United States
Environmental Protection Agency

Fiscal Year 2027

Justification of Appropriation Estimates for the Committee on Appropriations

Tab 03: Science and Technology

EPA-190R26002

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Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2027 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

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APPROPRIATION: Science & Technology
Resource Summary Table
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology				
Budget Authority	$722,090	$744,195	$508,385	-$235,810
Total Workyears	2,042.2	1,173.7	1,482.9	309.2

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

Bill Language: Science and Technology

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs, and travel expenses; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, $508,385,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

Program Projects in S&T
(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Clean Air				
Atmospheric Protection	$7,350	$0	$0	$0
Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs	$6,518	$6,356	$6,739	$383
Federal Support for Air Quality Management	$17,416	$22,516	$10,615	-$11,901
Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification	$111,635	$109,752	$103,960	-$5,792
Subtotal, Clean Air	$142,919	$138,624	$121,314	-$17,310
Congressional Priorities *(Formerly - Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants)*				
Congressional Priorities	$7,338	$27,253	$0	-$27,253
Enforcement				
Forensics Support	$16,927	$14,895	$9,903	-$4,992
Ensure Safe Water				

Program Project	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Drinking Water Programs	$5,632	$4,700	$4,600	-$100
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection	$10,558	$9,307	$10,588	$1,281
Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	$21,063	$23,915	$27,999	$4,084
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	$436	$735	$500	-$235
Subtotal, Homeland Security	$32,056	$33,957	$39,087	$5,130
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Indoor Air: Radon Program	$26	$335	$0	-$335
Radiation: Protection	$1,625	$781	$1,020	$239
Radiation: Response Preparedness	$3,670	$3,961	$4,023	$62
Reduce Risks from Indoor Air	$0	$296	$0	-$296
Subtotal, Indoor Air and Radiation	$5,321	$5,373	$5,043	-$330
IT / Data Management / Security				
IT / Data Management	$3,018	$2,890	$2,841	-$49
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	$68,981	$64,714	$60,311	-$4,403
Workforce Reshaping	$0	$0	$1,000	$1,000
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	$68,981	$64,714	$61,311	-$3,403
Pesticides Licensing				
Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk	$1,960	$2,395	$2,599	$204
Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk	$2,969	$2,712	$2,422	-$290
Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability	$647	$993	$671	-$322
Subtotal, Pesticides Licensing	$5,577	$6,100	$5,692	-$408
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Health and Environmental Risk Assessment	$36,359	$35,509	$24,300	-$11,209
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Endocrine Disruptors	$11,848	$12,534	$11,156	-$1,378
Computational Toxicology	$17,021	$18,348	$15,602	-$2,746
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability (other activities)	$50,171	$53,353	$39,339	-$14,014
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	$79,041	$84,235	$66,097	-$18,138

Program Project	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	$115,399	$119,744	$90,397	-$29,347
Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources				
Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources	$106,285	$108,468	$77,849	-$30,619
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	$118,419	$121,477	$57,523	-$63,954
Research: Air and Energy				
Research: Air and Energy	$94,217	$96,000	$32,825	-$63,175
TOTAL S&T	**$722,090**	**$744,195**	**$508,385**	**-$235,810**

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

Clean Air

Atmospheric Protection

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$79,492	$0	$0	$0
Science & Technology	***$7,350***	***$0***	***$0***	***$0***
Total Budget Authority	$86,842	$0	$0	$0
Total Workyears	224.9	0.0	0.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Atmospheric Protection Program supports the implementation and compliance with emission standards for light-duty vehicles (LDVs) and heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) developed under EPA's Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program. Resources under this program also support compliance activities for implementing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

This program has been discontinued in the FY 2026 Enacted Budget and no resources are proposed for this program in FY 2027. All applicable statutory work (e.g., Clean Air Act, Pollution Prevention Act, Energy Policy Act of 2005, etc.) will be accomplished in other programs within the Clean Air Program Area.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- There is no change in program funding.

Statutory Authority:

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

Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs

Program Area: Clean Air
Goal: Restore American Energy Dominance
Objective(s): Accessible Energy

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$12,593	$8,433	$12,947	$4,514
Science & Technology	***$6,518***	***$6,356***	***$6,739***	***$383***
Total Budget Authority	$19,111	$14,789	$19,686	$4,897
Total Workyears	58.5	39.3	59.4	20.1

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is responsible for managing the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), an ambient monitoring network that has been continuously collecting data for more than 35 years. CASTNET serves as the Nation's primary source for assessing long-term trends in rural air quality and atmospheric pollutant inputs to ecosystems. CASTNET sites are uniquely situated in rural areas, including remote and high elevation locations within 40 states and seven Tribal communities. Rural CASTNET sites are intentionally located away from stationary emission sources. The network provides valuable data to support the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in many areas not monitored by state, Tribal, and local monitoring agencies. Additionally, CASTNET ozone data are used for exceptional event assessments of international transport, background concentrations, wildfire events, and stratospheric ozone intrusions. The sites also fill critical data gaps, providing information to understand the relationships between precursor emissions and air pollution issues affecting downwind population centers. The CASTNET monitoring network continues to be essential for assessing the impacts of national and regional emission reduction programs particularly in Tribal and rural communities across America.

The Agency's CASTNET Program also supports 42 ambient ammonia monitoring sites and 18 wet deposition sites through its contribution to the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) to assess: atmospheric concentrations of particulate matter (PM) precursors (e.g., ammonia); nitrogen and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) impacts on air and water quality (e.g., deposition to surface drinking water, eutrophication, harmful algal blooms); and ecosystem effects (e.g., reduction in biodiversity). The Agency utilizes data from these monitoring programs to support the development, evaluation, and validation of air quality models used to assess results under potential future emission scenarios. Used in conjunction with other ambient air quality networks, CASTNET's data products also are used to determine the effectiveness of national and regional emission control programs, validate satellite measurements, and provide near real-time data to support AirNow and Air Quality Index (AQI) reporting tools.

EPA works closely with Tribal governments, and more recently a Tribal university, to build Tribal air monitoring capacity through partnerships with the CASTNET Program. By expanding Tribal partnerships, CASTNET can fill important spatial gaps in air quality and atmospheric deposition monitoring while providing Tribes with the equipment and technical training to collect and report local air quality data. Tribes benefit from dedicated monitoring sites that build technical skills, provide near real-time air quality data to the community, and provide environmental data that helps Tribes assess the impacts of air pollution on cultural or natural resources on Tribal lands. The CASTNET Tribal partners have been successful in expanding their monitoring programs by leveraging monitoring infrastructure and technical training to address data needs.

To support modernization efforts, CASTNET will continue to upgrade aging equipment and use the existing network infrastructure to fill in gaps in continuous, real-time measurements necessary to evaluate changes in atmospheric chemistry and global impacts on air quality and deposition. For example, CASTNET multipollutant monitoring sites deployed $PM_{2.5}$ sensors which provides valuable data that states can use to determine which sources are driving PM formation and make more informed decisions on emission control strategies. Furthermore, continuing to expand capacity while modernizing the CASTNET infrastructure ensures data can be made available in near real-time to address short-term changes in air quality resulting from meteorological conditions, such as temperature inversions, or natural disasters, such as wildfires. The program also serves as a well-situated platform to measure background or regional levels of air toxics (e.g., ethylene oxide) and persistent chemicals of concern (e.g., PFAS compounds).

This program also supports the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs, which are nationwide and multi-state programs that address air pollutants that are transported across state, regional, and international boundaries. Programs designed to control sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) include Title IV (the Acid Rain Program) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), the CSAPR Update, the Revised CSAPR Update, and the Good Neighbor Plan.[1] The infrastructure for the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs also supports implementation of other state and federal programs.

This suite of statutorily required programs requires states to limit their emissions of SO_2 and/or NO_x in order to reduce or eliminate the states' contributions to fine particulate matter and/or ground-level ozone pollution in other states. These programs set emissions limitations that are defined in terms of maximum statewide "budgets" for emissions of annual SO_2, annual NO_x, and/or ozone-season NO_x from each state's large electric generating units. EPA is supporting state efforts with respect to best available retrofit technology (BART), reasonable progress, and interstate visibility transport, as those obligations relate to SO_2 emissions from electricity generating units.[2] The air quality and other environmental information gathered through this Program support these Clean Air Allowance Trading Program-related rulemakings and other rulemakings associated with Regional Haze.

[1] On June 27, 2024, the Supreme Court of the United States granted emergency applications seeking a stay of the Good Neighbor Plan pending judicial review.
[2] Clean Air Act § 110 and § 169A; refer to 40 CFR 52.2312.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 2/Objective 1, *Accessible Energy* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2027, EPA will:

- Continue to support air quality and environmental monitoring sites (e.g., CASTNET, NADP National Trends Network (NTN), and NADP Ammonia Monitoring Network (AMoN) sites). Monitoring data from these programs are used to analyze and assess local and regional transport of air pollution, impacts on air quality and atmospheric deposition, and other indicators of air quality and ecosystem health.
- Provide support for independent audits and required performance evaluations to assure high-quality data to support the NAAQS and environmental assessments.
- Continue making progress toward increasing monitoring capacity by working to identify new Tribal partners and rural communities across America that would benefit from joining a national air monitoring program.
- Invest in new technology and small businesses by replacing aging equipment, repairing monitoring shelters more than 30 years old that have deteriorated due to weather, and deploying new equipment and monitoring sites in rural areas (as informed by a recent scientific review of the program).
- Upgrade aging CASTNET equipment to expand the nation's rural multipollutant monitoring network. To modernize the program, EPA will replace continuous ozone analyzers and procure new $PM_{2.5}$ sensors that will support NAAQS assessments, emission control strategies, regulatory actions, and impacts on air quality and ecosystems in the future.
- Continue to modernize the data reporting tools and visualizations to improve user experiences and data access, particularly during emergencies (e.g., wildfires). Strengthening front-end and back-end data management platforms will improve system reliability and allow state and local agencies to quickly make critical decisions.
- Ensure the continuation of ongoing SO_2 and NO_x emission reductions from power plants in the U.S. by implementing the suite of CSAPR Programs and the Acid Rain Program.
- Ensure accurate and consistent results for the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs.
- Continue work on performance specifications and investigate monitoring alternatives and methods to improve the efficiency of monitor certification and emissions data reporting.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+$1,528.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$2,145.0) This program change is a reduction in the Clean Air Allowance Trading Program to reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth and focus on the Agency being more efficient.

