,250</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$0	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 (DWWIA), as part of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, was enacted to help address numerous drinking water and wastewater issues across the country. Implementation of the Act will strengthen the federal government's ability to invest in water infrastructure in communities in every state, so that all Americans can continue to have access to safe drinking water and our Nation's waterways can remain clean and free from pollution. DWWIA strengthens many existing programs within EPA while creating new programs to upgrade aging infrastructure, address the threat of extreme weather events, invest in new technologies, and provide assistance to communities.

Section 50107 of DWWIA authorizes EPA to create a grant program for the resilience and sustainability of public water systems serving more than 10 thousand people; including projects that increase resilience to natural hazards, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, or extreme weather events. Eligible activities include water conservation and efficiency, infrastructure modification or relocation, desalination, source water protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy, resiliency efforts, cybersecurity measures, or water conservation or reuse.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA plans to issue the first Request for Applications for this grant by the end of FY 2025.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act, P.L. 117-58, Section 50107.

Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$1,638</i>	<i>\$22,000</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>	<i>-\$2,000</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$1,638	\$22,000	\$20,000	-\$2,000
Total Workyears	1.4	0.9	0.0	-0.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grant Program is proposed for reduction in order to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The Program was established in Section 2105 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN). The objectives of the grant program are to reduce the concentration of lead in drinking water by: 1) replacing lead service lines (LSLs); 2) identifying and addressing conditions that contribute to increased concentration of lead in drinking water; and 3) providing assistance to homeowners to replace LSLs. In FY 2025, the Agency plans to finalize the grantee selection process from the FY 2024 competition cycle. In FY 2026 the Agency will announce the next grant competition cycle to continue to reduce lead exposure in drinking water in communities.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, work in this program will directly support efforts related to the reduction of lead exposures and associated health impacts, including support for infrastructure or treatment improvements in public drinking water systems, as well as the remediation or replacement of drinking water infrastructure in schools and childcare facilities.

EPA will provide grants to eligible entities to fund LSL replacement or remediation projects that meaningfully reduce the concentration of lead in drinking water. The prioritization will be based on criteria established by each state. This funding will support approximately 60 to 120 additional projects across the country in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$2,000.0 / -0.9 FTE) This program decrease aligns grant funding with core mission responsibilities. The proposed reduction is to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, Title IV, Section 2105; Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Pub. L. 117-328.

Recycling Infrastructure

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$10,612</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$10,612	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Total Workyears	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Recycling Infrastructure program provides a critical opportunity to fund a range of high-impact projects to increase recycling, reduce contamination, and promote a circular economy for sustainable materials management by making much-needed investments in solid waste management infrastructure. Moreover, the U.S. recycling industry provides approximately 680 thousand jobs and \$5.5 billion annually in tax revenues and there is opportunity for greater contribution to the economy and environmental protection, as recent data indicate materials worth as much as nine billion dollars are thrown away each year.²⁰⁷ Recycling is an important part of a circular economy, which refers to a system of activities that is restorative to the environment, enables resources to maintain their highest values, and designs out waste. The 10-year vision for the circular economy program is to build and transform solid waste infrastructure in the United States to reduce waste and manage materials to achieve a circular economy and create cleaner, healthier, and more resilient communities.²⁰⁸

Working to build a circular economy supports the Administration's priority to establish America's position as the leading producer and processor of non-fuel minerals, including rare earth minerals. These efforts will create jobs and prosperity at home, strengthen supply chains for the United States and its allies, and reduce the global influence of malign and adversarial states, included in the *Unleashing American Energy* Executive Order.

EPA includes three types of funding opportunities within the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program, which are designed to fund a range of projects that will enable EPA to help states, territories, tribes, local governments, and communities improve their recycling and materials management infrastructure:

- SWIFR Grants for States and Territories provide states and territories with grants to support their long-term planning and data collection needs to demonstrate progress toward the National Recycling Goal of increasing the recycling rate from 32.1 percent to 50 percent

²⁰⁷ For more information on the economics of recycling, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/smm/recycling-economic-information-rei-report>.

²⁰⁸ For more information, please refer to: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-09/EPA_Circular_Economy_Progress_Report_Sept_2022.pdf.

by 2030, and the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal to reduce food loss and waste by 50 percent by 2030, while also advancing a circular economy for recycled materials. Territories will be able to utilize funds for equipment and construction-related costs as part of their implementation of plans.

- SWIFR Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia provide funds for tribes and intertribal consortia to develop or update plans focused on encouraging environmentally sound post-consumer materials management; establish, increase, or expand materials management infrastructure; and identify, establish, or improve end-markets for the use of recycled materials.
- SWIFR Grants for Communities provide funds to local governments to establish, increase, expand, or optimize collection and improve materials management infrastructure; reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream; and identify, establish, or improve end-markets for the use of recycled materials.
- SWIFR grants will continue to be supported by the remaining Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds. EPA anticipates IIJA funding to be fully obligated by the end of FY 2026.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The SWIFR Grant program will further help reduce waste and create jobs. In FY 2026, the grant recipients will:

- Continue to manage projects included in workplans.
- Continue to report to EPA on project status and financial information.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act § 3011; Save our Seas 2.0, 2020, Pub. L. 116-224; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58.

Safe Water for Small & Disadvantaged Communities

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$48,124</i>	<i>\$28,500</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$28,500</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$48,124	\$28,500	\$0	-\$28,500
Total Workyears	3.1	0.9	0.0	-0.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grants are proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all statutory work required by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act will be accomplished in other applicable State and Tribal Assistance Grants programs. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* for EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$28,500.0 / -0.9 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program. This program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, Title IV, Section 2104; Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Pub. L.117-328.

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants (Formerly - Sewer Overflow Control Grants)

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$53,149</i>	<i>\$41,000</i>	<i>\$41,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$53,149	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$0
Total Workyears	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant (OSG) Program provides grants to fund projects that can mitigate the effects of extreme weather events. These events increase storm water discharges as well as increase discharge of raw sewage from combined and sanitary sewer overflows, which results in detrimental effects on public health and the environment. The grants fund projects that include permeable and impermeable surface infrastructure and generate many new jobs in all parts of the country. States will provide grants to municipalities to manage combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, and stormwater flows.²⁰⁹

EPA awards grants using a formula that captures sewer overflow and stormwater infrastructure needs.²¹⁰ A portion of the projects must be used to modernize outdated infrastructure, develop innovative engineering solutions, and cut water and energy costs for businesses and everyday consumers.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The FY 2026 request includes \$50 million for the OSG Program. These funds will be used to help local officials mitigate the impact of extreme and disastrous weather events. This investment supports the Administration's priority of ensuring that the EPA is fulfilling its mission to protect the environment while supporting the economy. This grant program also advances the Administration's priority of ensuring our critical infrastructure will withstand any extreme wet-weather events.

²⁰⁹ For more information please visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/24/2021-03756/state-formula-allocations-for-sewer-overflow-and-stormwater-reuse-grants>.

²¹⁰ For more information please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/sewer-overflow-and-stormwater-reuse-municipal-grants-program>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, P.L. 115-270, Section 4106, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, P.L. 117-58, Section 50204, Sec 221 Clean Water Act (33 USC 1301).

Stormwater Infrastructure Technology

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	\$952	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$952	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 (DWWIA), as part of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, was enacted to help address numerous drinking water and wastewater issues across the country. Implementation of the Act will strengthen the federal government's ability to invest in water infrastructure in communities in every state, so that all Americans can continue to have access to safe drinking water and our Nation's waterways can remain clean and free from pollution. DWWIA strengthens many existing programs within EPA while creating new programs to upgrade aging infrastructure, address the threat of extreme weather events, invest in new technologies, and provide assistance to communities.

Section 50217(b) of DWWIA authorizes EPA to establish a competitive grant program aimed at creating between three and five centers of excellence for new and emerging stormwater control infrastructure technologies.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2025 and 2026, EPA expects to work collaboratively with the Centers of Excellence for Stormwater to ensure they are working towards the goal of providing technical assistance to many communities facing financial challenges when trying to rectify their stormwater issues due to the costs associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of the necessary infrastructure. EPA recognizes that nationwide, many communities need practical stormwater technologies and the scientific understanding of those technologies to effectively implement stormwater management solutions. These Centers of Excellence will support cultivating resilient solutions to ensure stormwater infrastructure built today can properly and adequately manage future conditions and discharges.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act, P.L. 117-58, Section 50217(b).

Targeted Airshed Grants

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	\$27,258	\$67,800	\$67,800	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$27,258	\$67,800	\$67,800	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Targeted Airshed Grants Program awards competitive grant funding to reduce air pollution in nonattainment areas that were ranked as the top five most polluted areas relative to ozone, annual average fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), or 24-hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This program assists air pollution control agencies in conducting emission reduction activities in these nonattainment areas. The overall goal of the Targeted Airshed Grant Program is to reduce air pollution in the Nation's areas with the highest levels of ozone and PM_{2.5} ambient air concentrations.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Targeted Airshed Grant Program provides funding to air pollution control agencies with responsibilities for the State Implementation Plan (SIP) or Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) for the eligible nonattainment areas. This program can fund any activities that achieve documentable emission reductions to assist eligible nonattainment areas to meet the NAAQS.

Air pollution control agencies that have responsibilities for these areas will continue to implement projects that improve the air quality in the listed nonattainment areas. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Replacing vehicles, engines, or equipment with cleaner alternatives;
- Replacing or retrofitting heat devices (*e.g.*, wood-burning stoves, fireplaces); and
- Other projects that achieve quantifiable emission reductions for the applicable pollutant(s), such as road paving or residential wood smoke reduction activities like providing dry seasoned wood.

Anticipated projects will achieve demonstrable reductions in air pollutants that contribute to the nonattainment status of the eligible areas, including reductions in direct PM_{2.5}, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and/or ammonia. They will provide direct health and environmental benefits to communities. Priority funding for these grants goes to emission reduction projects that achieve the greatest emission reductions in eligible nonattainment areas.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public law 118-42).

Technical Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Works (Formerly - Technical Assistance for Treatment Works)

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$580</i>	<i>\$25,500</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>-\$15,500</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$580	\$25,500	\$10,000	-\$15,500

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Technical Assistance for Treatment Works Grant Program is proposed for reduction in order to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

This program provides grants to nonprofit organizations to help rural, small, and tribal municipalities to 1) obtain Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing; 2) protect water quality and achieve and maintain compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA); and 3) disseminate planning, design, construction, and operation information for small publicly owned wastewater systems and decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The FY 2026 request will continue funding for the Technical Assistance for Treatment Works Grant Program. In FY 2026, EPA will provide grants to nonprofit organizations to support training and technical assistance to help rural, small, and tribal municipalities obtain CWSRF financing, protect water quality and ensure CWA compliance, and share information on planning, design, construction, and operation of wastewater systems.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$15,500.0) This program is proposed for reduction in grant funding to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

America's Water Infrastructure Act, P.L. 115-270, Section 4103 and Clean Water Action Section 104(b)(8).

Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment (Formerly - Water Infrastructure and Workforce Investment)

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$16,078</i>	<i>\$5,400</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>-\$400</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$16,078	\$5,400	\$5,000	-\$400

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*FY 2024 Actuals includes multiple years of funding.

Program Project Description:

The Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Investment Grant Program is proposed for reduction in order to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The Program, created in consultation with the United States Department of Agriculture, provides competitive grants to be used to connect individuals to career opportunities at drinking water and wastewater utilities and increase public awareness of careers in this field. Drinking water and wastewater utilities provide stable, rewarding, and high-quality careers. As utilities make critical investments in infrastructure, drinking water and wastewater, utilities also must invest in the development of a strong local workforce to strengthen communities and ensure a strong pipeline of skilled workers for today and tomorrow.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The FY 2026 request for the innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Investment Grant Program will: 1) assist in the development of innovative water workforce development and career opportunities in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector and 2) expand public awareness about drinking water and wastewater utilities and connect individuals to careers in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector.²¹¹ Program funding will support activities such as internship, pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and post-secondary bridge programs; education programs for elementary, secondary, and higher education students; regional industry and workforce collaboratives; secondary integrated learning laboratories; and leadership development.

²¹¹ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/innovative-water-infrastructure-workforce-development-program>.

FY 2026 resources also will support nonprofit organizations and public works departments or agencies to align water and wastewater utility workforce recruitment efforts, training programs, retention efforts, and community resources with water and wastewater utilities.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$400.0) This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

42 U.S.C. 300j-19e, AWIA, P.L. 115-270, Section 4304.

Wildfire Smoke Preparedness

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$10,670</i>	<i>\$7,000</i>	<i>\$7,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$10,670	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Wildfire Smoke Preparedness Program, which was funded for the first time in the FY 2022 appropriations, awards competitive grant funding to better prepare community buildings for wildfire smoke. These grants are intended to be distributed on a competitive basis to states, tribes, public preschools, local educational agencies, and non-profit organizations. No more than 25 percent of the available funding may go to recipients in any one state. There is a 10 percent cost-share requirement, which may be waived for projects involving facilities located in economically distressed communities. Eligible activities may include research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies intended for the assessment, prevention, control, or abatement of wildfire smoke hazards in community buildings (including schools) and related activities.

Over the past five years, the U.S. has averaged approximately 61,680 wildland fires per year, burning an average of 7.3 million acres per year.²¹² Smoke plumes can have impacts over a large portion of our population, and the health impacts of wildfire smoke are significant, ranging from eye and throat irritation to asthma attacks, cardiovascular events, and even premature death. Many communities in the U.S. experience smoke from wildfires for days, weeks, or even months in a given year, and over multiple fire seasons.

Wildfire smoke can make the outdoor air unhealthy to breathe. Local officials often advise people to stay indoors during a smoke event; however, some of the smoke from outdoors can enter homes and buildings and make it unhealthy to breathe indoor air. Buildings are varied and do not all provide the same level of protection against smoke. Factors such as the type of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, HVAC filter ratings and fit, and building tightness and maintenance can all impact how much wildfire smoke enters a building.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2026, EPA will monitor ongoing

²¹²For more information, please visit: <https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/statistics/wildfires>.

wildfire preparedness in community buildings grants and award new grants with appropriated funding.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Public Law 119-4).

Water Sector Cybersecurity

Program Area: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Cybersecurity represents a substantial concern for the water sector, given the prevalence of state-sponsored and other malevolent attacks on the sector as well as the sector's inherent vulnerability and limited technical capacity to address cyber issues. The Nation's drinking water and wastewater systems possess limited or no technical capacity to address cybersecurity risks. This competitive grant will help systems establish and build the necessary cybersecurity infrastructure to address rising threats. The program also will support the Agency's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act implementation priorities including preparing for and responding to cybersecurity challenges so that water systems are more resilient.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* in the EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA is requesting \$10 million for a new competitive Water Sector Cybersecurity Grant Program. This program will provide grants for cybersecurity improvements to drinking water and wastewater systems. Specifically, grant money will be available to develop and implement programs to proactively mitigate the risk of cybersecurity attacks on drinking water and/or wastewater systems. This grant program would complement authorities provided by the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act allowing EPA to provide technical assistance and grants in the event of a cybersecurity emergency.

Water systems serving small, medium, and large communities will be eligible for grants. Receiving grants could be contingent upon completion of an approved cybersecurity assessment. An approved cybersecurity assessment may include an EPA cybersecurity assessment or a Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) assessment. This grant program will complement cybersecurity work already underway at EPA.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+\$10,000.0) This program increase provides resources for a new competitive grant program to advance cybersecurity infrastructure capacity and protections within the water sector and aligns with EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act.

Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Inland Oil Spill Programs
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Inland Oil Spill Programs				
Budget Authority	\$23,712	\$20,711	\$16,395	-\$4,316
Total Workyears	79.7	75.2	72.5	-2.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Bill Language: Inland Oil Spill Programs

For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, including hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$16,395,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, to remain available until expended.

Program Projects in Inland Oil Spill Programs
(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Compliance				
Compliance Monitoring	\$750	\$605	\$605	\$0
Enforcement				
Civil Enforcement	\$2,614	\$2,465	\$1,762	-\$703
Oil				
Oil Spill: Prevention, Preparedness and Response	\$19,041	\$16,334	\$12,965	-\$3,369
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$625	\$637	\$541	-\$96
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$681	\$670	\$522	-\$148
TOTAL Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$23,712	\$20,711	\$16,395	-\$4,316

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Compliance

Compliance Monitoring

Program Area: Compliance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$106,372	\$107,078	\$69,078	-\$38,000
<i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i>	<i>\$750</i>	<i>\$605</i>	<i>\$605</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$863	\$1,017	\$817	-\$200
Total Budget Authority	\$107,986	\$108,700	\$70,500	-\$38,200
Total Workyears	456.5	460.9	385.7	-75.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Compliance Monitoring program is a component of EPA's Compliance Assurance program that allows the Agency to detect noncompliance and promote compliance with the Nation's environmental laws. Under this program, EPA integrates the data from the Facility Response Plans (FRP) and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) systems into EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System. Data related to compliance with FRP and SPCC requirements are made available to the public through EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online website.²¹³

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to conduct compliance monitoring activities under the Oil Spill: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program under the Inland Oil Spill Programs appropriation. Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. This includes streamlining work efficiencies for the Program to increase alignment to the new initiatives.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$19.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

²¹³ For additional information, please visit: <https://echo.epa.gov/>.

- (+\$19.0 / +0.1 FTE) This net program change aligns funding with core statutory requirements and give pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and returns to core compliance assistance work.

Statutory Authority:

Oil Pollution Act; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

Enforcement

Civil Enforcement
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$218,862	\$201,305	\$140,191	-\$61,114
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$619	\$635	\$435	-\$200
<i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i>	<i>\$2,614</i>	<i>\$2,465</i>	<i>\$1,762</i>	<i>-\$703</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$45	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$222,140	\$204,405	\$142,388	-\$62,017
Total Workyears	959.1	971.0	789.3	-181.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Civil Enforcement program directly supports the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to ensure clean air, land, and water for every American. The Program advances cooperative federalism and strengthens cross-agency partnerships through collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, states, local agencies, and tribal governments to ensure consistent and fair enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. The Civil Enforcement program develops, litigates, and settles administrative and civil judicial cases against violators of environmental laws.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to streamline the Civil Enforcement program, prioritize resources to achieve compliance, and address oil or hazardous substance spills in violation of the statute and deter future spills consistent with *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*. Civil Enforcement efforts will focus on facilities where enforcement will promote deterrence, and ensure that spills are prevented, cleaned up, and, where appropriate, mitigated. The Civil Enforcement program also will continue to coordinate with the Criminal Enforcement program, as appropriate.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$295.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$408.0 / -1.7 FTE) This program change aligns funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and refocuses enforcement efforts. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Clean Water Act; Oil Pollution Act.

Oil

Oil Spill: Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Program Area: Oil

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i>	<i>\$19,041</i>	<i>\$16,334</i>	<i>\$12,965</i>	<i>-\$3,369</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$19,041	\$16,334	\$12,965	-\$3,369
Total Workyears	66.8	63.4	62.3	-1.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Oil Spill: Prevention, Preparedness and Response program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

The Program manages inland oil spills via prevention, preparation, response, and monitoring. The Agency serves as first responders to oil spill notifications received from the National Response Center.² Through this program, EPA requires high-risk facilities to prepare response plans assessed and evaluated by the Agency based on their size and location of oil either retained or used. The Program also inspects Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) facilities, including a subcategory of Facility Response Plan (FRP) facilities recognized as high-risk due to their size and location, and implements the National Contingency Plan (NCP) Subpart J Product Schedule.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Water, and Land for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through the following activities:

- Ensure every oil and chemical incident emergency response action will protect human health and the environment for the American people.
- Develop partnerships at state and federal levels to ensure projects are approved by external entities that support advanced inspector training and yearly oil spill response training so that responders can protect the needs of the American people. This will streamline compliance with regulatory requirements and optimize responsiveness for oil spill incidents to safeguard the environment, boost infrastructure, and bring back American jobs that will allow the Nation to thrive.

² For additional information about EPA's Oil Spill Prevention Program, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations>.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$1,734.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$1,635.0 / -1.1 FTE) This program change aligns funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, while recognizing needed efficiencies. EPA will prioritize resources for SPCC and FRP facility inspections for facilities that pose the highest risk. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

The Clean Water Act Section 311 as amended by the Oil Pollution Act.

Operations and Administration

Facilities Infrastructure and Operations

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026* President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
Science & Technology	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$55,023	-\$9,710
Building and Facilities	\$26,604	\$34,000	\$28,900	-\$5,100
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
<i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i>	<i>\$625</i>	<i>\$637</i>	<i>\$541</i>	<i>-\$96</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$74,984	\$67,080	\$57,373	-\$9,707
Total Budget Authority	\$444,412	\$443,045	\$377,048	-\$65,997
Total Workyears	328.2	300.4	319.8	19.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce efficiency and facilities consolidation will allow EPA to reduce resources needed to maintain Agency facilities. Inland Oil Spills (Oil) resources in the Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program funds the Agency's rent, utilities, and security.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to invest in the reconfiguration of EPA's workspaces, enabling the Agency to release office space and avoid long-term rent costs, consistent with HR 4465, the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016*. In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14274: *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management*³ and EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*,⁴ EPA is implementing an ambitious space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA is working to reduce office, laboratory and warehouse space. This has the potential to provide a cumulative annual rent avoidance of approximately \$28 million across all appropriations. This will help offset EPA's escalating rent and security costs and reduce taxpayer burden. By the end

³ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management>.

⁴ For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

of FY 2025, EPA will have consolidated employees out of the Ronald Reagan Building and into existing space within the Federal Triangle buildings in Washington, D.C. The consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 323,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$18 million. In addition to the Ronald Reagan Building, the Agency is vacating the Human Studies Facility located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 155,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$3.7 million. The Agency also is vacating its Houston regional laboratory and consolidating into the Ada, OK, facility for a rent savings of \$2.2 million and space reduction of 41,126 square feet. For FY 2026, the Agency is requesting \$483.0 thousand for rent in the Oil appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level.

In FY 2026, the Agency will take action to reconfigure EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs. Space consolidation and reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace. EPA will continue to manage lease agreements with GSA and private landlords, and maintain EPA facilities, fleet, equipment, and fund costs associated with utilities and building security needs. EPA also will meet regulatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) obligations and provide health and safety training to field staff (e.g., inspections, monitoring, On-Scene Coordinators), and track capital equipment. In addition, the Agency will continue to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office, *USAccess*, and Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS) programs. *USAccess* provides standardized HSPD-12 approved Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card enrollment and issuance and ePACS provides centralized access control of EPA facilities, including restricted and secure areas.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$37.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy.
- (-\$59.0) This program change is due to a reduction in contracting resources to reflect efficiencies across facility management and operations activities. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to shrink the federal real estate footprint by eliminating unused office space.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Property and Administration Services Act; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Research: Sustainable Communities

Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	\$134,581	\$132,205	\$58,597	-\$73,608
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$354	\$327	\$304	-\$23
<i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i>	<i>\$681</i>	<i>\$670</i>	<i>\$522</i>	<i>-\$148</i>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$20,147	\$16,937	\$11,448	-\$5,489
Total Budget Authority	\$155,764	\$150,139	\$70,871	-\$79,268
Total Workyears	436.8	397.2	294.6	-102.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program, funded through the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, provides federal, tribal, state, and community decision-makers with analysis and tools to protect human and ecosystem health from the negative impacts of oil spills.⁵

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program provides Cross-Agency Mission and Science Support and is directly aligned with *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the oil spill Program will conduct research to support regulatory activities and protocol development for EPA's programs and to support state-delegated programs. This Program will provide on-demand technical support at federal, tribal, or state-managed cleanup sites and assistance during emergencies. The Program will continue to conduct health, environmental engineering, and ecological research, and prepare planning and analysis tools for localities nationwide that will facilitate regulatory compliance and improve environmental and health outcomes.

Specific activities in FY 2026 include:

Improving oil spill response and recovery operations via development of underwater detection capabilities, reviewing available subsea oil blowout models, characterizing oil behavior and

⁵ For more information, please see: https://www.uscg.mil/Mariners/National-Pollution-Funds-Center/About_NPFC/OSLTF/.

dispersion in fresh and saltwater environments, and conducting studies to better understand impacts of oils and spill treating agents listed on the NCP Product Schedule.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement to its research programs.

EPA's state engagement program⁶ is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies. Key partners at the state level include: the Environmental Council of the States, with its Environmental Research Institute of the States and the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council; the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; as well as state media associations.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$106.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$42.0) This program change re-orientes funding towards the continuation of statutorily required work. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5 App.) (EPA's organic statute); Oil Pollution Act.

⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

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FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund				
Budget Authority	\$577,490	\$72,274	\$8,000	-\$64,274
Total Workyears	38.7	35.2	38.4	3.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Bill Language: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account

For the purposes of carrying out the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office may request, and the Administrator shall promptly provide, documentation and information relating to a project identified in a Letter of Interest submitted to the Administrator pursuant to a Notice of Funding Availability for applications for credit assistance under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, including with respect to a project that was initiated or completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 shall be deposited in this account, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$8,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

Program Projects in WIFIA

(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Ensure Clean Water				
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation	\$22,399	\$72,274	\$8,000	-\$64,274
Not Specified				
Not Specified	\$555,091	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL WIFIA	\$577,490	\$72,274	\$8,000	-\$64,274

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Water Quality Protection

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation

Program Area: Ensure Clean Water

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
<i>Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund</i>	\$22,399	\$72,274	\$8,000	-\$64,274
Total Budget Authority	\$22,399	\$72,274	\$8,000	-\$64,274
Total Workyears	38.7	35.2	38.4	3.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation program is proposed for reduction in order to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances the support to *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The WIFIA Program provides and services direct loans to cover up to 49 percent of eligible costs for water infrastructure projects of regional or national significance and up to 80 percent of eligible costs for small community borrowers. WIFIA provides financing for the modernization and construction of water, wastewater, and stormwater systems to address aging infrastructure, meet regulatory requirements, and support economic growth.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

The FY 2026 request builds on the Program's success accelerating water infrastructure investment and enables the Program to continue to offer support for communities around the country, utilizing the Program's substantial existing balances from prior years' appropriations. The requested \$8 million is for the WIFIA Program's administrative expenses, primarily for staff salaries, to enable the Program to continue functioning at current capacity without requiring new appropriations for additional subsidy budget authority. The Program requires a staff of technical experts to handle all aspects of program including credit evaluation, engineering review, legal contract structuring, and direct oversight of projects. The WIFIA Program's administrative expenses enable a high-quality selection process and the underwriting and technical reviews that are required to allow the WIFIA Program to properly mitigate risk and close approximately 25 loans per year. Furthermore, administrative expenses allow for needed post-loan closing portfolio monitoring and management that is critical to oversee the Program's burgeoning portfolio of projects and ensure that WIFIA funds are repaid to the American taxpayer, with interest. The Agency's request for a sufficient administrative appropriation ensures the WIFIA Program's ability to monitor its rapidly growing

portfolio and make new loans to stimulate additional water infrastructure investment around the country, help communities maintain aging assets, and keep costs low for ratepayers.

The FY 2026 budget request continues to include authority to use fee revenue as outlined in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, Sections 5029(a), 5030(b), and 5030(c). Fee revenue will be used to cover a portion of the costs of making secured loans, providing credit assistance, and servicing WIFIA credit instruments. The fee expenditure authority for the Program is in addition to the \$8.0 million requested for administrative expenses.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$882.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$64,274.0) This program decrease eliminates loan financing support. The Program will focus on obligating the remaining balance of no-year funding. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.
- (+\$882.0 / +3.2 FTE) This program increase provides support to administer the WIFIA Program and obligate the remaining balance of no-year funding.

Statutory Authority:

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014.

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**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund				
Budget Authority	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Workyears	11.6	15.0	15.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Bill Language: E- Manifest

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate fees in accordance with section 3024 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6939g) for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended.

Program Projects in e-Manifest

(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Operations and Administration				
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)				
RCRA: Waste Management	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL e-Manifest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

RCRA: Waste Management

Program Area: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$74,277	\$71,879	\$40,399	-\$31,480
<i>Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budget Authority	\$74,277	\$71,879	\$40,399	-\$31,480
Total Workyears	289.6	284.4	203.2	-81.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 15.0 FTE funded by e-Manifest fees.

Program Project Description:

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires companies that ship hazardous waste to track and report the estimated two million shipments each year. EPA maintains the national system for tracking hazardous waste shipments electronically, known as “e-Manifest,” as required by the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act (e-Manifest Act, Public Law 112-195). e-Manifest modernizes the Nation’s cradle-to-grave hazardous waste tracking process while saving valuable time, resources, and dollars for industry and states and energizing the greatness of the American economy.

Since the 2018 system launch through September 2024, EPA has received approximately 11.6 million manifests shipped from over 575 thousand sites generating federal- or state-regulated hazardous waste and has collected over \$101 million in user fees. EPA estimates the e-Manifest system will reduce the burden associated with paper manifests by between 175 thousand and 425 thousand hours, saving state and industry users more than \$50 million annually, once electronic manifests are widely adopted.²¹⁴ Since the 2018 launch, e-Manifest has saved state programs \$118 million dollars in processing, data entry, and storage costs. The e-Manifest system will provide better knowledge of waste generation and final disposition; enhanced access to manifest information; and greater transparency for the public about hazardous waste shipments.

In FY 2014, Congress established the “Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund” to implement the e-Manifest Program, including system development, fee collection authority, rulemaking, and advisory committee establishment. In FY 2025, e-Manifest will continue to be fully supported by user fees, which includes support for continuing the development and operation of the system and Agency personnel that support its use and further its implementation. EPA will be considering whether to request authority in FY 2027 to use e-Manifest funds to award, administer, manage, and oversee grants to states for operating, maintaining, and upgrading the hazardous waste electronic manifest system. The grants would support activities designed to meet

²¹⁴ For more information, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/e-manifest/learn-about-hazardous-waste-electronic-manifest-system-e-manifest>.

the needs of the user community, attract effective user participation, reduce administrative burden associated with the system, and other related activities. Such grants would not result in any changes to the fees established under section 3024(c) of RCRA, would not be subject to section 3011(b) of RCRA, and would total approximately \$7.5 million per annum for a period of one year. EPA may request this authority in future years.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will operate the e-Manifest system and will collect and deposit user fees into the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund (approximately \$20.0 million is anticipated). The authority to collect and spend fees requires authorization from Congress in annual appropriations bills.

In FY 2026, EPA plans to perform the following key activities:

- Continue to implement, develop, and enhance system functionality and program policies to ease the logistical burdens of adopting greater use of fully electronic manifests;
- Work with individual generators and generator-associated groups to meet the regulatory requirement to register and to support their increased use of the e-Manifest system, which will allow for greater fully electronic adoption;
- Continue regular outreach with users and stakeholders to identify new ways to improve the e-Manifest system. This includes regular webinars and targeted demonstrations on how to use the e-Manifest system;
- Operate appropriate accounting and financial reporting interfaces needed to collect and manage user fees, adjust fees as appropriate, and comply with the auditing requirements of the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act;
- Hold the annual meeting of the e-Manifest Advisory Board, consisting of state and industry stakeholders and Information Technology experts, to provide input on system operation and implementation of the user fee regulation; and
- Develop regulations to sunset the options for using paper manifests and require the use of electronic manifests.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act.

**Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

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EPA FY 2026 Annual Evaluation Plan

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to protect human health and the environment depends on its use of high-quality evidence to support the development of its policies, decisions, guidance, and regulations. Consistent with the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act), EPA works to promote a culture of using evidence to inform decision making and support continuous improvement in day-to-day operations. EPA programs conduct evaluations of their implementation and outcomes to monitor effectiveness and efficiency, to ensure good stewardship of American tax dollars.

In line with Evidence Act requirements, the Agency publishes an Annual Evaluation Plan that highlights its planned investment in, and intended use of, evaluation activities. EPA's FY 2026 plan presents an evaluation project that will deliver actionable results to improve program effectiveness.

Project Title	Drinking Water Systems out of Compliance with Health-Based Standards		
Lead Office	Office of Water		
Start Date	FY 2022	Completion Date	FY 2026
Alignment with EPA 5 Pillars	Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American. Pillar 3: Cooperative Federalism		

Purpose and brief description: EPA's Office of Water and Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) are collaboratively focusing on assessing methods to effectively improve public water system compliance. This initiative aims to address five key questions between FY 2022 and FY 2026. The Drinking Water Learning Agenda (DWLA) is designed to evaluate whether key technical, managerial and financial assistance (TMF) and oversight program activities are achieving their intended goal of improving drinking water compliance with health-based standards.

The DWLA assesses drinking water data reported to EPA to determine whether it accurately measures national compliance and substantiates EPA policy decisions. Specifically, it considers noncompliance root causes, identifies the corresponding technical/managerial/financial factors, evaluates the efficacy of technical assistance, and state oversight. Upon completion, these assessments will identify key water system characteristics that should be the focus of EPA and state policies including the most effective ways to apply compliance assurance tools. As noted below, work to address two of the questions is complete. During FY 2026, work will focus on the last three questions.

Programmatic or policy decisions this activity will inform: Compliance assurance and TMF assistance tools, along with oversight programs, that effectively increase drinking water compliance rates to ensure clean and safe drinking water. This work is essential to achieving the Administrator's priority pillar of ensuring clean water for every American.

Questions to be addressed in FY 2026:

1. Efficacy of Technical Assistance in the Drinking Water Program: Does technical assistance improve or maintain system compliance, and if so, under what circumstances?
2. Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) Sufficiency Metrics: How can EPA determine if a system has the TMF capacity to provide safe water on a continuous basis to its customers?
3. Efficacy of Oversight in the Drinking Water Program: What EPA oversight approaches are effective at assessing and improving state programs' ability to improve compliance with the health-based standards?

Analyses for two other questions on the DWLA have recently been completed. Those questions are:

- Data Availability and Reliability: To what extent does EPA have ready access to data to measure drinking water compliance reliably and accurately?
- Root Cause of Noncompliance in Public Water Systems: What factors determine system noncompliance and continuous compliance?

Methodological and analytical approach:

Data collection methods: EPA anticipates using several different tools for the evaluation of the remaining three questions including survey instruments, audit reviews, data mining, use of existing data and statistical methods such as regression analyses.

Data sets: The Agency anticipates needing to pull from various data sources such as federal databases at EPA (SDWIS and ECHO, for instance), Department of Commerce Census Bureau, USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loan program data, information gleaned from the State Revolving Fund work, EPA oversight reports (PWSS Annual Program Reviews, Capacity Development Annual Review, etc.), and technical assistance activities. SDWIS, Census, and RUS are existing databases. EPA will explore the possibility of combining existing datasets or creating one using existing reports and records.

Analytic approaches: EPA will use a variety of tools which may include prospective and retrospective analyses; data sorting and trend analysis with statistical overlays; and stakeholder perspectives and findings. Agency expert consultation may identify other analytical methods to be used. The Agency will use the Water Infrastructure and Capacity Assessment Tool (Water ICAT) for utility-scale analyses. Water ICAT incorporates publicly available data from a variety of sources into a single, user-friendly screening tool. Data available within Water ICAT span four primary categories including general utility characteristics, demographic and economic characteristics, enforcement and compliance characteristics, and finally water infrastructure funding history. These data are aggregated at the utility scale.

Anticipated challenges and proposed solutions: Data availability may slow and/or limit progress on analytical activities that need to be carried out to conduct planned evaluations and other empirical studies. State participation and/or state information or consultation may be helpful to

plan and execute work and to interpret findings, and although states have provided support for the DWLA in the past, it is anticipated that they will not have capacity to continue providing input.

Dissemination of findings: Final evaluation reports and other empirical analyses for this learning priority area will likely be of most value to internal stakeholders, but EPA will decide on a case-by-case basis if individual analysis summaries will be posted at www.epa.gov/evaluate.

