



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

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

**Tab 03: Environmental Programs and Management**

EPA-190R25002

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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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</b>				
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)

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
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

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
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



<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
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

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
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
<b>TOTAL EPM</b>	<b>\$3,253,430</b>	<b>\$3,195,028</b>	<b>\$2,481,704</b>	<b>-\$713,324</b>

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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$3,245</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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).<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/r10-tribal/contamination-ancsa-conveyed-lands#background>.

<sup>3</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$25,458</b>	<b>\$25,689</b>	<b>\$12,816</b>	<b>-\$12,873</b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$99,198</i></b>	<b><i>\$100,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$100,000</i></b>
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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$15,177</i></b>	<b><i>\$13,423</i></b>	<b><i>\$13,231</i></b>	<b><i>-\$192</i></b>
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 (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) 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. SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> are precursors for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), while NO<sub>x</sub> also is a precursor for ground-level ozone. Researchers have associated PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) exposure with adverse health effects in toxicological, clinical, and epidemiological studies. Lowering exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> 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.<sup>2</sup>

The Part 75 monitoring program requires almost 4,100 affected sources to monitor and report emission and operation data.<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Clean Air Act § 403(d).

<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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)<sup>5</sup> 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 SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NO<sub>x</sub> to reduce or eliminate the states' contributions to PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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.<sup>6</sup>

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 SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> allowances to affected emission sources and other account holders as established in the CAA<sup>7</sup> 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).<sup>8</sup> EPA will annually reconcile each facility's allowance holdings against its emissions to ensure compliance for all affected sources.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Clean Air Act § 403(d).

<sup>5</sup> Also known as the Good Neighbor Provision, also refer to Clean Air Act § 110(c).

<sup>6</sup> Clean Air Act § 110 and § 169A; refer to 40 CFR 52.2312.

<sup>7</sup> Clean Air Act §§ 110 and 403.

<sup>8</sup> Clean Air Act §§ 110 and 403.

<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup>

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.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.

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<sup>10</sup> Government Performance and Results Act § 1115.

<sup>11</sup> Clean Air Act § 110(a)(2)(D).

<sup>12</sup> <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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$26,113</i></b>	<b><i>\$24,554</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,272</i></b>	<b><i>\$718</i></b>
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 (O<sub>3</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), 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<sub>2.5</sub> 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<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS and the 2024 Secondary SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. In FY 2025, EPA announced intentions to revisit the 2024 PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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 PM<sub>10</sub> standards; the 2012, 2006 and 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards; the 2008 lead standard; the 2010 NO<sub>2</sub> standard; the 1971 CO standard; and the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> 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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$149,862</i></b>	<b><i>\$151,225</i></b>	<b><i>\$132,556</i></b>	<b><i>-\$18,669</i></b>
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 (O<sub>3</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), 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 O<sub>3</sub>, 29 percent for coarse PM, 92 percent for SO<sub>2</sub>, and, since 2010, national average levels for lead have decreased 87 percent.<sup>13</sup> 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<sub>2.5</sub> 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

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<sup>13</sup>For 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$6,655</b>	<b>\$1,472</b>	<b>\$5,895</b>	<b>\$4,423</b>
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.<sup>14</sup> 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,<sup>15</sup> (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.

<sup>14</sup> *Montreal Protocol Decision XIX/6: Adjustments to the Montreal Protocol with regard to Annex C, Group I, substances (hydrochlorofluorocarbons).*

<sup>15</sup> 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,<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup>

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 reclaimer 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.<sup>18</sup> 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.

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<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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>.

<sup>18</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$8,326</b>	<b>\$8,326</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$8,326</b>
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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$106,372</i></b>	<b><i>\$107,078</i></b>	<b><i>\$69,078</i></b>	<b><i>-\$38,000</i></b>
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 NECI 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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$30,700</i></b>	<b><i>\$30,700</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$30,700</i></b>
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.