- (+$1,000.0) This increase supports the operation and modernization of the CASTNET Program to ensure that individuals in rural areas or Tribal lands have access to clean air.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Federal Support for Air Quality Management

Program Area: Clean Air
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Healthy Air Quality

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$163,216	$239,030	$138,190	-$100,840
Science & Technology	***$17,416***	***$22,516***	***$10,615***	***-$11,901***
Total Budget Authority	$180,633	$261,546	$148,805	-$112,741
Total Workyears	880.3	955.8	715.4	-240.4

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

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

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 1/Objective 1, *Healthy Air Quality* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

During FY 2027, as part of implementing key activities in support of attainment of the NAAQS, EPA will provide states, Tribes, and local air agencies with scientifically and technically sound assistance in developing SIPs/Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs). This assistance includes providing models, modeling inputs and tools, and technical data and guidance and identifying emission control options consistent with applicable requirements of the CAA. EPA facilitates

national consistency in how air quality modeling is conducted as part of regulatory decision-making, including federal and state permitting programs, SIP/TIP-related actions, as well as how conformity determinations are made across the U.S. The Agency will work with states, Tribes, and local air agencies to ensure that particulate matter (PM) hot-spot analyses are conducted in a manner consistent with the transportation conformity regulation and guidance. In some instances, EPA is obligated by a statutory or court-enforceable deadline to issue a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP). This work also supports state obligations.

One of EPA's priorities is to fulfill its statutory and court-enforceable obligations. In FY 2027, EPA will continue to conduct the periodically required "technology reviews," conduct required risk assessments for MACT-based NESHAP, and reconsider previous actions, as necessary. In FY 2027, 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 will continue reporting the most current air toxics data each year in the annual Air Trends Report. EPA will continue providing information annually on emissions and concentrations of air toxics, so that state, Tribal, and local air agencies can identify existing and emerging air toxics exposure issues.

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

In FY 2027, EPA will work with partners to continue improving emissions factors and inventories, including the National Emissions Inventory (NEI). This effort includes gathering improved activity data from emissions monitoring and using geographic information systems and satellite remote sensing systems, where possible, for key point, area, mobile, and fugitive sources, and global emission events.

EPA will continue to operate and maintain the Emissions Inventory System (EIS), which collects, quality, assures, and stores current and historical emissions inventory data and supports the development of the NEI. EPA, states, and others use the NEI to aid in state and local air agency SIP development, serve as a vital input to air quality modeling, help provide access to information about emissions and concentrations of air toxics, and support multi-pollutant analysis for air emissions.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+$960.0) 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.

- (-$12,861.0 / -17.8 FTE) This program change is a decrease in the Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program to align funding with core statutory requirements.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification

Program Area: Clean Air
Goal: Bring Back and Protect American Auto Jobs
Objective(s): Vehicle Choice

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$111,635***	***$109,752***	***$103,960***	***-$5,792***
Total Budget Authority	$111,635	$109,752	$103,960	-$5,792
Total Workyears	324.8	265.6	303.7	38.1

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

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

National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL)
The NVFEL ensures clean air for every American and fair competition in the marketplace by conducting lab and field tests on motor vehicles, heavy-duty engines, nonroad engines, and fuels. These tests certify that all vehicles, engines, and fuels entering the U.S. market comply with all federal air quality and fuel economy standards. The NVFEL performs vehicle emission tests as part of pre-production validation, certification audits, in-use assessments, and recall programs to ensure compliance with mobile source programs. The NVFEL also produces critical test data on new and emerging vehicle and engine technologies to support the development of test methods used by the regulated industry to comply with EPA standards.

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

Supporting Tribal, State, and Local Governments
EPA works with Tribal, state, and local governments to ensure the technical integrity of the mobile source control emission benefits, including State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and transportation conformity determinations. EPA develops and provides information and tools to

assist Tribal, state, and local agencies, as well as communities, to reduce criteria pollutants and air toxics emissions and risks specific to their local areas.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 5/Objective 1, *Vehicle Choice* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

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

In FY 2027, the Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program will continue to focus its efforts on EPA's obligations under CAA Section 206 (motor vehicle and motor vehicle engine compliance testing and certification). EPA will continue to perform its compliance oversight functions on priority matters, conducting compliance oversight tests where evidence suggests noncompliance. EPA will continue to conduct pre-certification confirmatory testing activities for emissions and fuel economy for passenger cars. EPA also anticipates reviewing and approving about 4,900 vehicle and engine emissions certification requests.

In FY 2027, EPA will continue to utilize in-use emissions data provided by light-duty vehicle manufacturers to measure compliance and determine if any follow-up evaluation or testing is necessary. EPA reviews the data and determines if there are any specific vehicles, models, or manufacturers that are failing in-use emissions standards.

In FY 2027, EPA will continue work, begun in FY 2025, under Goals 1 and 5 to reconsider and reevaluate on-road engine and vehicle regulations, including the criteria pollutant standards established in the 2024 Light- and Medium-Duty Vehicle Multipollutant rule and the 2022 Highway Heavy-Duty Engine Low Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) rule.

EPA will continue working on programs to reduce pollutant emissions from marine and aircraft engines, consistent with Goal 1. In FY 2027, the Agency will consider updates to existing NO_x test cycles and emission limits for marine engines. In FY 2027, EPA also will consider NO_x emissions from civil aviation, as well as the test procedure and measurement processes for measuring aircraft engine particulate matter (PM).

The Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) is EPA's emission modeling system that estimates emissions of air pollutants from mobile sources at the national, county, and project levels. In FY 2027, MOVES will continue to support EPA's emission control programs, as well as provide critical assistance to states in their determination of program needs to meet air quality standards, consistent with Goals 1 and 3.

In FY 2027, EPA will continue to provide state and local governments with assistance in developing SIPs and with transportation conformity determinations. EPA will continue providing assistance to state and local transportation and air quality agencies working on $PM_{2.5}$ hot-spot

analyses. Additionally, EPA will continue partnering with states to support inspection and maintenance (I/M) programs that focus on in-use vehicles and engines and federal and state fuel programs in ozone nonattainment and maintenance areas.

In FY 2027, EPA will work with a broad range of stakeholders to reduce emissions from legacy vehicles and engines. Millions of decades-old diesel engines continue to serve key economic roles in moving goods and people across the country (e.g., ports, freight terminals, and schools). Newer, cleaner engines for on-highway and non-road sectors are available, creating opportunities for significant emission reductions when users replace or upgrade their fleets. EPA will work collaboratively to help facilitate and accelerate this transition to newer technologies using non-regulatory approaches while maintaining the functionality of commercial equipment. This work is consistent with Goal 1: *Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and Goal 5: *Bring Back and Protect American Auto Jobs*.

In FY 2027, EPA also will continue to implement the RFS Program and carry out actions required by the CAA's RFS provisions, including operating and maintaining the credit trading systems that support the program. CAA Section 211(o) requires that EPA set annual volume standards for renewable fuels, and EPA will continue to develop and promulgate volume standards for future years as part of its "Set" rulemakings. The RFS Program is a key federal support program for domestic renewable energy. In FY 2027, EPA also will continue to maintain oversight of the RFS Program and continue to evaluate compliance with RFS provisions through its system, which is used to track the creation, trades, and use of billions of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) for compliance.

In FY 2027, EPA will continue to implement its Fuel and Fuel Additive Registration program as required under CAA Section 211 and anticipates reviewing and issuing approximately 900 registration decisions.

In FY 2027, the NVFEL will enter into the fifth year of its 24-year energy savings performance contract (ESPC) that results in an infrastructure upgrade project with capital equipment costs of more than $59 million over the contract's lifetime. The ESPC replaces the mechanical, electrical, control, and building management systems for the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment that is at or beyond the end of its useful life – work that supports the ability of NVFEL to carry out its mission-critical work.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$10,729.0) 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.

- (-$3,385.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of lab utilities.

- (+$3,525.0 / +5.0 FTE) This increase supports mandatory vehicle and engine testing, timely certification review and issuance, and provides resources to address security risks to the Engine and Vehicles Compliance Information System.

- (+$4,797.0 / +33.1 FTE) This increase empowers EPA's implementing partners through cooperative federalism, while retaining funding and FTE for EPA to regain and retain primacy for certification of vehicles.

Statutory Authority:

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

Congressional Priorities

Congressional Priorities

Program Area: Congressional Priorities
(Formerly - Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$30,688	$30,700	$0	-$30,700
Science & Technology	***$7,338***	***$27,253***	***$0***	***-$27,253***
Total Budget Authority	$38,026	$57,953	$0	-$57,953

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

In FY 2026, Congress appropriated resources in the Science and Technology appropriation, under the Congressional Priorities Program, to fund competitive water quality research grants independent of the Science-to-Achieve-Results (STAR) Program. Additionally, Congress directed funding under this program for research to help farmers, ranchers, and rural communities manage PFAS impacts in agricultural settings and communities. EPA's Congressional Priorities Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2027.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$27,253.0) The Congressional Priorities Program is proposed for elimination to refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

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

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

Enforcement

Forensics Support

Program Area: Enforcement
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Compliance and Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$16,927***	***$14,895***	***$9,903***	***-$4,992***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$1,478	$888	$1,071	$183
Total Budget Authority	$18,405	$15,783	$10,974	-$4,809
Total Workyears	67.5	65.6	58.7	-6.9

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Forensics Support Program provides expert scientific and technical support for criminal and civil environmental enforcement cases, as well as the Agency's compliance efforts. EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) is an environmental forensic center accredited for both laboratory and field sampling operations that generate environmental data for law enforcement and civil enforcement purposes. These government science and technical services are critical for ensuring that the government possesses high-quality evidence and analysis that can be relied upon in court and agency proceedings.