**Environmental Protection Agency
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FY 2026 Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2025 Target	FY 2026 Target	Unit	Preferred Direction
Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American				
(PM NAAQS) Percentage of air quality improvement in counties not meeting current NAAQS.	10	10	Percent	Above Target
(PM RAD2) Percentage of radiation emergency response program personnel and assets that meet functional readiness requirements necessary to support federal radiological emergency response and recovery operation.	92	92	Percent	Above Target
(PM DW-02) Number of community water systems still in noncompliance with health-based standards since March 31, 2021.	375	360	CWSs	Below Target
(PM DWT-02) Number of community water systems in Indian Country still in noncompliance with health-based standards since March 31, 2021.	33	31	CWSs	Below Target
(PM INFRA-06) Number of tribal, small, or rural drinking water and wastewater utilities and municipalities provided with technical, managerial, or financial assistance to improve system operations.	1,300	1,300	Utilities and Systems	Above Target
(PM DW-07) Number of drinking water and wastewater systems provided with national security and emergency response assistance, including physical and cybersecurity threat exercises and technical assistance.	4,500	5,000	Systems	Above Target
(PM SWP-02) Annual increase in square miles of watersheds with previously impaired surface waters due to nutrients that now meet standards for nutrients.	9,000	35,000	Square Miles	Above Target
(PM NPDES-03) Number of existing EPA-issued NPDES individual permits in backlog.	350	330	Permits	Below Target
(PM 170) Number of remedial action projects completed at Superfund sites.	75	75	Projects	Above Target
(PM B32) Number of brownfields properties cleaned up.	150	150	Properties	Above Target
(PM CA5RC) Number of RCRA corrective action facilities with final remedies constructed.	44	40	Facilities	Above Target
(PM 112) Number of LUST cleanups completed that meet risk-based standards for human exposure and groundwater migration.	5,800	4,900	Cleanups	Above Target
(PM TSCA4) Number of HPS TSCA risk evaluations completed within statutory timelines.	N/A	N/A	Evaluations	Above Target

Performance Measure	FY 2025 Target	FY 2026 Target	Unit	Preferred Direction
(PM TSCA5) Percentage of existing chemical TSCA risk management actions initiated within 45 days of the completion of a final existing chemical risk evaluation.	100	100	Percent	Above Target
(PM FIFRA3a) Number of pesticide registration review cases completed.	2	1	Cases	Above Target
(PM FIFRA3b) Number of pesticide registration review dockets opened for registration review cases.	17	16	Dockets	Above Target
(PM FIFRA3c) Number of draft risk assessments completed for pesticide registration review cases.	1	1	Draft Assessment	Above Target
(PM ESA1) Percentage of risk assessments supporting pesticide registration decisions for new active ingredients that consider the effects determinations or protections for federally threatened and endangered species.	90	95	Percent	Above Target
(PM ESA2) Percentage of risk assessments supporting pesticide registration review decisions that include effects determinations or protections of federally threatened and endangered species.	70	70	Percent	Above Target
(PM WPS1a) Number of farmworkers receiving EPA-supported WPS pesticide safety training.	13,000	13,000	Farm-workers	Above Target
(PM WPS1b) Percentage of pesticide safety content knowledge demonstrated by farmworker/trainees upon completion of EPA-supported WPS pesticide training.	95	95	Percent	Above Target
(PM 436) Number of open civil judicial cases more than 2.5 years old without a complaint filed.	94	94	Cases	Below Target
(PM 434) Millions of pounds of pollutants and waste reduced, treated, or eliminated through concluded enforcement actions.	No Target	No Target	Millions of Pounds	Above Target
(PM E13b) Number of Border 2025 actions implemented in the U.S.-Mexico Border area to improve water quality, solid waste management and air quality, and advance emergency response efforts.	10	4	Actions	Above Target
Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance				
(PM TBD) Number of state coal combustion residuals (CCR) permit programs approved.	0	2	Programs	Above Target
Performance Measure	FY 2025 Target	FY 2026 Target	Unit	Preferred Direction
Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership				
(PM PAT) Annual percentage of EPA permitting processes automated.	23	31	Percent	Above Target

Performance Measure	FY 2025 Target	FY 2026 Target	Unit	Preferred Direction
(PM E21) Number of significant actions taken by EPA programs with direct implementation authority that will result in measurable improvements in Indian country.	15	15	Significant Actions	Above Target
(PM EC41) Percentage of EPA Tribal consultations that may affect Tribal treaty rights that consider those rights as part of the consultation.	100	100	Percent	Above Target
(PM CH01) Number of EPA actions that concern human health that include assessment and consideration of environmental health information and data for children at all life stages to the extent relevant data are available.	175	TBD	Actions	Above Target
(PM CH02) Number of EPA regional offices with stakeholder engagement on children's environmental health designed to provide durable, replicable, and widespread results.	10	10	Regional Offices	Above Target
(PM OCR02) Cumulative number of communities that, as a result of OCR assistance, have been able to attract new investment and/or enact policies that produce improved public health and environmental outcomes.	10	15	Communities	Above Target
(PM 444) Percentage of EPA inspection reports sent to the facility within 70 days of inspection.	75	75	Percent	Above Target
(PM 409) Number of federal on-site compliance monitoring inspections and evaluations and off-site compliance monitoring activities.	10,000	10,000	Inspections/Evaluations	Above Target
Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World				
(PM GOPA) Number of priority internal administrative processes automated.	3	TBD	Processes	Above Target
(PM OP1) Number of operational processes improved.	220	200	Operational Processes	Above Target
Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs				
(PM CRT) Number of certificates of conformity issued that demonstrate that the respective engine, vehicle, equipment, component, or system conforms to all applicable emission requirements and may be entered into commerce.	4,900	4,900	Certificates	Above Target

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Acronyms For Statutory Authority

The following is not an exhaustive list of [U.S.] statutory authorities but includes those commonly referred to by acronym in this document.

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act

ADEA: Age Discrimination in Employment Act

ADRA: Alternative Dispute Resolution Act

AE: Air and Energy

AEA: Atomic Energy Act, as amended, and Reorganization Plan #3

AHERA: Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

AHPA: Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act

AIM: American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2019

ANCSA: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

APA: Administrative Procedures Act

APPS: Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships

ARP: American Rescue Plan

ARRA: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

ASHAA: Asbestos in Schools Hazard Abatement Act

ASTCA: Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act

AWIA: America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018

BEACH Act of 2000: Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act

BRERA: Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act

BUILD Act: Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act

CAA: Clean Air Act

CAAA: Clean Air Act Amendments (1970 and 1990)

CARES: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

CCA: Clinger Cohen Act

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (1980)

CFOA: Chief Financial Officers Act

CICA: Competition in Contracting Act

CRA: Civil Rights Act

CSA: Computer Security Act
CWA: Clean Water Act (1972)
CWPPRA: Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act of 1990
CZARA: Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments
CZMA: Coastal Zone Management Act
DERA: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act
DPA: Deepwater Ports Act
DREAA: Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
DWWIA: Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021
ECRA: Economic Cleanup Responsibility Act
EFOIA: Electronic Freedom of Information Act
EISA: Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007
EO: Executive Order
EPAct: Energy Policy Act of 2005
EPAA: Environmental Programs Assistance Act
EPCA: Energy Policy and Conservation Act
EPCRA: Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (1986)
ERDDAA: Environmental Research, Development and Demonstration Authorization Act
ESA: Endangered Species Act
ESECA: Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act
FACA: Federal Advisory Committee Act
FAIR: Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act
FASA: Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (1994)
FAST: Fixing America's Service Transportation Act
FCMA: Fishery Conservation and Management Act
FEPCA: Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972, enacted as amendments to FIFRA
FFATA: Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006
FFDCA: Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act
FFMIA: Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996
FGCAA: Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act
FIFRA: Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (1972)
FISMA: Federal Information Security Modernization Act
FITARA: Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FMFIA: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (1982)
FOIA: Freedom of Information Act
FPA: Federal Pesticide Act
FPAS: Federal Property and Administration Services Act
FQPA: Food Quality Protection Act (1996)
FRA: Federal Register Act
FSA: Food Security Act
FSMA: Food Safety Modernization Act
FTTA: Federal Technology Transfer Act
FUA: Fuel Use Act
FWCA: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
FWPCA: Federal Water Pollution and Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act [CWA])
GISRA: Government Information Security Reform Act
GMRA: Government Management Reform Act
GINA: Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
GPRA: Government Performance and Results Act (1993)
GPRAMA: Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010
HABHRCRA: Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998
HMTA: Hazardous Materials Transportation Act
HSWA: Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, enacted as amendments to RCRA
IGA: Inspector General Act
IJA: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
IPA: Intergovernmental Personnel Act
IPIA: Improper Payments Information Act
IRA: Inflation Reduction Act
ISTEA: Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
IT: Information Technology
ITMRA: Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996-aka Clinger/Cohen Act
MCRBMA: Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act
MGT: Modernizing Government Technology Act
MPPRCA: Marine Plastic Pollution, Research and Control Act of 1987
MPRSA: Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act

NAWCA: North American Wetlands Conservation Act
NEEA: National Environmental Education Act
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA: National Historic Preservation Act
NISA: National Invasive Species Act of 1996
ODBA: Ocean Dumping Ban Act of 1988
OPA: Oil Pollution Act of 1990
OPEN: Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act
OWBPA: Older Workers Benefit Protection Act
PBA: Public Building Act
PFCRA: Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act
PHSA: Public Health Service Act
PIIA: Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019
PKEMRA: Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006
PLIRRA: Pollution Liability Insurance and Risk Retention Act
PPA: Pollution Prevention Act
PR: Privacy Act of 1974
PRA: Paperwork Reduction Act
PREA: Pesticide Registration Extension Act of 2012 (also known as PRIA 3)
PRIA: Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003
PRIA 4: Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018
PRIA 5: Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022
PRIRA: Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act
QCA: Quiet Communities Act
RCRA: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, enacted as amendments to SWDA
RFA: Regulatory Flexibility Act
RICO: Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act
RLBPHRA: Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act
SARA: Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986
SAFETEA-LU: Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SBLRBRERA: Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act
SBREFA: Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996

SDWA: Safe Drinking Water Act
SICEA: Steel Industry Compliance Extension Act
SMCRA: Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act
SOS 2.0: Save Our Seas Act 2.0
SPA: Shore Protection Act of 1988
SWDA: Solid Waste Disposal Act
TSCA: Toxic Substances Control Act
UMRA: Unfunded Mandates Reform Act
UMTRCA: Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978
UMTRLWA: Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Land Withdrawal Act
USGGRA: U.S. Global Change Research Act
USMCA: United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act
USTCA: Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act
VIDA: Vessel Incidental Discharge Act
WIFIA: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
WIIN: Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act
WQA: Water Quality Act of 1987
WRDA: Water Resources Development Act
WRRRA: Water Resources Research Act
WSRA: Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
WWWQA: Wet Weather Water Quality Act of 2000

Coordination With Other Federal Agencies

Air and Radiation Programs

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Implementation

EPA cooperates with other agencies to achieve goals related to ground level ozone and particulate matter (PM), and to ensure the actions of other agencies are compatible with state plans for attaining and maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The Agency works closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of the Interior (DOI), and Department of Defense (DOD) on issues such as prescribed burning at silviculture and agricultural operations. EPA, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) also work with state and local agencies to integrate transportation and air quality plans, reduce traffic congestion, and promote livable communities.

Air Quality in the Agricultural Sector

To improve EPA's understanding of environmental issues in the agricultural sector, the Agency works with USDA and others to improve air quality while supporting sustainable agriculture. The collaborative approach to the agriculture sector includes scientific assessment, outreach and education, and implementation/compliance.

Regional Haze

EPA works with the National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and DOI in implementing its regional haze program and operating the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) visibility monitoring network. The operation and analysis of data produced by this air monitoring system is an example of the close coordination of efforts between EPA and state and tribal governments.

Air Quality Assessment, Modeling, and Forecasting

For pollution assessments and transport, EPA works with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on technology transfer using satellite imagery. EPA further distributes NASA satellite products and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) air quality forecast products to states, local agencies, and tribes to provide a better understanding of daily air quality and to assist with air quality forecasting. EPA also works with the Department of the Army on advancing emission measurement technology and with NOAA for meteorological support for our modeling and monitoring efforts. EPA collects real-time ozone and PM measurements from state and local agencies, which are used by both NOAA and EPA to improve and verify Air Quality Forecast models.

EPA's *AirNow* Program (the national real-time Air Quality Index reporting and forecasting system) works with the National Weather Service (NWS) to coordinate NOAA air quality forecast guidance with state and local agencies for air quality forecasting efforts and to render the NOAA model output in EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI), which helps people determine appropriate air quality protective behaviors. In wildfire situations, EPA and USFS work closely with states to deploy monitors and report monitoring information and other conditions on *AirNow*. The *AirNow* Program also collaborates with NPS and USFS in collecting air quality monitoring observations,

in addition to over 130 state, local, and tribal air agency observations, and with NASA in a project to incorporate satellite data with air quality observations.

EPA, USDA, and DOI established a collaborative framework to address issues pertaining to wildland fire and air quality. The agreement recognizes the key roles of each agency, as well as opportunities for collaboration. For example, the partnership explains that the agencies seek to reduce the impact of emissions from wildfires, especially catastrophic wildfires, and the impact of those emissions on air quality as well as highlighting opportunities for information sharing and collaboration.

Mobile Sources

EPA works with DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on the coordinated national program establishing standards to improve fuel efficiency for light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles. Specifically, EPA, in coordination with DOT's fuel economy and fuel consumption standards programs, implements vehicle and commercial truck greenhouse gas standards.

To address criteria pollutant emissions from marine and aircraft sources, EPA works collaboratively with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as well as with other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). EPA also collaborates with the USCG in the implementation of Emission Control Area (ECA) around the U.S., and with Mexico and Canada in the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to evaluate the benefits of establishing a Mexican ECA.

To better understand the sources and causes of mobile source pollution, EPA works with the Department of Energy (DOE) and DOT to fund applied research projects including transportation modeling projects. EPA also works closely with DOE on refinery cost modeling analyses to support clean fuel programs, evaluation of petitions for small refinery hardship exemptions under the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) Program, and coordination regarding fuel supply during emergency situations.

For mobile sources program outreach, the Agency participates in a collaborative effort with DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to educate the public and communities about the impacts of transportation choices on traffic congestion, air quality, and human health. These partnerships can involve policy assessments and toxic emission reduction strategies in different regions of the country. EPA works with DOE, DOT, and other agencies, as needed, on the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, such as the Renewable Fuel Standard. EPA also has worked with other agencies on biofuel topics through the Biomass Research and Development Institute.

To develop air pollutant emission factors and emission estimation algorithms for military aircraft, ground equipment, and vehicles, EPA partners with the DOD. This partnership provides for the joint undertaking of air-monitoring/emission factor research and regulatory implementation.

Air Toxics

EPA works closely with other health agencies such as the CDC, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on health risk characterization for both toxic and criteria air pollutants. The Agency also contributes air quality data to CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, which is made publicly available and used by various public health agencies.

Addressing Transboundary Air Pollution

In developing regional and international air quality projects, and in working on regional agreements, EPA works with the Department of State (DOS), NOAA, NASA, DOE, USDA, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and with regional organizations. In addition, EPA has partnered with other organizations and countries worldwide, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Union (EU), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), CEC, Canada, Mexico, China, and Japan. EPA also partners with environment and public health officials and provides technical assistance through UNEP to facilitate the development of air quality management strategies to other major emitters and/or to key regional or sub-regional groupings of countries.

Stratospheric Ozone

EPA works closely with DOS and other federal agencies in international negotiations among Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, with the goal of protecting the ozone layer and through managing ozone depleting substances (ODS) it controls. EPA also supports several multilateral environmental agreements to simultaneously protect the ozone layer working closely with the DOS and other federal agencies, including but not limited to the Office of Science Technology and Policy (OSTP), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Department of Commerce (DOC), OMB, USDA NOAA, and NASA.

EPA works with other agencies, including the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and DOC, to analyze potential trade implications in stratospheric protection regulations that affect imports and exports. EPA has coordinated efforts with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Treasury (U.S. Treasury), and other agencies to curb the illegal importation of ODS.

Indoor Air and Radon

EPA works closely with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), DOE, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to reduce risks from poor air quality in homes and schools.

Radiation and Radiation Preparedness and Response

EPA works primarily with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), DOE, and DHS on multiple radiation-related issues. EPA has ongoing planning and guidance discussions with DHS on emergency response activities, including exercises responding to nuclear related incidents. As the regulator of DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), EPA is charged with coordinating with DOE to ensure the facility is operating in compliance with EPA regulations. EPA is a member of the Interagency Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force, established in the Energy

Policy Act, to improve the security of domestic radioactive sources. EPA also is a working member of the interagency Nuclear Government Coordinating Council (NGCC), which coordinates across government and the private sector on issues related to security, communications, and emergency management within the nuclear sector. EPA is a charter member of the Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Board which was established to review the nuclear safety analysis for launching space nuclear systems. EPA works with DOD, DOE, NASA, NRC, DOS, and DOT to coordinate the safety review and launch emergency response plans for commercial and non-commercial launches of space nuclear systems.

For emergency preparedness, EPA coordinates with other federal agencies through the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee and the Advisory Team for Environment, Food and Health which provides federal scientific advice and recommendations to state and local decision makers, such as governors and mayors, during a radiological emergency. EPA participates in planning and implementing exercises including radiological anti-terrorism activities with the HHS, NRC, DOE, DOD, and DHS.

EPA is a charter member and co-chairs the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS), which was created at the direction of Congress. Through its activities, member agencies are kept informed of cross-cutting issues related to radiation protection, radioactive waste management, and emergency preparedness and response. ISCORS also helps coordinate U.S. responses to radiation-related issues internationally.

During radiological emergencies, EPA works with expert members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and with OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) on two committees: the Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) and the Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH). Through participation on the CRPPH, EPA is successful in bringing U.S. perspectives to international radiation protection policy.

Research Supporting the Air and Radiation Program

EPA continues to coordinate with other agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), HHS, CDC, NOAA, DOE, USDA, and USFS to develop effective and sustainable approaches to manage air pollution.

Water Programs

Collaboration with Public and Private Partners on Water Infrastructure Preparedness, Response and Recovery

EPA coordinates with other federal agencies, primarily DHS, CDC, FDA, and DOD, on biological, chemical, and radiological contaminants of high concern, and how to detect and respond to their presence in drinking water and wastewater systems. EPA works with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and DHS, particularly with respect to ensuring the timely dissemination of threat information through existing communication networks.

EPA works with USACE and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to refine coordination processes among federal partners engaged in providing emergency response support to the water sector, including maintaining clear roles and responsibilities under the National

Disaster Recovery Framework. In addition, EPA continues to work with FEMA, USACE, and other agencies, on the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force regarding water resources and floodplain management.

As the Agency in charge of water sector security, EPA works with DHS Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and other government agencies on the Industrial Control System (ICS) working group to develop an ICS interagency Strategy and Implementation Plan. EPA also collaborates with CISA on various working groups and cybersecurity issues such as roles and responsibilities, ICS supply chain, cyber workforce, cybersecurity standards, and cyber response.

Drinking Water Programs

EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) established an Interagency Agreement to coordinate activities and information exchange in the areas of unregulated contaminants occurrence, the environmental relationships affecting contaminant occurrence, protection area delineation methodology, and analytical methods. This effort improves the quality of information to support risk management decision-making at all levels of government, generates valuable new data, and eliminates potential redundancies. EPA also collaborates with HUD, HHS, DOI and USDA to develop strategies to decrease drinking water lead exposure in homes. The partnership promotes the exchange of information, leverages funding, and reviews processes to facilitate better-informed and coordinated decisions and investments.

In addition, EPA collaborates with the Department of Health and Human Services to better understand, characterize, and manage public health risks from Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs), with activities spanning from assessing CDC's waterborne disease surveillance data related to legionella and other biofilm-related pathogens to partnering with FDA on antibiotic resistance-related issues. EPA collaborates with multiple federal agencies to address Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) issues including DOD, DOE, USDA, FDA, DHHS, the NIH, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Small Business Administration (SBA), NASA, FAA, and the Executive Office of the President (EOP).

Infrastructure Support for Tribal Water Systems

EPA coordinates the multi-agency tribal Infrastructure Task Force (ITF), created to develop and coordinate federal activities in delivering water infrastructure, wastewater infrastructure and solid waste management services to tribal communities. The ITF is the formal mechanism for interagency coordination among EPA, DHHS's Indian Health Service (IHS), HUD, USDA, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Drinking Water and Wastewater Work in Indian Country

EPA works under a five-federal agency MOU to better coordinate the federal government's efforts in providing access to safe drinking water and basic wastewater facilities for tribal communities. EPA, DOI, DHHS, USDA, and HUD work as the Federal Tribal Infrastructure Task Force (TITF) to use their combined authorities to maintain a framework to enhance interagency efficiency and coordination, and to cultivate greater cooperation in carrying out their tribal infrastructure responsibilities. Since 2007, the TITF has: maintained procedures necessary for a common understanding of the programs pertaining to funding infrastructure construction, solid waste management efforts, and technical assistance to tribes; worked together to improve the capacity of

tribal communities to operate and maintain sustainable infrastructure; enhanced the efficient leveraging of funds; worked directly with tribes to promote an understanding of federal programs; identified ways to improve construction, operation, and maintenance of sustainable infrastructure; and worked to allow and facilitate the exchange of data and information amongst partners.²¹⁵

Sustainable Rural Drinking and Wastewater Systems

EPA and USDA work together to increase the sustainability of rural drinking water and wastewater systems to ensure the protection of public health, water quality, and sustainable communities. The two agencies facilitate coordinated funding for infrastructure projects that aid in the compliance of national drinking water and clean water regulations.

National Water Sector Workforce Development

EPA and the Departments of Education, Interior, Agriculture, and Veterans Affairs (VA) are building on existing collaborations, exploring new opportunities and actions, and identifying potential additional federal programs and partners to support the Nation's water sector professionals.

Coordination with Department of Defense on Analytical Methods for Detecting PFAS

EPA's Clean Water Act (CWA) analytical methods program is collaborating with DOD on their efforts to develop an analytical method for detecting certain PFAS compounds in wastewater.

Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)

EPA participates in quarterly and ad hoc meetings with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), DOE, DOI, DOT, and DOJ to share information on carbon capture and storage developments. In addition, EPA serves as a liaison to DOE's National Risk Assessment Partnership to advance its work in developing tools to improve collective understanding of risk at CO₂ storage projects and inform science and risk-based decision-making at geologic sequestration projects; and to explore opportunities to integrate the partnership work into EPA's Class VI permitting process. EPA also will collaborate with DOE and CEQ on several reports and other initiatives related to carbon sequestration requested by Congress, including a report on UIC Class VI permitting. Through the CAA §309 review program, EPA is collaborating with DOE and other agencies as needed to assist with identifying potential impacts and ways to avoid and minimize those impacts from CO₂ storage projects.

Research to Support Water Programs

EPA coordinates with other federal and non-federal research partners on the benefits of protecting, restoring, and building coastal natural infrastructure. EPA, NOAA, USACE, the state of MD, and local universities are collaborating on coastal resilience capabilities and blue carbon sequestration potential of coastal natural infrastructure and applying results to help communities build resilience to flooding, storm surge, and erosion.

The Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) is a multi-agency project to develop an early warning indicator system to detect algal blooms in U.S. freshwater systems. CyAN is an ongoing collaboration between EPA, NASA, NOAA, USGS, and USACE. The CyAN project supports the

²¹⁵ For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/federal-infrastructure-task-force-improve-access-safe-drinking-water-and-basic-sanitation>.

environmental management and public use of lakes and estuaries by providing a useful and accessible approach to detecting and quantifying algal blooms and related water quality using satellite data records.

The North American Nutrient Budgets Working Group comprised of EPA, USGS, USDA, and academic and industry scientists is working together to inform watershed modeling and restoration efforts. This effort is important as it tracks major sources of atmospheric, urban, agricultural, and background/natural sources of nutrient input and outputs into watersheds/political jurisdictions using a variety of methodologies, while also characterizing the uncertainty across those estimates.

EPA has worked closely with a nationwide group of utilities and state/local public health agencies interested in ensuring safe, effective implementation of decentralized water reuse at building and district scales. This Blue Ribbon Commission on Onsite Water Systems develops documents for states and local communities to develop reuse programs, including a risk-based framework for developing public health guidance that draws directly from EPA research.

EPA is collaborating with USDA, USACE, USBR, NOAA, NASA, and non-federal partners (Ground Water Protection Council, Water Research Foundation, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, etc.) to develop a platform for understanding the roles and equities of the various federal agencies and non-federal partners, research gaps, and implementation successes and challenges to advance safe and cost-efficient aquifer storage, recharge, and recovery.

EPA has worked closely with FDA, USDA, and CDC to develop a pilot environmental monitoring effort within the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS). The pilot effort leverages on-going EPA water monitoring programs at the watershed and national scales to address the public health threat of harder to treat infections, spread of disease, and severe illness and death.

Source Water Collaborative

EPA participates in the Source Water Collaborative along with USDA (NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), USFS), USGS, and 25 other national organizations. The goal of the collaborative is to protect sources of drinking water by combining the strengths and tools of its member organizations. EPA provides funding to support these efforts.

Source Water Protection and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

To combat HABs and hypoxia, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014 (HABHRCA) (supports the scientific understanding and the ability to detect, predict, control, mitigate, and respond to HABs and hypoxia. This legislation established the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on HABHRCA (IWG-HABHRCA). It tasked the group with coordinating and convening federal agencies to discuss HAB and hypoxia events in the U.S., and to develop action plans, reports, and assessments of these situations. The IWG-HABHRCA is co-chaired by representatives from EPA and NOAA, and it is composed of the following member agencies and departments: CDC, FDA, NIEHS, USACE, USGS, BOEM, NPS, FWS, NASA, USDA, DOS, and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

2018 Farm Bill Source Water Protection Provisions

EPA collaborates with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), state and utility partners to develop implementation strategies and guidance to comply with the 2018 Farm Bill provisions. These provisions dedicate at least 10 percent of total funds available for conservation programs (apart from the Conservation Reserve Program) to be used for source water protection. In addition, the Agency partners with NRCS to foster collaboration at the state and local levels to identify priority source water protection areas in each state to address agriculture-related impacts to drinking water sources. EPA also is collaborating with USFS in developing strategies to implement the 2018 Farm Bill (Title VIII, Subtitle D, Section 8404) Source Water Protection provisions requiring a “Water Source Protection Program” on National Forest Service (NFS) lands.²¹⁶ EPA is supporting USFS by fostering partnerships with state, utilities, and other water stakeholders.

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

The Agency works with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which implements Farm Bill conservation programs that can help control nonpoint source pollution. The National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) partnership with USDA focuses federal resources on agricultural sources of pollution in select watersheds in every state. Between FY 2017 and FY 2022, over \$43.3 million in Clean Water Act section 319 funding was invested in NWQI watersheds, which was matched by over \$52.4 million in nonfederal funding.²¹⁷ These conservation efforts have reduced sediment loss from cropland by >1.2 million tons, reduced phosphorous loss by >3.4 million pounds and reduced nitrogen loss by >15.2 million pounds.

Gulf Hypoxia Task Force

EPA, as the federal chair of the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force, works with member federal agencies (USDA, NOAA, USGS) and twelve member states to continue implementation of the 2008 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan. A key goal of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan is to improve water quality in the Mississippi River Basin and reduce the size of the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of America by implementing existing and innovative approaches to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the Basin and the Gulf. The Hypoxia Task Force is developing basin-wide metrics, while Task Force member states are using Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act resources to implement nutrient reduction strategies, partner with land grant universities, report on measures to track progress, and identify a need for adaptive management. State support for effective nutrient reduction in the Gulf is coordinated with other Hypoxia Task Force federal member agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Geological Survey, in high-priority watersheds.

Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

The Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, established by section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments,²¹⁸ addresses nonpoint source pollution problems in coastal waters. Section 6217 requires states and territories with approved Coastal Zone Management Programs to develop Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs. In its program, a state or territory describes how it will implement nonpoint source pollution controls, known as

²¹⁶ For more information, please visit: <https://www.usda.gov/farming-and-ranching/farm-bill>.

²¹⁷ Data as of February 20, 2024.

²¹⁸ For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/coastal-zone-act-reauthorization-amendments-czara-ss6217>.

management measures. This program is administered jointly with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration

EPA's Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDA) Program works closely with federal (NOAA, DOI, USDA) and state (5 Gulf states) NRDA co-trustees to evaluate, select, and implement projects to restore Gulf of America natural resources injured by the DWH oil spill. This restoration effort provides the opportunity for EPA and co-Trustees to collaborate on a wide variety of issues across the Gulf that are important to the federal co-Trustees including water quality, nutrient reduction, fisheries, wetlands, marine debris, coastal resilience, monitoring, and adaptive management.

The Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA)

The Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) regulates the disposition of any material in the ocean unless expressly excluded under MPRSA. Under the MPRSA, EPA is responsible for establishing criteria for reviewing and evaluating permit applications, as well as issuing MPRSA permits for materials other than dredged material (for example, MPRSA emergency, research, general, and special permits). This will include addressing MPRSA permitting requests for mitigation approaches including ocean-based carbon dioxide removal activities or ocean-based solar radiation management activities. In the United States, the primary material (in terms of volume) disposed of in the ocean is dredged material, which is sediment that is excavated or otherwise removed from our nation's waterways. The removal of sediment supports a network of coastal ports and harbors that are used for commercial, transportation, national defense and recreational purposes. Under the MPRSA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for issuing ocean dumping permits and federal project authorizations, using EPA's environmental criteria. All MPRSA permits and federal project authorizations for ocean dumping of dredged material are subject to EPA review and written concurrence. EPA and USACE together develop site management and monitoring plans for each designated ocean dredged material disposal site. In the United States, the MPRSA implements the requirements of the London Convention, where EPA collaborates with the State Department, USACE, USACE, USCG, DOE, NOAA, DOD, Navy, NASA, and DOI.

Vessels

EPA works closely under the Clean Water Act to jointly regulate vessels of the armed forces with the Department of Defense through the Department of the Navy. EPA works closely with the U.S. Coast Guard to regulate incidental discharges from commercial vessels – EPA establishes discharge standards that become effective once the Coast Guard issues implementing regulations under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act.

Wetlands

EPA works closely with USACE to oversee and implement the Clean Water Act section 404 permitting program. [Section 404 of the Clean Water Act](#) establishes a program to regulate the discharge of [dredged](#) or [fill](#) material into [waters of the United States](#), including wetlands. EPA develops and interprets policy, [guidance](#), and environmental criteria used in evaluating permit applications; determines scope of [geographic jurisdiction](#) and applicability of exemptions; and

reviews and comments on individual permit applications. EPA also coordinates with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on certain permitting actions.

Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup

EPA works on the Coastal Wetlands Initiative in partnership with a number of federal agencies involved in coastal wetlands conservation, including FWS, NMFS, DOT, USGS, USDA, and USACE. The goal of the Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup is to reduce and reverse the trend of coastal wetland loss. The workgroup has developed a series of recommendations to address coastal wetland loss grouped under five themes: increasing the acreage of wetlands restored in coastal watersheds; reducing loss of coastal wetlands to development; reducing loss of coastal wetlands associated with silviculture in the Southeast; supporting the collection, enhancement, and dissemination of landscape-scale wetland monitoring data; and conducting targeted outreach and stakeholder engagement.

Coral Reef Task Force

EPA partners with other federal agencies in support of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF). The USCRTF was established in 1998 by Presidential Executive Order to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems. The USCRTF includes federal agencies, states, territories, commonwealths, and Freely Associated States. The USCRTF helps build partnerships, strategies, and support for on-the-ground action to conserve coral reefs.

National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC)

EPA partners with other federal agencies, states and other organizations to promote water quality monitoring. The NWQMC includes representatives from NOAA, Forest Service, NRCS, FWS, NPS and participation from USGS. A key deliverable of the NWQMC is the National Monitoring Conference.

National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS)

EPA partners with other federal agencies, states, territories, and tribes in implementation of NARS, a national monitoring network producing statistically representative assessments on the condition of the Nation's rivers and streams, lakes, wetlands, coastal estuaries, and Great Lakes nearshore waters. Federal agencies that have participated in NARS include NRCS, NPS, FS, BLM, and USGS.

Advice about Eating Fish and Shellfish

FDA and EPA collaborate to issue advice regarding eating fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury and other contaminants. This advice is for those who might become pregnant, are pregnant, or are breastfeeding as well as parents and caregivers who are feeding children. It can help people make informed choices about the types of fish that are nutritious and safe to eat.

National Water Reuse Action Plan Development and Implementation

EPA continues to lead the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) in close partnership with our Federal Partners across the full spectrum of water users. Since 2020, the effort has grown to include 157 organizations and 69 coordinated actions, with publicly available products that expand water reuse expertise and address implementation challenges. The Water Reuse Interagency Working Group, formally established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law with participants

from more than ten federal agencies, demonstrates leadership through WRAP implementation and is celebrating its second year of coordinating and developing tools, actions and resources to advance water reuse. In March 2025, EPA released its annual National Water Reuse Action Plan update, highlighting recent accomplishments by action leaders and partners celebrating five years of advancing water use. Federal Partners include components of the Executive Office of the President, HHS, DHS, GSA, USAID, USDA, DOD, DOE, DOI, and the State Department.

Land and Emergency Management Programs

Brownfields

The Brownfields Program partners with the National Park Service's River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to support *Groundwork USA* and individual Groundwork Trust organizations in their efforts to engage youth in brownfields redevelopment and community revitalization. The Program participates with DOC's Economic Development Integration (EDI) team to identify opportunities for greater interagency collaboration for coordinated and effective investment of federal economic development resources.

Regional Brownfields Offices partner with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform targeted brownfield assessments (TBAs) and/or to serve as supplemental grantee project officers to help oversee Brownfields Cooperative Agreements.

Economically Distressed Communities

EPA provides expertise to HUD, DOT, DOC, DHHS, DHS, DOJ, SBA, DOL, and other agencies and departments on the importance of land revitalization, the use of green infrastructure strategies, green demolition, Opportunity Zone efforts, and sustainable development strategies so that the federal government can better assist economically distressed communities.

Superfund Remedial Program

The Superfund Remedial Program maintains ongoing coordination with the ATSDR, NIEHS, HUD, and USACE as well as with the Federal Mining Dialogue and the Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable, two multi-agency consortia. Interaction with these entities enhances program implementation through activities that are mutually beneficial, such as information sharing and resource leveraging. For example, ATSDR has a statutory mandate to complete health assessments on sites listed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), while EPA conducts site characterization and remediation. Moreover, EPA site managers work with their ATSDR counterparts to coordinate public human health messaging. For NIEHS, EPA collaborates and coordinates academic research related to contaminant toxicities, site characterization and remediation and risk communication. EPA collaborates with HUD to facilitate EPA residential risk evaluation and mitigation, while the Agency's work with USACE spans a wide range of technical, management, and acquisition support functions to implement or oversee responsible party Superfund project implementation for the remedial and removal programs. EPA's participation in the Federal Mining Dialogue has established the Agency's role in a multi-agency (e.g., DOE, DOI, etc.) partnership to address abandoned hardrock mining sites on federal and mixed ownership lands. Membership in the Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable facilitates EPA's collaboration with multiple federal entities, such as DOD, NASA, DOT, to advance the use of innovative technologies to clean up hazardous waste contamination.