### **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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$218,862</b>	<b>\$201,305</b>	<b>\$140,191</b>	<b>-\$61,114</b>
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).<sup>19</sup> 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

<sup>19</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$65,595</i></b>	<b><i>\$60,041</i></b>	<b><i>\$30,472</i></b>	<b><i>-\$29,569</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$109,912</i></b>	<b><i>\$94,124</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$94,124</i></b>
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 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):**

- (-\$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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$21,664</i></b>	<b><i>\$19,898</i></b>	<b><i>\$21,061</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,163</i></b>
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.<sup>20</sup> 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.

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<sup>20</sup> Per the Presidential Memoranda on Updating Technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> The Program will partner with federal agencies on proposed

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<sup>21</sup> Memorandum of Agreement No. 1 Between the Council on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, October 1977.

<sup>22</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,561</i></b>	<b><i>\$8,494</i></b>	<b><i>\$8,954</i></b>	<b><i>\$460</i></b>
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.<sup>23</sup> This Program provides technical and limited financial support to states, tribes, municipalities and

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<sup>23</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$224,493</b>	<b>\$216,798</b>	<b>\$214,000</b>	<b>-\$2,798</b>
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.<sup>24</sup>

*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.<sup>25</sup>

*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.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/eg>.

<sup>25</sup> For more information please see: <https://www.epa.gov/tmdl>.

<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

*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.<sup>6</sup> 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.

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<sup>27</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes>.

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

<sup>6</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,696</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,571</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,819</i></b>	<b><i>\$248</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$123,122</i></b>	<b><i>\$115,429</i></b>	<b><i>\$124,181</i></b>	<b><i>\$8,752</i></b>
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.<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup>

### **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.

<sup>28</sup> 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>.

<sup>29</sup> For more information, please see: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/guide\\_swppocket\\_2002\\_updated.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/guide_swppocket_2002_updated.pdf).

<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup> 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.

*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

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<sup>31</sup> For more information, please see: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSA\\_September2023\\_Final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSA_September2023_Final.pdf)



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.<sup>32</sup>

*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.<sup>33</sup>

*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.<sup>34</sup>

*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.<sup>35</sup>

### **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.
- (+\$9,000.0 / +43.9 FTE) This program change will advance water emergency preparedness. The additional funding will help response efforts through building internal

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<sup>32</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-regulations>.

<sup>33</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>.

<sup>34</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/uic>.

<sup>35</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse>.

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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$107,846</i></b>	<b><i>\$92,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$92,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>
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.<sup>36</sup>

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.<sup>37</sup> 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

<sup>36</sup> The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (2014) as amended in 2022, available at: <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/Chesapeake-Bay-Watershed-Agreement-Amended.pdf>.

<sup>37</sup> 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.<sup>38</sup> 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.<sup>39</sup> 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

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<sup>38</sup> 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>.

<sup>39</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$23,160</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,524</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,524</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>
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.<sup>40</sup>

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

<sup>40</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,041</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$15,590</i></b>	<b><i>-\$9,410</i></b>
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*.<sup>41</sup> 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.<sup>42</sup> 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.

<sup>41</sup> For additional information please see: [https://www.lcbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/OFA\\_2022\\_Full-Plan.pdf](https://www.lcbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/OFA_2022_Full-Plan.pdf).

<sup>42</sup> 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.<sup>43</sup>

- 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.

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<sup>43</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$42,108</i></b>	<b><i>\$40,002</i></b>	<b><i>\$40,002</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>
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.<sup>44</sup>

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.<sup>45</sup> 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.

<sup>44</sup> 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.

<sup>45</sup> 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*.<sup>[1]</sup> 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.

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<sup>[1]</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,760</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,200</i></b>	<b><i>\$7,139</i></b>	<b><i>-\$7,061</i></b>
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*.<sup>46</sup> 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

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<sup>46</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$55,217</i></b>	<b><i>\$54,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$28,767</i></b>	<b><i>-\$25,233</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$41,881</i></b>	<b><i>\$54,500</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,897</i></b>	<b><i>-\$41,603</i></b>
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.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>47</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$8,508</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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.<sup>48,2</sup>

<sup>48</sup> For more information please see: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-epa-region-4-southeast>.