The Forensics Support Program is proposed for a reduction to increase the effectiveness of EPA's 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 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 1/Objective 5, *Compliance and Enforcement* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

The program provides expert scientific and technical support for EPA's criminal and civil enforcement efforts. In FY 2027, NEIC will continue to streamline its forensics work related to sampling and analytical services provided to EPA's enforcement programs. NEIC will continue to provide critical support to the enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act and other regulations and continue conducting analysis for lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The program will build on its progress to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, produce timely and high-quality work products, and continue to identify and implement further efficiencies in laboratory operations.

NEIC advances cooperative federalism by providing field and laboratory services to state and federal partners, including on-the-job training on how to conduct process-based inspections and effectively review environmental regulations. NEIC also will continue to support civil and criminal programs through laboratory analysis, method development, toxicology (i.e., expert reports), and statistical support (i.e., site sampling plan development).

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$2,849.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$2,143.0 / -8.2 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and recognizes needed efficiencies. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

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

Ensure Safe Water

Drinking Water Programs

Program Area: Ensure Safe Water
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Clean and Safe Water

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$122,018	$115,387	$122,776	$7,389
Science & Technology	***$5,632***	***$4,700***	***$4,600***	***-$100***
Total Budget Authority	$127,650	$120,087	$127,376	$7,289
Total Workyears	540.3	473.1	519.3	46.2

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Drinking Water Program is responsible for multiple applied science efforts to meet statutory obligations and mission essential functions. EPA's Drinking Water Program conducts a range of science and technology activities that address drinking water contamination. The program:

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

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 1/Objective 2, *Clean and Safe Water* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan.*

In FY 2027, EPA's Drinking Water Program will continue to carry out the activities listed below:

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

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

- The data collected pursuant to this rule supports the Agency's determination of whether to establish health-based standards for unregulated drinking water contaminants to protect public health.
- In December 2021, the Agency published the final rule for the UCMR's fifth cycle (UCMR-5). EPA managed UCMR-5 sampling through December 2025, with data reporting and quality control activities continuing into FY 2027. The final UCMR 5 dataset will be released in FY 2027.
- UCMR-5 is the first cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule to implement the monitoring provisions of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA), which requires, subject to the availability of appropriations and adequate laboratory capacity, sampling at all small public water systems (PWSs) serving between 3,300 and 10,000 persons. AWIA also requires monitoring at a representative sample of small PWSs serving fewer than 3,300 persons. For UCMR-5, EPA implementation responsibilities significantly expanded to address a 7.5-fold increase in the number of small-system samples as a result of AWIA and associated Congressional appropriations.
- EPA is responsible for managing UCMR-5 implementation at all large PWSs serving more than 10,000 persons, all small PWSs serving between 3,300 and 10,000 persons, and a representative sample of PWS serving fewer than 3,300 persons. EPA is additionally responsible for funding the required monitoring at small PWSs.
- Concurrent with completing the implementation of UCMR-5 in FY 2027, EPA will publish the final rule to support the sixth cycle of UCMR (UCMR-6) monitoring for a new set of unregulated contaminants. UCMR-6 implementation preparations will begin in FY 2027, including public outreach to prepare water systems for reporting and sample collection requirements, approving laboratories to analyze samples to ensure laboratory capacity, preparing EPA's reporting system, and developing sampling kits, instructions, and notifications.

- Lead the development, revision, evaluation, and approval of analytical methods for unregulated and regulated contaminants in drinking water to assess and ensure protection of public health.

- Implement EPA's Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program, which sets direction for oversight of state, municipal, and commercial laboratories that analyze drinking water samples.[4] EPA will conduct regional laboratory certification program reviews and deliver laboratory certification officer training courses (chemistry and microbiology) for state and regional representatives. The FY 2027 certification program oversight activities and trainings will help ensure the quality of drinking water compliance monitoring analyses.

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

[4] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/dwlabcert.
[5] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/optimization-program-drinking-water-systems.

disinfectant, and disinfection byproduct standards, and to address distribution system integrity and water quality issues caused by the source, aging infrastructure, or other concerns. During FY 2027, EPA will work with states, Tribes, and technical assistance providers to train and directly assist systems. This effort includes identifying performance limiting factors at public water systems and developing and applying tailored tools to help them overcome operational challenges, achieve performance and optimization levels, and address health-based compliance challenges. The technical assistance provided by AWOP is instrumental for public water systems with limited capacity to effectively address drinking water quality issues.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$818.0) 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 increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs.

- (+$718.0 / +2.2 FTE) This increase will advance water emergency preparedness and response efforts through building internal capacity and 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.

Homeland Security

Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection

Program Area: Homeland Security
Goal: Advance Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
Objective(s): Cooperative Federalism

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$901	$3,033	$1,352	-$1,681
Science & Technology	***$10,558***	***$9,307***	***$10,588***	***$1,281***
Total Budget Authority	$11,459	$12,340	$11,940	-$400
Total Workyears	29.6	25.5	27.7	2.2

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA is the Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) for the drinking water and wastewater systems sector and consequently must fulfill specific statutory national security functions and Presidential directives to protect the water sector from physical and cyber threats. EPA's Office of Water Emergency Response and Cybersecurity serves as the primary lead for this mission by virtue of its expertise with water and wastewater systems. This program engages federal, state, and local entities in defining annual objectives and identifying high priorities for immediate action.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 3/Objective 2, *Cooperative Federalism*, in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

This program provides essential resources to coordinate and support the protection of the Nation's critical water infrastructure from terrorist threats, natural hazards, cyberattacks, and other high-risk incidents. In FY 2027, EPA will continue to provide exercises and technical support to approximately 5,000 water utilities, state officials, and federal emergency responders to become more resilient to any incident that could endanger drinking water and wastewater services. Pursuant to Executive Order 14239, EPA will adopt a risk-informed approach to its national security mission by providing tools, exercises, and technical assistance which will address the highest physical and cyber risks confronting the water sector. In providing this assistance, EPA will seek to build the security and resilience capacity of state and local governments and water and wastewater systems as consistent with the primary policy objective of Executive Order 14239. EPA also will update roles and responsibilities across EPA offices for responding to water emergencies under the Stafford Act and other authorities.

Natural Disasters and General Preparedness*:* Droughts, floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters represent a high risk to the water sector due to their frequency of occurrence and their enormous potential for destruction. The level of preparedness within the water sector varies

significantly—with many utilities lacking adequate preparedness capabilities. In FY 2027, EPA will continue to build capacity in the water sector by providing nationwide exercises and direct technical support to address natural disasters and general preparedness. In FY 2027, EPA will continue to implement the Strengthening Water Infrastructure for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Initiative to help smaller water and wastewater systems build resilience to natural hazards. Through the SWIFT Initiative, EPA plans to provide direct technical assistance to approximately 75 water sector systems and training exercises to another 1,000 water sector systems.

In FY 2027, EPA will enhance its internal emergency preparedness and field response capabilities and collaborate with other federal response partners, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), for situations in which EPA is assigned a water emergency mission under the Stafford Act or is designated as the Lead Federal Agency under the National Response Framework and Presidential Policy Directive-44 (PPD-44): *Enhancing Domestic Incident Management*.

Cybersecurity: Cybersecurity represents the highest national security risk for the water sector, given that automated process controls are used to operate most facets of a modern water utility and that many water utilities have not implemented basic cybersecurity practices. Recent attacks by both inside and outside actors, which have succeeded in disrupting drinking water supplies, have prompted a growing recognition that the federal government should adopt a more aggressive posture towards cybersecurity. EPA will continue to conduct nationwide vulnerability scanning to identify and eliminate vulnerable internet-connected devices operated by water systems to monitor and control their treatment, storage, and distribution networks. To date, EPA has eliminated over 400 such vulnerabilities. EPA will support its partnership with the Department of War to increase the cybersecurity resilience of water sector systems serving critical military assets in the United States and its territories. EPA also will sustain the existing cybersecurity technical assistance program, such as the Cybersecurity Evaluation Program - where utilities voluntarily work with a cybersecurity professional to complete a vulnerability assessment and generate a risk mitigation plan. EPA will provide tabletop exercises, promote the Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool, identify common vulnerabilities, and share best practices to strengthen capacity at water sector systems and state programs. EPA has produced over 20 alerts for the water sector, such as the China state threat (Volt and Salt Typhoon), the Iranian state threat (CyberAv3ngers), the widespread CrowdStrike IT disruption, among others, and will continue this critical national security practice in FY 2027.[6]

In FY 2027, EPA is requesting resources to implement recommendations from the FY 2025 Water Cybersecurity Task Force report, provide technical support to help water systems develop their own cybersecurity capacity, and evaluate cybersecurity practices at public water systems.

In FY 2027, EPA is requesting additional resources for Inter- and Intra-agency coordination efforts including support for cross-agency field studies in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and for efforts supporting Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) research capabilities at EPA. BSL-3 laboratories conduct essential work for protecting the public from harmful pathogens. Work

[6] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector.

in BSL-3 laboratories fosters the Nation's resilience to threats and ensures that EPA is prepared to address high risk agents.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$1,094.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+$1,875.0) This program change supports the Administration’s priorities of protecting the United States from foreign, domestic, and other national security and public safety threats by mitigating the risks of cyberattacks in the water sector and enhancing the Agency’s ability to respond to such incidents.

- (+$400.0) This investment supports equipment upgrades at the Fort Meade BSL-3 research facility.

- (+$100.0) This investment supports Inter- and Intra-agency coordination efforts including support for cross-agency field studies in coordination with DHS.

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: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Program Area: Homeland Security
Goal: Advance Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
Objective(s): Cooperative Federalism

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$21,063***	***$23,915***	***$27,999***	***$4,084***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$49,106	$34,981	$34,847	-$134
Total Budget Authority	$70,168	$58,896	$62,846	$3,950
Total Workyears	119.1	81.6	123.9	42.3

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

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

This research supports EPA in carrying out its primary mission to help communities prepare for, endure, and recover from disasters. Researchers collaborate with states, local communities, Tribes, private sector organizations, and other federal departments/agencies to deliver effective tools, methods, information, and guidance that address critical terrorism related issues and disasters.[7] These efforts underline EPA's commitment to safeguard clean air, land, and water for every American, making great advances through cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships, and adopting and adapting AI to enhance response and recovery capabilities.