Superfund Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Program

The Superfund Federal Facilities Program will advance *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by working with our partners at the state and federal levels to ensure projects are being approved to streamline processes that follow the necessary steps to safeguard the environment. EPA's Superfund Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Program coordinates with other federal agencies; state, tribal, territorial, and local governments; and communities to implement its statutory responsibilities to ensure protective and efficient cleanup and reuse of federally contaminated land on the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket and the NPL. Successful coordination requires strong partnerships and enhanced engagement by having regularly scheduled and ad hoc meetings that target and resolve critical programmatic issues, emphasize selection and implementation of protective cleanups, and recognize site reuse opportunities and successes. EPA has committed to early engagement with our partners that focus on issues with a problem-solving and action-oriented approach. EPA partnerships include:

- The Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) and Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) forums present opportunities to partner with federal and state regulators, share information, and facilitate more efficient and effective management of DoD's cleanup program.
- Munitions Response Dialogue partners with DoD research and development programs on munitions management and environmental restoration.
- Intergovernmental Data Quality Task Force is cochaired by EPA, DoD, and DOE to ensure that environmental data are of known and documented quality and suitable for the intended use.
- National Cleanup Dialogue with the DOE supports special emphasis engagement for nuclear weapons sites, the largest and costliest portfolio of remaining federal facilities cleanup work.
- Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, Federal Facilities Research Center Subcommittee promotes and enhances state and territory involvement in the cleanup and reuse of contaminated federal facilities.
- Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council is a state-led coalition working to reduce barriers to the use of innovative air, water, waste, and remediation environmental technologies and processes.
- Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable works to build a collaborative atmosphere among federal agencies involved in hazardous waste cleanup.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Programs

The RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup (formerly Corrective Action) Program coordinates closely with OFAs, primarily DOD and DOE, which have many hazardous waste cleanup facilities. A top Agency priority is to help federal facilities meet the Program's goals of investigating and cleaning up hazardous releases. EPA also coordinates with other agencies on cleanup and disposal issues posed by PCBs under the authority of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Emergency Preparedness and Response

EPA plays a major role in reducing the risks that accidental and intentional releases of harmful substances and oil pose to human health and the environment, ensuring every American has access to clean air, land, and water. EPA's leadership in federal preparedness begins with co-chairing the

National Response Team (NRT) and the 13 Regional Response Teams with the USCG. These teams have member participation from other key federal agencies and deliver federal assistance to state and local governments to plan for and respond to natural disasters and other major environmental incidents. This requires cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships with many federal, state, and local agencies to increase efficiency and effectiveness in every response. The Agency participates with other federal agencies to develop national planning and implementation policies at the operational level while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.

The National Response Framework (NRF), under the direction of DHS, provides federal assistance resources to help states manage the consequences of terrorist events, acts of malfeasance, as well as natural and other significant disasters. This coordinated effort eliminates fraud, waste, and abuse of resource distribution. EPA maintains the lead responsibility for the NRF's Emergency Support Function #10 (covering inland hazardous materials and petroleum releases) and participates in the Federal Emergency Support Function Leaders Group which addresses NRF planning and implementation at the operational level. These collective approaches follow the principles of the *Powering the Great American Comeback* Initiatives to achieve the Agency's mission while energizing the greatness of the American economy.

Oil Spills

Under the Oil Spill Program, EPA provides assistance to agencies such as FWS and the USCG and works in coordination to address oil spills nationwide. EPA also assists agencies with judicial referrals when enforcement of violations becomes necessary. Further, the U.S. Coast Guard has been a valuable partner in coordinating efforts that increase efficiency and effectiveness to address oil spills nationwide. Through cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships, the Agency ensures national safety and security for chemical and oil incidents by serving as first responders to oil spill notifications received from the National Response Center. This ensures every American has access to clean air, land, and water. It also sustains remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensures resources continue to advance the mission while minimizing fraud, wastes and abuse of resources.

Strengthen Human Health and Environmental Protection in Indian Country

EPA, DOI, DHHS, USDA, and HUD work through several MOUs as partners to improve infrastructure on tribal lands. All five federal partners have committed to continue federal coordination in delivering services to tribal communities. The Infrastructure Task Force has built on prior partner successes, including improved access to funding and reduced administrative burden for tribal communities through the review and streamlining of agency policies, regulations, and directives as well as improved coordination of technical assistance to water service providers and solid waste managers through regular coordination meetings and web-based tools.

Homeland Security

EPA's Homeland Security, Preparedness and Response Program continues to develop and maintain agency assets and capabilities to respond to and support nationally significant incidents with emphasis on those involving chemical warfare agents. These include anything chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN). The Program implements a broad range of activities for a variety of internal and multi-agency efforts consistent with the NRF and the Homeland

Security Presidential Directives that EPA leads or supports. This includes being the lead analytical agency for environmental sampling during a CWA incident. Cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships are essential to keeping the American people safe from hazardous agents. Coordinating preparedness activities with DHS, FEMA, FBI, and other federal, state and local agencies will streamline business operations performed to safeguard the environment, boost infrastructure, and bring back American jobs that will allow the nation to thrive. It also will restore trust and support the needs of the American people.

Research to Support Homeland Security

EPA facilitates cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships to increase Homeland Security responsiveness and action plans that will leverage funding across multiple programs and produce synergistic results. This reduces time and cost to ensure clean air, land, and water for every American is safe and accessible. EPA's Homeland Security measures and action plans include coordinated efforts with DHS to support decisions made as a lead agency responsible for cleanup during a Stafford Act declaration, under ESF-10, as the lead agency for water infrastructure. EPA also coordinates with DOD and its sub-organizations to perform analysis and review of work related to biological and chemical warfare agents. Further, EPA participates in a tri-agency analytical incident response partnership (Technical Coordination Working Group [TCWG]) with DOD and DHS that focuses on assessing chemical and biological defense deficiencies and potential vulnerabilities. TCWG activities include but are not limited to: information sharing; multi-media refinement; and complementing policies. EPA also collaborates with CDC in conducting biological agent assessments and evaluations.

The Agency works with these aforementioned entities and others to address areas of mutual interest and concern related to both homeland security cleanup and water infrastructure protection issues. The Program conducts joint analysis and evaluations with USDA and DOI to gather data and best approaches essential to address homeland security threats at the intersection of the environment/public health and agriculture/natural resources. EPA also partners with DOE to access and perform analysis at DOE's National Laboratories. These specialized facilities, facilitate establishing the Water Security Test Bed to develop analytical capabilities for biological and chemical agents in environmental matrices.

Research to Support Land and Emergency Management Programs

EPA utilized cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships to minimize duplication, maximize scope, and maintain a real-time information flow for land and emergency management issues. These partnerships include programs with the USFS, USGS, USDA, NOAA, BLM, and many others to protect human health and the environment. EPA coordinates its program office work initiatives to support a range of environmental priorities at other federal agencies, including work with DOD in the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program other areas that align with the *Powering the Great American Comeback* Initiatives to achieve EPA's mission to protect the human health and the environment while energizing the greatness of the American economy.

The Agency also conducts collaborative laboratory work efforts with DOD, DOE, DOI, and NASA to improve characterization and risk management options for dealing with subsurface contamination. EPA, USACE, and the U.S. Navy signed an MOU to increase collaboration and

coordination in contaminated sediments. This initiative will improve efficiency and effectiveness in analysis and site evaluations. EPA also works through the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council (ITRC) in defining continuing project needs through its teams on topics including permeable reactive barriers, radionuclides, and brownfields. These efforts ensure every American has access to clean air, land, and water while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.

Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Programs

Coordination for General Issues Relating to Chemical Safety

EPA established an Interagency Policy Group comprised of other federal agencies with interest and expertise in chemical issues to hold periodic meetings to obtain input on significant actions such as the TSCA risk evaluations, rules, and potential existing chemical candidates for Prioritization under TSCA. The agencies on the Interagency Policy Group include: CPSC, DOD, OMB, NASA, DOL, SBA, NIH, FDA, and CDC. EPA has utilized this group to review TSCA materials including, but not limited to, documents related to the scoping of existing chemicals for risk evaluation. Additionally, EPA has initiated regular engagement with both NIOSH and OSHA to discuss occupational exposure assessments and risk management, including communication and coordination on EPA's effort to develop occupational exposure limits under TSCA for chemicals regulated under TSCA 6 found to pose unreasonable risks to workers. In addition, EPA is continuing efforts to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OSHA relating to development of risk evaluations and implementation of final TSCA section 6 rules to ensure that there is clear understanding between both agencies about actions affecting a shared regulated community.

EPA also engages in biannual meetings with the OMNE Committee,²¹⁹ which includes the OSHA, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), NIOSH, and the NIEHS. The OMNE Committee exists to provide a venue for federal agencies to share information and coordinate activities regarding proposed rules, risk assessments, and risk management strategies for controlling exposure to chemicals.

Furthermore, EPA is actively engaged in multiple working groups related to the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) including the US - EU Community of Researchers for Nanotechnology, the Interagency Nano-plastics group, the Nanotechnology Signature Initiative for Sensors and the Nanotechnology Environmental and Health Implications (NEHI) working group.

Interagency Testing Committee

TSCA section 4(e) created the TSCA Interagency Testing Committee (ITC) as an independent advisory committee to the Administrator of the U.S. EPA. The ITC was created to make recommendations to the EPA Administrator on prioritizing and selecting chemicals for testing or information reporting to meet the coordinated data needs of its member U.S. Government organizations. These chemicals are added to the "Priority Testing List". The ITC meets every six months to discuss testing needs and transmits any recommended revisions to the Priority Testing List to the EPA Administrator for action and publication in the Federal Register. In addition to

²¹⁹ The OMNE Committee is named for the first letter in each participating Agency's name.

EPA, statutory members of the ITC include CPSC, CEQ, DOC, FDA, NIEHS, NIOSH, NSF, and OSHA. Liaison members include ATSDR, DOD, DOI, and USDA.

Federal Lead Action Plan

Established by Executive Order 13045,²²⁰ the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children comprises 17 federal departments and offices and is co-chaired by the Secretary of DHHS and the EPA Administrator. In December 2018, through cross-governmental collaboration, the Task Force unveiled the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts (Federal Lead Action Plan). The Federal Lead Action Plan is a blueprint for reducing lead exposure and associated harms by working with a range of stakeholders, including states, tribes, and local communities, along with businesses, property owners and parents. In 2019, EPA released the *Implementation Status Report for EPA Actions under the December 2018 Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts*²²¹ and *Progress Report on the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts*.²²² In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to lead those goals and actions, coordinate with federal, state, tribal and community partners to amplify the impacts, and report on activities and implementation, as appropriate.

Participation in International Agreements addressing Chemicals and Pesticide Management

To participate effectively in international agreements addressing chemicals and pesticide management (e.g., the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, CODEX Alimentarius, and a wide range of multilateral, regional, and bilateral free trade agreements), EPA coordinates with other federal agencies, such as the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), DOS, DOC, USDA, DOE, FDA, and DHHS on a regular basis to develop the policy views and positions of the United States.

EPA also coordinates with other parts of the U.S. government, including the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), NIH, and CPSC, on more technical international matters related to the safety and management of chemicals and pesticides. At the regional and global levels, EPA engages in bilateral cooperation and information exchange with a wide range of countries and regional organizations, such as the European Union (EU), Canada, China, Australia, Japan, Brazil, and many others.

In addition to participating in the U.S. Government trade development process, EPA also specifically engages in trilateral cooperation with Canada and Mexico through the U.S.–Mexico–Canada (USMCA) Free Trade Agreement, particularly with respect to the provisions related to agriculture, technical barriers to trade, and environment, among others. Such engagement is designed to promote further trade and regional cooperation among the three governments through targeted efforts and technical working groups. EPA is engaged within the USMCA's CEC on a

²²⁰ For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/children/executive-order-13045-protection-children-environmental-health-risks-and-safety-risks>.

²²¹ For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-04/documents/leadimplementationbooklet_april2019.pdf.

²²² For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-10/documents/lead_action_plan_booklet_v8_004.pdf.

project to build transparency on industrial chemical releases and transfers of waste to support increased data compatibility, digital tools for analyzing waste handling practices and identification of potential compliance issues and strategies to promote pollution prevention opportunities. More broadly, EPA is working within the USMCA's CEC on projects to identify strategies to address pollutants, especially short-lived pollutants, encourage nature-based solutions and other pollution prevention approaches, and support community resilience and adaptation strategies.

EPA has a longstanding program of cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on various topics of mutual concern such as the development of guidance, methods, tools, and sharing of best practices in the areas of risk assessment and risk management of chemicals and pesticides. For example, EPA serves as the National Coordinator for the United States in support of the OECD Test Guidelines Program's mutual acceptance of data work, which aims to reduce the need to repeat health effects studies due to incompatible test protocols. Additionally, among others working groups and committees, EPA is engaged in the OECD Working Party on Pesticides (WPP), which shares pesticide registration work and develop tools to monitor and minimize pesticide risk to human health and the environment, and with the Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee, which oversees eleven working groups and other subsidiary bodies in the chemicals and pesticide arenas. In addition, EPA chairs the OECD Working Party on Risk Management, which share information relating to activities relevant to regulatory and non-regulatory risk management efforts.

EPA also is committed in a trilateral agreement with European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and Health Canada to share data via the IUCLID software application and has made significant strides in this regard to develop a mutually agreeable legal agreement and identify records available for sharing. ECHA is further committed to supporting the US and other OECD member countries to adopt IUCLID as a chemical information management system. EPA is working in close collaboration with ECHA to support EPA's increasing use of IUCLID and to revise IUCLID and OECD Harmonized Templates to incorporate EPA's data needs.

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

EPA also participates significantly with other agencies and international organizations in the development, coordination, and delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance. For example, EPA is collaborating with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to address the many inquiries from foreign countries on pesticide registrations, standard setting processes, maximum residue level (MRL) harmonization, and risk assessment procedures. The Agency also collaborates with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on research on foreign animal disease to determine decontamination and waste management strategies following large outbreaks impacting livestock (e.g., African Swine Fever, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza).

Certification and Training, Worker Protection, IPM, and Environmental Stewardship

EPA will continue to coordinate with USDA, DOD, DOI, DOE, tribes, territories, and states to implement Certification Plans for pesticide applicators who use the riskiest pesticides. EPA provides technical guidance and assistance to the states and tribes in the implementation of all pesticide program activities, such as protecting workers, promoting Integrated Pest Management and environmental stewardship. EPA also provides support through grants, cooperative

agreements, or interagency agreements with states, tribes, and other partners, including universities, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, pesticide users, environmental groups, and other entities, as necessary, to assist in strengthening and implementing EPA's pesticide activities, such as worker protection, pollinator protection and certifying pesticide applicators.

Assessing Potential Pesticide Risks with Supplemental Data

EPA relies on data from DHHS and USDA to supplement data from the pesticide industry to assist the Agency in assessing the potential risks of pesticides in the diets of adults and children. Specifically, EPA uses National Health and Nutrition Survey (NHANES) food consumption survey data developed by the DHHS, as well as pesticide residue data in food commodities generated by the USDA in its Pesticide Data Program (PDP) as inputs for dietary risk assessment.

Endangered Species & Pollinator Protection

EPA will continue collaborating with the USDA, FWS, and NMFS on protecting endangered and threatened species and improving methods for assessing potential risks and effects of pesticides to them. EPA, in cooperation with USDA, other federal agencies, state agencies, tribes, territories, and other entities, will continue to address pesticide risks to bees and other pollinators which are critical to our environment and the production of food crops.

Public Health Protection and Initiatives

EPA regularly consults and collaborates with DHHS, USDA, FDA, and DOD on pesticide actions that may have implications for public health. Additional efforts are being made to implement a framework intended to expand the federal government's process for assessing the risk that certain antibacterial or antifungal pesticides may pose to the effectiveness of human and animal drugs.

Homeland Security—Protecting Food & Agriculture Sectors

EPA collaborates with the agencies such as DOD, DHS, DHHS, USDA, FDA, FEMA, and other federal, tribal, and state organizations on a variety of homeland security issues as part of the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) For Food and Agriculture. The issues focus on protecting the public and food and agriculture sector from various threats (e.g., biological agents, diseases, or natural disasters) which are vital to critical functions of the government and private sector. EPA collaborates with these organizations on many issues such as research pertaining to effective disinfectants for high threat microorganisms, planning for response to various potential incidents, training and development of policies and guidelines. Technical and analytical support is provided to EPA Regions and states specific to enforcement and litigation of possible illegal pesticides and/or contamination of registered products. In addition to GCC efforts, EPA continues to partner with the OSHA, NIOSH, and CPSC on risk assessment and risk mitigation activities.

Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) and State and Tribal Stakeholder Groups

One of the Agency's methods for receiving input on pesticide issues has been the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC), a Federal Advisory Committee, that brings together a broad cross-section of knowledgeable stakeholders from organizations that represent divergent views in order to discuss pesticide regulatory, policy, and implementation issues. The PPDC includes members from federal and state governments, industry/trade associations, pesticide user and commodity groups, consumer and environmental/public interest groups, and others. The

PPDC provides a structured environment for meaningful information exchanges and discussions, and keeping the public involved in decisions that affect them. Dialogue with outside groups is essential for the Agency to remain responsive to the needs of its many partners. EPA also works extensively with the Association of American Pest Control Officials and the Tribal Pesticide Program Council to maximize communication with states, tribes, and territories on pesticide implementation issues.

General Research to Support Chemical Safety

EPA participates in a multi-agency effort under the *Tox21* Consortium. *Tox21* pools chemical research, data and screening tools from multiple federal agencies including the NIH and FDA. EPA has contributed a chemical library, currently exceeding 4,000 chemicals, to the *Tox21* testing program.^{223,224} Nearly all of this library includes data from EPA's Toxicity Forecaster (ToxCastTM), an effort that utilizes existing resources to develop faster, more thorough predictions of how chemicals may affect human and environmental health. The *Tox21* Consortium has screened thousands of chemicals with more than 80 assays, resulting in more than 150 million data points which can inform decision making regarding the safety of chemicals. The full *Tox21* library comprises approximately equal sized contributions from EPA, the National Toxicology Program (NTP), and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).

EPA is committed to working collaboratively with federal, state, tribal, and local partners to address the challenges posed by PFAS. Efforts include working with other federal agencies to address scientific challenges such as the lack of published toxicity data for most PFAS chemicals. The results are being used to identify categories of PFAS chemicals having similar structural and toxicological properties that may inform the development and strength of predictive toxicological models.²²⁵ EPA anticipates continued interagency collaboration on PFAS research and development efforts as required by the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.²²⁶

EPA's chemical safety research strongly supports the development of New Approach Methods (NAMs), which improve the Agency's understanding of chemical toxicity. EPA research informed development of a guidance document, published in June 2023,²²⁷ on the use of developmental neurotoxicity NAMs data in Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment (IATA) case studies. This work was done in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other international regulatory partners.

Research to Support Agencywide Risk Assessment Activities

EPA collaborates globally with other federal agencies on research to accelerate the pace of chemical risk assessment and to provide greater regulatory certainty for the public. EPA is working with Health Canada, the European Joint Research Center, and the European Chemicals Agency

²²³ Collins, F.S., Gray, G.M., and Bucher, J.R. (2008). Transforming environmental health protection. *Science*, 319, 906–907. doi: [10.1126/science.1154619](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1154619).

²²⁴ Tice, R.R., Austin, C.P., Kavlock, R.J., and Bucher, J.R. (2013). Improving the human hazard characterization of chemicals: a *Tox21* update. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 121, 756–765. doi: [10.1289/ehp.1205784](https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1205784).

²²⁵ Seminal paper on categorization of PFAS: [Development of chemical categories for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) and the proof-of-concept approach to the identification of potential candidates for tiered toxicological testing and human health assessment \(Patlewicz et al., 2024\)](#).

²²⁶ For more information, please visit: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4049>.

²²⁷ For more information on the OECD guidance document, see: <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/assessment-of-chemicals/integrated-approaches-to-testing-and-assessment.html>.

(ECHA) on the development and testing of new non-animal approach methodologies to evaluate chemicals quickly and cost-effectively for safety. These new approach methods are a critical part of implementing the TSCA Strategic Plan to reduce, refine, and replace the use of vertebrates in toxicity testing and evaluation. EPA also commenced work with Health Canada and ECHA to promote sharing of non-confidential chemical safety information with the intent of advancing chemical evaluations across regulatory jurisdictions. This collaborative approach will help EPA and other federal agencies screen, prioritize, and evaluate chemicals. Finally, EPA is engaged in multiple OECD chemical safety groups that share information, expertise, and research results related to chemical safety. Ultimately, these international efforts will work toward creating internationally harmonized methods and transparent data reporting requirements for industry, thereby reducing regulatory uncertainty and the economic burden of chemical safety testing for commercial entities.

EPA consults and collaborates routinely with other federal agencies to improve the rigor and consistency of the science and practice of risk assessment. EPA engages on the science of individual assessments. EPA also coordinates, respectively, with ATSDR, through an MOU on the development of toxicological assessments; NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program, on assessment methodology, software, and assay development platforms; FDA on advisories and reports; and DOD on assessment development methods. EPA serves as advisors to federal and international agencies and departments (*e.g.*, EFSA and Health Canada) to review and provide scientific input on risk assessment related topics. In addition, EPA collaborates with other federal agencies on complex human health assessment science topics through workshops, including those managed by National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). EPA also participates in the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) to work towards increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. federal agency test method review, eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort, sharing experience among U.S. federal regulatory agencies, and reducing, refining, and replacing the use of animals in testing.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program (EPP) collaborates closely with partner federal agencies in developing, refining, and issuing EPA's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing. Through FY 2023 these recommendations have been maintained and updated to include 48 private sector standards and ecolabels that cover 30 product and service categories commonly acquired through federal purchasing. These recommendations help federal procurement officials determine which private sector standards and ecolabels, among sometimes dozens within a single purchase category, are appropriate and effective in meeting federal procurement goals and mandates for environmental performance. The EPP Program's work has generated significant cost savings and environmental benefits to the federal government.

EPA also coordinates federal procurement programs that integrate environmental performance into procurement, including building software tools for seamlessly integrating sustainable procurement conditions and language into government procurement solicitations and contracts. Environmental benefits calculators help federal agencies document the environment performance and benefits associated with their sustainable procurement. Working with the General Services Administration, the EPP Program assists in identifying and highlighting best-in-class existing blanket purchase

contracts to further support and streamline efforts by federal procurement officials to meet federal environmental and cost effectiveness goals, putting tools into the hands of federal procurement officials, and collaborating with federal agencies such as the General Services Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Departments of Defense and Energy, and others.

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Programs

General Enforcement Coordination

The Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program coordinates closely with:

- DOJ on all civil and criminal environmental enforcement matters. In addition, the Program has coordinated with other agencies on specific environmental issues as described herein;
- The Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, OSHA, and ATSDR in preventing and responding to accidental releases and endangerment situations;
- DOI's Bureau of Indian Affairs, and DHHS's IHS on issues relative to compliance with environmental laws in Indian country;
- The DOC and SBA on the implementation of SBREFA. In addition, it has collaborated with the SBA to maintain current environmental compliance information at *Business.gov*, a website initiated as an e-government initiative in 2004, to help small businesses comply with government regulations. The IRS on cases that require defendants to pay civil penalties, thereby assisting the IRS in assuring compliance with tax laws;
- USACE on wetlands issues;
- DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on pipeline spills; and,
- USDA on the regulation of animal feeding operations and on food safety issues arising from the misuse of pesticides and shares joint jurisdiction with the Federal Trade Commission on pesticide labeling and advertising.

International Trade

EPA works with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on implementing the secure International Trade Data System (ITDS) across all federal agencies and on pesticide imports and on hazardous waste and Cathode Ray Tube exports, as well as on a variety of other import/export issues under the various statutes (*e.g.*, imports of vehicles and engines).

Coordination on Issues Involving Shared Jurisdiction

EPA and FDA share jurisdiction over general-purpose disinfectants used on non-critical surfaces and some dental and medical equipment surfaces. EPA and FDA also collaborate and share information on Good Laboratory Program inspections to avoid duplication of inspections and maximize efficient use of limited resources. The Agency has entered into an agreement with the HUD concerning enforcement of the TSCA lead-based paint notification requirements. The Agency has coordinated with the USCG under the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, and on discharges of pollutant from ships and oil spills under the CWA. EPA also works with the DOI on CWA permit enforcement on the Outer Continental Shelf, as well as both the Interior and Transportation Departments on enforcement of CWA requirements for offshore facilities.

Criminal Enforcement

EPA's Criminal Enforcement Program coordinates with the CBP, FBI, DOI, DOD, DOJ, DOL, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, IRS-Criminal Investigations, USCG, U.S. Treasury, and international, state, tribal, and local law enforcement and regulatory organizations in the investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes. This work focuses criminal enforcement resources on the most impactful environmental challenges to achieve the highest degree of deterrence amongst the regulated community and to hold individuals and organizations to account for their wrongdoing. The Criminal Enforcement Program further coordinates extensively with inter-agency partners to investigative and disrupt organized crime elements that are involved in the illegal importation of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), unregistered pesticides, and other toxics. The misconduct by criminal elements and other violators not only disadvantages those companies following the rules but often has negative impacts on public health and the environment on which we depend. Criminal Enforcement further works extensively with our inter-agency law enforcement partners in responding to natural disasters and performing law enforcement support activities pursuant to Emergency Support Functions within the National Response Framework. Additionally, EPA works with DOJ to establish task forces that bring together federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement organizations to address environmental crimes. EPA has an Interagency Agreement with DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division to develop the first federal Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program. This allows both agencies to meet their statutory obligations under the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA) and the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (VRRRA), to make sure that environmental crime victims are notified of and accorded their rights under the CVRA and VRRRA. In addition, the Program has an Interagency Agreement with the DHS to provide specialized criminal environmental training to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement personnel at the Federal Law Enforcement Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia.

Monitoring the Environmental Compliance of Federal Agencies

Executive Order 12088 on *Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards* directs EPA to monitor compliance by federal agencies with all environmental laws. The Federal Facility Enforcement Program coordinates with other federal state, tribal, and local agencies to ensure compliance by federal agencies with all environmental laws. EPA works through the Federal Facilities Environmental Stewardship and Compliance Assistance Center (www.fedcenter.gov), which is governed by a board of more than a dozen contributing federal agencies. EPA also partners with other federal agencies to identify ways to expedite cleanup of Superfund sites and prevent and address regulatory compliance issues.

Superfund Enforcement

EPA (generally other agency jurisdiction). As required by Executive Order 13016, other departments and agencies must receive concurrence from EPA before use of CERCLA Section 106 authority. coordinates with OFAs in their use of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) enforcement authority. This includes the coordinated use of such authority at individual hazardous waste sites that are located on both non-federal land (generally EPA jurisdiction) and federal lands (generally other agency jurisdiction). As required by Executive Order 13016, other departments and agencies must receive concurrence from EPA before use of CERCLA Section 106 authority. coordinates with OFAs in their use of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) enforcement authority.

This includes the coordinated use of such authority at individual hazardous waste sites that are located on both non-federal land (generally EPA jurisdiction) and federal lands (generally other agency jurisdiction). As required by Executive Order 13016, other departments and agencies must receive concurrence from EPA before use of CERCLA Section 106 authority. coordinates with OFAs in their use of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) enforcement authority. This includes the coordinated use of such authority at individual hazardous waste sites that are located on both non-federal land (generally EPA jurisdiction) and federal lands (generally other agency jurisdiction). As required by Executive Order 13016, other departments and agencies must receive concurrence from EPA before use of CERCLA Section 106 authority.

In addition, EPA coordinates closely with Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs), such as BLM and USFS, at mixed ownership sites (*i.e.*, those sites located partially on privately-owned land and partially on federally owned land) pursuant to Executive Order 12580. EPA frequently enters into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with FLMAs designed to provide a framework for agencies to coordinate response actions. EPA also meets with DOI, USDA, and other agencies as part of the Federal Mining Dialogue, to discuss developments arising out of the CERCLA work at such sites. EPA leads the Federal Mining Dialogue's Enforcement Subcommittee.

EPA also coordinates with DOI, USDA, DOC, DOE, and DOD to ensure that appropriate and timely notices, required under CERCLA, are sent to the Natural Resource Trustees notifying them of potential damages to natural resources. EPA also coordinates with Natural Resource Trustees on natural resource damage assessments, investigations, and planning of response activities under Section 104 of CERCLA. When an enforcement action is initiated at a site where hazardous substances are found to have caused damages to natural resources, EPA coordinates with the Trustees by including them in negotiations with potentially responsible parties concerning the releases that have caused those damages.

Under Executive Order 12580, EPA's Superfund Federal Facilities Enforcement Program assists federal agencies in complying with CERCLA, and ensures that: (1) all federal facility sites on the NPL have interagency agreements, also known as Federal Facility Agreements (FFAs) with enforceable cleanup schedules; (2) FFAs are monitored for compliance; (3) federal sites are transferred to new owners in an environmentally responsible manner; and (4) compliance assistance is available to the extent possible. This program also ensures that federal agencies comply with Superfund cleanup obligations "in the same manner and to the same extent" as private entities. To enable the cleanup and reuse of such sites, the Federal Facilities Enforcement Program also has coordinated creative solutions that help restore facilities, so they can once again serve an important role in the economy and welfare of local communities, and the country.

International and Tribal Affairs Programs

Supporting Global Policy to Reduce Pollution and Harmful Chemicals

EPA is working in close coordination with the Department of State, USAID, NOAA, and other key Agencies on the development of a global agreement on plastic pollution. These partnerships help identify domestic activities that EPA can implement to reduce plastic pollution and leakage into the marine environment. In addition, EPA continues to provide technical assistance to reduce

plastic pollution through the Agency's Trash Free Waters Program.

EPA has a strong network of partners working to achieve reductions in global mercury use and emissions, particularly when adverse U.S. impacts would be likely. EPA works closely with the DOS in leading the technical and policy engagement for the U.S. in the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the multi-stakeholder Global Mercury Partnership. In addition, EPA collaborates with several federal agencies including USGS and USAID to advance robust implementation of the Minamata Convention by other countries. EPA also continues to share information through the Arctic Council on reducing releases of mercury which disproportionately impact indigenous arctic communities.

EPA also works with USDA, OMB, and FDA on the on reducing food waste which includes international cooperation on measuring food waste reductions and pilot activities that can create market opportunities for U.S. technologies and innovation.

Integrating Environmental Principles to Reduce Pollution

EPA works with international partners, such as foreign governments and international organizations, to deploy assistance that can strengthen on the ground action to reduce transboundary pollution that impacts local communities and travels through the environment to impact other communities across the globe, and that strengthen fundamental environmental rule of law. An important example of this work is EPA's efforts to identify environmental best practices and standards in the critical minerals supply chain. This work entails significant dialogue and coordination. EPA also leads engagement on key issues in the Group of Seven (G7) and the Group of Twenty (G20) through environment ministerial meetings which negotiates key outcomes on issues such as food waste, marine litter, resource efficiency, air quality and pollution prevention. EPA's engagement with international financial institutions, United Nations (UN) entities, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation (OECD). EPA also coordinates with the Department of State, the US Trade Representative and U.S. Trade partners to integrate environmental principles into domestic environmental governance cooperation within national jurisdictions.

Supporting Environmental Priorities in Global Trade Policy and Implementation of Environmental Cooperation Agreements

EPA is a member of the Trade Policy Staff Committee, the Trade Policy Review Group, and relevant subcommittees – interagency mechanisms that provide advice, guidance, and clearance to USTR in the development of U.S. international trade and investment policy. EPA, DOS and USAID work together in Central America on Free-Trade Agreements and in Southeast Asia and parts of Africa.

EPA will continue work on implementation of the Environment Chapter of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and other free trade agreements. EPA also continues active participation in the United States Trade Representative (USTR)-led Interagency Environment Committee for Monitoring and Environment (IECME) established to promote Mexican and Canadian compliance with their environmental obligations. In addition, EPA continues to work with partners (including the U.S. Treasury, State Department, USAID, and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation), to improve environmental governance of U.S. funded international development projects.

Addressing Transboundary Pollution

EPA collaborates with countries around the world to address foreign sources of pollution in coordination with DOS, USAID, DOJ, Treasury, and others. EPA works closely with DHHS to advance recognition of environmental risk factors of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and how to mitigate the risks, including from lead and mercury. In addition, EPA continues to strengthen its activities in the Arctic by working with Alaska, tribes, federal agencies, and the private sector to build international support for U.S. environmental policy objectives with the Arctic countries and continues to engage in Arctic Council cooperation pursuant to parameters set out by the National Security Council and the Department of State. These objectives cover a range of topics, including reducing harmful air emissions and exposure to mercury. Further, EPA collaborates with DOS, the Government of Canada, tribes, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to address transboundary water pollution caused by historic and current mining practices in the Kootenai watershed.

EPA continues to work in partnership with Mexico's National Water Commission (CONAGUA) and the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to reduce the wastewater pollution in the Tijuana River, its tributaries, and the Pacific Ocean. In FY 2022, EPA and CONAGUA signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) identifying projects to be implemented in the short- and long-term to stem the flow of transboundary pollution in the San Diego/Tijuana region. Concurrently, the USIBWC and CILA (USIBWC's counterpart in Mexico) signed Minute 328 as the first step in binational implementation of the SOI, including operations and maintenance cost-sharing for the proposed expansion of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (ITP). EPA actively participates in monthly meetings with USIBWC and CONAGUA to track progress on projects and advance the commitments made in these two binational agreements.

Working in Indian Country

EPA is an active participant in the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNA). The WHCNA is an interagency principals-level council established in June 2013 in response to requests from tribal leaders across Indian country for a Cabinet-level council to uphold treaty and trust obligations, support the Nation-to-Nation relationship, and improve tribal engagement and consultation.

EPA also serves as the co-lead (with DOI and the DOS) on the WHCNA International Indigenous Issues Committee. Within this Committee, EPA is the co-lead on two subcommittees, including Cross Border Issues. EPA also is an active member on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Working Group. Additionally, EPA is involved as a participant on the WHCNA Health Committee, the Economic Development, Energy, and Infrastructure Committee, the soon-to-be-established Emergency Management and Disaster Response Working Group, the Sacred Sites Work Group, and the Critical Minerals Working Group.

Central Planning, Budgeting and Finance Programs

Working with Federal Partners on Improving Management and Accountability throughout the Federal Government

EPA coordinates appropriately with Congress and other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Treasury, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and GSA. EPA participates and makes active contributions to standing interagency management committees, including:

- The Chief Financial Officers Council, which focuses on improving resources management and accountability throughout the federal government.
- The Performance Improvement Council, which coordinates and develops strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reports as required by law.
- OMB-led E-Government initiatives, such as the Financial Management and Budget Formulation and Execution Lines of Business.
- The Bureau of Census-maintained Federal Assistance Awards Data System.
- The President's Management Council, which oversees developing and implementing Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) goals; and
- The Evaluation Officer Council, which serves as a forum to exchange information with the broader Federal evaluation community.
- Budget Formulation and Execution Lines of Business builds a "budget office of the future" by promoting information sharing across Federal government budget offices and building a budget "community of practice." Through this government-wide effort, the budget community is developing common tools and identifying best practices for all aspects of budget formulation and execution.
- Performance.gov allows the public to learn more about the President's Management Agenda (PMA), the federal performance management framework, and the federal goal-setting process to define success and drive progress in key management areas and priorities. The Federal Government uses the Framework to manage the organizational performance of federal agencies and achieve the vision set out in a President's Management Agenda. Performance.gov communicates the goals and objectives the federal government is working to accomplish, how it seeks to accomplish those goals, and why these efforts are important. All Agencies have pages on Performance.gov. Each page provides an overview of the Agency, mission, priority goals to be achieved, and links to its strategic and performance plans and reports.