<sup>2</sup> 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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$336,013</b>	<b>\$368,000</b>	<b>\$368,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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 9<sup>th</sup> 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:<sup>49</sup>

- 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

<sup>49</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$4,018</b>	<b>\$4,792</b>	<b>\$3,677</b>	<b>-\$1,115</b>
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*.<sup>50</sup>
- 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.

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<sup>50</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$987</i></b>	<b><i>\$914</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,361</i></b>	<b><i>\$447</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$4,973</b>	<b>\$4,665</b>	<b>\$4,986</b>	<b>\$321</b>
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).<sup>51</sup> 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

<sup>51</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$2,627</b>	<b>\$3,123</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$3,123</b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$8,791</b>	<b>\$9,520</b>	<b>\$2,470</b>	<b>-\$7,050</b>
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).<sup>52</sup> 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

<sup>52</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$2,044</b>	<b>\$2,262</b>	<b>\$2,350</b>	<b>\$88</b>
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. [REDACTED] 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 Guidance<sup>53</sup> 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).

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<sup>53</sup> 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](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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,343</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,495</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,642</i></b>	<b><i>-\$853</i></b>
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.<sup>54</sup> 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.

<sup>54</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$6,343</b>	<b>\$6,350</b>	<b>\$6,350</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$9,705</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$9,500</b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$15,359</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,098</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$11,098</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$61,072</i></b>	<b><i>\$56,574</i></b>	<b><i>\$38,984</i></b>	<b><i>-\$17,590</i></b>
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](http://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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$2,460</b>	<b>\$1,925</b>	<b>\$1,983</b>	<b>\$58</b>
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),<sup>55</sup> 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<sup>56, 57</sup> 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.

<sup>55</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman>.

<sup>56</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-policy-op#ORPM>.

<sup>57</sup> 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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$3,572</b>	<b>\$1,907</b>	<b>\$1,080</b>	<b>-\$827</b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$15,308</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,940</i></b>	<b><i>\$10,862</i></b>	<b><i>-\$4,078</i></b>
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.<sup>58, 59</sup> 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.

<sup>58</sup> For additional information about EPA's Risk Management Program, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/rmp>.

<sup>59</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,246</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,991</i></b>	<b><i>\$13,206</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,215</i></b>
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) Program<sup>60</sup> 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),<sup>61</sup> 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.

<sup>60</sup> For additional information, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/tri/>.

<sup>61</sup> 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).<sup>62</sup> EPA will continue to support and maintain the TRI Data Exchange (TDX)<sup>3</sup> 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*.<sup>63</sup> 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.

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<sup>62</sup> To access the CDX, please visit: <https://cdx.epa.gov/>.

<sup>63</sup> 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.<sup>64</sup> 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.

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<sup>64</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,414</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,715</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,715</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>
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,<sup>65</sup> 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.

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<sup>65</sup> 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*.<sup>66</sup> 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*.<sup>67</sup> 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.

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<sup>66</sup> Please refer to <https://www.epa.gov/general-assistance-program-gap/gap-guidance-financial-assistance-agreements> for further information.

<sup>67</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$7,748</b>	<b>\$7,683</b>	<b>\$5,339</b>	<b>-\$2,344</b>
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,<sup>68</sup> 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

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<sup>68</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/minamata-convention-mercury> and [www.mercuryconvention.org](http://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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$5,232</b>	<b>\$4,558</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$4,558</b>
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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$2,853</b>	<b>\$2,936</b>	<b>\$2,791</b>	<b>-\$145</b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,852</i></b>	<b><i>\$8,388</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,012</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,624</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$89,592</b>	<b>\$88,112</b>	<b>\$79,164</b>	<b>-\$8,948</b>
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*,<sup>69</sup> 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,

<sup>69</sup> 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),<sup>70</sup> 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

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<sup>70</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$5,437</b>	<b>\$6,106</b>	<b>\$5,104</b>	<b>-\$1,002</b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$439</b>	<b>\$579</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$579</b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,219</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,248</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,780</i></b>	<b><i>-\$1,468</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,897</i></b>	<b><i>\$10,435</i></b>	<b><i>\$8,000</i></b>	<b><i>-\$2,435</i></b>
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.<sup>71</sup> 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 Center<sup>72</sup> that will coordinate implementation of the PM, develop the Permitting Technology Action Plan (PTAP) and oversee Agency implementation of

<sup>71</sup> For additional information, please visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/updating-permitting-technology-for-the-21st-century/>.