EPA also is responsible for operating and maintaining the network of near real-time radiation monitors, known as RadNet, a key resource necessary for responding to certain incidents as noted within the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to the National Response Framework. The RadNet fixed monitoring network provides near real-time radiation monitoring coverage near each of the most populous U.S. cities, as well as expanded geographic coverage, for a total of 140 monitoring sites. RadNet improves officials' ability to make decisions about protecting public health and the environment during and after an incident. Additionally, RadNet data is used by scientists to better characterize the effect of a radiological incident.

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

RadNet is critical in responding to large-scale incidents, such as the accident at the Fukushima nuclear facility and potential incidents in Ukraine. It is an EPA Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource asset and is supported by the information technology (IT) system known as the Analytical Radiation Data System (ARadDS). EPA will continue to maintain, update, and modernize RadNet as it is the only nationwide environmental radiation monitoring system that monitors the Nation's air, ambient radiation exposure rates, precipitation, and drinking water for radiation.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 3/Objective 2, *Cooperative Federalism*, in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

This program supports efficient and effective clean-up after contamination incidents, enabling recovery and growth and engages across the federal, state, Tribal, and local enterprise, and in public-private partnerships. The program is pioneering AI innovation, positioning the U.S. as a global leader in environmental protection.

Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American:

- Develop methods for clean-up of hazardous chemicals, such as chemical warfare agents, pesticides, and opioids (e.g., fentanyl) from various surfaces and materials.
- Enhance capabilities for biological threats, including the development of methods for sample collection/processing and advancing decontamination capabilities.
- Determine capabilities for response to wide-area radiological/nuclear contamination.
- Advance capabilities for water contamination response.

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

- Support pesticide registration improvement by developing standard testing criteria and methods for aerosol pathogen treatment.
- Leverage collaboration with federal, state, Tribes, and community partners to enhance preparedness to respond to chemical, biological, and radiological threat incidents.
- Develop an AI-based system for accurate indoor navigation during emergency response using video and sensor data with private partner(s) via the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program.

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

- Evaluate the use of AI tools to enhance clean-up strategy development by optimizing sampling, decontamination, and waste management outcomes. Improve water infrastructure security by developing an AI supported cyber security application to aid in the identification of weaknesses and new attack vectors and mitigating impacts.

Radiation Monitoring:

In FY 2027, the Agency will continue to: operate and maintain the RadNet air monitoring network, add exposure rate measurement capability to the network, and provide essential maintenance to the network. This expansion of exposure rate measurement capability will enhance the federal government's ability to effectively communicate radiation measurement information to the public and to non-technical decision makers after a radiological release. In addition to aiding in explaining data to the public and decision makers, the addition of exposure rate meters aligns EPA's monitoring system with that of the international community.

In FY 2027, EPA is requesting additional resources to update aging equipment. As a part of this request, EPA also will modernize IT infrastructure for ARadDS and support enhanced lab and field office facility operations and maintenance.

Research Planning:

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

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$3,222.0) 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.

- (+$166.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the recalculation of lab fixed costs.

- (+$3,567.0 / +23.1 FTE) This program change supports the Administration's priorities of protecting the United States from foreign terrorists and other national security and public safety threats.

- (+$441.0 / +2.7 FTE) This program change will modernize IT infrastructure for homeland security systems.

- (-$24.0) This program change reduces non-payroll resources in the Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Program.

- (+$2,500.0) This program change supports the continued operation of the RadNet Air Monitoring Network which monitors the release of radioactivity in the environment and supports the response to radioactive material incidents.

- (+$656.0 / +1.2 FTE) This program change is an increase in resources and FTE for updating the aging equipment that monitors the Nation's air for radiation. This increase also will modernize IT infrastructure for ARadDS and support enhanced lab and field office facility operations and maintenance.

Statutory Authority:

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

Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure

Program Area: Homeland Security
Goal: Advance Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
Objective(s): Cooperative Federalism

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$5,124	$2,639	$4,986	$2,347
Science & Technology	***$436***	***$735***	***$500***	***-$235***
Building and Facilities	$1,492	$6,676	$6,176	-$500
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$698	$1,126	$915	-$211
Total Budget Authority	$7,750	$11,176	$12,577	$1,401
Total Workyears	13.0	13.3	13.3	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.
Total workyears in FY 2027 include 13.3 FTE to support Homeland Security Working Capital Fund (WCF) services.

Program Project Description:

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

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 3/Objective 2, *Cooperative Federalism*, in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2027, the Agency will continue to provide enhanced physical security for the NVFEL, its employees, visitors, and test articles, which include prototype vehicles and engines. This funding supports the cost of security enhancements required as part of an Agency security assessment review.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$235.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of lab fixed costs.

Statutory Authority:

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

Indoor Air and Radiation

Indoor Air: Radon Program

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$3,291	$2,540	$0	-$2,540
Science & Technology	***$26***	***$335***	***$0***	***-$335***
Total Budget Authority	$3,317	$2,875	$0	-$2,875
Total Workyears	8.0	6.3	0.0	-6.3

The Agency notes that FY 2026 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 2027 and all applicable statutory work (e.g., Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Air Act, etc.) will be accomplished in other programs within the Indoor Air and Radiation Program Area. Title III of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) authorizes EPA to take a variety of actions to address the public health risks posed by exposures to indoor radon. Under the statute, EPA studies the health effects of radon, assesses exposure levels, sets an action level, provides technical assistance to states, industry, and the public, advises the public on steps they can take to reduce exposure, and promotes the availability of reliable radon services and service providers to the public.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2027.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$335.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Indoor Air: Radon Program, in the S&T appropriation, to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local indoor radon reduction programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

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

Radiation: Protection

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Healthy Air Quality

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$9,893	$9,530	$2,415	-$7,115
Science & Technology	***$1,625***	***$781***	***$1,020***	***$239***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$2,828	$2,122	$2,420	$298
Total Budget Authority	$14,346	$12,433	$5,855	-$6,578
Total Workyears	52.0	43.3	24.0	-19.3

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA supports waste site characterization and cleanup by providing fixed laboratory and field radioanalytical data, expert technical support, and radioanalytical training to state and federal partners; and by developing new and improved radioanalytical methods and field measurement technologies. In the event of a radiological accident or incident, the National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory Division (NARELD) in Montgomery, Alabama, and the National Radiation Field Operations Division (NRFOD) in Las Vegas, Nevada, provide critical radioanalytical and field operation support for testing, quality assurance, analysis of various environmental samples, and field measurement systems and equipment to support site assessment, protective action recommendations, cleanup, and response activities. NARELD is the only EPA laboratory with in-house world-class radioanalytical capability. NRFOD is the only EPA asset that focuses solely on radiological emergency response field work and maintains a wide range of response assets and readiness to deploy to any type of radiological accident or incident.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 1/Objective 1, *Healthy Air Quality* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2027, the program continues to support EPA RadNet, the only nationwide environmental radiation monitoring system that monitors the nation's air, ambient radiation exposure rates, precipitation, and drinking water for radiation. The program, in cooperation with states, Tribes, and other federal agencies, will provide site characterization and analytical support for site assessment activities, remediation technologies, and measurement and information systems as requested. EPA also will provide essential training and direct site assistance, including field surveys and monitoring, laboratory analyses, health and safety, and risk assessment support at sites with radioactive contamination. Additionally, EPA will deliver analytical support to states and

industry through its Radon Calibration and Intercomparison Program, located at NARELD, to assist with radon measurement accuracy.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+$98.0) 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.

- (+$141.0 / +0.8 FTE) This program change reflects an increase in support activities at the National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada and focuses the Agency to be more efficient in providing analytical and field operation support in the event of a radiological incident.

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
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Healthy Air Quality

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$1,868	$2,875	$2,302	-$573
Science & Technology	***$3,670***	***$3,961***	***$4,023***	***$62***
Total Budget Authority	$5,538	$6,836	$6,325	-$511
Total Workyears	28.3	19.8	31.0	11.2

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

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

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 1/Objective 1, *Healthy Air Quality* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2027, EPA's RERT will provide critical support for federal radiological emergency response and recovery operations under the National Response Framework and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. When necessary, EPA's RERT will complement routine operations (e.g., on-site technical support/consultation and laboratory analyses) and provide for the rapid collection of field measurements/samples and accurate radionuclide analyses of environmental samples.[8]

In FY 2027, NARELD and NRFOD will build capacity in core levels of readiness for radiological emergency responses; participate in critical emergency exercises; and respond, as required, to radiological incidents. NARELD and NRFOD will prioritize rapid deployment capabilities to

[8] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/radiation/radiological-emergency-response.

ensure that field teams and laboratory personnel are ready to provide scientific data, field measurement capabilities, analyses, and updated analytical techniques for radiation emergency response programs across the Agency.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$1,871.0) 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.

- (+$1,000.0) This increase supports the analytic network of the National Center for Radiation Field Operations, including the operation and maintenance of vehicles and deployment equipment to maintain deployment readiness.

- (+$933.0 / +6.1 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Radiation: Response Preparedness Program to return to the Agency's core mission of legal requirements, while ensuring sufficient FTE levels to remain ready to respond to radiological emergencies.

Statutory Authority:

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

Reduce Risks from Indoor Air

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$14,274	$11,907	$11,984	$77
Science & Technology	***$0***	***$296***	***$0***	***-$296***
Total Budget Authority	$14,274	$12,203	$11,984	-$219
Total Workyears	38.8	34.4	34.5	0.1

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Reduce Risks from Indoor Air Program is proposed for elimination in the Science and Technology (S&T) appropriation in FY 2027, and all applicable statutory work (e.g., Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Air Act) will be accomplished in other programs within the Indoor Air and Radiation Program Area.