Provide Government-to-Government Employee Relocation Services

EPA provides government-to-government employee relocation services via interagency agreements through EPA's Federal Employee Relocation Center (FERC) as a Working Capital Fund (WCF) activity. EPA-FERC provides "one-stop shop" domestic and international relocation services to other federal agencies to increase operational efficiency and save the government money. Relocation services are currently provided internally to all EPA offices, and externally to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Personnel Management (OPM), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Health and Human Services Office of Global Affairs (HHS-OGA), United States Agency of Global Media (USAGM), and Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

Mission Support Programs

Working with Federal Partners on Improving Management and Accountability throughout the Federal Government

EPA provides leadership and expertise to government-wide activities in various areas of human resources, grants management, contracts management, suspension and debarment and homeland security. These activities include specific collaboration efforts through:

- The Chief Human Capital Officers Council, a group of senior leaders that discuss human capital initiatives across the federal government.
- The Interagency Chief Learning Officer Council is a central body comprised of Chief Learning Officers (CLO) or their equivalents that meet periodically to share best practices and create engaging learning opportunities for U.S. Government agencies and organizations. The CLO Council formally serves as an Advisory Committee and has generated measurable results to support the CHCOs and OPM on workforce development.
- The Chief Acquisition Officers Council, the principal interagency forum for monitoring and improving the federal acquisition system. The Council also is focused on promoting the President's specific initiatives and policies in all aspects of the acquisition system.
- The Award Committee for E-Government (E-Gov) provides strategic vision for the portfolio of systems/federal wide supporting both federal acquisition and financial assistance. Support also is provided to the associated functional community groups, including the Procurement Committee for E-Gov, the Financial Assistance Committee for E-Gov, and the Intergovernmental Transaction Working Group.
- The Grants Quality Service Management Office (QSMO) leads efforts to transform the federal grants management process by focusing on standardization and modernization of grants systems to increase efficiency and reduce burden for grant applicants, recipients, and the federal grants workforce; and better leveraging the buying power of the government to access high-quality shared solutions and reduce costs. The Grants QSMO supports the work of OMB's Office of Federal Financial Management and Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer and GSA's Office of Shared Solutions and Performance Improvement.
- The Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee (ISDC), a representative committee of federal agency leaders in suspension and debarment. The Committee facilitates lead agency coordination, serves as a forum to discuss current suspension and debarment related issues, and assists in developing unified federal policy. Besides participating in the ISDC, EPA: (1) provides instructors for the National Suspension and Debarment Training Program offered through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and (2) supports the development of coursework and training on the suspension and debarment process for the Inspector General Academy and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.
- The Financial Management Line of Business (FMLoB) has been expanded to also encompass the Grants Management Line of Business. The combined FMLoB, with U.S. Treasury as the managing partner, will more closely align the financial assistance and financial management communities around effective and efficient management of funds. EPA also participates in the Grants.gov Users' Group, as well as the Federal Demonstration Partnership which is designed to reduce the administrative burdens associated with research grants. The Interagency Committee on Federal Advisory Committee Management (Committee Management Officer Council) provides leadership and coordination on federal advisory committee issues and

promotes effective and efficient committee operations government-wide. In addition to serving on the Council, EPA works with the GSA Committee Management Secretariat to establish and renew advisory committees, conduct annual reviews of advisory committee activities and accomplishments, maintain committee information in a publicly accessible online database, and develop committee management regulations, guidance, and training. Further, EPA participates on the GSA Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Attorney Council Interagency Workgroup to keep abreast of developments in the statutory language, case law, interpretation, and implementation of the FACA.

- The Interagency Security Committee (ISC) is the leading organization for nonmilitary federal departments and agencies in establishing policies for the security and protection of federal facilities, developing security standards, and ensuring compliance with those standards. EPA participates in the ISC as a primary member and in sub-committees and workgroups to facilitate EPA's compliance with ISC standards for facilities nationwide.
- The OPM Background Investigations Stakeholder Group (BISG) is a collaborative organization that is derived from the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. The BISG is comprised of senior security officials across the federal government who are responsible for the submission, adjudication and/or oversight of personnel security programs. EPA works with this group to discuss topics regarding background investigations, focusing on standardizing and improving the Agency's personnel security program.
- EPA manages the Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program's interagency agreements with other federal agencies. The interagency agreements are with the White House/CEQ, the CDC/ATSDR, and the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. SEE enrollees provide administrative, technical, and professional support to these agencies for projects relating to pollution prevention, abatement, and control.
- EPA's Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) partners with other Federal agencies, including the USPTO, NOAA, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, to serve as Presiding Officers for proceedings to adjudicate complaints brought before the partner organizations. This collaboration allows partner organizations the ability to provide constitutionally guaranteed legal due process and review without staffing and supporting their own Offices of Administrative Law Judges, while EPA's judges expand their experience and knowledge in the area of administrative law. The services OALJ provides to other agencies are reimbursed by the borrowing organization.

Work with the Department of Interior's Interior Business Center

In FY 2026, EPA will continue working with DOI's Interior Business Center (IBC), an OPM- and OMB-approved Human Resources Line of Business shared service center. IBC offers HR transactional processing, compensation management and payroll processing, benefits administration, time and attendance, HR reporting, talent acquisition systems, and talent management systems. EPA also continues its charter membership on the OPM HR Line of Business (LoB) Multi Agency Executive Strategy Committee (MAESC), providing advice and recommendations to the Director of OPM as well as additional government-wide executive leadership, for the implementation of the HR LoB vision, goals, and objectives.

Partnering with GSA on the USAccess Program

EPA continues partnering with GSA on the *USAccess* Program for Personal Identity Verification cards and identity credential solutions, which provides an efficient, economical and secure

infrastructure to support its credentialing needs, and migrations to the Enterprise Physical Access Control System, allowing the Agency to control access in EPA space, including restricted and secure space.

The Chief Information Officer (CIO) Council

The CIO Council is the principal interagency forum for improving practices in the design, modernization, sharing, and performance of federal information resources. The Council develops recommendations for IT/IM policies, procedures, and standards; identifies opportunities to share information resources; and assesses and addresses the needs of the federal IT workforce.

The Chief Data Officer (CDO) Council

The CDO Council was established by statute in the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.²²⁸ The Council's vision is to improve government mission achievement and increase the benefits to the Nation through improvement in the management, use, protection, dissemination, and generation of data in government decision-making and operations.

eRulemaking

The eRulemaking Program is a Federal E-Government shared LoB that manages the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) and Regulations.gov. The Program provides the public with one-stop access to electronic dockets and the ability to electronically comment on proposed rulemakings and de-regulatory actions for multiple federal agencies.

Automated Commercial Environment/International Trade Data System (ACE/ITDS)

EPA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are coordinating on using the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system. ITDS is the electronic information exchange capability, or "single window," through which businesses will transmit data required by participating agencies for the import or export of cargo. ACE is the system built by CBP to ensure that its customs officers and other federal agencies have the information they need to decide how to handle goods and merchandise being shipped into or out of the United States. It also will be the way those agencies provide CBP with information about potential imports/exports. ITDS eliminates the need, burden, and cost of paper reporting. It also allows importers and exporters to report the same information to multiple federal agencies with a single submission and facilitates movement of cargo by automating processing of the import and exports. ITDS provides the capability for industry to consolidate reporting for commodities regulated by multiple agencies. For these consolidated reports, the industry filers will receive the appropriate status response when their filings meet each agency's reporting requirements. Once all agency reporting requirements have been met, filers can receive a coordinated single U.S. government response to proceed into the commerce of the United States.

EPA has the responsibility and legal authority to make sure pesticides, toxic chemicals, vehicles and engines, ODS, and other commodities entering and hazardous waste exiting the country meet its human health and environmental standards. EPA's ongoing collaboration with CBP on the ACE/ITDS effort will improve the efficiency of processing these shipments through information exchange between EPA and CBP and automated processing of electronic filings. As resources permit, EPA will continue to work with CBP to automate the manual paper review process for

²²⁸ For more information, please visit: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4174>.

admissibility so that importers and brokers (referred to collectively as Trade) can know before these commodities are loaded onto an airplane, truck, train, or ship if their shipment meets EPA's reporting requirements. Because of this automated review, Trade can greatly lower its cost of doing business and customs officers at our nation's ports will have the information on whether shipments comply with our environmental regulations. EPA will continue to collaborate with CBP to support regulatory changes and integrate with new ACE capabilities for streamlining the import and export processes for America's businesses.

Geospatial Information

EPA works with 31 federal agencies through the activities of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the OMB Geospatial Line of Business (Geo LoB). EPA also participates in the FGDC Steering Committee. A key component of EPA's work with FGDC is developing and implementing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the National *GeoPlatform*. The key objective of the NSDI is to make a comprehensive array of national spatial data – data that portrays features associated with a location or tagged with geographic information and can be attached to and portrayed on maps – easily accessible to both governmental and public stakeholders. Use of this data, in tandem with analytical applications, supports several key EPA and government-wide business areas. These include ensuring that human health, demographics and environmental conditions are represented in the appropriate contexts for targeting and decision making; enabling the assessment, protection, and remediation of environmental conditions; and aiding emergency first responders and other homeland security activities. EPA supports geospatial initiatives through efforts such as EPA's *GeoPlatform*, the Exchange Network, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assist, *EJScreen*, the EPA Metadata Editor, Facilities Registry System (FRS) Web Services, and *My Environment*. EPA also works closely with its state, tribal, and international partners in a collaboration that enables consistent implementation of data acquisition and development, standards, and technologies supporting the efficient and cost-effective sharing and use of geographically based data and services.

The Administrator's Office

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Pursuant to NEPA and §309 of the CAA, EPA's NEPA Implementation Program coordinates and comments on the environmental review of major federal actions and ensures the §309 draft and final EIS comment letters are made publicly available. The Program guides EPA's compliance with NEPA, and other related statutes and executive orders. The NEPA Program staff manage the official Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) filing system for all federal EISs, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). EPA uses e-NEPA, a web-based system, as the official EIS filing system for federal agencies and EIS clearinghouse to meet the CEQ MOU commitments. All §309 comment letters are publicly available on e-NEPA. The NEPA Implementation Program also operates, uses, and promotes NEPA Assist, a publicly available geographic information system to help users (EPA, other federal agencies, and the public) with environmental reviews under NEPA. The NEPA Program staff are also responsible for managing the review of Environmental Impact Assessments of non-governmental activities in Antarctica, in accordance with the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act.

Regulatory Management and Economic Analyses

EPA's Office of Policy (OP) interacts with federal agencies during its rulemaking activities. Per governing statutes and Agency priorities, OP submits "significant" regulatory actions to OMB for interagency review prior to signature and publication in the Federal Register. In addition, OP coordinates EPA's review of other agency's regulatory actions submitted to OMB for review. Under the Congressional Review Act, rules are submitted to each chamber of Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. For regulations that may have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, OP collaborates extensively with SBA and OMB. OP also collaborates with other federal regulatory and natural resource agencies to collect data used in economic benefit-cost analyses of environmental regulations and policies and to foster improved interdisciplinary research and reporting. Activities include representing EPA on interagency workgroups or committees tasked with measuring the economic benefits and costs of federal policies and programs. Occasionally, OP also provides technical reviews of other agencies research and analyses. In addition, OP's Office of Federal Activities, engages early with the lead federal agency and supports CEQ for significant regulatory actions that require compliance with National Environmental Policy Act via an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In so doing, EPA provides technical assistance, as needed, to help scope and develop the draft EIS, recommending ways to avoid and minimize impacts to improve environmental outcomes.

Children's Health

The Administrator of EPA and the Secretary of DHHS co-chair the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. The Task Force comprises 17 federal departments, agencies, and White House offices. A senior staff steering committee, co-chaired by the Director of EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP), coordinates interagency cooperation on Task Force priority areas, including lead, asthma disparities, emergencies, and disasters. As part of this effort, OCHP coordinates with other agencies to improve government-wide support in implementing children's health legislative mandates and outreach, including providing children's environmental health expertise on interagency activities and coordinating EPA expertise. OCHP also coordinates with ATSDR to support provision of training and hands on consultations with doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals to address issues of potential exposures of children to environmental contaminants, such as lead and asthma triggers (e.g., mold and vermin). OCHP also works the Interagency Policy Council's groups on Maternal Health and Child Development, as well as with other federal agencies to address emerging risks to children's environmental health and supports federal interagency information exchange and cooperation, such as on lead and wildfires. This work supports Executive Order 14212, *Establishing the Make America Healthy Again Commission*, which identifies assessing and reversing the trend of childhood chronic disease as a priority, as well as the foundational Executive Order 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, which ensures federal departments and agencies address impacts of federal actions on children.

National Environmental Policy Act

EPA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementation Program implements the environmental requirements of NEPA and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to review other federal agency environmental impact statements (EIS) and NEPA regulations. To assist with the Agency's review of other federal agencies' EISs, EPA focuses on early engagement with other federal agencies to identify issues and potential solutions to reduce environmental impacts and

improve environmental outcomes. In addition, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CEQ,²²⁹ EPA regularly supports and assists CEQ in the development of guidance and technical tools. This work also includes engaging with officials throughout the federal government and across EPA while supporting EPA's lead NEPA Official. EPA has special authority and responsibilities under CAA section 309 to review and publicly comment on NEPA environmental analyses for major projects across the federal government. This work is expected to increase substantially in scope and importance based on projected increases in energy development and infrastructure projects.

Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Title 41 Coordination

The Office of Federal Activities (OFA) coordinates across 13 other federal agencies, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC), the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of Management and Budget to coordinate on permitting and meet EPA's Permitting Action Implementation Plan goals. EPA uses its EPA Permitting Action Implementation Plan to help address the expansion of permitting for major infrastructure projects, expanded FAST-41 covered sectors, and to address seven critical elements of the Plan:

- Accelerating smart permitting through early cross-agency coordination.
- Establishing clear timeline goals and tracking key project information.
- Engaging in early and meaningful outreach and communication with states, tribes, territories, and local communities.
- Improving Agency responsiveness, technical assistance, and support.
- Using Agency resources and the environmental review process to improve environmental and community outcomes.
- Ensuring staffing levels are adequate to address anticipated environmental review and permitting-related workloads.
- Addressing, elevating, and resolving schedule delays, disputes and other issues impacting the environmental and permitting process in a timely manner.

Community Revitalization and Sustainable Communities

OP participates in several Interagency Working Groups (IWG) and Interagency Policy Committees (IPC), including the Food Strategy IPC. These interagency efforts support improving community outcomes on a range of issues including economic transition, diversification, prosperity, and environmental protection. OP works collaboratively with national program offices and EPA regions to support their involvement in these interagency efforts. As an example, OP works with EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, the DOE Vehicle Technologies Office and the National Renewable Energy Lab to explore interagency approaches that advance the Administration's priorities and Presidential commitments.

OP works with DOT and HUD to ensure that infrastructure funding investments advance communities' visions and priorities. OP also works with federal partners to advance community-level efforts to simultaneously advance community priorities. Both of these projects model the application of a community-driven approach to efficiently advance agencies' mission.

²²⁹ 1977 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CEQ and EPA addressed the allocation of responsibilities between the two agencies for assuring government-wide implementation of NEPA. This includes the operational duties associated with the administrative aspects of EISs. Through this MOU, EPA became the official recipient for all copies of EISs.

OP is the lead on EPA's Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA, which allows the two agencies to work together to help communities become safer, healthier, and more resilient. The agencies collaborate to help communities hit by disasters rebuild in ways that protect the environment, create long-term economic prosperity, and enhance neighborhoods. FEMA and EPA also help communities incorporate strategies, such as green infrastructure, into their hazard mitigation plans and direct development away from vulnerable areas. EPA and FEMA are using the lessons they learn from working together under this agreement and with other federal agencies to better coordinate assistance to communities on hazard mitigation planning and post-disaster recovery. OP coordinates closely with all 10 Regions and many National programs on this partnership.

Through an interagency agreement with GSA, OP continues updating the Smart Location Calculator and Smart Location Database to give the federal government more information to guide decisions about locating new federal investments. GSA and EPA also are collaborating on technical assistance around a new site selection support tool to help GSA and other federal agencies make decisions on where to site new government facilities informed by the cost local and state governments would likely incur to provide infrastructure and services. The tool will be based on known relationships between the built environment and the cost to provide infrastructure for a site and related costs for operation and maintenance over time. EPA also has historically coordinated with GSA on their Good Neighbor Program by helping communities leverage major federal investments, such as courthouses or ports of entry, to focus on downtown revitalization. In FY 2026, EPA will continue work with GSA and Nogales, AZ to evaluate strategies to leverage the Federal investments in the land port of entry to support community goals for downtown and neighborhood revitalization.

OP has in the past and continues to coordinate with agencies and departments that work in communities across the country. This has been through formal and semi-formal arrangements like the HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) and Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2). Further, OP has a number of Interagency Agreements (IA) and Memoranda of Agreements to partner with other agencies on technical assistance in areas like disaster recovery, capacity building at the community level, and economic revitalization that supports improved environmental and human health results. Partnering agencies include and have included: USDA (Rural Development, Forest Service, Agricultural Marketing Service), DOT, FEMA, GSA, HUD, HHS, Appalachian Regional Commission, Northern Border Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, and EDA. These agencies often participate in community workshops that OP offers through technical assistance programs such as: Local Foods, Local Places, Building Blocks, and Recreation Economy for Rural Communities.

Interagency Policy Committees

EPA participates in interagency groups and collaborates with federal partners on the implementation of Executive Orders and the US-EU Summit on Trade and Technology Council. EPA is working with NSC, NEC, CEQ, DOC, DOE, DOD, State, and other agencies on supply chain issues associated with semiconductors, critical minerals, EV batteries, and other critical materials. EPA also actively participates on the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment and the Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) on Workforce Development and the White House Gender Policy Council.

Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

The Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) is the coordinating body for the Federal Statistical System and plays a leading role in implementing the Evidence Act and advancing the Federal Data Strategy. The ICSP sets strategic goals for modernizing agency statistical practices and products and advances those goals through cross-agency collaborations on strategic initiatives. EPA will continue to work with the ICSP to advance the Federal statistics and availability of robust information to support evidence-based policy.

The Inspector General

Work with the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)

EPA's Inspector General is a member of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), an organization comprised of federal Inspectors General (IGs), GAO, and the FBI. The CIGIE coordinates and improves the way IGs conduct audits, investigations, and internal operations. The CIGIE also promotes joint projects of government-wide interest and reports annually to the President on the collective performance of the IG community.

Activity Coordination, Information Exchange, and Training

EPA's OIG coordinates criminal investigative activities with other law enforcement organizations such as the FBI, Secret Service, and DOJ. In addition, the OIG participates with various inter-governmental audit forums and professional associations to exchange information, share best practices, and obtain or provide training. The OIG also promotes collaboration among EPA's partners and stakeholders in its participation of disaster response and its outreach activities.

Collaborative Work with Inspectors General and Other Partners

EPA's OIG initiates and participates in collaborative audits, program evaluations, and investigations with OIGs of agencies with an environmental mission such as the DOI, USDA, as well as other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies as prescribed by the IG Act, as amended.

Statutory Duties

As required by the IG Act, EPA's OIG coordinates and shares information with the GAO. EPA's OIG currently serves as the Inspector General of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board (CSB). EPA's OIG will continue to perform its duties with respect to the CSB until otherwise directed.

FY 2026 Estimated Cybersecurity Resources

NIST Framework Function ²³⁰	NIST Capability ²³⁰	FY 2026 President's Budget (Dollars in Millions)
Identify	Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM)	\$14.70
	Non-CDM Information Security Continuous Monitoring	\$4.63
	Mobile Device Management	\$1.79
	Authorization and Policy	\$12.12
	Standards Development and Propagation	\$0.06
	Data Categorization and Classification	\$0.02
	Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM) and Acquisitions Management	\$1.22
	Other Identify Capabilities	\$0.04
Identify Total		\$34.58
Protect	Trusted Internet Connections	\$0.55
	Credentialing and Access Management	\$0.24
	Insider Threat	\$0.10
	System Security Testing and Analysis	\$3.24
	Security Training	\$0.14
	Cloud Security	\$1.77
	Data Safeguarding	\$2.40
	Secure Data Transmission	\$2.19
	Research & Development	\$0.14
	Counterintelligence	\$0.23
	Zero Trust Network Architecture	\$1.75
	Security Log Management	\$2.16
	Secure Patch Management	\$2.97
	Other Protect Capabilities	\$1.34
Protect Total		\$19.22
Detect	Anti-Phishing and Malware Defense	\$0.09
	Data Loss Prevention	\$0.44
	Intrusion Prevention	\$0.68
	Endpoint Detection and Response	\$0.47
	Other Detect Capabilities	\$0.39
Detect Total		\$2.07

²³⁰ These estimates are presented using the National Institute of Standards and Technology Framework functions and capabilities. For more information, please see: <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/CSWP/NIST.CSWP.04162018.pdf>.

NIST Framework Function²³⁰	NIST Capability²³⁰	FY 2026 President's Budget (Dollars in Millions)
Respond	Incident Management and Response	\$0.35
	Prosecution and Investigation of Cyber Intrusions	\$0.06
	Other Respond Capabilities	\$1.42
Respond Total		\$1.83
Recover	Disaster Recovery	\$1.20
	Incident Recovery	\$0.85
	Incident Notification	\$0.09
	Other Recover Capabilities	\$0.37
Recover Total		\$2.51
Cybersecurity Total		\$60.21

EPA User Fee Programs

In FY 2026, EPA will have several user fee programs in operation. These user fee programs and proposals are referenced below.

Current Fees: Pesticides

Fee collection authority exists under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1988, as amended by the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (“PRIA-5”), which was part of the FY 2023 omnibus (P. L. 117-328) passed in December 2022. PRIA-5 reauthorizes these fee authorities through fiscal year 2027 and adjusts fee amounts for certain registration activities.

- **Pesticides Maintenance Fee (7 U.S.C. §136a-1(i))**

The Maintenance Fee provides funding for the registration review programs and a certain percentage supports the processing of applications not covered by a fee table under Section 33(b)(3)(B). PRIA-5 reauthorizes collection of this fee through FY 2027 and raises the collection target by \$11 million to an average collection of \$42 million over five years of PRIA-5 authorization.

- **Enhanced Registration Services (7 U.S.C. §136w-8(b))**

Entities seeking to register pesticides for use in the United States pay a fee at the time the registration action request is submitted to EPA, setting specific timeframes for the registration decision service. This process has introduced new pesticides to the market more quickly. PRIA-5 reauthorizes collection of these fees through FY 2027 and adjusts fee amounts for certain types of registrations. In FY 2026, EPA expects to collect approximately \$26 million from this fee program.

Current Fees: Other

- **Clean Air Part 71 Operating Permits Program**

Title 40 CFR Part 71 § 71.9 authorizes and establishes requirements for the Clean Air Part 71 program - a comprehensive federal air quality operating permit program for air pollution control agencies that do not have a delegated Title V program on charging and collecting user fees, as required by Section 502(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act. All sources subject to the operating permit requirements of Title V shall have a permit to operate that assures compliance with all applicable requirements. The owners or operators shall pay annual fees that are sufficient to cover the permit program costs, in accordance with the procedures described in this section.

- **Fees for the Administration of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)**

Section 26 of TSCA authorizes EPA to collect fees to offset approximately but not more than 25 percent of the Agency's costs for implementing TSCA sections 4, 5, 6, and relevant information management activities under section 14. The TSCA Fee program is administered by the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, including the issuance of the final amendments to the TSCA Fee Rule, *Fees for the Administration of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)* (89 FR 12961), in February 2024. Fees are charged for certain fee-triggering activities: issuance of Test Orders, Test Rules and Enforceable Consent Agreements under TSCA section 4; submission of Pre-Manufacturing Notices, Significant New Use Notices and Microbial Commercial Activity Notices and certain submissions for exemptions under TSCA section 5; and development of EPA-Initiated Risk Evaluations and Manufacturer-Requested Risk Evaluations (MRREs) under TSCA section 6.

The 2024 Fees Rule significantly increased the fees for both new and existing chemical reviews. While the recent updates to the EPA's cost estimate and associated fees are significantly higher than they were previously; they are still within the bounds provided by Congress and the increased fees will support the TSCA new chemical and existing chemical programs. EPA continues to identify ways to work more efficiently, aligning resources to support these regulatory programs, utilizing resources more effectively and driving to complete the reviews of new and existing chemicals within the timeframes allowed by TSCA. This means faster and better protection for Americans and the environment and a predictable regulatory process for industry. EPA updated its estimate of implementation costs in the 2024 final rulemaking to more accurately account for the full costs of administering TSCA, as directed by Congress. The final rule estimated fee collection of approximately \$36.7 million each year. In FY 2026, EPA's fee collection will include fees for the EPA-initiated risk evaluations for five High Priority Substances designated in December 2024.

TSCA fees collected from the start of FY 2019 through FY 2024 totaled \$49.6 million, or about \$8.3 million per year. EPA collected \$2.74 million in fee revenue in FY 2019 from Section 5 submissions. In FY 2020, the Agency collected \$3.03 million in fee revenue from Section 5 submissions as well as \$2.5 million from two Section 6 MRREs for chemicals within the TSCA Work Plan (Di-isodecyl Phthalate [DIDP] and Diisononyl Phthalate [DINP]). In FY 2021, the Agency collected \$28.6 million: \$3.3 million from Section 5, \$24.05 million from 19 of the 20 Section 6 EPA-Initiated Risk Evaluations, and \$1.25 million from one Section 6 MRRE for a TSCA Work Plan chemical (Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane [D4]). (The Agency invoiced \$88.2 thousand for Section 4 Test Orders in FY 2020 and FY 2021 but did not start receiving submissions until FY 2022.) Because nearly \$17 million of the collections for the 19 Section 6 Risk Evaluations was not due to be paid until September 2, 2021, those funds were not accessible to EPA until early FY 2022. In FY 2022, EPA collected approximately \$5.1 million (\$1.46 million from the remaining Section 6 EPA-Initiated Risk Evaluations invoices, \$3.5 million from Section 5 submissions, and \$88.2 thousand from invoiced Section 4 Test Order submissions). In FY 2023, EPA collected \$3.51 million (\$3.42 million in Section 5 submissions, \$0.09 million from Section 4 Test Order invoices). In FY 2024, EPA collected \$4.2 million (\$4.2 million in Section 5 submissions, \$35 thousand from section 4 Test Order invoices). In FY 2025, EPA estimates to collect \$4.8 million in Section 5 submissions. In FY 2026, EPA estimates to collect \$26.2 million (\$4.8 million in Section 5 submissions and \$21.4 million from the next round of Section 6 EPA-

initiated chemical risk evaluations, possibly to be spread out over FY 2026 and FY 2027 per the revised Fee Rule schedule, plus a yet to be determined amount from the final cost calculations of the two MRREs submitted in FY 2020).

- **Motor Vehicle and Engine Compliance Program Fee**

This fee is authorized by the Clean Air Act of 1990 and is administered by the Office of Transportation and Air Quality. Fee collections for manufacturers of light-duty vehicles, light- and heavy-duty trucks, and motorcycles began in August 1992. In 2004, EPA promulgated a rule that updated existing fees and established fees for newly-regulated vehicles and engines. The fees established for new compliance programs also are paid by manufacturers of heavy-duty and non-road vehicles and engines, including large diesel and gas equipment (earthmovers, tractors, forklifts, compressors, etc.), handheld and non-handheld utility engines (chainsaws, weed-whackers, leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, tillers, etc.), marine (boat motors, watercraft, jet-skis), locomotive, aircraft and recreational vehicles (off-road motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles) for in-use testing and certification. In 2009, EPA added fees for evaporative emissions requirements for non-road engines. EPA intends to apply certification fees to additional industry sectors as new programs are developed. In FY 2026, EPA expects to collect approximately \$26.4 million from this fee program based upon a projection of the original rulemaking cost study adjusted for inflation. EPA is not currently authorized to expend these collected funds, but is proposing such authority.

- **Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest**

The Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act (P. L. 112-195) provides EPA with the authority to establish a program to finance, develop, and operate a system for the electronic submission of hazardous waste manifests supported by user fees. In accordance with the Act, EPA established the e-Manifest program. EPA finalized the user fee rule, *Hazardous Waste Management System: User Fees for the Electronic Hazardous Waste Manifest System and Amendments to Manifest Regulations*, in December 2017, and the e-Manifest system launched in June 2018.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to operate the e-Manifest system and the Agency anticipates collecting and depositing approximately \$20 million in e-Manifest user fees into the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund. Based upon authority to collect and spend e-Manifest fees provided by Congress in annual appropriations bills, the fees will fully support the e-Manifest program, including the operation of the system, necessary program expenses, and future development costs.

- **WIFIA Program Fees**

The FY 2026 Budget requests authorization for the Administrator to collect and obligate fees established in accordance with title V, subtitle C, sections 5029 and 5030 of Public Law 113-121, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WIFIA) of 2014. These funds shall be deposited in the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account and remain available until expended. WIFIA fee regulations were first promulgated in FY 2017. Fee revenue

will be used to cover a portion of the costs of making secured loans, providing credit assistance, and servicing WIFIA credit instruments.

The requested WIFIA Program fee expenditure authority would be in addition to the \$8 million request for administrative and operations expenses. Fee revenue does not take the place of the request for WIFIA administration. The appropriated administrative level and the anticipated fee revenue are both needed to successfully implement the WIFIA Program.

Expected Benefits of E-Government Initiatives

Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business

The Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business (BFELoB) allows EPA and other agencies to access budget-related benefits and services. The Agency has the option to implement LoB-sponsored tools, training, and services.

EPA has benefited from the BFELoB by sharing valuable information on how systems and software being developed by the LoB have enhanced work processes. This effort has created a government-only capability for electronic collaboration (Wiki) in which the Budget Community website allows EPA to share budget information internally, with OMB, and with other federal agencies. The Agency also made contributions to the Human Capital Workgroup, participating in development of online training modules for budget activities – a valuable resource to all agency budget staff. The LoB has developed the capability to have secure, virtual online meetings where participants can view budget-related presentations from their workspace and participate in the discussion through a conference line. The LoB provides regularly scheduled symposia as an additional forum for EPA budget employees.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-99-99-99-99-3200-24	\$125.0
2025	020-99-99-99-99-3200-24	\$125.0
2026	020-99-99-99-99-3200-24	\$125.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

eRulemaking

The eRulemaking Line of Business is designed to: enhance public access and participation in the regulatory process through electronic systems; reduce the burden on citizens and businesses in finding relevant regulations and commenting on proposed rulemaking actions; consolidate redundant docket systems; and improve agency regulatory processes and the timeliness of regulatory decisions. EPA has served as the managing partner for this Line of Business; however, in FY 2020, EPA transferred management services to the General Services Administration (GSA). EPA continues to be involved as a partner agency.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Service Fee (in thousands)
2024	020-99-99-99-99-0060-24	\$1,145.0
2025	020-99-99-99-99-0060-24	\$1,470.0
2026	020-99-99-99-99-0060-24	\$1,380.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Federal Audit Clearinghouse

In FY 2024, the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC) will transition from the U.S. Census Bureau to the General Services Administration and has been added to the E-Gov and LoB initiatives. This LoB supports the ongoing maintenance and modernization of the FAC. The FAC distributes single audit reporting packages to federal agencies, supports OMB oversight and assessment of federal award audit requirements, and maintains a public database of completed audits.²³¹

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-99-99-99-99-1400-24	\$65.0
2025	020-99-99-99-99-1400-24	\$77.0
2026	020-99-99-99-99-1400-24	\$81.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Federal PKI Bridge

Federal Public Key Infrastructure (FPKI) provides the government with a common infrastructure to administer digital certificates and public-private key pairs, including the ability to issue, maintain, and revoke public key certificates. FPKI leverages a security technique called Public Key Cryptography to authenticate users and data, protect the integrity of transmitted data, and ensure non-repudiation and confidentiality.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-99-99-99-99-0090-24	\$55.0
2025	020-99-99-99-99-0090-24	\$60.0
2026	020-99-99-99-99-0090-24	\$50.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Financial Management Line of Business

The Financial Management Line of Business (FM LoB) is a multi-agency effort whose goals include achieving process improvements and cost savings in the acquisition, development, implementation, and operation of financial management systems. By incorporating the same FM LoB-standard processes as those used by central agency systems, interfaces among financial systems are streamlined, and the quality of information available for decision-making is improved.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-00-01-01-04-1100-24	\$96.0
2025	020-00-01-01-04-1100-24	\$96.0
2026	020-00-01-01-04-1100-24	\$96.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

²³¹ For additional information, please refer to: <https://facweb.census.gov/uploadpdf.aspx>.

Freedom of Information Act Portal

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Improvement Act of 2016 directed the Office of Management and Budget and Department of Justice to build a consolidated online request portal that allows a member of the public to submit a request for records to any agency from a single website. DOJ is managing the development and maintenance of this National FOIA Portal. EPA and other federal agencies were requested to contribute to this effort.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-99-99-99-99-0099-24	\$35.0
2025	020-99-99-99-99-0099-24	\$37.0
2026	020-99-99-99-99-0099-24	\$37.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Geospatial Line of Business

The Geospatial Line of Business, an intergovernmental project managed by the Department of the Interior, serves to improve the ability of the public and government to use geospatial information to support the business of government and facilitate decision-making. The intent of the initiative is to reduce costs and improves agency operations in several areas. This line of business is the mechanism for coordinating implementation of the Geospatial Data Act and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance on Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities and the National Geospatial Platform. The National Geospatial Platform incorporates many national geospatial data and analytical services for federal agencies, their partners, and stakeholders.

A primary benefit to EPA in participating in and contributing to the line of business is access to geospatial data sets known as National Geospatial Data Assets (NDGA) supported by multiple agencies. These datasets and services are easily accessible by federal agencies, their partners, and stakeholders. EPA uses the National Geospatial Platform to obtain data and services for internal analytical purposes as well as to publish outward-facing geospatial capabilities to the public. EPA is expected to contribute to the operation of the National Geospatial Platform in FY 2026. The intent is to reduce base costs by providing an opportunity for EPA and other agencies to share approaches on procurement consolidation and include shared services for hosting geospatial data, services, and applications.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-99-99-99-99-3100-24	\$225.0
2025	020-99-99-99-99-3100-24	\$225.0
2026	020-99-99-99-99-3100-24	\$225.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Grants.gov

The Grants.gov initiative benefits EPA and its grant programs by providing a single location to publish grant opportunities and application packages, and by providing a single site for the grants community to apply for grants using common forms, processes, and systems. EPA believes that the central site raises the visibility of its grant opportunities to a wider diversity of applicants.

The grants community benefits from savings in postal costs, paper, and envelopes. Applicants save time in searching for agency grant opportunities and in learning the application systems of various agencies. In order to streamline the application process, EPA offers Grants.gov application packages for mandatory state grants (*i.e.*, Continuing Environmental Program Grants).

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-00-04-00-04-0160-24	\$259.0
2025	020-00-04-00-04-0160-24	\$276.0
2026	020-00-04-00-04-0160-24	\$336.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Human Resources Line of Business

OPM's Human Resources Line of Business (HR LoB) provides the federal government the infrastructure to support pay-for-performance systems, modernized HR systems, and the core functionality necessary for the strategic management of human capital. The HR LoB offers common solutions that enable federal departments and agencies to work more effectively, and to provide managers and executives across the federal government an improved means to meet strategic objectives. EPA will benefit by supporting an effective program management activity which evaluates provider performance, customer satisfaction, and compliance with program goals.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-00-01-16-04-1200-24	\$69.0
2025	020-00-01-16-04-1200-24	\$69.0
2026	020-00-01-16-04-1200-24	\$69.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Integrated Award Environment

The Integrated Award Environment (IAE) is comprised of a number of government-wide automated applications and/or databases that streamline the acquisition business process across the government and support EPA's contracting and grants programs. In FY 2012, GSA began the process of consolidating the systems into one central repository called the System for Award Management (SAM). Until the consolidation is complete, EPA leverages some IAE systems via electronic linkages to EPA's Acquisition System (EAS); other IAE systems are not linked directly to EAS but benefit the Agency's contracting staff and vendor community as stand-alone resources.