<sup>72</sup> 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](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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$61,776</i></b>	<b><i>\$58,876</i></b>	<b><i>\$50,263</i></b>	<b><i>-\$8,613</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$18,906</i></b>	<b><i>\$18,541</i></b>	<b><i>\$18,082</i></b>	<b><i>-\$459</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,341</i></b>	<b><i>\$322</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$322</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$18,634</i></b>	<b><i>\$17,768</i></b>	<b><i>\$17,294</i></b>	<b><i>-\$474</i></b>
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*,<sup>73</sup> EO 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation*, EO 14219, *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative*,<sup>74</sup> and the President's memorandum on Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis.<sup>75</sup> This Program also assists the Administrator and other senior agency leaders in implementing regulatory policy priorities.

<sup>73</sup> For more information, please see: <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2025-01956.pdf>.

<sup>74</sup> 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>.

<sup>75</sup> 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.<sup>76</sup>
- 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.

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<sup>76</sup> 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.<sup>77</sup>
- 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).

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<sup>77</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$3,972</b>	<b>\$3,415</b>	<b>\$4,031</b>	<b>\$616</b>
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.<sup>78</sup>

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.

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<sup>78</sup> 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
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$34,401</i></b>	<b><i>\$32,223</i></b>	<b><i>\$32,247</i></b>	<b><i>\$24</i></b>
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*<sup>79</sup> and EO 14222: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency Cost Initiative."*<sup>80</sup> 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 agenda<sup>81</sup> 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.

<sup>79</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05197/eliminating-waste-and-saving-taxpayer-dollars-by-consolidating-procurement>.

<sup>80</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/03/2025-03527/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-cost-efficiency-initiative>.

<sup>81</sup> 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*,"<sup>82</sup> 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.

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<sup>82</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$81,953</b>	<b>\$80,928</b>	<b>\$76,603</b>	<b>-\$4,325</b>
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.<sup>83</sup> 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.<sup>84,85</sup> 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.

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<sup>83</sup> For more information please visit: <https://e-enterprisefortheenvironment.net/>.

<sup>84</sup> 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>.

<sup>85</sup> 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.<sup>86</sup> 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).

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<sup>86</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$274,208</b>	<b>\$275,909</b>	<b>\$234,599</b>	<b>-\$41,310</b>
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*,<sup>87</sup> as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*,<sup>88</sup> 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

<sup>87</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management>.

<sup>88</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$28,386</b>	<b>\$28,202</b>	<b>\$27,147</b>	<b>-\$1,055</b>
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,<sup>89</sup> 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 agenda<sup>90</sup> 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-

<sup>89</sup> For more information, see <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>.

<sup>90</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$62,477</i></b>	<b><i>\$51,813</i></b>	<b><i>\$40,000</i></b>	<b><i>-\$11,813</i></b>
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*<sup>91</sup> and EO 14210: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative*<sup>92</sup> 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:

<sup>91</sup> For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03133/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy>.

<sup>92</sup> 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*<sup>93</sup> 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*.<sup>94</sup> 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*.<sup>95</sup> 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*.<sup>96</sup>

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.

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<sup>93</sup> For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03133/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy>.

<sup>94</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02097/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity>.

<sup>95</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/03/2025-05836/exclusions-from-federal-labor-management-relations-programs>.

<sup>96</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>\$8,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$8,000</i></b>
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*<sup>97</sup> 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.