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, Tribal, and local levels. Poor indoor air quality represents one of the most significant public health risks within EPA's responsibility. 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 to equip industry, the health care community, the residential, school, and commercial building sectors, and the general public to take action.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2027.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$296.0 / -0.5 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Reduce Risks from Indoor Air Program, in the S&T appropriation, to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local indoor air quality efforts to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

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

IT/ Data Management/ Security

IT / Data Management

Program Area: IT / Data Management / Security
Goal: Make America the AI Capital of the World
Objective(s): Efficient Systems

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$84,894	$85,590	$79,854	-$5,736
Science & Technology	***$3,018***	***$2,890***	***$2,841***	***-$49***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$18,646	$18,035	$19,078	$1,043
Total Budget Authority	$106,558	$106,515	$101,773	-$4,742
Total Workyears	448.9	428.2	458.8	30.6

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.
Total workyears in FY 2027 include 172.0 FTE to support IT/Data Management working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 7.2 FTE.

Program Project Description:

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. EPA's IT/Data Management (IT/DM) Program is proposed for reduction as a result of increased effectiveness of Agency operations and reduced duplicative and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. Science and Technology (S&T) resources for EPA's IT/DM Program fund the Quality Program,[9] the EPA National Library Network, and Web Infrastructure Management, among standard Agency program objectives.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 4/Objective 2, *Efficient Systems* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

The Quality Program will continue to provide technical support to all EPA offices, Regions, and laboratories in implementing EPA quality policies, procedures, and standards. In FY 2027, the Quality Program plans to conduct two Quality Management Plan (QMP) reviews and at least one Quality Program Assessment for selected EPA organizations, in mandatory accordance with multiple federal statutes (2 CFR Parts 200, 1500.12; 40 CFR Parts 30, 31, 136.7; FMFIA 31 U.S.C. 3512; IQA Public Law 106-554, Section 515). These oversight activities help ensure the quality of EPA's data for intended uses, including environmental decision-making. This program directly supports Executive Order 14303: *Restoring Gold Standard Science* by promoting both the best

[9] For more information about EPA's Quality Program, please see: https://www.epa.gov/quality.

available science and the efficient use of resources with the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and AI-adjacent supporting infrastructure.[10]

EPA's Quality Program provides the framework for planning, implementing, documenting, assessing, and reporting on work involving environmental information operations. This program ensures that the Agency's environmental decisions are supported by information of known and documented quality, increasing confidence in results and allowing scientific reproducibility and replicability. The program also provides implementation support to all EPA organizations performing the environmental information operations described in their approved QMP.

In FY 2027, the Quality Program will:

- Assess organizations with an approved QMP and identify findings requiring corrective action, areas needing improvement, and opportunities to leverage best practices.
- Ensure scientific integrity by promoting better planning; encouraging the identification and assessment of potential risks in scientific projects; offering training and other resources to improve the planning skills of EPA staff; and promoting the use of advanced technologies, including AI and analytical tools, in planning and assessing the outcomes of scientific studies.
- Manage and provide oversight for the Information Quality Guidelines (IQG) to ensure that information disseminated by or for EPA conforms with the *Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency* criteria.[11]
- Engage as a resource with EPA's state and Tribal partners through outreach and educational initiatives covering policy updates, new technologies, and Quality Assurance (QA) methodologies and provide technical assistance and access to tools and templates to ensure QA processes and procedures are robust and ensure high standards of scientific integrity and environmental protection across all levels of governance.

In FY 2027, the IT/Data Management Program will continue to support the hosting of EPA's websites and web pages through EPA's 'One EPA Web' which will continue to manage content and support internal and external users with information on EPA work, support employees with internal information, and provide a clearinghouse for the Agency to communicate initiatives and successes. Additionally, in FY 2027, EPA will continue to transform the Agency's libraries to meet the needs of the 21st Century in a cost-efficient manner. This involves reducing the physical footprint of Agency libraries, providing online services and resources at the customer's point of need, and centralizing core services.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

[10] For more information, please see: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09802/restoring-gold-standard-science.
[11] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/quality/guidelines-ensuring-and-maximizing-quality-objectivity-utility-and-integrity-information.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$345.0) 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.

- (+$296.0 / +2.2 FTE) This program change is an increase in federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight, and public accountability by bringing critical quality assurance expertise back in-house. These adjustments are necessary to reduce unnecessary spending, to refocus EPA on its mission, and to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

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

Operations and Administration

Facilities Infrastructure and Operations

Program Area: Operations and Administration
Goal: Advance Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
Objective(s): Organizational Excellence

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$281,585	$258,274	$252,262	-$6,012
Science & Technology	***$68,981***	***$64,714***	***$60,311***	***-$4,403***
Building and Facilities	$7,147	$34,000	$28,900	-$5,100
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	$457	$764	$627	-$137
Inland Oil Spill Programs	$275	$676	$555	-$121
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$65,886	$66,713	$61,868	-$4,845
Total Budget Authority	$424,331	$425,141	$404,523	-$20,618
Total Workyears	295.1	256.2	308.0	51.8

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.
Total workyears in FY 2027 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 2.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

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

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 3/Objective 3, *Organizational Excellence*, in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2027, 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 Public Law 114-287, the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016*. In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14274: *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management,*[12] as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative,*[13] EPA is implementing a space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage.

[12] For more information, see https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management.
[13] For more information, see https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative.

EPA is working to reduce office, laboratory, and warehouse space. This has the potential to provide an avoidance of approximately $19 million in rent, utilities, and security across all appropriations in FY 2027. This will help offset EPA's escalating rent and security costs and reduce taxpayer burden. The Agency is vacating its Houston regional laboratory and consolidating into the Ada, OK, facility for a rent savings of $3.5 million and space reduction of 41,126 square feet. The Agency also is aggressively pursuing footprint reductions in its most expensive leased facilities. Due to persistent issues with the current Region 4 Headquarters and insufficient space at the Los Angeles facility, the Agency has begun the process to secure new leases in both locations. For FY 2027, the Agency is requesting $27.3 million for rent, $16.1 million for utilities, and $11.1 million for security in the S&T appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level.

In FY 2027, the Agency will support optimization of office and laboratory space to right-size the Agency's footprint while supporting activities necessary for lab consolidation, retrofitting of laboratories with technologies and AI automation, and releasing of excess office space in high-cost areas. These investments along with ongoing activities will decrease the growth of long-term rent costs, reduce its footprint, and create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace. In FY 2025, the percentage of space utilized at the GSA goal of 150 square feet per person at EPA owned and leased facilities is 38 percent. Investments in space optimization will advance EPA's goal of a higher space utilization rate, with a goal of 45 percent, and improve the use of EPA's workspaces.

EPA will continue to manage lease and occupancy agreements with GSA, and maintain EPA facilities, fleet, equipment, and fund costs associated with utilities and building security needs. EPA also will track capital equipment and meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and applicable environmental regulatory obligations and provide safety, health and environmental management (SHEM) support training to headquarters and field staff (e.g., SHEM managers, industrial hygienists, radiation safety officers, On-Scene Coordinators). 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) and ePACS provides centralized access control of EPA facilities, including restricted and secure areas.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$1,501.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a net decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy, rent, utilities, and security.

- (-$2,902.0) This program change is a decrease in contracting resources to support efficiencies across facility management and operations activities, and the optimization of office and laboratory 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).

Workforce Reshaping

Program Area: Operations and Administration
Goal: Advance Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
Objective(s): Organizational Excellence

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$0	$0	$2,000	$2,000
Science & Technology	***$0***	***$0***	***$1,000***	***$1,000***
Total Budget Authority	$0	$0	$3,000	$3,000

The Agency notes that FY 2026 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 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 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 3/Objective 3, *Organizational Excellence*, in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan.*

In FY 2027, 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 may create a need to continue to reshape the workforce, including reducing FTE and restructuring EPA's office locations. The Agency might need to offer voluntary early 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*[1] and supports achievement of all five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2025, EPA executed seven mission critical reorganizations, improving scientific and administrative capacity. In FY 2025, EPA also implemented Presidential memorandum *Return to In-Person Work.* In FY 2026, EPA will continue workforce restructuring consistent with EO 14217: *Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy* and EO 14210: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative,* eliminating non-essential functions, instituting hiring restrictions, and further aligning scientific capabilities with national programs. In FY 2027, EPA will assess opportunities to relocate work to maximize efficiency and mission effectiveness. This comprehensive realignment will be implemented through a multi-year plan.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+$1,000.0) This program change implements the Workforce Reshaping Program to align the Agency's organizational structure with core statutory requirements and strategic goals, while recognizing needed efficiencies.

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
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Chemicals in the Environment

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$63,622	$60,220	$62,383	$2,163
Science & Technology	***$2,969***	***$2,712***	***$2,422***	***-$290***
Total Budget Authority	$66,591	$62,932	$64,805	$1,873
Total Workyears	380.6	373.9	405.7	31.8

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.
Total program workyears in FY 2027 include 126.0 FTE funded by the Reregistration and Expedited Processing Revolving Fund.

Program Project Description:

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) §408 statutory authorities, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) screens new pesticides before they reach the market and ensure pesticides already in commerce are safe. As directed by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA), and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA-5),[14] EPA is responsible for registering and re-evaluating pesticides to protect consumers, pesticide users, workers who may be exposed to pesticides, children, and other sensitive populations. To make regulatory decisions and establish tolerances (e.g., maximum allowable pesticide residues on food and feed) for food use pesticides and for residential or non-occupational use, EPA must find the pesticide safe. For antimicrobial pesticides with public health claims, EPA requires that manufacturers perform tests to ensure the efficacy (i.e., performance) of products per the labelling. In anticipation of future public health emergencies, OPP evaluates public health claims for antimicrobial products, including the accelerated availability of disinfectants determined to be effective against emerging pathogens and development of study designs to support the generation of innovative products, including those that can reduce airborne transmission of these pathogens. This program operates two laboratories, the Microbiology Laboratory[15] and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory.[16]

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.