EAS uses SAM vendor data: contracting officers can download vendor-provided representation and certification information electronically via SAM, which allows vendors to submit this information once rather than separately for every contract proposal. Additionally, contracting officers access the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, which contains records on contractor performance, including past performance evaluations, and suspensions and debarments.

Through the IAE, contracting officers also can review Wage Determinations to obtain information required under the Service Contract Act and the Davis-Bacon Act. EAS links to the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) and SAM.gov, which includes the Contract Opportunities platform, for submission of contract actions at the time of award. FPDS provides public access to government-wide contract information. The Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System supports vendor subcontracting data submission for contracts identified as requiring this information. EPA publishes notices of proposed contract actions expected to exceed \$25 thousand to the Contract Opportunities listing. Vendors use this publicly available information to identify business opportunities in federal contracting.

The IAE houses Assistance Listings (formerly called Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), which provides a comprehensive description of all federal assistance including information on eligibility, how to apply, and matching requirements for public consumption. Further, EPA's IAE fee supports use of services for standardized obligations and award-related information reporting for all Federal financial assistance and procurement awards as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and the DATA Act of 2014.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024	020-00-01-16-04-0230-24	\$650.0
2025	020-00-01-16-04-0230-24	\$520.0
2026	020-00-01-16-04-0230-24	\$531.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Performance Management Line of Business

Beginning in FY 2025, EPA will contribute to the Performance Management LoB which provides government-wide performance management capabilities to help meet the transparency requirements of the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRAMA). The Performance Management LoB also supports government-wide performance management efforts from data collection and governance to internal and external reporting.

Fiscal Year	Account Code	EPA Contribution (in thousands)
2024		
2025	020-00-01-16-04-0900-24	\$100.0
2026	020-00-01-16-04-0900-24	\$100.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

FY 2026 Administrator's Priorities

Funding for the Administrator's priorities are allocated by program project in the FY 2026 President's Budget with a total of \$2.189 million in the Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) Account and \$125 thousand in the Science and Technology Account (S&T).

These funds, which are set aside for the Administrator's priorities, are used to address unforeseen issues that may arise during the year. These funds are used by the Administrator to support critical unplanned issues and the amounts shown in the below table will be reallocated as needed, in accordance with reprogramming limits.

FY 2026 President's Budget Funding for Administrator's Priorities (Funds in Whole Dollars)

Appropriation	Program Project	FY 2026 Funding
EPM	Acquisition Management	\$75,000
EPM	Brownfields	\$88,000
EPM	Children and Other Sensitive Populations	\$25,000
EPM	Civil Enforcement	\$90,000
EPM	Civil Rights / Title VI Compliance	\$38,000
EPM	Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs	\$50,000
EPM	Atmospheric Protection*	\$0
EPM	Compliance Monitoring	\$100,000
EPM	Criminal Enforcement	\$73,000
EPM	Drinking Water Programs	\$50,000
EPM	Environmental Justice*	\$0
EPM	Exchange Network*	\$0
EPM	Federal Stationary Source Regulation	\$50,000
EPM	Federal Support for Air Quality Management	\$65,000
EPM	Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management	\$75,000
EPM	Human Resources Management	\$75,000
EPM	Integrated Environmental Strategies	\$38,000
EPM	International Sources of Pollution	\$25,000
EPM	IT / Data Management	\$100,000
EPM	Legal Advice: Environmental Program	\$50,000
EPM	Legal Advice: Support Program	\$33,000
EPM	LUST / UST	\$50,000
EPM	Marine Pollution	\$50,000
EPM	NEPA Implementation	\$50,000
EPM	Pesticides: Protect Environmental from Pesticide Risk	\$75,000
EPM	Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk	\$75,000
EPM	Pesticides: Realize Value of Pesticide Availability	\$50,000
EPM	Pollution Prevention Program*	\$0
EPM	RCRA: Corrective Action	\$50,000

Appropriation	Program Project	FY 2026 Funding
EPM	RCRA: Waste Management	\$85,000
EPM	RCRA: Waste Minimization & Recycling	\$25,000
EPM	Reduce Risks from Indoor Air	\$75,000
EPM	Regulatory/Economic-Management and Analysis	\$38,000
EPM	Science Advisory Board	\$50,000
EPM	State and Local Prevention and Preparedness	\$50,000
EPM	Surface Water Protection	\$150,000
EPM	Toxic Substances: Chemical Risk Review and Reduction	\$88,000
EPM	Toxic Substances: Lead Risk Reduction Program*	\$0
EPM	TRI / Right to Know	\$38,000
EPM	Tribal – Capacity Building	\$25,000
EPM	Wetlands	\$65,000
S&T	Federal Support for Air Quality Management	\$25,000
S&T	Research: Air and Energy	\$50,000
S&T	Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$50,000
Total		\$2,314,000

*Programs proposed for elimination in the FY 2026 President's Budget.

FY 2026 Environmental Justice Program Budget

In FY 2026, the Environmental Justice (EJ) Program is proposed for elimination as the Agency returns to its core statutory requirements and *Pillar I: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Proposed Resources and FTE for the EJ Program ¹			
Appropriation	Program Activities	FY 2026 PB Resources	FY 2026 PB FTE
EPM	Program Management, Coordination and Support	\$0.0	0.0
EPM	EJ Community Grant Program	\$0.0	
EPM	EJ Community Technical Assistance for Capacity Building	\$0.0	
EPM	EJ Government to Government (State, Tribes, and Local) Grants and Technical Assistance	\$0.0	
Superfund	Superfund EJ Program Coordination	\$0.0	
Total FY 2026		\$0.0	0.0
¹ The Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 instructs EPA to provide "allocations for each component of funding for environmental justice programs". Please see page 228: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CREC-2020-12-21/pdf/CREC-2020-12-21-house-bk4.pdf . This report fulfills this requirement.			

FY 2026 STAG Categorical Program Grants

Statutory Authority and Eligible Uses (Dollars in Thousands)

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
State and Local Air Quality Management	CAA, Section 103	Air pollution control agencies as defined in Section 302(b) of the CAA	S/L monitoring and data collection activities in support of the PM _{2.5} monitoring network and associated program costs.	\$43,875.0	\$43,875.0	\$0.0
State and Local Air Quality Management	CAA, Section 103	Air pollution control agencies as defined in Section 302(b) of the CAA	S/L monitoring and data collection activities in support of air toxics monitoring.	\$5,686.0	\$8,300.0	\$0.0
State and Local Air Quality Management	CAA, Section 103	Air pollution control agencies as defined in Section 302(b) of the CAA	S/L monitoring procurement activities in support of the NAAQS.	\$4,511.0	\$4,970.0	\$0.0

²³² The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
State and Local Air Quality Management	CAA, Sections 103, 105, 106	Air pollution control agencies as defined in Section 302(b) of the CAA; Multi-jurisdictional organizations (non-profit organizations whose boards of directors or membership is made up of CAA Section 302(b) agency officers and whose mission is to support the continuing environmental programs of the States); Interstate air quality control region designated pursuant to Section 107 of the CAA or of implementing Section 176A, or Section 184. NOTE: only the Ozone Transport Commission is eligible.	Carrying out the traditional prevention and control programs required by the CAA and associated program support costs, including all monitoring activities, including PM 2.5 monitoring and associated program costs (Section 103 and/or 105); Coordinating or facilitating a multi-jurisdictional approach to carrying out the traditional prevention and control programs required by the CAA (Sections 103 and 106); Supporting training for CAA Section 302(b) air pollution control agency staff (Sections 103 and 105); Supporting research, investigative, and demonstration projects (Section 103).	\$168,257.5 Section 105 grants	\$177,818.0 Section 105 grants	\$0.0 Section 105 grants
				\$639.0 Section 106 grants	\$639.0 Section 106 grants	\$0.0 Section 106 grants
				Total: \$222,968.5	Total: \$235,602.0	Total: \$0.0

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
Tribal Air Quality Management	CAA, Sections 103 and 105; Tribal Cooperative Agreements (TCA) in annual Appropriations Acts.	Tribes; Intertribal Consortia; State/Tribal College or University	Conducting air quality assessment activities to determine a tribe's need to develop a CAA program; Carrying out the traditional prevention and control programs required by the CAA and associated program costs; Supporting CAA training for federally- recognized tribes.	\$14,224.3 Section 103 grants \$4,000.0 Section 105 grants Total: \$18,224.3	\$12,278.0 Section 103 grants \$4,000.0 Section 105 grants Total: \$16,278.0	\$12,300.0 Section 103 grants \$4,000.0 Section 105 grants Total: \$16,300.0
Radon	TSCA, Sections 10 and 306.	State Agencies, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Assist in the development and implementation of programs for the assessment and mitigation of radon.	\$10,450.3	\$9,118.0	\$0.0

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
Multipurpose Grants	Annual Appropriations Acts; all other major environmental legislation including, but not limited to, CAA, CWA, SDWA, and CERCLA.	State Agencies, Tribes	Implementation of mandatory statutory duties delegated by EPA under pertinent environmental laws.	\$205.8	\$0.0	\$0.0
Water Pollution Control (Section 106)	FWPCA, as amended, Section 106; TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia, Interstate Agencies	Develop and carry out surface and ground water pollution control programs, including NPDES permits, TMDLs, WQ standards, monitoring, and NPS control activities.	\$225,154.8	\$225,379.0	\$0.0
Nonpoint Source (NPS – Section 319)	FWPCA, as amended, Section 319(h); TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Implement EPA-approved state and tribal nonpoint source management programs and fund projects as selected by the state.	\$175,311.2	\$174,263.0	\$0.0
Wetlands Program Development	FWPCA, as amended, Section 104 (b)(3); TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Local Governments, Tribes, Interstate Organizations, Intertribal Consortia, Non-Profit Organizations	To develop new wetland programs or enhance and/or expand existing programs for the protection, management, and restoration of wetland resources.	\$22,315.1	\$14,085.0	\$0.0
Public Water System Supervision (PWSS)	SDWA, Section 1443(a); TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Assistance to implement and enforce National Primary Drinking Water Regulations to ensure the safety of the Nation's drinking water resources and to protect public health.	\$113,478.8	\$115,833.0	\$0.0

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
Underground Injection Control (UIC)	SDWA, Section 1443(b); TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Implement and enforce regulations that protect underground sources of drinking water by controlling Class I-V underground injection wells.	\$13,059.1	\$12,277.0	\$12,294.0
Beaches Protection	BEACH Act of 2000; TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia, Local Governments	Develop and implement programs for monitoring and notification of conditions for coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or similar points of access that are used by the public.	\$9,051.4	\$9,737.0	\$0.0
Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants	Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act § 3011; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141).	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Develop and implement solid and hazardous waste programs.	\$98,036.1	\$101,362.0	\$0.0
Brownfields	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA § 128(a)).	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Establish and enhance state and tribal response programs which will survey and inventory brownfields sites; develop oversight and enforcement authorities to ensure response actions are protective of human health and the environment; develop ways for communities to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation; and develop mechanisms for approval of a cleanup plan and verification and certification that cleanup is complete.	\$45,403.8	\$46,187.0	\$0.0

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1976, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, § 2007(f); Energy Policy Act, § 9011.	States	Provide funding for States' underground storage tanks and to support direct UST implementation programs.	\$1,316.2	\$1,473.0	\$0.0

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
Pesticides Program Implementation	FIFRA, Sections 23(a)(1); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA); Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA); Endangered Species Act (ESA).	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Implement the following programs through grants to States, tribes, partners, and supporters for implementation of pesticide programs, including: Certification and Training (C&T); Worker Protection; Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP) Field Activities; Pesticides in Water; and Tribal Programs.	\$11,954.3 – States formula \$1,888.0 HQ Programs: - Tribal: \$1,000.0 - PREP: \$444.0 - AAPCO: \$444.0 Total: \$13,842.3	\$11,094.0 – States formula \$1,888.0 HQ Programs: - Tribal: \$1,000.0 - PREP: \$444.0 - AAPCO: \$444.0 Total: \$12,982.0	\$0.0 – States formula \$0.0 HQ Programs: - Tribal: \$0.0 - PREP: \$0.0 - AAPCO: \$0.0 Total: \$0.0

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
Lead	TSCA, Sections 401-412.	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Aid states, territories, the District of Columbia, and tribes to develop and implement authorized lead-based paint abatement programs and authorized Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) programs. EPA directly implements these programs in all areas of the country that are not authorized to do so, and will continue to operate the Federal Lead-based Paint Program Database (FLPP) of trained and certified lead-based paint professionals.	\$14,757.5 404(g) State/ Tribal Certification _____ \$1,750.0 404(g) Direct Implementation Total: \$16,507.5	\$13,280.0 404(g) State/ Tribal Certification _____ \$1,700.0 404(g) Direct Implementation Total: \$14,980.0	\$0.0 404(g) State/ Tribal Certification _____ \$0.0 404(g) Direct Implementation Total: \$0.0
Toxics Substances Compliance	Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) § 28(a) and 404(g); TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, Intertribal Consortia, and Territories of the U.S.	Assist in developing, maintaining, and implementing compliance monitoring programs for PCBs, asbestos, and Lead Based Paint. In addition, enforcement actions by 1) the Lead Based Paint program and 2) States that obtained a “waiver” under the Asbestos program.	\$4,733.3	\$4,754.0	\$0.0
Pesticides Enforcement	FIFRA § 23(a)(1); TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, Intertribal Consortia, and Territories of the U.S.	Assist with implementation of cooperative pesticide enforcement programs.	\$24,397.1	\$24,217.0	\$0.0

Grant Title	Statutory Authorities	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Uses	FY 2024 Actual Dollars (X1000)	FY 2025 Enacted Dollars ²³² (X1000)	FY 2026 President's Budget Dollars (X1000)
Pollution Prevention	Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, Section 6605; TSCA Section 10; FY 2000 Appropriations Act (P.L. 106-74); TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	States, Tribes, Intertribal Consortia	Provides assistance to States and State entities (<i>i.e.</i> , colleges and universities) and federally-recognized tribes and intertribal consortia to deliver pollution prevention technical assistance to small and medium-sized businesses. A goal of the program is to assist businesses and industries with identifying improved environmental strategies and solutions for reducing waste at the source.	\$516.4	\$4,717.0	\$0.0
Tribal General Assistance Program	Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act (42 U.S.C. § 4368b); TCA in annual Appropriations Acts.	Tribal Governments, Intertribal Consortia	Plan and develop tribal environmental protection programs.	\$76,823.1	\$72,102.0	\$72,200.0
National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN, aka "the Exchange Network")	Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).	States, U.S. Territories, Federally Recognized Tribes and Native Villages, Interstate Agencies, Tribal Consortia, Other Agencies with Related Environmental Information Activities.	Helps States, U.S. Territories, tribes, and intertribal consortia develop the information management and technology (IM/IT) capabilities they need to participate in the Exchange Network, to continue and expand data-sharing programs, and to improve access to environmental information.	\$12,084.9	\$9,487.0	\$0.0

Environmental Protection Agency Response to OIG Top Management Challenges

EPA is re-evaluating processes to improve program oversight. During the FY 2024 Annual Financial Reporting period, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of the Inspector General did not provide the Agency its report on the FY 2025 EPA's Management Challenges. However, the EPA will provide an appropriate response once we receive a copy of those challenges. Currently, the Agency will ensure it effectively and efficiently manages its resources as it aligns with the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative and will re-evaluate its processes to allow for sufficient oversight for federal programs.

Making Litigation Costs Transparent - Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)²³³

FY 2024

For the period from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, EPA has no data to report on the Equal Access for Justice Act fees.

Date of final fee agreement or court disposition	Case Name	Court	Case Number	Judge	Amount of Fees and/or Costs Paid	Source of Funds	Was amount negotiated or court ordered?	Recipients	Nature of Case and Findings Basis	Hourly Rate of Attorney ²³⁴	Hourly Rate of Expert Witness
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

²³³ In the FY 2019 Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116-6), the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations requested Department of Interior, EPA, and the Forest Service make publicly available the EAJA fee information as specified in the explanatory statement accompanying Division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31). This report fulfills this requirement.

²³⁴ In prior reports EPA had erroneously included hourly rates used in the plaintiff's fee requests. Upon further review, as the final Equal Access to Justice Act settlements are negotiated, it is not possible to provide the hourly rates reflected in the actual amounts paid.

Nonrecurring Expenses Fund (NEF) Proposal

The FY 2026 budget proposes to establish a Nonrecurring Expenses Fund (NEF) to modernize information technology (IT) software and applications.²³⁵ This fund would provide a strategic and fiscally responsible approach to managing significant, one-time expenditures without compromising the Agency's operational budget or long-term financial stability. This proposal aligns EPA with the authorities of many of its federal partners.²³⁶

Establishing a NEF at EPA is a prudent financial strategy that will enable the Agency to address IT needs efficiently and effectively. This fund will not only safeguard EPA's financial health but also enhance its ability to fulfill its mission, in line with statutory obligations, ensuring that the Agency remains equipped to protect human health and the environment.

Up-to-date technology is essential for EPA to respond swiftly to environmental emergencies, conduct scientific research, enforce regulations, and ensure security in line with statutory obligations and Administration priorities. A NEF ensures that the Agency's ability to fulfill its mission is not compromised by inadequate or outdated technology.

Further, upgrading IT systems demonstrates the Agency's commitment to operational excellence and public accountability. It reassures stakeholders that EPA is effectively managing its resources to protect human health and the environment.

EPA's NEF proposal does not cost the taxpayer a dollar more and will be a reliable and sustainable source of revenue for IT needs. The proposed NEF statutory language also includes the requirement for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval on all projects.

EPA could use a NEF to conduct the following:²³⁷

- Modernize IT Software and Applications to Enhance Operational Efficiency: EPA's ability to effectively manage and analyze environmental data is crucial to its mission. However, many of the Agency's current IT systems are outdated, leading to inefficiencies, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and difficulties in data sharing and collaboration. Modernizing these systems is essential for improving operational efficiency, ensuring data security, and enhancing decision-making capabilities.
- Support Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation: As EPA continues to integrate more digital tools and data-driven approaches into its operations, a modern, reliable IT infrastructure is vital. A NEF would provide the necessary resources to implement these upgrades, without additional appropriations.

²³⁵ The NEF is a proposed fund that would be funded through transfers of expired appropriations to the fund and be made available indefinitely for the purposes of procuring large, one-time investments such as major system replacements.

²³⁶ Comparable funds and other information can be found examining: [Department of Homeland Security, 6 USC 103a](#), [Department of Agriculture, 7 USC 2250b](#), [Department of Commerce, 15 USC 1521a](#), [Forest Service, 16 USC 579f](#), [Department of Education, 20 USC 3483a](#), [Health and Human Services, 42 USC 3514a](#), [Housing and Urban Development, 42 USC 3539a](#), [Department of the Interior, 43 USC 1474g](#).

²³⁷ Example projects are provided in Exhibit A.

The following proposed statutory language would allow EPA to establish and operate a NEF:

For fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029, there is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the "Environmental Protection Agency Nonrecurring Expenses Fund" (the Fund): Provided, That unobligated balances of expired funds appropriated for this year, any prior year, or any succeeding fiscal year to the Environmental Protection Agency by this or any other Act may be transferred (not later than the end of the fifth fiscal year or seventh fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which they were appropriated, as appropriate) into the Fund: Provided further, that amounts transferred into the Fund may not exceed \$50,000,000 per fiscal year; Provided further, That amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available through September 30 of the same fiscal year, in addition to such other funds as may be available for such purposes, for information technology expenses necessary for the operation of the Environmental Protection Agency, and associated administrative expenses, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

Establishing a NEF would allow the Agency to dedicate funds for these critical, non-recurring expenses, ensuring that routine operational budgets are not disrupted by unexpected large expenditures. This approach allows for more stable and predictable financial planning. EPA also can strategically plan for and prioritize non-recurring projects, aligning them with long-term goals and ensuring that critical needs are addressed without competing with ongoing operational demands.

Exhibit A: Example IT Systems considered for replacement under the NEF

System	Impacts	Estimated Costs²³⁸
ETSNNext travel	ETSNNext travel This proposal requests resources to transition to the ETSNNext system as required by GSA. With ETSNNext, GSA will provide a single centralized governmentwide Travel and Expense (T&E) service that leverages the T&E business standards.	\$1.5M
HR Line of Business System Replacement	This investment would result in an enterprise comprehensive HR information system aimed at improving the experience of applicants, hiring managers, HR professionals, and agency employees involved in the hiring process. Finally, upgraded systems would ensure the effective use of human capital evaluation systems to document, measure, track, evaluate, and report progress on implementing the requirements of M-24-16 and 5 CFR Part 250.	\$5.0M
Next Generation Grants System (NGGS) Modernization	This investment will serve to consolidate and retire disparate IT systems into a standardized EPA Grants Management System. Utilizing the Grants QSMO may allow EPA program offices to elect to buy into certain discretionary services above the base services to provide services that align with common programmatic needs.	\$5.0M
EPA Acquisition System (EAS) Modernization	EPA proposes to utilize this funding to improve the user interface for a better customer experience; increase data tracking capability of the system to enable a greater capability to report out on contract activities; ensure greater compliance with Federal Acquisition Regulations; and improve the speed at which contracting actions are created, reviewed, and processed through the system. Resources would be used to investigate a modern contract writing system and move the Agency towards modernizing or buying into improved contracting system services.	\$3.0M
Interagency Agreement Award Management System (IAAMS) Replacement	The IAAMS system supports and documents the interagency agreements EPA has with other agencies. Proper management of these agreements is critical for EPA to provide payments on time, retain the services provided by these agreements, and maintain good relationships with EPA's partners. Resources made available by this investment is to modernize or buy into improved interagency award management system services. The current system does not allow for integration with Treasury's G-Invoicing Platform, nor does it fully integrate with the Agency's Compass core financial systems.	\$2.0M

²³⁸ Note: All costs are estimates subject to change. Final costs and needs would be conveyed to OMB during the review and approval process for the use of NEF funds.

System	Impacts	Estimated Costs²³⁸
Payment Tracking System (PTS)	This investment is to consolidate payment tracking systems with Compass, the Agency's financial system. The consolidation will allow the Agency to standardize data elements, reduce maintenance costs, and resources required to maintain multiple payment systems. It also will improve business processes and reduce redundancies while enhancing audit trail capabilities at the transactional level.	\$1.0M
Compass Data Warehouse (CDW)	This investment will advance the need for restructuring all data in the Compass Data Warehouse. This enhancement will ensure the Agency's financial data is accurate, reliable, and timely, to support agencywide reporting and data analysis needs in a standardized, documented and appropriately governed format. These changes will benefit both internal and external stakeholders.	\$1.5M
Transition to a New Time and Attendance System	Transition to a New Time and Attendance System. The Agency requires a \$2.0M investment to either upgrade or begin a transition to a new Time and Attendance System. EPA first implemented PeoplePlus in 2004 and in 2017 upgraded to its current version of 9.2 which is no longer supported by the vendor. If the current Time and Attendance System is upgraded, an investment would still be required for implementation and testing.	\$2.0M
Legal Case Management System	This investment will allow for improvements to this system, reducing the workload entailed in operating the system, redundancies in its functioning, while also improving the capability to extract useful information from it.	\$5.0M
Subtotal		\$26.0M

OECA Travel by Program Project FY 2020 - FY 2025¹

	FY 2020		FY 2021		FY 2022		FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025 ¹
Program Project	Enacted	Actuals**	Enacted	Actuals**	Enacted	Actuals**	Enacted*	Actuals**	Enacted*	Actuals**	Enacted
EPM											
43 - Brownfields	\$16.0	\$18.2	\$3.0	\$0.0	\$3.0	\$2.3	\$3.0	\$3.3	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$3.0
44 - Civil Enforcement	\$2,197.0	\$886.2	\$742.0	\$602.0	\$742.0	\$1,230.7	\$2,932.0	\$2,637.5	\$3,074.0	\$2,665.2	\$1571.0
50 - Compliance Monitoring	\$1,516.0	\$694.8	\$567.0	\$301.0	\$582.0	\$658.0	\$835.0	\$1,217.5	\$835.0	\$1,752.0	\$835.0
52 - Criminal Enforcement	\$1,522.0	\$748.4	\$548.0	\$467.0	\$548.0	\$606.0	\$1,518.0	\$1,381.8	\$1,518.0	\$1,999.1	\$868.0
57 - Environmental Justice	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$4.0	\$148.2	\$4.0	\$248.9	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$0.0
63 - Geographic Program: Chesapeake Bay	\$20.0	\$6.9	\$20.0	\$9.0	\$20.0	\$18.4	\$20.0	\$23.8	\$20.0	\$21.2	\$20.0
90 - NEPA Implementation	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
C4 – Stratospheric Ozone: Domestic Programs	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3.4	\$0.0
F2 - Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$238.0	\$204.4	\$84.0	\$132.0	\$131.0	\$342.4	\$207.0	\$355.7	\$109.0	\$455.4	\$109.0
Total	\$5,509.0	\$2,558.9	\$1,964.0	\$1,511.0	\$2,030.0	\$3,006.0	\$5,519.0	\$5,868.5	\$5,563.0	\$6,903.3	\$3,406.0
S&T											
62 - Forensics Support	\$260.0	\$115.0	\$141.0	\$88.0	\$141.0	\$170.9	\$260.0	\$232.2	\$260.0	\$270.0	\$85.0
LUST											
44 - Civil Enforcement	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
OIL											
44 - Civil Enforcement	\$14.0	\$3.1	\$14.0	\$6.0	\$12.0	\$13.4	\$12.0	\$9.3	\$12.0	\$7.9	\$12.0
50 - Compliance Monitoring	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Total	\$14.0	\$3.1	\$14.0	\$6.0	\$12.0	\$13.4	\$12.0	\$9.3	\$12.0	\$7.9	\$12.0
SUPERFUND											
50 - Compliance Monitoring	\$8.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
52 - Criminal Enforcement	\$468.0	\$125.8	\$468.0	\$399.0	\$468.0	\$547.3	\$468.0	\$579.7	\$79.0	\$478.9	\$79.0
62 - Forensics Support	\$50.0	\$17.2	\$50.0	\$48.0	\$50.0	\$65.3	\$50.0	\$85.9	\$50.0	\$46.8	\$50.0
C7 - Superfund: Enforcement ***	\$1,143.0	\$445.0	\$1,143.0	\$155.0	\$1,143.0	\$461.8	\$1,143.0	\$980.0	\$0.0	\$1,598.0	\$0.0
H2 - Superfund: Federal Facilities Enforcement	\$120.0	\$81.7	\$120.0	\$12.0	\$120.0	\$28.1	\$120.0	\$102.2	\$93.0	\$131.2	\$93.0
Total	\$1,789.0	\$669.7	\$1,781.0	\$614.0	\$1,781.0	\$1,102.5	\$1,781.0	\$1,747.8	\$222.0	\$2,254.9	\$222.0
Grand Total	\$7,572.0	\$3,346.7	\$3,900.0	\$2,219.0	\$3,964.0	\$4,292.7	\$7,572.0	\$7,857.7	\$6,057.0	\$9,436.1	\$3,725.0

¹The Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 instructs EPA to follow guidance as set forth in House Report 116-448. House Report 116-448 directs EPA to provide “requested enforcement travel budget, and budgeted and actual enforcement travel spending for the previous five fiscal years”. Please see page 80:

<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/116th-congress/house-report/448/1?outputFormat=pdf>. This report fulfills this requirement.

In addition, the Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

*In FY 2020 and FY 2021, OECA's travel resources decreased due to the COVID Pandemic travel restrictions. In FY 2023 and FY 2024, the travel resources were brought back to pre-COVID levels to resume in-person travel and inspections.

**Actuals include final obligations of New Obligation Authority (NOA) and Carryover for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA).

***In FY 2024, EPA transitioned the Superfund Enforcement Program solely to the Superfund Tax Receipts. As a result, EPA only provides Superfund Enforcement travel actual spending.

On-Site Inspections and Off-site Compliance Monitoring Compliance Activities from EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System²³⁹

The table below provides the numbers in EPA's Integrated Compliance Information (ICIS) data system for on-site inspection and off-site compliance monitoring activities from fiscal years (FY) 2020 - 2026.

Fiscal Year	On-Site Inspections	Off-Site Compliance Monitoring Activities <i>(EPA does not set separate targets for this category)</i>	Total Completed
FY 2020 actual	Target: not set** Actual: 3,600	4,900	8,500
FY 2021 actual	Target: not set** Actual: 3,200	7,600	10,800
FY 2022 actual	Target: not set** Actual: 5,900	8,000	13,900
FY 2023 actual	Target: not set** Actual: 7,750	5,350	13,100
FY 2024 actual	Target: 6,050 Actual: 8,500	4,000	12,500
FY 2025 projection	Target: 6,200 Actual: TBD		Target: 10,000
FY 2026 projection	Target: TBD Actual: TBD		Target: 10,000

*Prior to FY 2019, EPA set one target for a combination of on-site inspections and off-site compliance monitoring activities. In FY 2019, EPA also began to set a target for on-site inspections.

**EPA did not set targets for on-site inspections in FY 2020 through FY 2023 due to travel restrictions, uncertainty resulting from COVID-19, and rebuilding capacity as the pandemic receded.

Caveats:

1. **Definitions:** EPA did not have nationally consistent definitions of on-site inspections and off-site compliance monitoring activities for its Compliance Monitoring Program until OECA issued guidance on April 24, 2020 (updated in November 2020). As a result, earlier data may include mis-categorized activities. EPA's April 24, 2020, memorandum provided definitions for both on-site and off-site compliance monitoring activities, which creates more consistency in each of the categories.
2. **Incomplete Data Entry:** Prior to the April 24, 2020 guidance, EPA did not require most types of off-site compliance monitoring activities to be entered into an EPA database, so prior years' data are likely incomplete. The guidance established expectations for national reporting of these activities.

²³⁹ The Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 instructs EPA to follow guidance as set forth in *House Report 116-448*. *House Report 116-448* directs EPA to provide "separate targets for onsite inspections and offsite compliance monitoring activities, and separate target and actuals data for onsite and offsite compliance monitoring activities for the previous five fiscal years". Please see page 80: <https://www.congress.gov/116/crpt/hrpt448/CRPT-116hrpt448.pdf>. This report fulfills this requirement.

3. COVID-19: Restrictions on travel during the pandemic affected EPA's ability to conduct on-site inspections in FY 2020, FY 2021 and partially in FY 2022. While on-site inspection numbers dropped substantially during this time, EPA was able to increase its off-site compliance monitoring activities. In FY 2022, as the pandemic eased, EPA was able to begin increasing the number of on-site inspections again, and on-site inspection numbers have continued to rise through FY 2023.
4. States Conduct Majority of Inspections: Most on-site inspections are performed by authorized states. For example, states performed over 54,000 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) inspections in FY 2024.
5. Data Mining: With modern tools, EPA collects data from monitoring reports and manifests. EPA conducts this type of off-site compliance monitoring to try to detect violations, including possible violations of emission and discharge limitations. EPA uses this information to target facilities for on-site inspections.
6. Totals More Reliable Than Subtotals: The sum of the two subtotals (on-site inspections + off-site compliance monitoring activities) is a more reliable value because it smooths out some of the variability in each subtotal.
7. Staffing Levels: The number of inspections the Agency completes each year generally correlates with our annual staffing levels.

Physicians' Comparability Allowance (PCA) Plan

Department and component:

Environmental Protection Agency

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to describe the Agency's plan for implementing the Physicians' Comparability Allowance (PCA) Program. Per 5 CFR 595.107, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) must approve this plan prior to the Agency entering into any PCA service agreement. Changes to this plan must be reviewed and approved by OMB in accordance with 5 CFR 595.107.

Reporting: In addition to the plan, each year, components utilizing PCA will include their PCA worksheet in the OMB Justification (OMBJ), typically in September. OMB and OPM will use this data for Budget development and congressional reporting.

Plan for Implementing the PCA Program:

- 1a) Identify the categories of physician positions the Agency has established are covered by PCA under § 595.103. Please include the basis for each category. If applicable, list and explain the necessity of any additional physician categories designated by your agency (for categories other than I through IV-B). List Any Additional Physician Categories Designated by Your Agency: Pursuant to 5 CFR 595.107, any additional category of physician receiving a PCA, not covered by categories I through IV-B, should be listed and accompanied by an explanation as to why these categories are necessary.

Number of Physicians Receiving PCAs by Category (non-add)	Category of Physician Position	Covered by Agency (mark "x" if covered)	Basis for Category
2	Category I Clinical Position	X	EPA clinical physicians oversee the medical care of study subjects. These studies are conducted on the health effects of a variety of common environmental pollutants in many different human subjects. Our primary emphasis is on cardio-pulmonary responses, with recent interest in behavioral responses. The Medical Officer is responsible for the health and well-being of research participants before, during, and after research. Prior to research, the Medical Officer is responsible for clinically evaluating individuals. During research, they are responsible for instituting preventative measures to ensure that any procedure entails the least risk possible. After the research, it is the Medical Officer's responsibility to evaluate an individual's health to determine any clinical changes.
	Category II Research Position		n/a
1	Category III Occupational Health		Medical staff within the Office of Real Property, Safety, and Security, Safety, Occupational Health and Sustainability Division serves as a focal point for occupational medical surveillance, wellness,

Number of Physicians Receiving PCAs by Category (non-add)	Category of Physician Position	Covered by Agency (mark "x" if covered)	Basis for Category
			and provide medical consultative services supporting the Agency's safety and health, disease response/outbreak, fitness for duty, diver, automated external defibrillator, emergency response, nerve agent antidote, medical countermeasures, lactation, maternal wellness, and other national programs.
	Category IV-A Disability Evaluation		n/a
1	Category IV-B Health and Medical Admin.	X	This position serves as the principal medical officer and environmental health scientist for EPA. The position is responsible for providing leadership, direction, and technical expertise in support of organizational-wide health and environmental planning, policy development and implementation, and oversight of scientific initiatives and research efforts. This includes: Strategic Research Action Plan oversight; prioritization of environmental health research; and counsel and oversight on legislation, regulations and health impact assessments related to Executive Branch agencies on human health, air quality, ecosystem services, toxics and risks, environmental social sciences, and most notably, COVID-19.

Physicians' Comparability Allowance (PCA) Plan (continued)

- 2) Explain the recruitment and retention problem(s) for each category of physician in your agency (this should demonstrate that a current need continues to persist). § 595 of 5 CFR Ch. 1 requires that an agency may determine that a significant recruitment and retention problem exists only if all of the following conditions apply:
- Evidence indicates that the Agency is unable to recruit and retain physicians for the category;
 - The qualification requirements being sought do not exceed the qualifications necessary for successful performance of the work;
 - The Agency has made efforts to recruit and retain candidates in the category; and
 - There are not a sufficient number of qualified candidates available if no comparability allowance is paid.

Number of Physicians Receiving PCAs by Category (non-add)	Category of Physician Position	Recruitment and retention problem
2	Category I Clinical Position	The small population of EPA Clinical Physician positions experiences modest turnover. The value of the physicians' comparability allowance to EPA is used as a retention tool. The Agency is told regularly that absent the allowance some EPA physicians would seek employment at federal agencies that provide the allowance.
	Category II Research Position	n/a
1	Category III Occupational Health	The value of the physicians' comparability allowance to EPA is to be used as a recruitment and retention tool. The Agency is told regularly that absent the allowance some EPA physicians would seek employment at federal agencies that provide the allowance.
	Category IV-A Disability Evaluation	n/a
1	Category IV-B Health and Medical Admin.	The small population of EPA Health and Medical Administrative Physician position(s) experiences modest turnover. The value of the physicians' comparability allowance to EPA is used as a retention tool. The Agency is told regularly that absent the allowance some EPA physicians would seek employment at federal agencies that provide the allowance.