<sup>97</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$62,897</i></b>	<b><i>\$61,704</i></b>	<b><i>\$60,224</i></b>	<b><i>-\$1,480</i></b>
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)<sup>98</sup> 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),<sup>99</sup> 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

<sup>98</sup> For additional information on FIFRA, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-federal-insecticide-fungicide-and-rodenticide-act>.

<sup>99</sup> 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.<sup>100</sup> 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)<sup>101</sup> and the Certification of Pesticide Applicators (CPA)<sup>102</sup> 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.

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<sup>100</sup> For additional information please visit the EPA Pesticide Registration Internet site: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration>.

<sup>101</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/agricultural-worker-protection-standard-wps>.

<sup>102</sup> 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 needs<sup>103</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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<sup>103</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$46,586</i></b>	<b><i>\$45,511</i></b>	<b><i>\$45,832</i></b>	<b><i>\$321</i></b>
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.<sup>104</sup> In addition to FIFRA responsibilities, the Agency has distinct obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA),<sup>105</sup> 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 designated critical habitats in the U.S. with diverse biological attributes, habitat requirements, and

<sup>104</sup> 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.

<sup>105</sup> For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species>.

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 assessments<sup>106</sup> 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.<sup>107</sup> 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,<sup>108</sup> for independent scientific advice.

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<sup>106</sup> For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/factsheet-ecological-risk-assessment-pesticides>.

<sup>107</sup> Additional information may be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/overview-risk-assessment-pesticide-program>.

<sup>108</sup> 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.<sup>109</sup>

### 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.<sup>110</sup>

### 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

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<sup>109</sup> Under FIFRA, it is illegal to use a registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with the label instructions and precautions.

<sup>110</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$8,047</b>	<b>\$6,781</b>	<b>\$6,014</b>	<b>-\$767</b>
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.<sup>111</sup> 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.

<sup>111</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,613</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,379</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$1,379</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b>\$35,648</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>-\$8,000</b>
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.<sup>112</sup>

### **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.

<sup>112</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$21,404</i></b>	<b><i>\$20,884</i></b>	<b><i>\$20,884</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>
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.<sup>113</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>114</sup> 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.<sup>115</sup>

#### 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

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<sup>113</sup> 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.

<sup>114</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/deepwaterhorizon>.

<sup>115</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$39,061</i></b>	<b><i>\$38,423</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,126</i></b>	<b><i>-\$13,297</i></b>
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.<sup>116,117</sup> 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

<sup>116</sup> Additional information about EPA's RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/hw/hazardous-waste-cleanups>.

<sup>117</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$74,277</i></b>	<b><i>\$71,879</i></b>	<b><i>\$40,399</i></b>	<b><i>-\$31,480</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,776</i></b>	<b><i>\$10,348</i></b>	<b><i>\$4,253</i></b>	<b><i>-\$6,095</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,184</i></b>	<b><i>\$7,614</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,000</i></b>	<b><i>-\$4,614</i></b>
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.<sup>118</sup> 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;

<sup>118</sup> <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 report<sup>119</sup>, 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.

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<sup>119</sup> <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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,583</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,865</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$11,865</i></b>
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.<sup>115</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$91,338</i></b>	<b><i>\$96,406</i></b>	<b><i>\$73,042</i></b>	<b><i>-\$23,364</i></b>
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)*<sup>120</sup> 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.
- *Mercury.* Maintaining the Mercury Electronic Reporting Application and assess data submitted by the July 1, 2025 reporting deadline.

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<sup>120</sup> Section 8(a) of TSCA requires manufacturers (including importers) to provide EPA with information on the production and use of chemicals in commerce.

- *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.<sup>121</sup> 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.<sup>122</sup>

### **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).

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<sup>121</sup> TSCA, as amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act, Section 26(b) (1) and (4).

<sup>122</sup> 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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,551</i></b>	<b><i>\$14,068</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$14,068</i></b>
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)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,333</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,500</i></b>	<b><i>\$6,863</i></b>	<b><i>-\$4,637</i></b>
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.<sup>123</sup> 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.

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<sup>123</sup> 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