[14] On December 29,2022, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2022 (PRIA-5), which reauthorizes PRIA for 5 years through fiscal year 2027 and updates the fee collection provisions of the FIFRA, was signed into law.
[15] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-microbiology-laboratory.
[16] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-analytical-chemistry-laboratory-acl.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program supports Goal 1/Objective 4, *Chemicals in the Environment* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan.*

The Environmental Sciences Center (ESC) is comprised of the Microbiology Laboratory Branch (MLB) and the Analytical Chemistry Branch (ACB). ACB will continue to develop and validate methods for multi-residue pesticide analyses, including furthering test protocols and providing technical review of data and reports. The laboratory also will provide technical analyses and support to states, EPA Regions, and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) in enforcement cases related to the potential misuse of or illegal pesticides. Additionally, this lab maintains EPA's National Pesticide Standard Repository (40 CFR Part 158) and distributes more than five thousand standards yearly to states and regions to validate test results, identifying and quantifying pesticide residues. These efforts are critical to ensuring the safety of pesticide products within channels of trade, including those available for use by the public. MLB will continue to protect human health by ensuring the availability of scientifically sound antimicrobial pesticide efficacy test methods. The development, validation, and use of new quantitative methodologies for testing the effectiveness of antimicrobial products are necessary to meet the regulatory challenges associated with an ever-changing marketplace, novel product claims, new infection control practices, and the emergence of new clinical pathogens. These efforts will continue to benefit the public by ensuring an efficient path for the registration of public health pesticides (40 CFR Part 158W) and allow for marketplace penetration of these products.

Specifically, in FY 2027, the Microbiology Laboratory will:

- Expand use of a quantitative method for bactericidal claims for regulatory purposes;
- Continue to work on the development of regulatory guidance and implementation materials for fungicidal claims to support adoption of a quantitative method for regulatory purposes;
- Continue the process for generation of a new ASTM standard method for *Legionella* in recirculating water for cooling tower remediation;
- Provide efficacy testing and technical support for workplans for the Antimicrobial Product Evaluation Program (APEP) pursuant to EPA's response to the Office of the Inspector General (Report No. 16-P-0316);[17]
- Continue the process for generation of a new ASTM standard method for continuously active sanitizers and disinfectants;
- Expand the existing regulatory guidance document and implementation strategy for evaluating the efficacy of antimicrobial towelettes for additional microbes (e.g., fungi and viruses);
- Maintain Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory capacity for conducting antimicrobial efficacy testing and collaborate with other program and regional offices. EPA's Pesticide Program has the only two EPA laboratories with the physical containment to manage BSL-3 microbes, including EPA's only lab registered under the Federal Select Agent Program;

[17] Report No. 16-P-0316, "Report: EPA Needs a Risk-Based Strategy to Assure Continued Effectiveness of Hospital-Level Disinfectants," found at: https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/report-epa-needs-risk-based-strategy-assure-continued-effectiveness.

- Continue to expand viral testing and method development to respond to emerging viral pathogens; and
- Conduct acute toxicity reviews to support EPA's Registration Division and Antimicrobials Division.

Specifically, in FY 2027, the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will:

- Continue to develop improved analytical methods and protocols using state-of-the-art instruments, thus increasing laboratory efficiency and the accuracy of data;
- Continue to develop new methods to support EPA's overall efforts on identifying PFAS, including a methodology to quantify PFAS residues in pesticide formulations;
- Continue testing of pesticide products, as requested, to ensure contaminant free products;
- Provide analytical support to fill in data gaps for OPP's Section 18 emergency exemption applications;
- Provide technical support to OPP and perform studies for use in OPP's risk assessments and risk mitigation decisions;
- Provide analytical assistance and technical advice to OECA and to all regional offices in the enforcement of pesticide product integrity of domestic products and products imported to the U.S., protecting American consumers and product manufacturers;
- Verify that pesticide products are properly formulated;
- Operate EPA's National Pesticide Standard Repository; and[18]
- Conduct product chemistry reviews to support EPA's Registration Division and Antimicrobials Division.

Preventing Disease through Public Health Pesticides: Antimicrobial Testing

Manufacturers of antimicrobial pesticides bearing public health claims are required to submit efficacy data to EPA to substantiate the product's effectiveness (40 CFR Part 158W). The new Antimicrobial Performance Evaluation Program (APEP) strategy further ensures the efficacy of antimicrobial products by laying out a risk-based approach for confirming hospital disinfectants remain effective and are used properly after they are registered. MLB will continue to develop efficacy methods to support EPA's antimicrobial pesticide regulatory programs. The results of these efforts will help ensure products are available to control various bacteria, viruses, fungi, and biofilms and to inform EPA's method development activities in FY 2027 and beyond.

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

- Update and/or purchase equipment to meet more current laboratory specifications for EPA's only two BSL-3 laboratories.
- Replace existing environmental monitoring system and contract shared by both Pesticide Program laboratories with more current technology to improve the operations and

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

maintenance of the BSL-3 laboratories and National Pesticide Standard Repository facilities.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+$246.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the recalculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$536.0 / +0.1 FTE) This net program change is a reduction associated with screening new pesticides, reflecting efficiencies. Additional FTE will support EPA's Office of Pesticide Program's efforts to protect human health and the environment.

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
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Chemicals in the Environment

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$46,685	$49,337	$44,844	-$4,493
Science & Technology	***$1,960***	***$2,395***	***$2,599***	***$204***
Total Budget Authority	$48,645	$51,732	$47,443	-$4,289
Total Workyears	296.6	246.7	261.5	14.8

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.
Total program workyears in FY 2027 include 85.0 FTE funded by the Reregistration and Expedited Processing Revolving Fund.

Program Project Description:

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

Under FIFRA, the Agency must balance the risks and benefits of other pesticide uses. For antimicrobial pesticides with public health claims, EPA requires that manufacturers perform tests to ensure the efficacy (i.e., performance) of products per the labelling. In addition to FIFRA responsibilities, the Agency has responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Under ESA, EPA must ensure that pesticide regulatory decisions will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or result in jeopardy to the continued existence of species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Where risks are identified, EPA must work with FWS and NMFS in a consultation process to ensure these pesticide registrations also will meet the ESA standard.

Under the Science and Technology (S&T) appropriation, OPP operates two laboratories, the Microbiology Laboratory and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, that support the goal of protecting human health and the environment through diverse analytical testing and analytical method development and validation/verification efforts. These laboratories provide a variety of technical services to EPA, other federal and state agencies, Tribal nations, and other organizations to ensure the protection of the environment from pesticide risk.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program supports Goal 1/Objective 4, *Chemicals in the Environment,* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan.*

This FY 2027 budget request includes an increase of $204 thousand to invest in several areas across the Environmental Science Center in Fort Meade, Maryland. EPA's Pesticide Program laboratories provide a diverse range of environmental data that the Agency uses to make informed regulatory decisions. The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory and the Microbiology Laboratory each provide critical laboratory testing and support activities to assist the decision-making processes of the Agency. The laboratories develop standard methods to evaluate the performance of antimicrobial products such as disinfectants used in hospital, commercial, and residential settings (40 CFR Part 158W), and validate analytical chemistry methods to ensure that EPA, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the states have reliable methods to measure and monitor pesticide residues in food and the environment. The laboratories conduct product chemistry and acute toxicity reviews to support EPA's Registration Division and Antimicrobials Division.

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

- Update and/or purchase equipment to meet more current laboratory specifications for EPA's only two BSL-3 laboratories, including EPA's only laboratory registered under the Federal Select Agent program.
- Replace existing environmental monitoring system equipment and contract shared by both Pesticide Program laboratories with more current technology to improve the operations and maintenance of the BSL-3 laboratories and the National Pesticide Standard Repository.
- Replace aging liquid chromatograph tandem mass spectrometer with a state-of-the-art liquid chromatography triple quadrupole instrument with significantly better precision and improved sensitivity for detection of analytes.
- Purchase Super Critical Fluid Extractor for improved pesticide extraction. This will provide more selective extraction with improved extraction efficiency.

Laboratory activities in FY 2027 will include: continuing to work on the development of new regulatory guidance and implementation materials for fungicidal claims to support adoption of a quantitative method for regulatory purposes; working with the Antimicrobials Division to expand use of a quantitative method for bactericidal claims for regulatory purposes; conducting bench-scale microbiological experiments intended to build capabilities, close knowledge gaps, and enhance EPA's ability to carry out its emergency response mission; working with state laboratories to share method development and analyze samples, as requested; and working with investigations to evaluate the composition of potentially illegal pesticides.

In FY 2027, the Microbiology Laboratory plans to continue to work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and USDA to evaluate various environmentally relevant materials such as porous materials (e.g., wood, concrete, fabric, tile, etc.) which simulate use-sites in livestock,

poultry, and other food animal rearing operations. Outbreaks of avian influenza, African swine fever, Newcastle Disease virus, and other pathogens can devastate American agriculture, and the persistence of these viruses on surfaces is not well understood. Currently, due to the unavailability of standardized quantitative test methods to simulate real-world conditions, the response to an animal pathogen outbreak and submission of requests under FIFRA Section 18 to address these outbreaks relies on published, often antiquated, data. Thus, the use of commonly available chemicals for remediation (e.g., citric acid, sodium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, etc.) of contaminated sites without extensive knowledge of their environmental impact from such widespread use is problematic. The goal of the Microbiology Laboratory is to use a previously developed quantitative approach for assessing the effectiveness of antimicrobial products against high consequence animal viruses and other pathogens. Through this approach, EPA will provide a tool for the development of high-quality efficacy data on relevant surface materials. The availability of the method to the regulated community supports the development of new antimicrobial products following contemporary regulatory requirements.

In FY 2027, the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to focus on analytical method development and validations as well as special studies to address specific, short-term, rapid-turnaround priority issues, including the development and release of new methods for the analysis of contaminants in formulated pesticide products as well as packaging materials. These methods, once validated, will provide standardized, critical tools for the analysis of pesticide residues and contaminants. The Laboratory also will continue to provide technical and analytical assistance to EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program and regional offices to determine levels of pesticide residues in soil, sediment, crops, and water from agricultural uses (for the purpose of tolerance enforcement and product usage enforcement) and/or from accidental spills around pesticide treatment plants (for purpose of cleanup and remediation). The ACB laboratory has the capacity to develop or modify existing methods to accommodate a variety of matrices which production laboratories (including EPA Regional laboratories) cannot. Section 18 of FIFRA authorizes EPA to allow Emergency Exemptions (also called "Section 18s") for unregistered uses of pesticides to address emergency conditions. Under such an exemption, EPA allows limited use of the pesticide in defined geographic areas for a finite period of time once EPA confirms that the situation meets that statutory definition of "emergency condition." The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to provide national technical analytical support for the development of data needed for the Office of Pesticides Program's risk assessments and for Section 18 emergency exemptions and to perform studies for use in risk mitigation.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+$184.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the recalculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs.