3) Explain how the Agency determines the amounts to be used for each category of physicians.

Number of Physicians Receiving PCAs by Category (non-add)	Category of Physician Position	Basis of comparability allowance amount
2	Category I Clinical Position	EPA reviews the experience and technical expertise of the candidates. Combined with other salary ranges in the private sector and in review of other federal agencies, the Agency tries to be within a range that allows the Agency to retain the employees.
	Category II Research Position	n/a
1	Category III Occupational Health	EPA reviews the experience and technical expertise of the candidates. Combined with other salary ranges in the private sector and in review of other federal agencies, the Agency tries to be within a range that allows the Agency to retain the employees.
	Category IV-A Disability Evaluation	n/a
1	Category IV-B Health and Medical Admin.	EPA reviews the experience and technical expertise of the candidates. Combined with other salary ranges in the private sector and in review of other federal agencies, the Agency tries to be within a range that allows the Agency to retain the employees.

4) Does the Agency affirm that the PCA plan is consistent with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5948 and the requirements of § 595 of 5 CFR Ch. 1?

Yes

Physicians' Comparability Allowance (PCA) Worksheet

1) Department and component:

Environmental Protection Agency

2) Explain the recruitment and retention problem(s) justifying the need for the PCA pay authority.

(Please include any staffing data to support your explanation, such as number and duration of unfilled positions and number of accessions and separations per fiscal year.)

Historically, the number of EPA Research Physicians is between three and seven positions. This small population experiences modest turnover. The value of the physicians' comparability allowance to EPA is used as a retention tool. EPA continues to use the PCA to recruit qualified candidates to fill vacancies and to retain these employees.

3-4) Please complete the table below with details of the PCA agreement for the following years:

	PY 2024 (Actual)	CY* 2025(Estimates)	BY** 2026 (Estimates)
3a) Number of Physicians Receiving PCAs	4	4	4
3b) Number of Physicians with One-Year PCA Agreements	0	0	0
3c) Number of Physicians with Multi-Year PCA Agreements	4	4	4
4a) Average Annual PCA Physician Pay (without PCA payment)	\$210,645	\$224,617	\$224,617
4b) Average Annual PCA Payment	\$23,253	\$23,253	\$28,871

*The Agency notes that FY 2025 and FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

**BY data will be approved during the BY Budget cycle. Please ensure each column is completed.

5) Explain the degree to which recruitment and retention problems were alleviated in your agency through the use of PCAs in the prior fiscal year.

(Please include any staffing data to support your explanation, such as number and duration of unfilled positions and number of accessions and separations per fiscal year.)

The Agency is told regularly that absent the allowance; EPA physicians would seek employment at federal agencies that provide the allowance.

6) Provide any additional information that may be useful in planning PCA staffing levels and amounts in your agency.

An agency with a very small number of physician positions and a low turn-over rate among them still needs the allowance authority to maintain the stability of the small population. Those who opt for federal employment in opposition to private sector employment still want the maximum pay available in the federal sector. Were it not for the PCA, EPA would regularly lose some of its physicians to other federal agencies that offer the allowance, both requiring EPA to refill vacant positions and making it more difficult for EPA to fill those positions. Turn-over statistics should be viewed in this light.

Environmental Protection Agency FY 2026 Congressional Justification

Program Projects by Program Area

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology				
Clean Air				
Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs	\$6,456	\$6,162	\$5,739	-\$423
Atmospheric Protection	\$7,295	\$5,639	\$0	-\$5,639
Federal Support for Air Quality Management	\$15,762	\$10,608	\$10,727	\$119
Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification	\$110,934	\$116,215	\$100,731	-\$15,484
Subtotal, Clean Air	\$140,448	\$138,624	\$117,197	-\$21,427
Enforcement				
Forensics Support	\$14,668	\$14,895	\$10,095	-\$4,800
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection	\$11,253	\$10,427	\$10,214	-\$213
Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	\$25,348	\$23,598	\$25,542	\$1,944
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$625	\$625	\$500	-\$125
Subtotal, Homeland Security	\$37,226	\$34,650	\$36,256	\$1,606
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Indoor Air: Radon Program	\$169	\$22	\$0	-\$22
Radiation: Protection	\$2,295	\$1,740	\$1,047	-\$693
Radiation: Response Preparedness	\$3,174	\$3,400	\$3,096	-\$304
Reduce Risks from Indoor Air	\$100	\$88	\$0	-\$88
Subtotal, Indoor Air and Radiation	\$5,737	\$5,250	\$4,143	-\$1,107
IT / Data Management / Security				
IT / Data Management	\$2,484	\$3,079	\$2,890	-\$189
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$55,023	-\$9,710
Workforce Reshaping	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$57,023	-\$7,710
Pesticides Licensing				
Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk	\$2,996	\$2,889	\$2,442	-\$447
Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk	\$2,151	\$2,143	\$2,616	\$473

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability	\$823	\$868	\$684	-\$184
Subtotal, Pesticides Licensing	\$5,969	\$5,900	\$5,742	-\$158
Research: Air and Energy				
Research: Air and Energy	\$94,764	\$96,000	\$33,543	-\$62,457
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Health and Environmental Risk Assessment	\$42,055	\$38,732	\$24,694	-\$14,038
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
<i>Endocrine Disruptors</i>	<i>\$17,002</i>	<i>\$15,535</i>	<i>\$10,034</i>	<i>-\$5,501</i>
<i>Computational Toxicology</i>	<i>\$22,264</i>	<i>\$20,526</i>	<i>\$16,148</i>	<i>-\$4,378</i>
<i>Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability (other activities)</i>	<i>\$54,133</i>	<i>\$52,244</i>	<i>\$40,770</i>	<i>-\$11,474</i>
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$93,399	\$88,305	\$66,952	-\$21,353
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$135,454	\$127,037	\$91,646	-\$35,391
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$134,581	\$132,205	\$58,597	-\$73,608
Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources				
Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources	\$111,275	\$111,500	\$78,948	-\$32,552
Ensure Safe Water				
Drinking Water Programs	\$4,111	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$0
Congressional Priorities <i>(previously named Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants)</i>				
Congressional Priorities	\$28,536	\$17,500	\$0	-\$17,500
Total, Science & Technology	\$782,646	\$756,073	\$500,780	-\$255,293
Environmental Programs & Management				
Alaska Contaminated Lands				
Alaska Contaminated Lands	\$3,245	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Brownfields				
Brownfields	\$25,458	\$25,689	\$12,816	-\$12,873
Clean Air				
Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs	\$15,177	\$13,423	\$13,231	-\$192
Atmospheric Protection	\$99,198	\$53,615	\$0	-\$53,615
Federal Stationary Source Regulations	\$26,113	\$24,554	\$25,272	\$718
Federal Support for Air Quality Management	\$149,862	\$205,936	\$132,556	-\$73,380
Stratospheric Ozone: Domestic Programs	\$6,655	\$1,472	\$5,895	\$4,423
Stratospheric Ozone: Multilateral Fund	\$8,326	\$0	\$0	-\$0

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Subtotal, Clean Air	\$305,331	\$299,000	\$176,954	-\$122,046
Compliance				
Compliance Monitoring	\$106,372	\$107,078	\$69,078	-\$38,000
Enforcement				
Civil Enforcement	\$218,907	\$201,305	\$140,191	-\$61,114
Criminal Enforcement	\$65,595	\$60,041	\$30,472	-\$29,569
Environmental Justice	\$109,910	\$94,124	\$0	-\$94,124
NEPA Implementation	\$21,664	\$19,898	\$21,061	\$1,163
Subtotal, Enforcement	\$416,079	\$375,368	\$191,724	-\$183,644
Geographic Programs				
Geographic Program: Chesapeake Bay	\$107,846	\$92,000	\$92,000	\$0
Geographic Program: Gulf of America	\$23,160	\$25,524	\$25,524	\$0
Geographic Program: Lake Champlain	\$25,041	\$25,000	\$15,590	-\$9,410
Geographic Program: Long Island Sound	\$42,108	\$40,002	\$40,002	\$0
Geographic Program: Other				
<i>Lake Pontchartrain</i>	<i>\$4,399</i>	<i>\$2,200</i>	<i>\$1,012</i>	<i>-\$1,188</i>
<i>S.New England Estuary (SNEE)</i>	<i>\$4,534</i>	<i>\$7,000</i>	<i>\$3,334</i>	<i>-\$3,666</i>
<i>Geographic Program: Other (other activities)</i>	<i>\$5,827</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$2,793</i>	<i>-\$2,207</i>
Subtotal, Geographic Program: Other	\$14,760	\$14,200	\$7,139	-\$7,061
Great Lakes Restoration	\$336,013	\$368,000	\$368,000	\$0
Geographic Program: South Florida	\$8,508	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0
Geographic Program: San Francisco Bay	\$41,881	\$54,500	\$12,897	-\$41,603
Geographic Program: Puget Sound	\$55,217	\$54,000	\$28,767	-\$25,233
Subtotal, Geographic Programs	\$654,534	\$681,726	\$598,419	-\$83,307
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Communication and Information	\$4,018	\$4,792	\$3,677	-\$1,115
Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection	\$987	\$914	\$1,361	\$447
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$4,973	\$4,665	\$4,986	\$321
Subtotal, Homeland Security	\$9,979	\$10,371	\$10,024	-\$347
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Indoor Air: Radon Program	\$2,627	\$3,123	\$0	-\$3,123
Radiation: Protection	\$8,791	\$9,520	\$2,470	-\$7,050
Radiation: Response Preparedness	\$2,044	\$2,262	\$2,350	\$88
Reduce Risks from Indoor Air	\$14,343	\$12,495	\$11,642	-\$853
Subtotal, Indoor Air and Radiation	\$27,805	\$27,400	\$16,462	-\$10,938
Information Exchange / Outreach				
State and Local Prevention and Preparedness	\$15,308	\$14,940	\$10,862	-\$4,078

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
TRI / Right to Know	\$12,246	\$11,991	\$13,206	\$1,215
Tribal - Capacity Building	\$14,414	\$15,215	\$14,715	-\$500
Executive Management and Operations	\$61,072	\$56,574	\$38,984	-\$17,590
Environmental Education	\$9,705	\$9,500	\$0	-\$9,500
Exchange Network	\$15,359	\$10,098	\$0	-\$10,098
Small Minority Business Assistance	\$3,572	\$1,907	\$1,080	-\$827
Small Business Ombudsman	\$2,460	\$1,925	\$1,983	\$58
Children and Other Sensitive Populations: Agency Coordination	\$6,343	\$6,850	\$6,350	-\$500
Subtotal, Information Exchange / Outreach	\$140,479	\$129,000	\$87,180	-\$41,820
International Programs				
US Mexico Border	\$2,853	\$2,936	\$2,791	-\$145
International Sources of Pollution	\$7,748	\$7,683	\$5,339	-\$2,344
Trade and Governance	\$5,232	\$4,558	\$0	-\$4,558
Subtotal, International Programs	\$15,833	\$15,177	\$8,130	-\$7,047
IT / Data Management / Security				
Information Security	\$11,852	\$8,388	\$14,012	\$5,624
IT / Data Management	\$89,592	\$88,112	\$79,164	-\$8,948
Subtotal, IT / Data Management / Security	\$101,444	\$96,500	\$93,176	-\$3,324
Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review				
Integrated Environmental Strategies	\$12,897	\$10,435	\$8,000	-\$2,435
Administrative Law	\$5,437	\$6,106	\$5,104	-\$1,002
Alternative Dispute Resolution	\$439	\$579	\$0	-\$579
Civil Rights Program	\$12,219	\$11,248	\$9,780	-\$1,468
Legal Advice: Environmental Program	\$61,776	\$58,876	\$50,263	-\$8,613
Legal Advice: Support Program	\$18,906	\$18,541	\$18,082	-\$459
Regional Science and Technology	\$1,341	\$322	\$0	-\$322
Science Advisory Board	\$3,972	\$3,415	\$4,031	\$616
Regulatory/Economic-Management and Analysis	\$18,634	\$17,768	\$17,294	-\$474
Subtotal, Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review	\$135,622	\$127,290	\$112,554	-\$14,736
Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)				
LUST / UST	\$12,333	\$11,500	\$6,863	-\$4,637
Operations and Administration				
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$81,953	\$80,928	\$76,603	-\$4,325
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
Acquisition Management	\$34,401	\$32,223	\$32,247	\$24
Human Resources Management	\$62,477	\$51,813	\$40,000	-\$11,813
Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management	\$28,386	\$28,202	\$27,147	-\$1,055
Workforce Reshaping	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$481,424	\$469,075	\$418,596	-\$50,479
Pesticides Licensing				
Science Policy and Biotechnology	\$1,613	\$1,379	\$0	-\$1,379
Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk	\$62,897	\$61,704	\$60,224	-\$1,480
Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk	\$46,586	\$45,511	\$45,832	\$321
Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability	\$8,047	\$6,781	\$6,014	-\$767
Subtotal, Pesticides Licensing	\$119,143	\$115,375	\$112,070	-\$3,305
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)				
RCRA: Corrective Action	\$39,061	\$38,423	\$25,126	-\$13,297
RCRA: Waste Management	\$74,277	\$71,879	\$40,399	-\$31,480
RCRA: Waste Minimization & Recycling	\$12,776	\$10,348	\$4,253	-\$6,095
Subtotal, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	\$126,114	\$120,650	\$69,778	-\$50,872
Toxics Risk Review and Prevention				
Endocrine Disruptors	\$9,184	\$7,614	\$3,000	-\$4,614
Pollution Prevention Program	\$12,583	\$11,865	\$0	-\$11,865
Toxic Substances: Chemical Risk Review and Reduction	\$91,338	\$96,406	\$73,042	-\$23,364
Toxic Substances: Lead Risk Reduction Program	\$12,551	\$14,068	\$0	-\$14,068
Subtotal, Toxics Risk Review and Prevention	\$125,656	\$129,953	\$76,042	-\$53,911
Protecting Estuaries and Wetlands				
National Estuary Program / Coastal Waterways	\$35,648	\$40,000	\$32,000	-\$8,000
Wetlands	\$21,404	\$20,884	\$20,884	\$0
Subtotal, Protecting Estuaries and Wetlands	\$57,052	\$60,884	\$52,884	-\$8,000
Ensure Safe Water				
Beach / Fish Programs	\$1,696	\$1,571	\$1,819	\$248
Drinking Water Programs	\$123,122	\$115,429	\$124,181	\$8,752
Subtotal, Ensure Safe Water	\$124,818	\$117,000	\$126,000	\$9,000
Ensure Clean Water				
Marine Pollution	\$9,561	\$8,494	\$8,954	\$460
Surface Water Protection	\$224,493	\$216,798	\$214,000	-\$2,798
Subtotal, Ensure Clean Water	\$234,054	\$225,292	\$222,954	-\$2,338
Congressional Priorities (previously named Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants)				
Congressional Priorities	\$30,700	\$30,700	\$0	-\$30,700
Total, Environmental Programs & Management	\$3,253,475	\$3,195,028	\$2,481,704	-\$713,324

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Inspector General				
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations				
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations	\$40,042	\$43,250	\$43,250	\$0
Total, Inspector General	\$40,042	\$43,250	\$43,250	\$0
Building and Facilities				
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$6,225	\$6,676	\$6,176	-\$500
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$26,604	\$34,000	\$28,900	-\$5,100
Total, Building and Facilities	\$32,830	\$40,676	\$35,076	-\$5,600
Hazardous Substance Superfund				
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations				
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations	\$12,470	\$11,328	\$11,328	\$0
Compliance				
Compliance Monitoring	\$863	\$1,017	\$817	-\$200
Enforcement				
Criminal Enforcement	\$9,890	\$7,944	\$3,999	-\$3,945
Environmental Justice	\$7,283	\$5,876	\$0	-\$5,876
Forensics Support	\$1,474	\$1,286	\$1,040	-\$246
Superfund: Enforcement	\$185,418	\$0	\$0	\$0
Superfund: Federal Facilities Enforcement	\$8,463	\$1,793	\$1,784	-\$9
Subtotal, Enforcement	\$212,528	\$16,899	\$6,823	-\$10,076
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	\$35,472	\$34,588	\$35,192	\$604
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$1,257	\$1,102	\$915	-\$187
Subtotal, Homeland Security	\$36,729	\$35,690	\$36,107	\$417
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Radiation: Protection	\$3,823	\$2,472	\$2,122	-\$350
Information Exchange / Outreach				
Exchange Network	\$1,037	\$1,328	\$0	-\$1,328
IT / Data Management / Security				

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Information Security	\$2,123	\$1,040	\$5,082	\$4,042
IT / Data Management	\$19,372	\$19,786	\$13,874	-\$5,912
Subtotal, IT / Data Management / Security	\$21,495	\$20,826	\$18,956	-\$1,870
Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review				
Alternative Dispute Resolution	\$1,006	\$644	\$0	-\$644
Legal Advice: Environmental Program	\$1,804	\$713	\$608	-\$105
Subtotal, Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review	\$2,810	\$1,357	\$608	-\$749
Operations and Administration				
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$35,335	\$31,378	\$22,462	-\$8,916
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$74,984	\$67,080	\$57,373	-\$9,707
Acquisition Management	\$23,620	\$25,588	\$23,752	-\$1,836
Human Resources Management	\$10,904	\$7,424	\$5,704	-\$1,720
Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management	\$5,012	\$4,170	\$2,903	-\$1,267
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$149,854	\$135,640	\$112,194	-\$23,446
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Health and Environmental Risk Assessment	\$5,208	\$5,238	\$5,714	\$476
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$8,457	\$7,723	\$0	-\$7,723
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$13,665	\$12,961	\$5,714	-\$7,247
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$20,147	\$16,937	\$11,448	-\$5,489
Superfund Cleanup				
Superfund: Emergency Response and Removal	\$277,004	\$59,181	\$47,311	-\$11,870
Superfund: EPA Emergency Preparedness	\$7,782	\$8,056	\$7,700	-\$356
Superfund: Federal Facilities	\$32,149	\$26,189	\$21,621	-\$4,568
Superfund: Remedial	\$686,559	\$187,819	\$0	-\$187,819
Subtotal, Superfund Cleanup	\$1,003,495	\$281,245	\$76,632	-\$204,613
Total, Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,478,917	\$537,700	\$282,749	-\$254,951
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks				
Enforcement				
Civil Enforcement	\$619	\$635	\$435	-\$200
Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)				
LUST / UST	\$11,474	\$9,591	\$7,149	-\$2,442
LUST Cooperative Agreements	\$55,740	\$52,838	\$38,840	-\$13,998
LUST Prevention	\$26,301	\$24,491	\$0	-\$24,491
Subtotal, Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)	\$93,515	\$86,920	\$45,989	-\$40,931
Operations and Administration				

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$580	\$537	\$450	-\$87
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Acquisition Management	\$113	\$109	\$132	\$23
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$1,290	\$1,332	\$1,194	-\$138
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$354	\$327	\$304	-\$23
Total, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$95,778	\$89,214	\$47,922	-\$41,292
Inland Oil Spill Programs				
Compliance				
Compliance Monitoring	\$750	\$605	\$605	\$0
Enforcement				
Civil Enforcement	\$2,614	\$2,465	\$1,762	-\$703
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$625	\$637	\$541	-\$96
Oil				
Oil Spill: Prevention, Preparedness and Response	\$19,041	\$16,334	\$12,965	-\$3,369
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$681	\$670	\$522	-\$148
Total, Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$23,712	\$20,711	\$16,395	-\$4,316
State and Tribal Assistance Grants				
State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)				
Infrastructure Assistance: Alaska Native Villages	\$40,116	\$39,000	\$10,000	-\$29,000
Brownfields Projects	\$98,700	\$98,000	\$80,000	-\$18,000
Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF	\$922,125	\$1,638,861	\$155,000	-\$1,483,861
Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF Congressionally Directed Spending	\$214,719	\$0	\$0	\$0
Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF	\$570,096	\$1,126,101	\$150,000	-\$976,101
Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF Congressionally Directed Spending	\$139,857	\$0	\$0	\$0
Infrastructure Assistance: Mexico Border	\$17,830	\$35,000	\$10,000	-\$25,000
Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program	\$170,185	\$90,000	\$0	-\$90,000
Targeted Airshed Grants	\$27,258	\$67,800	\$67,800	\$0
San Juan Watershed Monitoring (Formerly - Gold King Mine Water Monitoring)	\$56	\$0	\$0	\$0
Safe Water for Small & Disadvantaged Communities	\$48,124	\$28,500	\$0	-\$28,500
Reducing Lead in Drinking Water	\$1,638	\$22,000	\$20,000	-\$2,000
Lead Testing in Schools	\$46,121	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0
Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability	\$0	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Technical Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Works (Formerly - Technical Assistance for Treatment Works)	\$580	\$25,500	\$10,000	-\$15,500
Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants (Formerly - Sewer Overflow Control Grants)	\$53,149	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$0
Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment (Formerly - Water Infrastructure and Workforce Investment)	\$16,078	\$5,400	\$5,000	-\$400
Recycling Infrastructure	\$10,612	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Wildfire Smoke Preparedness	\$10,670	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0
Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability	\$0	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$0
Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program	\$0	\$4,000	\$31,000	\$27,000
Stormwater Infrastructure Technology	\$952	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Enhanced Aquifer Use and Recharge	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Water Sector Cybersecurity	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)	\$2,388,866	\$3,275,412	\$644,050	-\$2,631,362
Categorical Grants				
Categorical Grant: Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319)	\$175,311	\$174,263	\$0	-\$174,263
Categorical Grant: Public Water System Supervision (PWSS)	\$113,479	\$115,833	\$0	-\$115,833
Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management	\$222,969	\$235,602	\$0	-\$235,602
Categorical Grant: Radon	\$10,450	\$9,118	\$0	-\$9,118
Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106)				
<i>Monitoring Grants</i>	\$16,765	\$18,487	\$0	-\$18,487
<i>Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106) (other activities)</i>	\$208,390	\$206,892	\$0	-\$206,892
Subtotal, Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106)	\$225,155	\$225,379	\$0	-\$225,379
Categorical Grant: Wetlands Program Development	\$22,315	\$14,085	\$0	-\$14,085
Categorical Grant: Underground Injection Control (UIC)	\$13,059	\$12,277	\$12,294	\$17
Categorical Grant: Pesticides Program Implementation	\$13,842	\$12,982	\$0	-\$12,982
Categorical Grant: Lead	\$16,507	\$14,980	\$0	-\$14,980
Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants (Formerly - Categorical Grant: Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance)	\$98,036	\$101,362	\$0	-\$101,362
Categorical Grant: Pesticides Enforcement	\$24,397	\$24,217	\$0	-\$24,217
Categorical Grant: Pollution Prevention	\$516	\$4,717	\$0	-\$4,717
Categorical Grant: Toxics Substances Compliance	\$4,733	\$4,754	\$0	-\$4,754
Categorical Grant: Tribal General Assistance Program	\$76,823	\$72,102	\$72,200	\$98
Categorical Grant: Underground Storage Tanks	\$1,316	\$1,473	\$0	-\$1,473
Categorical Grant: Tribal Air Quality Management	\$18,224	\$16,278	\$16,300	\$22
Categorical Grant: Multipurpose Grants	\$206	\$0	\$0	\$0
Categorical Grant: Environmental Information	\$12,085	\$9,487	\$0	-\$9,487
Categorical Grant: Beaches Protection	\$9,051	\$9,737	\$0	-\$9,737
Categorical Grant: Brownfields	\$45,404	\$46,187	\$0	-\$46,187
Subtotal, Categorical Grants	\$1,103,880	\$1,104,833	\$100,794	-\$1,004,039

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Congressional Priorities <i>(previously named Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants)</i>				
Congressionally Mandated Projects	\$6,538	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total, State and Tribal Assistance Grants	\$3,499,285	\$4,380,245	\$744,844	-\$3,635,401
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund				
Ensure Clean Water				
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (No Year)	\$569,585	\$59,634	\$0	-\$59,634
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (Two Year)	\$7,905	\$7,640	\$8,000	\$360
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation State	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	-\$5,000
Total, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund	\$577,490	\$72,274	\$8,000	-\$64,274
TOTAL, EPA	\$9,784,176	\$9,135,171	\$4,160,720	-\$4,974,451

*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

**In addition to annual appropriated resources, the Superfund tax revenues the Agency expects to receive in FY 2025 and FY 2026 are not reflected here. These additional government revenues will be used to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.

*** The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Programs Proposed for Elimination

The following programs are proposed for elimination to refocus agency resources on core statutory work and empower state and local government after years of federal investment. Total savings are \$1.46 billion.

Program Area / Program Project	FY 2025 Enacted* (\$K)	FY 2026 President's Budget (\$K)
Categorical Grants	\$1,004,176	\$0
Categorical Grant: Beaches Protection	\$9,737	\$0
Categorical Grant: Brownfields	\$46,187	\$0
Categorical Grant: Environmental Information	\$9,487	\$0
Categorical Grant: Lead	\$14,980	\$0
Categorical Grant: Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319)	\$174,263	\$0
Categorical Grant: Pesticides Enforcement	\$24,217	\$0
Categorical Grant: Pesticides Program	\$12,982	\$0
Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106)	\$225,379	\$0
Categorical Grant: Pollution Prevention	\$4,717	\$0
Categorical Grant: PWSS	\$115,833	\$0
Categorical Grant: Radon	\$9,118	\$0
Categorical Grant: Toxics Substances Compliance	\$4,754	\$0
Categorical Grant: Underground Storage Tanks	\$1,473	\$0
Categorical Grant: Wetlands Program Development	\$14,085	\$0
Categorical Grant: State & Local Air Quality Mgmt	\$235,602	\$0
Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste Grants	\$101,362	\$0
Clean Air	\$59,254	\$0
Atmospheric Protection	\$59,254	\$0
Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants	\$48,200	\$0
Congressional Priorities	\$48,200	\$0
Enforcement	\$100,000	\$0
Environmental Justice	\$100,000	\$0
Indoor Air and Radiation	\$3,145	\$0
Indoor Air: Radon Program	\$3,145	\$0
Information Exchange / Outreach	\$20,926	\$0
Environmental Education	\$9,500	\$0
Exchange Network	\$11,426	\$0
International Programs	\$4,558	\$0
Trade and Governance	\$4,558	\$0
Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review	\$1,545	\$0
Alternative Dispute Resolution	\$1,223	\$0
Regional Science and Technology	\$322	\$0

Program Area / Program Project	FY 2025 Enacted* (\$K)	FY 2026 President's Budget (\$K)
Pesticides Licensing	\$1,379	\$0
Science Policy and Biotechnology	\$1,379	\$0
State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)	\$118,500	\$0
Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program	\$90,000	\$0
Safe Water for Small & Disadvantaged Communities	\$28,500	\$0
Toxics Risk Review and Prevention	\$25,933	\$0
Pollution Prevention Program	\$11,865	\$0
Toxic Substances: Lead Risk Reduction Program	\$14,068	\$0
Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)	\$24,491	\$0
LUST Prevention	\$24,491	\$0
Eliminated Programs Total	\$1,460,307	\$0

*The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Proposed FY 2026 Administrative Provisions and Other Appropriations Bill Language Changes

To further clarify proposed Administrative Provisions and other Appropriations bill language changes that involve more than a simple annual extension or propose a modification to an existing provision, the following information is provided.

Pesticide Licensing Fees

The following proposed statutory language, which is an annual extension of existing language, would allow PRIA registration service fees to be assessed and to remain available until expended.

Proposed Language to add to FY 2026 Budget:

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate pesticide registration service fees in accordance with Section 33 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. § 136w–8): Provided, that such fees collected shall remain available until expended.

Notwithstanding Section 33(d)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. § 136w–8(d)(2)), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may assess fees under Section 33 of FIFRA (7 U.S.C. § 136w–8) for fiscal year 2026.

Nonrecurring Expense Fund (NEF)

EPA proposes to establish a Non-Recurring Expenses Fund (NEF) to modernize information technology (IT) software and applications.²⁴⁰ This Fund would provide a strategic and fiscally responsible approach to managing significant, one-time expenditures without compromising the Agency's operational budget or long-term financial stability. This proposal aligns EPA with the authorities of many of its federal partners.

Proposed Language to add to FY 2026 Budget:

For fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029, there is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the "Environmental Protection Agency Nonrecurring Expenses Fund" (the Fund): Provided, that unobligated balances of expired funds appropriated for this year, any prior year, or any succeeding fiscal year to the Environmental Protection Agency by this or any other Act may be transferred (not later than the end of the fifth fiscal year or seventh fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which they were appropriated, as appropriate) into the Fund: Provided further, that amounts transferred into the Fund may not exceed \$50,000,000 per fiscal year; Provided further, That amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available through September 30 of the same fiscal year, in addition to such other funds as may be available for such purposes, for information technology expenses necessary for the operation of the Environmental Protection Agency, and associated administrative expenses, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

²⁴⁰ For more information on the NEF proposal, including a current list of IT systems which would benefit from the establishment of an NEF, please see the Nonrecurring Expense Fund Proposal appendix item.

Student Services Contracting Authority

In the FY 2026 Budget, the Agency requests authorization for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) and the Office of Water (OW) to hire pre-baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate students in science and engineering fields. This authority would provide OCSPP and OW with the flexibility to hire qualified students that work on projects that support current priorities, programmatic functions, and the Agency's environmental goals.

Proposed Language to add to FY 2026 Budget:

For fiscal years 2026 through 2030, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Water may, using funds appropriated under the headings "Environmental Programs and Management" and "Science and Technology," contract directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. Section 5, for the temporary or intermittent personal services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purposes of Chapters 57 and 81 of Title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and Chapter 171 of Title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purpose: Provided, that amounts used for this purpose by the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Water collectively may not exceed \$2,000,000 per year.

Special Accounts and Superfund Tax Receipts for Aircraft to Support Superfund Response Actions

31 U.S.C. 1343(d) generally states that appropriated funds are not available for aircraft unless "the appropriation specifically authorizes" its use for such purpose. The FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103) provided that "Section 122(b)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(3)), shall be applied by inserting before the period: " , including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft." In the absence of any indicia of permanency, this provision has been interpreted to only be in effect for fiscal year 2022. Accordingly, EPA proposes to add this authority within the Hazardous Substance Superfund bill language.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2024 (P.L. 118-42) did not provide a provision for Superfund tax receipts available to carry out CERCLA to be used for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft. EPA proposes to add this authority for FY 2026 within the Hazardous Substance Superfund bill language.

Proposed Language to add to FY 2026 Budget:

Provided further, that for fiscal year 2026, section 122(b)(3) of CERCLA (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(3)) shall be applied by inserting before the period at the end: ",including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft"; Provided further, that for fiscal year 2026, the matter preceding the first proviso in section 443(b) of title IV of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) shall be applied by inserting before the colon " , including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft"; Provided further, that amounts in the preceding proviso shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118-5.

Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act

Public Law No: 115-414, January 3, 2019

In accordance with the reporting requirements of the Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act, Agencies are to submit reports on outstanding recommendations in the annual budget submitted to Congress. This report includes Government Accountability Office (GAO), and EPA Office of Inspector General (OIG) recommendations issued up through February 29, 2024, that remained unimplemented for one year or more from the planned FY 2026 budget justification submission date.

For the FY 2026 budget justification, the EPA developed a report listing each open public recommendation for corrective action from the OIG and GAO, along with the implementation status of each recommendation.

The Act also requires a reconciliation between the Agency records of unimplemented recommendations and each OIG Semiannual Report to Congress (SAR). In cooperation with the EPA OIG, the Agency performs a reconciliation and validation process prior to publication of each SAR. The process ensures that Agency's Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act reporting aligns with the SAR.

The Agency is reporting on:

- 77 open recommendations issued by the GAO between January 6, 2006, and February 29, 2024.
- 56 open recommendations issued by the EPA OIG between July 9, 2008, and February 29, 2024.

No recommendations were closed as unimplemented.

The information used to create this report is based on information retained the EPA's Enterprise Audit Management System and the GAO's recommendations database available on www.gao.gov.

GAO-IG Act, EPA Office of Inspector General Open Recommendations - As of February 29, 2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
The EPA Needs to Determine Whether Seresto Pet Collars Pose an Unreasonable Risk to Pet Health	24-E-0023	2/29/2024	2. Implement standard operating procedures on how to conduct domestic animal risk assessments for the active ingredients in pet products to support pesticide registration review decisions.	The Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) agrees to develop standard operating procedures to evaluate risk to pets from the active ingredients in pet products. Status: On track.	12/12/2025
The EPA Needs to Determine Whether Seresto Pet Collars Pose an Unreasonable Risk to Pet Health	24-E-0023	2/29/2024	3. Implement a measurable standard to determine when a pet product poses unreasonable adverse effects in pets to support the pesticide registration review decision.	The OCSPP agrees to establish a methodology to determine when a pet product needs further investigation to ensure the product does not pose unreasonable adverse effects to pets and to include it in the SOP mentioned under Recommendation 2. Status: On track.	12/12/2025
The EPA Needs to Determine Whether Seresto Pet Collars Pose an Unreasonable Risk to Pet Health	24-E-0023	2/29/2024	5. Establish and implement an additional data requirement for the premarket clinical testing of pet products that is consistent with the Veterinary International Conference on Harmonization Guideline GL9, Good Clinical Practice.	The OCSPP will include steps in the SOP mentioned in Recommendation 2 to perform literature searches for pre-market clinical trials, which could include data generated for product registration in other countries. Status: On track.	12/12/2025
The EPA Needs to Determine Whether Seresto Pet Collars Pose an Unreasonable Risk to Pet Health	24-E-0023	2/29/2024	6. Assess what incident information is needed from registrants of pet products to determine when the EPA should take mitigation measures or other actions. Require pet product registrants to report that information to the EPA.	The OCSPP will develop a plan to require pet product registrants to report this incident information to the EPA. Status: On track.	12/12/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
The EPA Needs to Determine Whether Seresto Pet Collars Pose an Unreasonable Risk to Pet Health	24-E-0023	2/29/2024	7 - Establish policies and procedures that result in consistent implementation of mitigation measures to address unreasonable adverse effects or conduct additional analysis to determine whether a pet product is causing unreasonable adverse effects.	The OCSPP agrees to establish policies and procedures that result in consistent implementation of mitigation measures, as appropriate, to address unreasonable adverse effects or conduct additional analysis to determine whether a pet product is causing unreasonable adverse effects, and to include this in the SOP mentioned under Recommendation 2. Status: On track.	12/12/2025
The EPA's Enhanced Personnel Security Program Is on Track, but Challenges to Full Implementation Remain	24-E-002-	2/8/2024	1. Develop a plan for how the Personnel Security Branch will achieve the capacity necessary to meet the requirements of full Trusted Workforce 2.0 implementation.	The Agency will develop a plan relative to updated Trusted Workforce 2.0 Implementation Strategy and associated guidance documents. Status: On track.	3/30/2025
Audit of the EPA's Fiscal Years 2023 and 2022 (Restated) Consolidated Financial Statements	24-F-0009	11/15/2023	4. Develop a plan to improve the Office of the Chief Financial Officer processes for headquarters program offices and regional offices to deobligate unneeded funds in a timely manner by the end of the fiscal year, as required.	The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) will develop a plan to strengthen the unliquidated obligation reviews for the deobligations processes. This plan will enhance the current policies associated with the unliquidated obligation review and the subsequent deobligations of any unneeded funding. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies including other EPA offices.	4/1/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
The EPA Should Improve Management of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants	23-P-0034	9/26/2023	1. Develop and implement guidance for the project officers in the Great Lakes National Program Office and the grant specialists in the Acquisition and Assistance Branch, within Region 5's Mission Support Division, that consists of: a. A review process to verify that the work plan and budget narrative include the required information to support that the award decision was made in full compliance of grant award requirements. b. A baseline-monitoring process, with an emphasis on the milestones and the accuracy of the baseline-monitoring report. c. An internal process for routinely selecting a representative group of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants to assess for adherence to requirements, such that grant agreements are sufficiently and properly supported by work plans and budget narratives and include all applicable terms and conditions and baseline-monitoring reports are completed accurately.	The Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) will (1) review and update work plan templates; (2) update the GLNPO Project Officers Toolkit for Managing Grant Agreements so that baseline-monitoring questions are clear and demonstrate that the project officer reviewed project progress against grant work plan milestones; (3) begin performing periodic quality checks of a sample of baseline-monitoring reports; and (4) develop and implement an internal review protocol to ensure that work plans and budget narratives include all required elements, grant awards include all necessary terms and conditions, and baseline-monitoring reports are complete and accurate. The Acquisition and Assistance Branch will remind grants specialists of the obligation to follow EPA guidance and requirements on cost reviews, administrative-baseline monitoring, and post-award monitoring. The AAB will also update its current grant-management specialist peer review process. Status: Requested closure from the OIG.	6/30/2025
The EPA Should Improve Management of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants	23-P-0034	9/26/2023	2. Review the OIG-identified questioned costs for the assessed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants to determine whether the costs are allowable and allocable as set forth in 2 C.F.R. part 200 and initiate recovery of any funds that the EPA paid for unallowable costs, as appropriate.	GLNPO acknowledged that some funds may have been unallowable and conducted an initial review of the questioned costs findings. GLNPO will continue to investigate the questioned costs and decide if additional action is needed. Status: Requested closure from the OIG.	6/30/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
The EPA Should Improve Management of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants	23-P-0034	9/26/2023	3. In consultation with the Acquisition and Assistance Branch, develop a records-management program for the Great Lakes National Program Office.	GLNPO will continue using the agencywide records-management process and the electronic filing solution embedded in Microsoft Teams. Beginning in FY 2024, GLNPO will include a grant file checklist in all existing and future grants and cooperative agreements to ensure that all critical components and supplemental information are accounted for in a single, organized electronic file. GLNPO will also develop grant-transfer and grant-closeout procedures that will include a review of the grant file checklist and that must be signed by the section supervisor or the supervisor's designee before closing or transferring a grant to another project officer. Finally, the supervisor will perform periodic routine audits of grant files to ensure completeness. Status: Requested closure from the OIG.	6/30/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
The EPA Should Improve Management of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants	23-P-0034	9/26/2023	4. Require periodic training and provide learning resources on grants management to all project officers and grant specialists, with an emphasis on recordkeeping; cost reviews; timely, accurate, and comprehensive baseline monitoring reports; and other topics determined by the results of the routine internal review process established in Recommendation 1c.	Current GLNPO project officers will complete the new required trainings developed by the EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment; GLNPO will conduct ongoing professional development events, including best practices meetings and joint trainings on the elements identified in this audit; and GLNPO will implement monthly informational sessions to ensure that project officers are proficient in grant policies, procedures, rules, and regulations. Additionally, the AAB will require grant specialists to complete refresher training on recordkeeping, cost reviews, and baseline-monitoring reports. Status: Requested closure from the OIG.	6/30/2025
The EPA Needs to Address Increasing Air Pollution at Ports	23-E-0033	9/21/2023	1. Assess the air-monitoring network around ports and in near-port communities and create a plan to enhance the air-monitoring network where any gaps are identified.	EPA commits to assessing the relevance of the monitoring network for addressing OGV emissions in the context of other types of information EPA and others are collecting (e.g., air quality modeling, emissions data, and other relevant information or tools) and identify gaps that, if filled, could better inform efforts to reduce OGV emissions and improve air quality in port areas. EPA also commits to continue to identify ways to support monitoring at ports, including where it is within the general scope of competitive grant competitions funded through Congressional appropriations. Status: On track.	9/30/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
The EPA Needs to Address Increasing Air Pollution at Ports	23-E-0033	9/21/2023	2. Set quantifiable performance measures for the Ports Initiative, including a plan for identifying the measures' baselines.	The program currently has two indicators to track the impact of EPA's Ports Initiative and will continue to develop additional measures in the future. Status: On track.	9/30/2025
The EPA Must Improve Controls and Integrate Its Information System to Manage Fraud Potential in the Renewable Fuel Standard Program	23-P-0032	9/19/2023	7. Integrate key applications to reduce staff burden and to allow better oversight of Renewable Identification Number and Renewable Fuel Standard program requirements and engage the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance in the integration process to ensure all inspection and enforcement data needs are addressed in the integrated system.	The OAR plans to continue integration of the key registration and reporting systems with the EPA Moderated Transaction System to reduce staff burden and improve oversight as resources permit. Status: On track.	9/30/2028
The EPA Must Improve Controls and Integrate Its Information System to Manage Fraud Potential in the Renewable Fuel Standard Program	23-P-0032	9/19/2023	8. Enhance or replace the Data Analysis and Reporting Tool to facilitate external information requests and Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance inspections.	OAR will enhance or replace the Data Analysis and Reporting Tool to facilitate information requests as resources permit. Status: On track.	12/31/2025
The EPA Should Enhance Oversight to Ensure that All Refineries Comply with the Benzene Fenceline Monitoring Regulations	23-P-0030	9/6/2023	1. Provide guidance to delegated authorities on what constitutes a violation of the benzene fenceline monitoring regulations to assist the delegated authorities in taking action when a violation may have occurred.	The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) will develop an enforcement alert directed at both delegated authorities and the regulated industry. The alert will highlight common violations of the benzene fenceline monitoring regulations and address questions raised by delegated authorities and the regulated industry to date. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	4/1/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
The EPA's January 2021 PFBS Toxicity Assessment Did Not Uphold the Agency's Commitments to Scientific Integrity and Information Quality	23-E-0013	3/7/2023	1. Develop or update existing policies, procedures, or guidance to specify whether and under which applicable circumstances comments expressing scientific disagreement can be provided for a scientific product that has undergone all peer reviews and required developmental steps set forth in applicable actions or project plans.	Develop new outreach and training for EPA staff regarding political interference and understanding next steps needed for appropriate reporting. Status: On track.	5/30/2025
The EPA's January 2021 PFBS Toxicity Assessment Did Not Uphold the Agency's Commitments to Scientific Integrity and Information Quality	23-E-0013	3/7/2023	2. Develop or update existing policies, procedures, or technical documents to specify whether reference dose ranges are acceptable in toxicity assessments. If acceptable, specify circumstances under which reference dose ranges may be applied.	Developing new outreach and training for EPA staff regarding political interference and understanding next steps for appropriate reporting. Status: On track.	11/30/2027
The EPA's Residential Wood Heater Program Does Not Provide Reasonable Assurance that Heaters Are Properly Tested and Certified Before Reaching Consumers	23-E-0012	2/28/2023	4. Incorporate the EPA's certification test report expectations set forth in the April 2022 corrective action list into the 2023 revisions to the New Source Performance Standards for residential wood heaters.	These revisions will take place through rulemaking that involves a cross-agency workgroup. Status: On track.	11/30/2027
The EPA's Residential Wood Heater Program Does Not Provide Reasonable Assurance that Heaters Are Properly Tested and Certified Before Reaching Consumers	23-E-0012	2/28/2023	5. Develop and adopt an EPA cord wood test method that is supported by data to provide the public reasonable assurance that certified appliances meet emission standards.	The Agency agrees with this recommendation and is approaching the half-way mark of this effort. We must promulgate these through notice and comment rulemaking. Status: On track.	11/30/2027

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
The EPA's Residential Wood Heater Program Does Not Provide Reasonable Assurance that Heaters Are Properly Tested and Certified Before Reaching Consumers	23-E-0012	2/28/2023	6. Establish mechanisms to promote independence between emissions testing labs and third-party certifiers.	The Agency will incorporate changes to this paradigm in the rulemaking, per recommendation 4. In the interim we will continue our oversight of EPA Approved Test Laboratories and Third-Party Certifiers; sending letters requesting correction to processes and procedures, review of SOP's, and making sure to copy their ISO Accrediting body on the email. Status: On track.	11/30/2027
The EPA Needs to Improve the Transparency of Its Cancer- Assessment Process for Pesticides	22-E-0053	7/20/2022	1. Issue guidance on when and how to conduct the kinetically derived maximum dose approach in cancer-risk assessments for pesticides.	The Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) will update the Office of Pesticide Programs public website to state that EPA will rely upon the kinetic guidance currently being developed by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) as EPA's guidance on when and how to apply the kinetically-derived maximum dose approach in cancer risk assessments for pesticides. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	7/15/2025
The EPA Needs to Improve the Transparency of Its Cancer- Assessment Process for Pesticides	22-E-0053	7/20/2022	9. Issue specific criteria requiring external peer review of Office of Pesticide Programs' risk assessments that use scientifically or technically novel approaches or that are likely to have precedent setting influence on future risk assessments, in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.	OCSPP will develop a Standard Operating Procedure to determine when an external peer review is required for assessments using scientifically or technically novel approaches or likely to have precedent-setting influence. This guidance will be used to ensure consistency in the external peer review process across OSCPP. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	12/31/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
Brownfields Program-Income Monitoring Deficiencies Persist Because the EPA Did Not Complete All Certified Corrective Actions	22-P-0033	3/31/2022	1. Develop a policy and implement procedures to reduce the balances of available program income and establish a time frame for recipients to use or return the funds to the EPA.	The EPA will work to maximize the number of older closeout agreements with consistent national closeout terms and conditions, as their workload allows. The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) will request that the regions attempt initial contact with Revolving Land Fund recipients of older closeout agreements who do not have an open Revolving Land Fund grant by the provided completion date in order to begin the renegotiation process. However, EPA cannot unilaterally modify older closeout agreements and will need to work with these recipients on bilateral agreements to incorporate the FY 2022 closeout agreements. Status: On track.	9/30/2027
Brownfields Program-Income Monitoring Deficiencies Persist Because the EPA Did Not Complete All Certified Corrective Actions	22-P-0033	3/31/2022	5. Expand existing guidance to include a deadline for post-closeout annual report submission.	This action has been completed for closeout agreements executed after June 2021. For Revolving Land Fund recipients of older closeout agreements, OBLR will request that the regions attempt initial contact by the provided completion date to begin the renegotiation process. However, EPA cannot unilaterally modify older closeout agreements and will need to work with these recipients on bilateral agreements to incorporate the FY 2022 Closeout Agreement. Status: On track.	9/30/2027

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Needs an Agencywide Strategic Action Plan to Address Harmful Algal Blooms	21-E-0264	9/29/2021	4. Assess and evaluate the available information on human health risks from exposure to cyanotoxins in drinking water and recreational waters to determine whether actions under the Safe Drinking Water Act are warranted.	EPA will continue evaluating the risks to human health from exposure to cyanotoxins and will develop Health Effects Support Documents (HESDs) for new toxins (e.g., saxitoxins and nodularin). EPA intends to develop health advisories and recreational criteria for these toxins when sufficient health data are available. EPA will re-evaluate the human health risks to previously evaluated toxins as new toxicological exposure studies and systematic reviews of peer-reviewed scientific literature are completed. EPA will determine whether additional regulatory or nonregulatory actions are appropriate under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), using the above health effects information, Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 and other cyanotoxins occurrence data, and additional information. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2025
EPA's Implementation of the Endocrine Disruption Screening Program	21-E-0186	7/28/2021	1. Issue Tier 1 test orders for each List 2 chemical or publish an explanation for public comment on why Tier 1 data are no longer needed to characterize a List 2 chemical's endocrine-disruption activity.	OCSPP, with input from the Office of Research and Development and the Office of Water, will publish for comment a List 2 Action Plan, which may include a combination of test orders, explanations as to why test orders are not needed, or a reprioritization of the order of Endocrine Disruption Screening Program (EDSP) evaluations. Following notice and comment, OCSPP will initiate the process to issue test orders for List 2 substances, as appropriate. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA's Implementation of the Endocrine Disruption Screening Program	21-E-0186	7/28/2021	2. Determine whether the EPA should incorporate the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program Tier 1 tests (or approved new approach methodologies) into the pesticide registration process as mandatory data requirements under 40 C.F.R. § 158 for all pesticide use patterns.	OCSPP will make a determination on the inclusion of the EDSP Tier 1 tests into the pesticide registration process as mandatory data requirement under 40 C.F.R. part 158 for all pesticide use patterns. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2025
EPA's Implementation of the Endocrine Disruption Screening Program	21-E-0186	7/28/2021	3. Issue List 1–Tier 2 test orders for the 18 pesticides in which additional Tier 2 testing was recommended or publish an explanation for public comment on why this Tier 2 data are no longer needed to characterize the endocrine-disruption activity for each of these 18 pesticides.	OCSPP will make a determination on the need for List 1-Tier 2 data. OCSPP will also provide an explanation, which will be published for public comment, for any of the 18 pesticides for which it is determined that Tier 2 data is no longer needed. Following publication and comment, OCSPP will initiate the process to issue any Tier 2 test orders for List 1 determined to be needed. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	7/15/2026
EPA's Implementation of the Endocrine Disruption Screening Program	21-E-0186	7/28/2021	4. Issue for public review and comment both the Environmental Fate and Effects Division's approach for the reevaluation of List 1–Tier 1 data and the revised List 1–Tier 2 wildlife recommendations.	OCSPP will issue for public review and comment any reevaluation of List 1–Tier 1 data and any revisions to the List 1–Tier 2 wildlife recommendations. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Oversight of Synthetic Minor Sources	21-P-0175	7/8/2021	1. Update Agency guidance on practical enforceability to more clearly describe how the technical accuracy of a permit limit should be supported and documented. In updating such guidance, the Office of Air and Radiation should consult and collaborate with the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, the Office of General Counsel, and the EPA regions.	OAR will update Agency guidance on the practical enforceability of limitations, including but not limited to EPA's June 13, 1989, Guidance on Limiting Potential to Emit in New Source Permitting, to describe how the technical accuracy of a permit limit should be supported and documented. Specifically, the updated guidance will address the practical enforceability of limitations on potential to emit. In updating our guidance, we will consult and collaborate with the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, the Office of General Counsel, and the EPA regions. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Oversight of Synthetic Minor Sources	21-P-0175	7/8/2021	<p>2. In consultation with the EPA regions, develop and implement an oversight plan to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial review of a sample of synthetic-minor-source permits in different industries that are issued by state, local, and tribal agencies to assess whether the permits adhere to EPA guidance on practical enforceability, including limits that are technically accurate; have appropriate time periods; and include sufficient monitoring, record-keeping, and reporting requirements. • A periodic review of a sample of synthetic-minor-source permits to occur, at a minimum, once every five years. • Procedures to resolve any permitting deficiencies identified during the initial and periodic reviews. 	In consultation with EPA Regional offices, OAR will develop and implement an oversight plan in accordance with current statutory and EPA regulatory requirements and, as appropriate, including the specific elements identified. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2026
EPA Oversight of Synthetic Minor Sources	21-P-0175	7/8/2021	3. Assess recent EPA studies of enclosed combustion device performance and compliance monitoring and other relevant information during the next statutorily required review of 40 C.F.R Part 60 Subparts OOOO and OOOOa to determine whether revisions are needed to monitoring, record-keeping and reporting requirements for enclosed combustion devices to assure continuous compliance with associated limits and revise the	OAR will assess EPA studies of enclosed combustion device performance and compliance monitoring and other relevant information during the next statutorily required review of 40 C.F.R part 60 subparts OOOO and OOOOa and determine whether revisions are needed to monitoring, record-keeping and reporting requirements for enclosed combustion devices to assure continuous compliance with associated limits and revise the regulatory requirements as appropriate. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2026

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
			regulatory requirements as appropriate.		
EPA Oversight of Synthetic Minor Sources	21-P-0175	7/8/2021	4. Revise the Agency's guidance to communicate its key expectations for synthetic-minor-source permitting to state and local agencies.	The Agency will revise its guidance to communicate its key expectations for synthetic-minor-source permitting to state and local agencies. This will include an expectation that synthetic minor permit terms and conditions ensure that the potential to emit of the source is less than the applicable major source threshold by meeting legal and practical enforceability criteria. Our work related to this recommendation may, at least in part, be integrated with the updated guidance on practical enforceability in response to OIG Recommendation 1. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2026

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Oversight of Synthetic Minor Sources	21-P-0175	7/8/2021	5. Identify all state, local, and tribal agencies in which Clean Air Act permit program implementation fails to adhere to the public participation requirements for synthetic-minor-source permit issuance and take appropriate steps to assure the identified states adhere to the public participation requirements.	With EPA Regional office support, OAR will identify state, local and tribal agencies whose program regulations, including but not limited to minor new source review and federally enforceable state operating permit program regulations and corresponding practices, do not meet the public participation requirements contained in the applicable EPA regulations, e.g., 40 CFR 51.161, and guidance with respect to synthetic minor source permitting. For the identified agencies, OAR will take appropriate corrective steps, which may include constructive, informal engagement. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2025
EPA Deviated from Typical Procedures in its 2018 Dicamba Pesticide Registration Decision	21-E-0146	5/24/2021	3. Annually conduct and document training for all staff and senior managers and policy makers to affirm the office's commitment to the Scientific Integrity Policy and principles and to promote a culture of scientific integrity.	Complete the fifth annual Scientific integrity training by March 31, 2026. Status: On track.	3/31/2026
EPA Should Conduct New Residual Risk and Technology Reviews for Chloroprene- and Ethylene Oxide- Emitting Source Categories to Protect Human Health	21-P-0129	5/6/2021	2. Conduct new residual risk reviews for Group I polymers and resins that cover neoprene production, synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry, polyether polyols production, commercial sterilizers, and hospital sterilizers using the new risk values for chloroprene and ethylene oxide and revise the corresponding National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, as needed.	OAR commits to conduct appropriate reviews to ensure that the standards for neoprene production, synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry, polyether polyols production, and commercial sterilizers continue to provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health and that the standards for hospital sterilizers provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Should Conduct New Residual Risk and Technology Reviews for Chloroprene- and Ethylene Oxide- Emitting Source Categories to Protect Human Health	21-P-0129	5/6/2021	4. Conduct overdue technology reviews for Group I polymers and resins that cover neoprene production, synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry, commercial sterilizers, hospital sterilizers, and chemical manufacturing area sources, which are required to be completed at least every eight years by the Clean Air Act.	OAR plans to conduct overdue technology reviews for commercial sterilizers, hospital sterilizers, Group I polymers and resins, synthetic organic chemical manufacturing, and chemical plant area sources. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	12/31/2025
Improved Review Processes Could Advance EPA Regions 3 and 5 Oversight of State-Issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits	21-P-0122	4/21/2021	2. Review the modified National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System mining permits issued by West Virginia based on the 2019 revisions to its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program to determine whether the permits contain effluent limits for ionic pollution and other pollutants that are or may be discharged at a level that causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an excursion above any applicable water quality standard, as required by Clean Water Act regulations. If a permit lacks required effluent limits, take appropriate action to address such deficiencies.	Develop scope of work for the project. Review data generated from permits with conditions applied as a result of the guidance to determine permits' impact on water quality and whether the assumptions underlying that guidance are supported. Where the data shows implementation of guidance is not effective in protecting water quality, provide recommendations to WVDEP and work with WVDEP to modify guidance as appropriate. Using information from data and process analysis, we will take this information into account as we review draft permits that apply WVDEP guidance and provide comment as appropriate. Status: On track.	3/31/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Needs to Substantially Improve Oversight of Its Military Leave Processes to Prevent Improper Payments	21-P-0042	12/28/2020	3. Establish and implement internal controls that will allow the Agency to monitor compliance with applicable laws, federal guidance, and Agency policies, including periodic internal audits of all military leave, to verify that (a) charges by reservists are correct and supported and (b) appropriate reservist differential and military offset payroll audit calculations are being requested and performed.	The OMS will conduct periodic human capital audits to ensure compliance with the updated military leave policy, and the OCFO will work with the Interior Business Center, the EPA's payroll provider, to ensure the necessary timecard corrections identified by the OMS periodic audit were made by the employee and approved by the supervisor in accordance with agency policy. The OCFO will provide a report to the OMS confirming timecard corrections identified by the OMS periodic audit were made by the employee and approved by the supervisor for the OMS to distribute to the appropriate offices. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	1/30/2026
EPA Needs to Substantially Improve Oversight of Its Military Leave Processes to Prevent Improper Payments	21-P-0042	12/28/2020	4. Require reservists to correct, and supervisors to approve, military leave time charging errors in PeoplePlus that have been identified during the audit or as part of the Agency's actions related to Recommendations 5 and 6.	The OCFO will work with the Agency's payroll provider to confirm the necessary time charging errors identified in the audit were corrected by the employee and approved by the supervisor; and the OCFO will then provide a report to the OMS confirming the necessary time charging errors identified in the audit were corrected by the employee and approved by the supervisor for the OMS to distribute to the appropriate offices. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	10/1/2026

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Needs to Substantially Improve Oversight of Its Military Leave Processes to Prevent Improper Payments	21-P-0042	12/28/2020	5. Recover the approximately \$11,000 in military pay related to unsupported 5 U.S.C. § 6323(a) military leave charges, unless the Agency can obtain documentation to substantiate the validity of the reservists' military leave.	For any unsupported leave charges, the OMS will coordinate with the Interior Business Center (IBC), the Agency's payroll provider, to initiate the process to recover the military pay, and where applicable, the OCFO will recover any unsupported leave charges for out-of-service debt. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	11/30/2026
EPA Needs to Substantially Improve Oversight of Its Military Leave Processes to Prevent Improper Payments	21-P-0042	12/28/2020	6. Submit documentation for the reservists' military leave related to the approximately \$118,000 charged under 5 U.S.C. § 6323(b) to the EPA's payroll provider so that it may perform payroll audit calculations and recover any military offsets that may be due.	The OMS will work with the EPA's programs and regions to collect documentation related to the identified military leave charges. For any unsupported leave charges, the OMS will coordinate with the IBC to initiate the process to recover any military offsets. The OCFO will recover any unsupported leave charges for out-of-service debt. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	11/30/2026
EPA Needs to Substantially Improve Oversight of Its Military Leave Processes to Prevent Improper Payments	21-P-0042	12/28/2020	7. Identify the population of reservists who took unpaid military leave pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 5538 and determine whether those reservists are entitled to receive a reservist differential. Based on the results of this determination, take appropriate steps to request that the EPA's payroll provider perform payroll audit calculations to identify and pay the amounts that may be due to reservists.	The OCFO will provide the OMS with the population of reservists charging military leave. The OMS will conduct a review of this population to determine which items need to be provided to the IBC for audit calculation of whether military offsets were paid accurately. For amounts due to reservists who are no longer EPA employees, the OCFO will coordinate with the IBC on the amounts due. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	4/1/2027

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Needs to Substantially Improve Oversight of Its Military Leave Processes to Prevent Improper Payments	21-P-0042	12/28/2020	8. For the time periods outside of the scope of our audit (pre-January 2017 and post-June 2019), identify the population of reservists who charged military leave under 5 U.S.C. § 6323(b) or 6323(c), and determine whether military offset was paid by the reservists. If not, review reservists' military documentation to determine whether payroll audit calculations are required. If required, request that the EPA's payroll provider perform payroll audit calculations to identify and recover military offsets that may be due from the reservists under 5 U.S.C. §§ 6323 and 5519.	The OCFO will provide the OMS with the population of reservists charging military leave. The OMS will conduct a review of this population to determine which items need to be provided to the IBC for audit calculation of whether military offsets were paid accurately. For any unsupported leave charges, the OMS will coordinate with the IBC to initiate the process to recover any military offsets. The OCFO will recover any unsupported leave charges for out-of-service debt. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	5/31/2027
EPA Needs to Substantially Improve Oversight of Its Military Leave Processes to Prevent Improper Payments	21-P-0042	12/28/2020	9. Report all amounts of improper payments resulting from paid military leave for inclusion in the annual Agency Financial Report, as required by the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019.	The OCFO will report any paid military leave amounts identified as an improper payment(s) within the annual Agency Financial Report for the applicable fiscal year; and the OCFO also will perform an internal control review on military leave pay during the FY 2021 A-123 Internal Review period and report any identified improper payment amounts in the FY 2021 Annual Financial Report. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	12/1/2027

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
Further Efforts Needed to Uphold Scientific Integrity Policy at EPA	20-P-0173	5/20/2020	6. In coordination with the assistant administrator for Mission Support, complete the development and implementation of the electronic clearance system for scientific products across the Agency.	OMS, ORD Office of Scientific Information Management (OSIM), and the Scientific Integrity Committee will coordinate to complete modification and agencywide implementation of ORD's Scientific & Technical Information Clearance System to an agencywide electronic clearance system for scientific products across the Agency. The system will be consistent with the Scientific Integrity Policy and our Best Practices document and with the Agency's Plan to Increase Access to the Results of EPA-Funded Scientific Research. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	6/30/2026
Further Efforts Needed to Uphold Scientific Integrity Policy at EPA	20-P-0173	5/20/2020	7. With the assistance of the Scientific Integrity Committee, finalize and release the procedures for addressing and resolving allegations of a violation of the Scientific Integrity Policy, and incorporate the procedures into scientific integrity outreach and training materials.	The Agency will release the Procedures document. It will be posted on the Agency's website. The Scientific Integrity Program will create and release appropriate outreach materials to ensure EPA employees and their managers understand these procedures. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	6/30/2026
Further Efforts Needed to Uphold Scientific Integrity Policy at EPA	20-P-0173	5/20/2020	8. With the assistance of the Scientific Integrity Committee, develop and implement a process specifically to address and resolve allegations of Scientific Integrity Policy violations involving high-profile issues or senior officials, and specify when this process should be used.	EPA will amend the procedures document referenced in recommendation 7, to include a process to adjudicate allegations of Scientific Integrity Policy violations involving high-profile issues or senior officials in the Agency for which the Scientific Integrity Official or Scientific Integrity Committee does not feel it can adequately adjudicate via existing procedures and include an indicator for when the process should be used. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	6/30/2026

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA's Processing Times for New Source Air Permits in Indian Country Have Improved, but Many Still Exceed Regulatory Time Frames	20-P-0146	4/22/2020	1. Implement a system that is accessible to both the EPA and the applicants to track the processing of all tribal-New-Source-Review permits and key permit dates including application received, application completed, draft permit issued, public comment period (if applicable), and final permit issuance.	OAR's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards has already begun work on the Electronic Permit System (EPS), which will include a module to receive and process applications for the EPA-issued tribal new source review permits. Specifically, this module will allow sources to submit electronic applications for tribal minor NSR permits and then allow the EPA staff to process those applications in EPS. The system will allow the EPA staff to update the status of the application and permit to reflect when the application is complete, the draft permit is issued, the beginning and ending of the public comment period, and the issuance of the final permit and response to public comments document. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies..	9/30/2025
EPA's Processing Times for New Source Air Permits in Indian Country Have Improved, but Many Still Exceed Regulatory Time Frames	20-P-0146	4/22/2020	2. Establish and implement an oversight process to verify that the regions update the permit tracking system on a periodic basis with the correct and required information.	Upon completion of the EPS, the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards will work with the Regional offices to establish an oversight process to ensure complete, consistent, and timely entry of data into the EPS. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	9/30/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Effectively Screens Air Emissions Data from Continuous Monitoring Systems but Could Enhance Verification of System Performance	19-P-0207	6/27/2019	1. Develop and implement electronic checks in the EPA's Emissions Collection and Monitoring Plan System or through an alternative mechanism to retroactively evaluate emissions and quality assurance data in instances where monitoring plan changes are submitted after the emissions and quality assurance data have already been accepted by the EPA.	The Clean Air Markets Division (CAMD) has implemented a post- submission data check that is run at the end of each reporting period. In the long term, the CAMD will implement an additional check in the Emissions Collection and Monitoring Plan (ECMPS) forcing retroactive span record changes to require the reevaluation and resubmission of any affected quality assurance tests and hourly emissions records. CAMD has initiated the process of re- engineering ECMPS. In order to minimize additional expenditures on the current version of ECMPS, CAMD will focus on adding the check to the new version of ECMPS. Status: On track.	3/31/2025
Pesticide Registration Fee, Vulnerability Mitigation and Database Security Controls for EPA's FIFRA and PRIA Systems Need Improvement	19-P-0195	6/21/2019	2. Complete the actions and milestones identified in the Office of Pesticide Programs' PRIA Maintenance Fee Risk Assessment document and associated plan regarding the fee payment and refund posting processes.	OCSP's Office of Pesticide Programs will complete the actions and milestones identified in the Office of Pesticide Programs' Pesticide Registration Improvement Act Maintenance Fee Risk Assessment document and associated plan regarding the fee payment and refund posting processes. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	12/31/2025

OIG Report Title	OIG Report Number	Report Issue Date	OIG Recommendation	EPA Corrective Action and Status	Target Completion Date
EPA Needs to Evaluate the Impact of the Revised Agricultural Worker Protection Standard on Pesticide Exposure Incidents	18-P-0080	2/15/2018	1. The Assistant Administrator for Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, in coordination with the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, shall develop and implement a methodology to evaluate the impact of the revised Agricultural Worker Protection Standard on pesticide exposure incidents among target populations.	OCSPP will: (1) collect and review data related to the extent to which agricultural workers obtain knowledge through trainings; (2) collect and review incident data; and (3) after reviewing training and incident data, analyze the need to collect additional information to help evaluate the impact of the revised Worker Protection Standard. Status: Delayed due to implementation complexity.	7/15/2025
EPA Should Revise Outdated or Inconsistent EPA-State Clean Water Act Memoranda of Agreement	10-P-0224	9/14/2010	2-2. Develop a systematic approach to identify which States have outdated or inconsistent MOAs, renegotiate and update those MOAs using the MOA template, and secure the active involvement and final, documented concurrence of Headquarters to ensure national consistency.	EPA has completed the review of all the EPA-State Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs). Ten authorized National pollutant discharge elimination system states were identified as being problematic. EPA Regions and States have completed actions to update MOAs to satisfy concerns identified in the corrective action plan for three states: Iowa, Missouri, and Virginia. At this time, seven MOAs are still in the process of being corrected. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies.	4/30/2025
Making Better Use of Stringfellow Superfund Special Accounts	08-P-0196	7/9/2008	2. Reclassify or transfer to the Trust Fund, as appropriate, \$27.8 million (plus any earned interest less oversight costs) of the Stringfellow special accounts in annual reviews, and at other milestones including the end of fiscal year 2010, when the record of decision is signed, and the final settlement is achieved.	The EPA retains the funds in reserve because final clean-up figures have not been established. Status: Delayed due to external dependencies	9/30/2026

GAO-IG Act, Government Accountability Office Open Recommendations - As of February 29, 2025