- (+$20.0 / -0.3 FTE) This net program change provides increased capacity to reflect the workload associated with supporting laboratory operations and maintenance costs for applied research. The FTE reduction is for adjustments that 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); Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Chemicals in the Environment

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$5,987	$5,215	$5,885	$670
Science & Technology	***$647***	***$993***	***$671***	***-$322***
Total Budget Authority	$6,634	$6,208	$6,556	$348
Total Workyears	26.9	27.0	45.0	18.0

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.
Total program workyears in FY 2027 include 10.5 FTE funded by the Reregistration and Expedited Processing Revolving Fund.

Program Project Description:

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) §408 statutory authorities, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) laboratories provide significant contributions to help the Agency realize the value of pesticides. They consist of the Microbiology Laboratory[19] and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory,[20] both of which support the goal of protecting human health and the environment through diverse analytical testing, analytical method development, and validation efforts. These laboratories provide a variety of technical services to EPA, other federal and state agencies, Tribal nations, and other organizations to ensure the value of pesticide availability is realized.

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.

The primary focus of the Microbiology Laboratory is standardization of existing test methods and the development and validation of methods for new uses and emerging pathogens for antimicrobial products with public health claims (e.g., disinfectants used in hospitals, schools, food processing establishments, etc.). The Microbiology Laboratory is instrumental in advancing the science of antimicrobial product testing and provides technical expertise to standard-setting organizations and various agency stakeholder groups. In addition, the Microbiology Laboratory hosts technical workshops, training, and leads multi-laboratory collaborative studies.

The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory provides scientific, laboratory, and technical support through chemical analyses of pesticides and related chemicals to protect human health and the environment. The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory's responsibilities include: providing technical support and chemical analyses of pesticides and related chemicals; developing new multi-residue

[19] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-microbiology-laboratory.
[20] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-analytical-chemistry-laboratory-acl.

analytical methods; and operating EPA's National Pesticide Standard Repository,[21] (40 CFR Part 158) which collects and maintains pesticide standards (i.e., samples of pure active ingredients or technical grade active ingredients, regulated metabolites, degradates, and related compounds).

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program supports Goal 3/Objective 1, *Incentivized Investment,* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan.*

In FY 2027, EPA will realize the benefits of pesticides by ensuring the continued operation of the National Pesticide Standard Repository. The Microbiology Laboratory and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to conduct efficacy and chemistry evaluations for antimicrobial pesticides. As the recognized source for expertise in pesticide analytical method development, OPP's laboratories will continue to provide quality assurance review, technical support, and training to EPA's regional offices, state laboratories, and other federal agencies that implement the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Additionally, the laboratories assist in making safety findings under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA).

The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to maintain the National Pesticide Standard Repository (NPSR) which collects and maintains an inventory of approximately 1,600 analytical standards of registered pesticides in the United States. EPA provides these pesticide standards (approximately five thousand annually) to qualified federal, state, territorial, and Tribal laboratories for food and product testing, environmental monitoring, and enforcement purposes. Several changes in the operation of the NPSR have been implemented to increase its efficiency and to better serve regulatory laboratories. Changes include instituting an inventory control system and electronic request mechanism, requesting registrants to package pesticide standards in ready-to-be-shipped aliquots, and installing a chemist as lead staff to ensure adherence to new protocols. These changes resulted in improvements in the operation of the NPSR including a decrease in the turnaround time for shipping repository samples from 15 to 10 days. These changes also helped federal, state, and Tribal entities expedite enforcement efforts. Further process enhancements will continue in FY 2027, specifically in minimizing the number of non-usable expired standards that are shipped as chemical waste.

In FY 2027, the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory also will continue its work in: developing and validating multiresidue methods using state-of-the-art methodology and instrumentation; developing unique analytical methods for detection and measurement (in parts per trillion when appropriate) of contaminants (including PFAS); providing chemical analysis for assessing risk to human health and to the environment from agricultural use of pesticides; providing technical support to EPA regional offices to ensure that pesticide products are formulated according to approved labels.

In FY 2027, the Microbiology Laboratory will continue to evaluate FIFRA Section 18 emergency exemptions and novel protocol requests for new uses and novel pathogens. The Laboratory also

[21] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-analytical-methods/national-pesticide-standard-repository.

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

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

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$39.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs.

- (-$283.0 / +0.1 FTE) This net program change is a reduction to reflect the workload associated with laboratory operations and maintenance costs. Additional FTE will support EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) laboratories' efforts to help the Agency realize the value of pesticides.

Statutory Authority:

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

Research: Air and Energy

Research: Air and Energy

Program Area: Research: Air and Energy
Goal: Restore American Energy Dominance
Objective(s): American Innovation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$94,217***	***$96,000***	***$32,825***	***-$63,175***
Total Budget Authority	$94,217	$96,000	$32,825	-$63,175
Total Workyears	272.6	166.1	147.1	-19.0

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Air and Energy (AE) Research Program supports assessments of air quality impacts and informs strategies for maintaining and achieving clean air across the United States. The AE Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work by prioritizing and planning both statutorily required and internally driven research.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 2/Objective 2, *American Innovation,* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

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

In FY 2027, the AE Research Program will include the following research areas:

- Delivering state-of-the-art tools for states and Tribes to identify effective emission reduction strategies to meet the NAAQS and enhance air quality measurement methods to ascertain NAAQS compliance. In FY 2025, EPA developed an improved modeling platform for Fairbanks, Alaska, to help the state address $PM_{2.5}$ nonattainment, resulting in

reduced errors for predictions of wintertime sulfate in Alaska and improving model performance for other regions of the U.S.[22]

- Applying advanced energy modeling tools to identify energy production portfolios that meet growing energy demands in the most cost-effective ways possible, while supporting expanded powering of artificial intelligence (AI) data centers. In FY 2025, EPA released Generative City-based Optimization Model for Energy Technologies (COMET), a modeling tool developed for local planning, energy, and environmental agencies to explore energy technology scenarios and identify low-cost energy solutions.[23]
- Assessing human and ecosystem exposures and effects associated with air pollutants on individual, community, regional, national, and global scales, including how those effects will be impacted by heat, drought, and other extreme events such as wildfires. In FY 2024, EPA studied air quality health risks in individuals with heart disease, finding that individuals with heart failure had the highest risk of mortality from exposure to traffic-related air pollution.[24]
- Providing human exposure and environmental modeling, monitoring, metrics, and information needed to inform air quality decision making at the federal, state, Tribal, and local levels, which includes supporting accelerated permitting reviews. In FY 2024, EPA analyzed $PM_{2.5}$ and its components in Kansas City to understand impacts on $PM_{2.5}$ from local emissions sources such as railyards and major roadways, finding the highest $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations within 20-50 meters from a railyard.[25]
- Addressing emerging areas of concern to EPA and state policymakers, including toxics such as PFAS and ethylene oxide. In FY 2024, EPA measured PFAS in Central New Jersey air using chemical ionization mass spectrometry (CIMS), demonstrating the potential of online CIMS instrumentation for measuring PFAS in ambient outdoor air in real-time.[4]
- Advancing science-based approaches to improving wildfire readiness by developing and evaluating effective approaches to monitoring outdoor air quality, creating clean indoor air, and communicating actionable public health messaging.[26]
- Measuring progress toward environmental health goals and translating research results to inform communities and individuals about measures that can be taken to reduce the impacts of air pollution.

Research Planning:

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

[22] For more information, please see: https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-25-3287-2025.
[23] For more information, please see: https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/generative-comet-v0-0-0.
[24] For more information, please see: https://doi.org/10.1097/EE9.0000000000000351.
[25] For more information, please see: https://doi.org/10.1080/10962247.2024.2365708.
[26] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-07/wildland-fire-research-briefing-book-binder_final_508-compliant.pdf.

EPA's state engagement[27] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$14,077.0) 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.

- (-$49,098.0 / -19.0 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies, with a focus on internally driven research. This program is proposed for reduction, including elimination of the Science-to-Achieve-Results (STAR) grants program, to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burdens on EPA partners and the regulated community to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

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

[27] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability

Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Chemicals in the Environment

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$179	$0	$0	$0
Science & Technology	***$79,041***	***$84,235***	***$66,097***	***-$18,138***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$6,925	$2,826	$0	-$2,826
Total Budget Authority	$86,144	$87,061	$66,097	-$20,964
Total Workyears	286.4	139.7	232.5	92.8

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program conducts rigorous research to assess and manage chemical risks and to help EPA partners and stakeholders make timely decisions on chemical safety. 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 by prioritizing and planning both statutorily required and internally driven research.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 1/Objective 4, *Chemicals in the Environment,* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2027, CSS will continue to leverage its expertise to accelerate the pace of chemical assessment and decision-making, streamlining the chemical review process and enabling safer chemical design. CSS will place particular emphasis on 'chemicals of immediate and emerging concern,' such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 6PPD-quinone. Areas of CSS research will include:

Developing faster, cheaper New Approach Methods for toxicity testing: In FY 2027, CSS will continue collaborating with the Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Program to implement the June 2018 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Strategic Plan[28] to create more efficient approaches that reduce the use of mammals for toxicity testing.

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

Using High-Throughput Toxicity (HTT)[29] Testing to accelerate decisions: CSS will use HTT to evaluate chemical hazards, with an emphasis on developmental neurotoxicology, inhalation toxicology, and thyroid disruption, greatly increasing the Agency's portfolio of chemical assessment products by developing the recently released EPA Transcriptomic Assessment Product (ETAP).