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Critical Infrastructure Protection: EPA Urgently Needs a Strategy to Address Cybersecurity Risks to Water and Wastewater Systems	GAO-24-106744	8/1/2024	The Administrator of EPA should, as required by law, conduct a water sector risk assessment, considering physical security and cybersecurity threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences. (Recommendation 1)	The EPA is developing a water sector risk assessment and risk management plan that addresses physical security and cybersecurity in accordance with the National Security Memorandum on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience. The water sector risk assessment and risk management plan will be completed in January 2025 and refreshed biannually thereafter.
Critical Infrastructure Protection: EPA Urgently Needs a Strategy to Address Cybersecurity Risks to Water and Wastewater Systems	GAO-24-106744	8/1/2024	The Administrator of EPA should develop and implement a risk-informed cybersecurity strategy, in coordination with other federal and sector stakeholders, to guide its water sector cybersecurity programs. Such a strategy should include information from a risk assessment and should identify objectives, activities, and performance measures; roles, responsibilities, and coordination; and needed resources and investments. (Recommendation 2)	The EPA is developing a water sector risk assessment and risk management plan that addresses cybersecurity in accordance with the National Security Memorandum on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience.
Critical Infrastructure Protection: EPA Urgently Needs a Strategy to Address Cybersecurity Risks to Water and Wastewater Systems	GAO-24-106744	8/1/2024	The Administrator of EPA should evaluate its existing legal authorities for carrying out EPA's cybersecurity responsibilities and seek any needed enhancements to such authorities from the administration and Congress. (Recommendation 3)	The EPA has conducted a thorough examination of existing legal authorities with respect to our cybersecurity responsibility. In addition, the EPA will provide a detailed explanation of this examination as part of the water sector risk management plan.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Critical Infrastructure Protection: EPA Urgently Needs a Strategy to Address Cybersecurity Risks to Water and Wastewater Systems	GAO-24-106744	8/1/2024	The Administrator of EPA should submit the Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool (VSAT) for independent peer review and revise the tool as appropriate. (Recommendation 4)	The EPA will submit the Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool for independent peer review and revise the tool as appropriate. The Agency estimates the peer review will begin in February 2025 and expects it to be completed in May 2025.
Sexual Harassment: Actions Needed to Improve Prevention Training for Federal Civilian Employees	GAO-24-106589	2/26/2024	The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should develop and implement a plan to evaluate the Agency's required sexual harassment prevention training to identify needed improvements. The evaluation plan should include an assessment of training content and implementation to determine whether revisions are needed to better align with management practices to enhance the effectiveness of sexual harassment prevention training. (Recommendation 3)	The Agency undertook efforts to create two new mandatory trainings, one for managers and one for employees, which will cover the suggested items from GAO's report. This training will be a virtual training, to ensure consistency, availability, and accessibility. The training should be available in FY 25 and the plan is to make the training mandatory for FY 26.
Persistent Chemicals: Additional EPA Actions Could Help Public Water Systems Address PFAS in Drinking Water	GAO-24-106523	9/24/2024	The Administrator of EPA should publish a Small Entity Compliance Guide for the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation as soon as is feasible, to best support small public water systems preparing to comply with the PFAS maximum contaminant levels by April 2029. (Recommendation 1)	The EPA developed several factsheets and other materials to support small system implementation of the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation and intends to develop the Small Entity Compliance Guide by April 2027, facilitating small systems in complying with the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) maximum contaminant levels by April 2029.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Persistent Chemicals: Additional EPA Actions Could Help Public Water Systems Address PFAS in Drinking Water	GAO-24-106523	9/24/2024	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Water should, in consultation with partners from Tribes, states, regional offices, and outside organizations, identify barriers public water systems experience obtaining federal funding to address PFAS contamination and assess how best to disseminate information on such funding potentially available to these systems. (Recommendation 2)	The Agency is addressing this through its Water Technical Assistance program, and one of its primary purposes is to identify and address barriers public water systems may encounter when trying to access federal funding.
Persistent Chemicals: Additional EPA Actions Could Help Public Water Systems Address PFAS in Drinking Water	GAO-24-106523	9/24/2024	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Water should establish a time frame for issuing additional planned resources such as fact sheets and templates to help public water systems communicate with customers about PFAS health risks. (Recommendation 3)	The EPA developed extensive risk communication materials, including many fact sheets and a communication toolkit to help public water systems communicate with customers. Additionally, to support risk communication, the EPA also published health effects language that systems must use in public notifications and consumer confidence reports when the system has Maximum Contaminant Level violations.
Persistent Chemicals: Additional EPA Actions Could Help Public Water Systems Address PFAS in Drinking Water	GAO-24-106523	9/24/2024	The Assistant Administrators of EPA's Office of Water and Office of Land and Emergency Management should summarize and consolidate existing regulations, policy, and guidance relevant to the disposal of PFAS-contaminated waste into a straightforward resource for public water systems. (Recommendation 4)	The EPA developed extensive risk communication materials, including many fact sheets and a communication toolkit to help public water systems communicate with customers.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Justice40: Additional Efforts Needed to Improve Tribal Applicants' Access to Federal Programs under Environmental Justice Initiative	GAO-24-106511	4/10/2024	The Administrator of EPA should ensure that the program offices of EPA Justice40 covered programs document previously identified statutory and regulatory barriers to access for tribal applicants informing their implementation of the Justice40 Initiative. As a part of this process, the Agency should with input from Tribes; identify any additional changes necessary to address remaining statutory and regulatory barriers, recommending legislative changes where the Agency determines appropriate. The Agency should make a summary of the results of this process publicly available. (Recommendation 1)	The EPA will reengage GAO due to changes required by 2025 executive orders.
Justice40: Additional Efforts Needed to Improve Tribal Applicants' Access to Federal Programs under Environmental Justice Initiative	GAO-24-106511	4/10/2024	The Administrator of EPA should ensure that program offices implementing Justice40 covered programs maintain records of related consultations with Tribes and consider; with tribal input and publicly sharing a high-level summary of consultation results, as appropriate, to improve tribal applicants' access to information about tribal input on federal programs and decrease the burden on Tribes and eligible Indigenous communities. (Recommendation 4)	The EPA will reengage GAO due to changes required by 2025 executive orders.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Justice40: Additional Efforts Needed to Improve Tribal Applicants' Access to Federal Programs under Environmental Justice Initiative	GAO-24-106511	7/19/2024	The Administrator of EPA should ensure that program offices consult with federally recognized Tribes and conduct outreach to eligible Indigenous communities to ensure meaningful involvement when determining benefits for Justice40 covered programs in accordance with EOP guidance and determine how to incorporate the input into future Justice40 implementation efforts. (Recommendation 7)	The EPA will reengage GAO due to changes required by 2025 executive orders.
Clean Water: Revolving Fund Grant Formula Could Better Reflect Infrastructure Needs, and EPA Could Improve Needs Estimate	GAO-24-106251	7/19/2024	The Administrator of EPA should ensure that the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management directly collects data on centralized clean water infrastructure needs from a sample of small communities, using an approach that is consistent with Office of Management and Budget survey guidance. (Recommendation 1)	The EPA drafted a statistical sampling proposal and sent it to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as part of the Information Collection Request renewal for the next Clean Watersheds Needs Survey. Once OMB responds the Agency will move forward with the statistical sampling proposal based on OMB feedback.
Clean Water: Revolving Fund Grant Formula Could Better Reflect Infrastructure Needs, and EPA Could Improve Needs Estimate	GAO-24-106251	7/19/2024	The Administrator of EPA should ensure that the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management provides guidance to states to submit estimates of large communities' centralized clean water infrastructure needs for a minimum time frame, such as 5 years. (Recommendation 2)	The EPA is working to develop new service level metrics and updates will be negotiated with the contractors and incorporated into existing contracts via modification of existing contracts or at contract establishment with implementation timeframes not to exceed one year. The EPA anticipates completing this milestone no later than the end of the calendar year 2025.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Clean Water: Revolving Fund Grant Formula Could Better Reflect Infrastructure Needs, and EPA Could Improve Needs Estimate	GAO-24-106251	7/19/2024	The Administrator of EPA should ensure that the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management works with states that did not report any needs in one or more of the noncentralized clean water infrastructure need categories to use cost estimating tools and state-specific approaches to assess these needs for the next Clean Watersheds Needs Survey. (Recommendation 3)	The EPA is currently documenting and archiving all survey documents, including submitted and approved state-specific approaches, to allow them to be available for states to use in the next survey. From this library, state coordinators will be able to view and adapt those existing approaches based on the data available in their own state.
Cloud Computing: Agencies Need to Address Key OMB Procurement Requirements	GAO-24-106137	9/10/2024	The Administrator of EPA should ensure that the CIO of EPA updates guidance to put a cloud SLA in place with every vendor when a cloud solution is deployed. The guidance should include language that addresses OMB's required elements for SLAs, including continuous awareness of the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of its assets; a detailed description of roles and responsibilities; and remediation plans for non-compliance. (Recommendation 29)	The EPA is working to develop new service level metrics and updates will be negotiated with the contractors and incorporated into existing contracts via modification of existing contracts or at contract establishment with implementation timeframes not to exceed one year. The EPA anticipates completing this milestone no later than the end of the calendar year 2025.
Cloud Computing: Agencies Need to Address Key OMB Procurement Requirements	GAO-24-106137	9/10/2024	The Administrator of EPA should ensure that the CIO of EPA updates guidance regarding standardizing cloud SLAs. (Recommendation 30)	The EPA has established some language to standardize applicable cybersecurity tasks but needs to further develop guidance related to cloud service statements of work and standardize this guidance across cloud providers. Complexities associated with diverse environments, interoperability, and vendor-specific SLA terms must be addressed to ensure consistent quality of service and avoid vendor lock-in. The EPA anticipates completing this milestone no later than the end of the calendar year 2025.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Artificial Intelligence: Agencies Have Begun Implementation but Need to Complete Key Requirements	GAO-24-105980	12/12/2023	The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should ensure that the Agency fully completes and approves its plan to either achieve consistency with EO 13960 section 5 for each AI application or retires AI applications found to be developed or used in a manner that is not consistent with the order. (Recommendation 29)	The recommendation is fully implemented and the Agency submitted a closure request to GAO.
Artificial Intelligence: Agencies Have Begun Implementation but Need to Complete Key Requirements	GAO-24-105980	12/12/2023	The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should ensure that the Agency updates its AI use case inventory to include all the required information, at minimum, and takes steps to ensure that the data in the inventory aligns with provided instructions. (Recommendation 30)	The recommendation is fully implemented and the Agency submitted a closure request to GAO.
Puget Sound: Further Actions Could Improve Efforts to Address Impaired Water Quality That Threatens Salmon	GAO-24-105687	11/8/2023	The Administrator of EPA should work with the Washington State Department of Ecology to develop a plan documenting the actions the agencies will take to meet the required submission and approval deadlines for the state's impaired waters lists. (Recommendation 1)	Key actions from the 2024 event will be documented in the next Performance Partnership Agreement between EPA and Ecology, which is expected to be completed in July 2025.
Cybersecurity: Federal Agencies Made Progress, but Need to Fully Implement Incident Response Requirements	GAO-24-105658	12/4/2023	The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should ensure that the Agency fully implements all event logging requirements as directed by OMB guidance. (Recommendation 15)	The recommendation is fully implemented and the Agency submitted a closure request to GAO.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Air Pollution: EPA Needs to Develop a Business Case for Replacing Legacy Air Quality Data Systems	GAO-23-105618	9/6/2023	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Mission Support should identify factors for evaluating whether EPA's IT systems may be ready for replacement or retirement. (Recommendation 1)	A five-year contract needed to begin modernizing systems was awarded in March 2024 and EPA integrated consultants into the project team to help adopt best business practices. Operational analysis will be completed through the data discovery and business process mapping steps outlined in the project plan. AQS and AirNow will be rebuilt, rather than adapted to be more modern.
Air Pollution: EPA Needs to Develop a Business Case for Replacing Legacy Air Quality Data Systems	GAO-23-105618	9/6/2023	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation should consider documenting an operational analysis for AQS and AirNow. (Recommendation 2)	A five-year contract needed to begin modernizing systems was awarded in March 2024 and EPA has integrated consultants into the project team to help adopt best business practices. The business case for a new Unified Platform is under development and will be delivered as part of the exploratory work that will be completed in 2025.
Air Pollution: EPA Needs to Develop a Business Case for Replacing Legacy Air Quality Data Systems	GAO-23-105618	9/6/2023	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation should develop and document a business case for a new IT system for air quality data based on considerations for how such a system could address the challenges currently posed by AQS and AirNow. The business case should consider an analysis of alternatives, if appropriate. (Recommendation 3)	The business case for a new Unified Platform is under development and will be delivered as part of the exploratory work that will be completed in 2025.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
EPA Chemical Reviews: Workforce Planning Gaps Contributed to Missed Deadlines	GAO-23-105728	2/23/2023	The Administrator of EPA should direct the Assistant Administrator of OCSPP to develop a process and timeline to fully align its workforce planning efforts for implementing EPA's TSCA chemical review responsibilities with workforce planning principles and incorporate the results, as appropriate, into EPA's annual plan for chemical risk evaluations under TSCA. (Recommendation 1)	OCSPP's Hiring Standard Operating Procedure was finalized on September 30, 2024. It will go into effect by the end of the second quarter of FY25.
Lake Pontchartrain Basin: Additional Transparency and Performance Management Could Improve EPA's Restoration Program	GAO-23-105547	5/12/2023	The EPA Administrator, in updating the comprehensive conservation and management plan, should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the plan reflects the current state of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin and includes performance measures. (Recommendation 3)	The Agency issued an award to renew the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). Work groups consisting of management conference members to identify priority issues within the Pontchartrain Basin identified proposed topics. These are the first steps of the CCMP renewal, as established in the awardee's proposal.
Clean Water Act: EPA Should Track Control of Combined Sewer Overflows and Water Quality Improvements	GAO-23-105285	1/25/2023	The Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water should develop a performance goal and measure(s) to track and assess the status of long-term control plans or other control plans for municipalities with CSOs. (Recommendation 1)	Full implementation of the Phase 2 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting rule is expected by December 2025.
Clean Water Act: EPA Should Track Control of Combined Sewer Overflows and Water Quality Improvements	GAO-23-105285	1/25/2023	The Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water should develop a performance goal and measures to track and assess the improvements to water quality resulting from CSO controls implemented by municipalities with CSOs. (Recommendation 2)	Full implementation of the Phase 2 NPDES Electronic Reporting rule is expected by December 2025.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Clean Water Act: EPA Should Track Control of Combined Sewer Overflows and Water Quality Improvements	GAO-23-105285	1/25/2023	The Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water should report on nationwide progress and results of municipalities' efforts to control CSOs. (Recommendation 3)	Full implementation of the Phase 2 NPDES Electronic Reporting rule is expected by December 2025.
Wildfire Smoke: Opportunities to Strengthen Federal Efforts to Manage Growing Risks	GAO-23-104723	3/13/2023	The Administrator of EPA should develop and document a coordinated approach for EPA's actions to help communities prepare for and respond to the air quality and public health risks of wildfire smoke. The approach should align with leading practices for collaboration, including establishing goals, identifying and leveraging resources, and clarifying key stakeholder roles and responsibilities. (Recommendation 1)	EPA is initiating a cross-EPA team to develop an EPA-wide Wildland Fire Strategy, with a goal to have a draft document in summer of 2025.
Wildfire Smoke: Opportunities to Strengthen Federal Efforts to Manage Growing Risks	GAO-23-104723	3/13/2023	The Administrator of EPA should, in consultation with federal land management agencies, identify and develop additional information on reducing risks from wildfire smoke to air quality and public health through wildfire risk mitigation. (Recommendation 5)	EPA is initiating a revision to EPA's web materials to streamline and curate available resources, identify gaps and develop resources as needed to fill these gaps.
Wildfire Smoke: Opportunities to Strengthen Federal Efforts to Manage Growing Risks	GAO-23-104723	3/13/2023	The Director of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation should work with EPA's tribal, state, and local partners to evaluate options for providing incentives for and supporting wildfire risk mitigation and establish a plan for implementing appropriate options, seeking additional authority from Congress if needed. (Recommendation 6)	EPA continues with interagency cooperation efforts, including working with WFLC to develop and implement strategic priorities.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Renewable Fuel Standard: Actions Needed to Improve Decision-Making in the Small Refinery Exemption Program	GAO-23-104273	11/3/2022	The Administrator of EPA should reassess EPA's conclusion that all small refineries recover their RFS compliance costs in the price of the gasoline and diesel they sell, including by fully examining and documenting RIN market performance and RIN pass-through in all relevant fuel markets. (Recommendation 1)	The recommendation is fully implemented and the Agency submitted a closure request to GAO.
Renewable Fuel Standard: Actions Needed to Improve Decision-Making in the Small Refinery Exemption Program	GAO-23-104273	11/3/2022	The Administrator of EPA should identify and communicate what information refineries would need to submit to demonstrate disproportionate economic hardship. (Recommendation 3)	The EPA continues to work toward implementation of this recommendation and associated complex issues.
Renewable Fuel Standard: Actions Needed to Improve Decision-Making in the Small Refinery Exemption Program	GAO-23-104273	11/3/2022	The Administrator of EPA should develop policies and procedures for making small refinery exemption decisions. (Recommendation 5)	The EPA continues to work toward implementation of this recommendation and associated complex issues.
Renewable Fuel Standard: Actions Needed to Improve Decision-Making in the Small Refinery Exemption Program	GAO-23-104273	11/3/2022	The Administrator of EPA should develop policies and procedures to ensure that EPA meets statutory deadlines to issue decisions, including tracking when petitions are considered complete. (Recommendation 6)	The EPA continues to work toward implementation of this recommendation and associated complex issues.
Renewable Fuel Standard: Actions Needed to Improve Decision-Making in the Small Refinery Exemption Program	GAO-23-104273	11/3/2022	The Administrator of EPA should assess the effect of small refinery exemption decision timing on the benefit provided to small refineries, as well as the effect on fuel markets, and reconsider petition requirements, such as that of three quarters of current year financial information. (Recommendation 7)	The EPA continues to work toward implementation of this recommendation and associated complex issues.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Persistent Chemicals: EPA Should Use New Data to Analyze the Demographics of Communities with PFAS in Their Drinking Water	GAO-22-105135	9/30/2022	The EPA Administrator should conduct a nationwide analysis using comprehensive data such as the forthcoming fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule data to determine the demographic characteristics of communities with PFAS in their drinking water. (Recommendation 1)	The recommendation is fully implemented and the Agency submitted a closure request to GAO.
Refined Coal Production Tax Credit: Coordinated Agency Review Could Help Ensure the Credit Achieves Its Intended Purpose	GAO-22-104637	12/15/2021	If Congress extends the refined coal production tax credit, the Administrator of the EPA should coordinate with Treasury, IRS, and DOE to review the performance of the credit in achieving its intended purpose and identify and implement, as appropriate, any improvements towards achieving that intended purpose, such as adjustments to allowable emissions testing methods. (Recommendation 3)	Congress elected not to include the refined coal tax credit when renewing similar energy tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act - a precondition of the recommendation. The Agency submitted a request for closure to GAO.
Chemical Accident Prevention: EPA Should Ensure Regulated Facilities Consider Risks from Climate Change	GAO-22-104494	2/28/2022	The Assistant Administrator of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and Director of the Office of Emergency Management, together with EPA officials at regional offices, should provide additional compliance assistance to RMP facilities related to risks from natural hazards and climate change. (Recommendation 1)	By summer 2025, EPA plans to update the current hazard evaluation guidance and initiate ways to share natural hazard resources with facility owners and operators to help them identify and evaluate potential natural hazard risks.

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Chemical Accident Prevention: EPA Should Ensure Regulated Facilities Consider Risks from Climate Change	GAO-22-104494	2/28/2022	The Assistant Administrator of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance should design an information system to track common deficiencies found during inspections, including any related to natural hazards and climate change, and use this information to target compliance assistance. (Recommendation 2)	EPA maintains that identifying common deficiencies and targeting compliance assistance is best done on an industry-sector basis as part of the Chemical Accident Risk Reduction National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative. The Agency submitted a request for closure to GAO.
Chemical Accident Prevention: EPA Should Ensure Regulated Facilities Consider Risks from Climate Change	GAO-22-104494	2/28/2022	The Assistant Administrator of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and Director of the Office of Emergency Management should develop a method for inspectors to assess the sufficiency of RMP facilities' incorporation of risks from natural hazards and climate change into risk management programs and provide related guidance and training to inspectors. (Recommendation 4)	The Agency is developing a proposal to revise the Risk Management Program regulations and expects to complete the revisions by July 2025.
Chemical Accident Prevention: EPA Should Ensure Regulated Facilities Consider Risks from Climate Change	GAO-22-104494	2/28/2022	The Assistant Administrator of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, working with officials at regional offices, should incorporate vulnerability of RMP facilities to natural hazards and climate change as criteria when selecting facilities for inspection. (Recommendation 5)	The recommendation is fully implemented and the Agency submitted a closure request to GAO.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	GAO-22-104449	6/15/2022	The Administrator of NOAA and the Administrator of EPA, in collaboration with the members of the working group, should document and define what a national HAB and hypoxia program would entail, including identifying the program's resource needs. (Recommendation 1)	EPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and interagency working group members are continuing to work to define what a national program would entail, including identifying the program's goals, objectives, milestones, and resource needs.
Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	GAO-22-104449	6/15/2022	The Administrator of NOAA and the Administrator of EPA, in collaboration with the members of the working group, should develop performance measures to assess the working group's efforts, including the extent to which the recommended goals from the Research Plan and Action Strategy have been achieved. (Recommendation 2)	EPA, NOAA, and interagency working group members are working to develop performance measures to assess the working group's efforts.
Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	GAO-22-104449	6/15/2022	The Administrator of EPA, working with the other members of the working group, should develop an interagency framework, including prioritizing water bodies and identifying resource needs, to expand monitoring of freshwater HABs and hypoxia. (Recommendation 3)	The recommendation is fully implemented and the Agency submitted a closure request to GAO.
Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	GAO-22-104449	6/15/2022	The Administrator of EPA, working with the other members of the working group, should develop an interagency framework, including prioritizing water bodies and identifying resource needs, to expand forecasting of freshwater HABs and hypoxia. (Recommendation 4)	The recommendation is fully implemented and the Agency submitted a closure request to GAO.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	GAO-22-104449	6/15/2022	The Administrator of NOAA and the Administrator of EPA, in collaboration with the members of the working group, should develop a national goal for the group focused on efforts to prevent HABs and hypoxia. (Recommendation 5)	EPA and NOAA along with interagency working group members are developing a national harmful algal blooms program prevention goal.
Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	GAO-22-104449	6/15/2022	The Administrator of NOAA and the Administrator of EPA, in collaboration with the members of the working group, should coordinate the development of a more comprehensive body of information on the costs and benefits of mitigation, control, and prevention actions for use by state, local, and tribal governments. (Recommendation 6)	EPA and NOAA are coordinating development of a more comprehensive body of information on the costs and benefits of mitigation, control, and prevention actions for use by state, local, and tribal governments. The target completion date is December 2025.
Offshore Oil Spills: Additional Information Is Needed to Better Understand the Environmental Tradeoffs of Using Chemical Dispersants	GAO-22-104153	12/15/2021	The Administrator of EPA should work with the Coast Guard and other agencies to conduct assessments, such as biological assessments or ecological risk assessments, and examining the potential effects of the subsurface use of dispersants on ocean ecosystems in regions where this is considered a viable response option. (Recommendation 2)	The Agency is providing support to the Coast Guard and coordinate with NOAA and other agencies to identify assessment methodologies and examine potential effects of the subsurface use of dispersants on ocean ecosystems for select regions.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Recycling: Building on Existing Federal Efforts Could Help Address Cross-Cutting Challenges	GAO-21-87	12/18/2020	The Director of EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery should develop an implementation plan for conducting a study and developing recommendations for administrative or legislative action regarding the effect of existing public policies, and the likely effect of modifying or eliminating such incentives and disincentives, upon the reuse, recycling, and conservation of materials, as required by RCRA. (Recommendation 1)	The EPA is finalizing an implementation plan for completing both studies and developing recommendations for administrative or legislative action.
Recycling: Building on Existing Federal Efforts Could Help Address Cross-Cutting Challenges	GAO-21-87	12/18/2020	The Director of EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery should develop an implementation plan for conducting a study and developing recommendations for administrative or legislative action regarding the necessity and method of imposing disposal or other charges on packaging, containers, vehicles, and other manufactured goods to reflect the cost of final disposal, the value of recoverable components of the item, and any social costs associated with nonrecycling or uncontrolled disposal, as required by RCRA. (Recommendation 2)	The EPA is finalizing an implementation plan for completing both studies and developing recommendations for administrative or legislative action.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Recycling: Building on Existing Federal Efforts Could Help Address Cross-Cutting Challenges	GAO-21-87	12/18/2020	The Director of EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery should, while EPA finalizes and implements its national recycling strategy, incorporate desirable characteristics for effective national strategies, including (1) identifying the resources and investments needed, and balancing the risk reductions with costs; (2) clarifying the roles and responsibilities of participating entities; and (3) articulating how it will implement the strategy and integrate new activities into existing programs and activities. (Recommendation 3)	The EPA is finalizing an implementation plan for completing both studies and developing recommendations for administrative or legislative action.
Environmental Protection: Action Needed to Ensure EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Activities Support Its Strategic Goals	GAO-21-82	12/9/2020	The Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance should communicate final guidance for future national initiative cycles to all states before the effective date of the national initiatives. (Recommendation 1)	In FY 24, EPA issued requests for information (RFI) seeking public feedback on the design of an HCP Training Program to train health care providers on pesticide-related illnesses and injuries, and a new National Farmworker Training and Education Program (NFTEP) on pesticide safety, which will support activities such as pesticide safety training, materials development, and outreach to farmworkers.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: Action Needed to Ensure EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Activities Support Its Strategic Goals	GAO-21-82	12/9/2020	The Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance should incorporate lessons learned from the initial effort to engage earlier and more continuously with states when developing the office's plan for how EPA will work with states on future national initiatives. (Recommendation 2)	EPA initiated the FY24 – FY27 National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives selection process and recently engaged the Environmental Council of States prior to release of the public Federal Register Notice.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Drinking Water: EPA Could Use Available Data to Better Identify Neighborhoods at Risk of Lead Exposure	GAO-21-78	12/18/2020	EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water should develop guidance for water systems that outlines methods to use ACS data and, where available, geospatial lead or other data to identify high-risk locations in which to focus lead reduction efforts, including tap sampling and lead service line replacement efforts. (Recommendation 1)	The Agency drafted Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory. The document includes factors for when a system may want to prioritize investigations at locations served by unknown service lines. Implementation is ongoing.
Drinking Water: EPA Could Use Available Data to Better Identify Neighborhoods at Risk of Lead Exposure	GAO-21-78	12/18/2020	EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water should develop a strategic plan that meets the WIIN Act requirement for providing targeted outreach, education, technical assistance, and risk communication to populations affected by the concentration of lead in public water systems, and that is fully consistent with leading practices for strategic plans. (Recommendation 2)	The EPA met the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act requirement. Furthermore, EPA developed a strategic plan for targeted outreach to populations affected by lead. The plan outlines the new Water Infrastructure Improvements requirements and identifies the roles and responsibilities for EPA, states, and Public Water Systems.
Drinking Water: EPA Could Use Available Data to Better Identify Neighborhoods at Risk of Lead Exposure	GAO-21-78	12/18/2020	EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water should incorporate use of (1) ACS data on neighborhood characteristics potentially associated with the presence of lead service lines and (2) geospatial lead data, when available, into EPA's efforts to address the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts. (Recommendation 3)	The EPA drafted Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory. In the document there is a section on "Inventory Planning" that discusses various approaches that can be used to establish lead service line inventories. While the Lead and Copper Rule does not require a specific format for the service line inventory, the guidance includes a section titled "How to Make the Data Publicly Available" including recommendations on web-based map applications. Implementation is ongoing.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Farmworkers: Additional Information Needed to Better Protect Workers from Pesticide Exposure	GAO-21-63	1/15/2021	The Director for EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs should, in the Agency's guidance, on its website, or through another mechanism, explain EPA's expectations about the appropriate use of the pesticide information obtained by a designated representative, including describing potential misuse of such information. (Recommendation 2)	Progress has been made and work is ongoing. The EPA expects complete implementation of this recommendation by December 2025.
Air Pollution: Opportunities to Better Sustain and Modernize the National Air Quality Monitoring System	GAO-21-38	11/12/2020	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, in consultation with state and local agencies and other relevant federal agencies, should develop and make public an air quality monitoring modernization plan to better meet the additional information needs of air quality managers, researchers, and the public. Such a plan could address the ongoing challenges in modernizing the national ambient air quality monitoring system by considering leading practices, including establishing priorities and roles, assessing risks to success, identifying the resources needed to achieve goals, and measuring and evaluating progress. (Recommendation 2)	EPA will continue to work with stakeholders to establish an approach, goals, and priorities for an air quality monitoring modernization plan. Implementation is ongoing.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Private Water Utilities: Actions Needed to Enhance Ownership Data	GAO-21-291	3/26/2021	The Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Water should develop definitions for all utility ownership types for regional offices and states to use when entering data on ownership type in EPA's Safe Drinking Water Information System and should verify and correct the data as needed. (Recommendation 1)	The modernized Safe Drinking Water Information System is expected to be available for states to begin transitioning to the system by early 2026. However, the length of transition period will depend on states and their available resources to transition. The EPA expects the definition development will be in the later part of the Safe Drinking Water Information System development when additional fields will be added.
Private Water Utilities: Actions Needed to Enhance Ownership Data	GAO-21-291	3/26/2021	The Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Water should conduct another Community Water System Survey to establish an updated, accurate baseline of drinking water utility information for rulemaking and other purposes. (Recommendation 2)	The Agency has initiated work to conduct another Community Water System Survey. EPA plans to initiate information collection review approval in FY 2025 and begin data collection in late FY 2025.
Clean Water Act: EPA Needs to Better Assess and Disclose Quality of Compliance and Enforcement Data	GAO-21-290	7/12/2021	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance should revise its guidance to select files for its State Review Framework assessments of state-reported data to incorporate statistically valid probability sampling. (Recommendation 1)	The Agency met with GAO to provide an update on the revised methodology employed to implement this recommendation. Work is ongoing.
Clean Water Act: EPA Needs to Better Assess and Disclose Quality of Compliance and Enforcement Data	GAO-21-290	7/12/2021	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance should develop a plan to determine the overall accuracy and completeness of the permit limit and discharge monitoring report data recorded in its national database. (Recommendation 2)	The Agency proposes to provide a demonstration of the NPDES Data Sharing Dashboard and NPDES Data Accuracy Dashboard. The Agency and GAO are in contact to set up the demo for the two dashboards.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Clean Water Act: EPA Needs to Better Assess and Disclose Quality of Compliance and Enforcement Data	GAO-21-290	7/12/2021	The Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance should develop a performance measure to track the reduction in pollutant discharges resulting from enforcement actions for facilities in significant noncompliance and disclose any limitations. (Recommendation 3)	The Agency is focusing NPDES data accuracy and completeness efforts with states through NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule implementation, which is ongoing.
CHEMICAL SECURITY: Overlapping Programs Could Better Collaborate to Share Information and Identify Potential Security Gaps	GAO-21-12	1/21/2021	The EPA should collaborate with the DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to assess the extent to which potential security gaps exist at water and wastewater facilities and, if gaps exist, develop a legislative proposal for how best to address them and submit it to the Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of EPA, and Congress, as appropriate. (Recommendation 7)	Implementation is complete. The Agency requested closure of this recommendation.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
CHILD CARE FACILITIES: Federal Agencies Need to Enhance Monitoring and Collaboration to Help Assure Drinking Water is Safe from Lead	GAO-20-597	9/28/2020	The Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water should direct the Office of Water to specify how it will track progress toward the outcomes of the Memorandum of Understanding on Reducing Lead Levels in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities and determine how it will regularly monitor and update the MOU. For example, the Office of Water could develop performance measures for each of the MOU's outcomes. In addition, the Office of Water could submit annual reports on progress toward achieving the MOU's outcomes or it could plan to update the agreement at specific intervals. (Recommendation 4)	Implementation is complete. The Agency requested closure of this recommendation.
Cloud Computing Security: Agencies Increased Their Use of the Federal Authorization Program, but Improved Oversight and Implementation Are Needed	GAO-20-126	12/12/2019	The Administrator of EPA should update the list of corrective actions for the selected operational system to identify the specific weakness, estimated funding and anticipated source of funding, key remediation milestones with completion dates, changes to milestones and completion dates, and source of the weaknesses. (Recommendation 21)	Implementation is complete. The Agency requested closure of this recommendation with GAO.
Cloud Computing Security: Agencies Increased Their Use of the Federal Authorization Program, but Improved Oversight and Implementation Are Needed	GAO-20-126	12/12/2019	The Administrator of EPA should prepare the letter authorizing the use of cloud service for the selected operational system and submit the letter to the FedRAMP program management office. (Recommendation 22)	Implementation is complete. The Agency requested closure of this recommendation with GAO.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Cloud Computing Security: Agencies Increased Their Use of the Federal Authorization Program, but Improved Oversight and Implementation Are Needed	GAO-20-126	12/12/2019	The Administrator of EPA should develop guidance requiring that cloud service authorization letter be provided to the FedRAMP program management office. (Recommendation 23)	Implementation is complete. The Agency requested closure of this recommendation with GAO.
Cybersecurity: Agencies Need to Fully Establish Risk Management Programs and Address Challenges	GAO-19-384	7/25/2019	The Administrator of EPA should establish a process for conducting an organization-wide cybersecurity risk assessment. (Recommendation 40)	The EPA is using its existing Information Security and Privacy Program Support (ISPPS) contract in place to complete the work. Work is expected to be completed by July 2025.
Drinking Water: Additional Data and Statistical Analysis May Enhance EPA's Oversight of the Lead and Copper Rule	GAO-17-424	9/1/2017	The Assistant Administrator for Water of EPA's Office of Water and the Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance should develop a statistical analysis that incorporates multiple factors--including those currently in SDWIS/Fed and others such as the presence of lead pipes and the use of corrosion control--to identify water systems that might pose a higher likelihood for violating the LCR once complete violations data are obtained, such as through SDWIS Prime. (Recommendation 3)	Implementation is complete. The Agency requested closure of this recommendation with GAO.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Critical Infrastructure Protection: Sector-Specific Agencies Need to Better Measure Cybersecurity Progress	GAO-16-79	11/19/2015	To better monitor and provide a basis for improving the effectiveness of cybersecurity risk mitigation activities, informed by the sectors' updated plans and in collaboration with sector stakeholders, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should direct responsible officials to develop performance metrics to provide data and determine how to overcome challenges to monitoring the water and wastewater systems sector's cybersecurity progress. (Recommendation 7)	The EPA recently finalized in a Risk Management Plan that is being reviewed by the sector in support of the National Security Memorandum tasks. The Water Sector Cybersecurity Task Force Recommendations were accepted by the Water Sector Coordinating Council/Government Coordinating Council and a workgroup is currently being formed to identify roles, responsibilities and measures of success.
Clean Water Act: Changes Needed If Key EPA Program Is to Help Fulfill the Nation's Water Quality Goals	GAO-14-80	12/5/2013	To enhance the likelihood that TMDLs support the nation's waters' attainment of water quality standards and to strengthen water quality management, the Administrator of EPA should develop and issue new regulations requiring that TMDLs include additional elements--and consider requiring the elements that are now optional--specifically, elements reflecting key features identified by NRC as necessary for attaining water quality standards, such as comprehensive identification of impairment and plans to monitor water bodies to verify that water quality is improving. (Recommendation 1)	The Agency believes the extensive actions taken to implement this recommendation are sufficient to merit closure as implemented. GAO does not agree. The Agency and GAO continue to periodically engage to work toward resolution.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Drinking Water: Unreliable State Data Limit EPA's Ability to Target Enforcement Priorities and Communicate Water Systems' Performance	GAO-11-381	6/17/2011	To improve EPA's ability to oversee the states' implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act and provide Congress and the public with more complete and accurate information on compliance, the Administrator of EPA should resume data verification audits to routinely evaluate the quality of selected drinking water data on health-based and monitoring violations that the states provide to EPA. These audits should also evaluate the quality of data on the enforcement actions that states, and other primacy agencies have taken to correct violations. (Recommendation 1)	The Agency continues to work on modernizing the Safe Drinking Water Information System and made significant progress towards its schedule. The system is expected to be available for states to begin transitioning by early 2026. The length of transition period will depend on states and their available resources to transition. In establishing data quality goals for monitoring violation and other information, the Agency plans to engage the primacy agencies.
Drinking Water: Unreliable State Data Limit EPA's Ability to Target Enforcement Priorities and Communicate Water Systems' Performance	GAO-11-381	6/17/2011	To improve EPA's ability to oversee the states' implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act and provide Congress and the public with more complete and accurate information on compliance, the Administrator of EPA should work with the states to establish a goal, or goals, for the completeness and accuracy of data on monitoring violations. In setting these goals, EPA may want to consider whether certain types of monitoring violations merit specific targets. For example, the Agency may decide that a goal for the states to completely and accurately report when required monitoring was not done should differ from a goal for reporting when monitoring was done but not reported on time. (Recommendation 2)	The Agency continues to work on modernizing the Safe Drinking Water Information System and made significant progress towards its schedule. The system is expected to be available for states to begin transitioning by early 2026. The length of transition period will depend on states and their available resources to transition. In establishing data quality goals for monitoring violation and other information, the Agency plans to engage the primacy agencies.

Report Title	GAO Report Number	Report Issue Date	GAO Recommendation	EPA Implementation Status
Drinking Water: EPA Should Strengthen Ongoing Efforts to Ensure That Consumers Are Protected from Lead Contamination	GAO-06-148	1/4/2006	The Administrator, EPA, should take a number of steps to further protect the American public from elevated lead levels in drinking water. Specifically, to improve EPA's ability to oversee implementation of the lead rule and assess compliance and enforcement activities, EPA should ensure that data on water systems' test results, corrective action milestones, and violations are current, accurate, and complete. (Recommendation 1)	The Agency continues to work on modernizing the Safe Drinking Water Information System and made significant progress towards its schedule. The system is expected to be available for states to begin transitioning by early 2026. The length of transition period will depend on states and their available resources to transition. In establishing data quality goals for monitoring violation and other information, the Agency plans to engage the primacy agencies.

Working Capital Fund

In FY 2026, the Agency will be in its 30th year of operation of the Working Capital Fund (WCF). The WCF is a revolving fund authorized by law to finance a cycle of operations in which the costs for goods or services provided are charged to the users. The WCF operates like a commercial business within EPA where customers pay for services received, thus generating revenue. Customers include EPA programs, regional offices, and other federal agencies. The WCF mechanism provides an efficient method for a full cost approach to agency programs. EPA's WCF was implemented under the authority of Section 403 of the Government Management Reform Act of 1994 and the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997. EPA received permanent WCF authority in the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998.

EPA's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) initiated the WCF in FY 1997 as part of an effort to: 1) be accountable to agency offices, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress; 2) increase the efficiency of the administrative services provided to program offices; and 3) increase customer service and responsiveness. The Agency has a WCF Board which provides policy and planning oversight and advises the CFO regarding the WCF financial position. The Board, chaired by the Controller within the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, is comprised of 23 voting members from programs and regional offices. Board membership also includes the Controller serving as the Board Chair and Director of the Office of Budget as a non-voting ex officio member.

In FY 2026, there will be 17 core agency activities provided under the WCF. These are the Agency's Information Technology (IT) services, agency postage, enterprise development, background investigations, enterprise human resources, facilities alterations, and the occupational health and safety software platform managed by the Office of Mission Support; financial and administrative systems, employee relocations, and a budget formulation system managed by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer; the Agency's Continuity of Operations site managed by the Office of Land and Emergency Management; regional information technology service and support managed by EPA Region 8; legal services managed by the Office of General Counsel; multimedia services, EPA Action Management System, language services, and agency servicing contracts managed by the Office of the Administrator.

The Agency's FY 2026 budget request includes resources for these 17 core activities, totaling approximately \$560 million. These estimated resources may be adjusted during the year to incorporate any program office's additional service needs during the operating year. To the extent these increases are subject to Congressional reprogramming notifications, the Agency will comply with all applicable requirements. In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to perform relocation services for other federal agencies, delivering high quality services external to EPA.

The Agency anticipates that there may be minor increases and decreases in FY 2026 due to several IT improvements, including increased cloud computing, improved network infrastructure, cybersecurity requirements, continuous diagnostic and mitigation program implementation, and discovery services.

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