Increased understanding of how chemicals affect developmental and reproductive biology: CSS uses HTT and Virtual and Complex Tissue Modeling[30] to observe complex chemical information within biological and toxicological contexts. In FY 2027, CSS will use this data to study adverse outcome pathways[31] (AOPs), which links events at the cellular level to atypical outcomes expressed at the whole animal level.

Delivery and translation of information on data-poor chemicals: In FY 2027, CSS will continue to support the collaborative efforts underway in the Agency to build scientifically robust, program-specific applications, such as RapidTox, that facilitate access and use of relevant information to support different decision contexts.

Research Planning:

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

EPA's state engagement program[32] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs, and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$11,435.0) 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.

- (-$6,703.0 / +91.8 FTE) This net program change enhances EPA's in-house capacity to conduct statutorily required, high priority research; provide technical support to assess and

[29] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/high-throughput-toxicology.
[30] For more information on this research tool, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/virtual-and-complex-tissue-modeling.
[31] CSS develops AOPs for health outcomes relevant to risk assessment or regulatory decision making. For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/adverse-outcome-pathways.
[32] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

manage chemical risks; and help EPA partners and stakeholders make timely chemical safety decisions. These efforts will help accelerate the pace of chemical assessment, streamline chemical reviews, and enable safer chemical design. This aligns with the objective of ensuring Chemical Safety for Sustainability and Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American.

Statutory Authority:

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

Health and Environmental Risk Assessment

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Chemicals in the Environment

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$36,359***	***$35,509***	***$24,300***	***-$11,209***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$3,712	$2,888	$5,583	$2,695
Total Budget Authority	$40,071	$38,397	$29,883	-$8,514
Total Workyears	164.3	49.2	105.8	56.6

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Project Description:

EPA's Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) Program is focused on advancing assessment science and generating health assessments that provide the scientific basis for decisions made by EPA and others, including states and Tribes, under an array of environmental laws, including: the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). 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.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports Goal 1/Objective 4, *Chemicals in the Environment* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2027, HERA will leverage existing tools and innovative research to deliver targeted, decision-ready data that supports EPA's efforts under the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*. In FY 2027, HERA will:

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

Accelerate TSCA Decisions with Efficient Methodologies and Program Collaboration: In cooperation with the Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program, HERA will apply new and alternative approaches, methods, and data to risk assessment products and technical support to better respond to the needs of states, Tribes, and EPA's program and regional offices. Continued modernization of artificial intelligence (AI)-enhanced tools, models, and databases will drive HERA's ability to be nimble and responsive to the needs of environmental decision-makers. These advanced methodologies and cross-program collaborations will help mitigate potential delays in chemical evaluation, resulting in faster decisions under TSCA.

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

Strengthen Technical Support Infrastructure: HERA will continue to emphasize technical support to the Agency and states on human and ecological risk assessment science, including supporting two Superfund Technical Support Centers (TSCs)[33] to provide tailored, rapid-response technical assistance and scientific expertise, without imposing additional regulatory burdens.

Streamline Workflow Processes: The program will focus on internally driven research and external partnerships, grants, and research agreements will not continue.

Research Planning:

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

EPA's state engagement[34] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and its research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$7,862.0) 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.

[33] For more information on EPA's five TSCs, please see: https://www.epa.gov/land-research/epas-technical-support-centers.
[34] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

- (-$3,347.0 / +32.5 FTE) This net program change increases EPA's in-house capacity to conduct statutorily required, high-priority research and technical support to advance assessment science and generate health assessments. This will support the Agency's ability to develop priority chemical assessments that leverage modernized methodologies, help accelerate TSCA decisions, and emphasize technical support to the Agency and states on human and ecological risk assessment science. This aligns with the objective of ensuring Chemical Safety for Sustainability and Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American.

Statutory Authority:

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

Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

Program Area: Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources
Goal: Make America the AI Capital of the World
Objective(s): Powering AI

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$106,285***	***$108,468***	***$77,849***	***-$30,619***
Total Budget Authority	$106,285	$108,468	$77,849	-$30,619
Total Workyears	367.8	202.6	258.9	56.3

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) National Research Program addresses current, immediate, and emerging water resource challenges and additionally identifies and builds capacity for future preparedness to protect America's water resources. 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.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 4/Objective 1, *Powering AI,* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2027, research efforts will continue to leverage SSWR expertise and will place particular emphasis on 'chemicals of immediate and emerging concern,' such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lead exposure from drinking water. Areas of research will include:

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

- Biosolids: Focus on biological and chemical contaminants and health effects by investigating the occurrence of antimicrobial-resistant *E. coli* during the treatment of Class B biosolids; assessing the human health risks of biosolids using molecular tools; developing a Voluntary Consensus Standard analytical method for the analysis of PFAS precursors in biosolids; evaluating anaerobic biotreatment of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)/PFAS in wastewater biosolids; and determining the applicability of molecular techniques in treatment performance evaluation.
- Water Infrastructure: Evaluate and provide technical support to assess the distribution, composition, and potential health risks of known and emerging chemical and biological contaminants. Assist states, communities, and utilities with stormwater and wastewater infrastructure needs through models and technical assistance.
- Recreational Waters and Public Health Protection: Develop rapid fecal indicators and bacteriophage and microbial source tracking for monitoring recreational waters and response times to quickly close and reopen impacted areas. Use an applied economic benefits analysis to evaluate the financial impacts of beach closures based on different water quality monitoring technologies. Develop human health risk and water quality predictive modeling tools to support recreational water quality criteria. Conduct an assessment of new recreational water quality assessment tools in sub-tropical and tropical marine waters.
- Antimicrobial Resistance: Finalize analysis of a multi-year, interagency study of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and associated resistance genes in surface waters to determine the utility of including environmental data within the Food and Drug Administration's One Health-focused National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System. Data also will inform the development of risk models by leveraging an unprecedented national map of the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in rivers and streams. Apply similar techniques in wastewater systems to define the best approaches for mitigating risks from discharges of wastewater effluents.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI): Apply AI to enhance already developed tools such as EPANET,[35] Multi-Species Extension (MSX),[36] Storm Water Management Model (SWMM),[37] and Water Network Tool for Resilience (WNTR).[38]

Research Planning:

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

[35] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/water-research/epanet.
[36] For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=CESER&dirEntryId=359844.
[37] For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NRMRL&dirEntryId=158255.
[38] For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NRMRL&dirEntryId=337888.

EPA's state engagement program[39] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$15,493.0) 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.

- (-$15,126.0 / +56.3 FTE) This net program change increases EPA's in-house capacity to carry out statutorily required, high priority research and deliver technical support in order to provide safe and sustainable water resources. Efforts will include PFAS work that focuses on drinking water treatment analytical methods, destruction, and disposal, as well as research on lead exposure from drinking water, harmful algal blooms, water reuse, and water infrastructure. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. This aligns with the objective to ensure Safe and Sustainable Water Resources and Make America the AI Capital of the World/Powering AI.

Statutory Authority:

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

[39] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

Research: Sustainable Communities

Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities
Goal: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
Objective(s): Revitalized Land and Contamination Prevention

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Final Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2027 President's Budget	FY 2027 President's Budget v. FY 2026 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$118,419***	***$121,477***	***$57,523***	***-$63,954***
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	$321	$182	$294	$112
Inland Oil Spill Programs	$558	$621	$522	-$99
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$15,959	$11,448	$11,202	-$246
Total Budget Authority	$135,257	$133,728	$69,541	-$64,187
Total Workyears	416.2	152.4	283.6	131.2

The Agency notes that FY 2026 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program supports EPA's Land and Emergency Management Program, regions, states, and Tribes to advance the cost-effective cleanup of contaminated sites, develop data and tools to effectively manage waste, and ensure that communities are protected from harmful chemicals such as lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). 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 by prioritizing and planning both statutorily required and internally driven research.

FY 2027 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports Goal 1/Objective 3, *Revitalized Land and Contamination Prevention* in the *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan*.

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

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

In FY 2027, SHC work will include the following areas:

- Critical Minerals and Life Cycle Assessment: Building on existing efforts to review recovery methods and technologies,[40] SHC researchers will continue to evaluate the feasibility of recovery of critical minerals from contaminated sites (e.g., mine waste, coal ash) to help establish a sustainable domestic supply of critical minerals that is necessary for expanding artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, supporting automobile manufacturing, and American energy dominance. Similarly, SHC will continue to develop life cycle analysis tools to help decision-makers understand the impacts of decisions and identify more environmentally friendly alternatives.[41] Scientific journal articles, reports, datasets, models, and tools will be published and used by decision-makers.
- PFAS Research: EPA researchers will support the needs of EPA partners, states, Tribes, and local communities by developing methods to evaluate PFAS in waste, soil, sediment, groundwater, and homes, and investigate PFAS fate and transport in the environment, as well as its disposal and destruction. Researchers also will identify locations and source contributors to potentially high PFAS exposure in children and other populations by evaluating multimedia PFAS sources and pathways for human exposure.[42] This research supports the implementation of the *PFAS Strategic Roadmap* and EPA guidance on PFAS destruction and disposal required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.[43,44]

Research Planning:

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

EPA's state engagement is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.[45]

Performance Measure Targets:

FY 2027 performance goals and targets are located in the FY 2027 Performance Goals tab.

[40] For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=360468&Lab=CESER.
[41] For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?dirEntryId=360453&Lab=CESER.
[42] For more information, please see: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39526893/, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11874334/.
[43] See EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap at: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap_final-508.pdf.
[44] https://www.epa.gov/pfas/interim-guidance-destruction-and-disposal-pfas-and-materials-containing-pfas.
[45] For more information on EPA's work with States, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

FY 2027 Change from FY 2026 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$19,960.0) 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.

- (-$43,994.0 / +97.8 FTE) This net program change increases EPA's capacity to conduct statutorily required, high-priority research and technical support to advance the cost-effective cleanup of contaminated sites, improve waste-management data and tools, protect communities from harmful chemicals such as lead and PFAS, and assess the feasibility of recovering critical minerals from contaminated sites. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. This aligns with the objective of ensuring Sustainable and Healthy Communities, Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American, and Revitalized Land and Contamination Prevention.

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).