

Understanding the Full Impacts of the Proposed FY2021 EPA Budget

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Introduction

President Trump's proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021 continues the ongoing effort to dismantle EPA program by program and undermine its ability to protect public health and the environment. The Trump proposed budget singles out EPA for harsh treatment, slashing EPA's current budget by 27% and severely damaging programs that have protected America and its children for decades. The impacts would be felt by families and communities across America. The cuts to essential programs and staffing levels would make it increasingly difficult for federal and state environmental professionals to carry out their congressionally mandated responsibilities to protect public health and the natural environment—efforts that are essential for community well-being and long-term economic growth. EPA's protection provides tremendous benefits to society: a recent Trump administration [draft report to Congress](#) estimated that over the last decade, the annual benefits of EPA regulations to the American people were between \$196 and \$706 billion, far outweighing costs to polluters of \$54 to \$65 billion.

The FY2021 budget would cut EPA funding by \$2.4 billion (27%), from \$9.06 billion to \$6.66 billion, and slash the authorized workforce to its lowest total in 35 years. The proposed funding cuts would return EPA in real dollars to levels not seen since the 1970s, before Congress enacted or strengthened laws expanding the agency's mission to ensure clean air, water and drinking water, and protect the public from exposure to hazardous waste, pesticides and toxic substances. The proposed staffing cut continues an aggressive pattern of slashing EPA staff to historically low levels, draining off the skilled professionals whose knowledge and institutional memory are essential to making environmental protection work. EPA's workforce around the country would shrink by nearly 18%, from 15,408 (in FY2017) at the beginning of the Trump administration to 12,610 in FY2021. This would give EPA its smallest workforce since FY1985, when the agency had significantly fewer congressionally mandated environmental responsibilities, and drastically undermine the agency's ability to do its job of protecting human health and the environment.

The FY2021 budget would also eviscerate EPA science and research, cutting it by 44% and eliminate virtually all of EPA's climate programs, even as warming continues and climate change impacts worsen. It also slashes nearly half a billion dollars in categorical grant funding for state programs, a 44% reduction, even though many state environmental programs have already suffered large cuts and depend on federal funding for more than a quarter of their operating budgets, and despite the vital role states play in protecting our nation's environment. State funding cuts are especially hypocritical considering the Trump/Wheeler administration's stated intention of shifting more responsibility to the states, while proposing cuts that would starve them of the resources they need to exercise such responsibility.

The proposal largely echoes the administration's [FY2018](#), [FY2019](#) and [FY2020](#) budgets and will likely be superseded by Congress as the previous three budgets were. But repeatedly suggesting cuts of this magnitude sends a strong message that EPA's budget should be reduced dramatically. When that message is accompanied by harsh and destructive rhetoric attacking the agency and its mission, and questioning the value of environmental protection, it seems clear that if the administration can't eliminate EPA or cut it into "little pieces" as the President has proposed, it will try to starve it to death. The net effect is to undermine agency morale and erode public confidence in EPA and its work and the laws it administers, attacking the

very idea of government action to protect the environment. America has flourished, and its people are healthier because of our half century of environmental protection.

EPA's "[Budget in Brief](#)," which claims to show how the budget supports the agency's mission, is laughable for the brazen disconnect between its promises of a "cleaner, healthier environment" and its funding for that purpose. By its own account, EPA proposes to slash support for work to "improve air quality" nearly in half (46%) by \$376 million, and cut efforts to "provide for clean and safe water" by 31%, cutting nearly \$1.4 billion (that's "billion" with a "b"), to \$3.1 billion. In the same vein, it proposes to cut funds with the "goal" to "increase transparency and public participation" by 85%, and to "prioritize robust science" by cutting science funding by \$215 million (43%). In sum, the EPA budget starkly documents the agency's lack of interest in funding to support improved air quality, clean and safe water, transparency and public participation, and robust science.

For three years, whether controlled by Democrats or Republicans, Congress has rejected the proposed massive cuts to EPA and provided level funding from year to year. But EPA has been in this kind of holding pattern for a decade, and in real terms, it has suffered a gradual but continued decline from levels that were already historically low at a time when environmental needs are a national priority. This would be an opportunity for Congress to take a serious look, for the first time in many years, at the level of investment actually needed for EPA to do its job and fund the agency accordingly.

For perspective, the "saving" from cuts of \$2.4 billion is a tiny fraction of the Trump administration's overall proposed \$4.8 *trillion* in spending for FY2021. That's a saving of less than \$8 per person at the cost of more damaging pollution and threats to people's health from reduced EPA work for clean air and water, and safe pesticides and chemicals. The budget even eliminates roughly 50 programs that protect the air, water and land, and people's health in communities across America.

The budget provides virtually no funding for EPA climate change programs and proposes to eliminate \$66 million in programs "related to energy and climate change." This continues a pattern of attacking EPA climate measures, actively disputing climate science and acting to undo significant EPA measures to protect the climate, including the Clean Power Plan and vehicle emission standards.

EPA's Budget at Historic Low

The proposed massive cuts to EPA's budget affect an agency that is at a long-term low point after years of declining funding, reduced staffing and flat resources, along with rising costs and increased responsibilities. Indeed, the proposed funding of \$6.66 billion, [adjusted](#) for inflation, would be the lowest budget since 1976, shortly after the agency was founded, even though its needs have been growing and EPA's increased congressionally mandated responsibilities have significantly expanded the agency's role in protecting the environment.

To put even current funding levels in context, a useful benchmark is the period between 2003 and 2013. During that 10-year period, which straddles the Bush and Obama administrations, EPA's budget was roughly stable at approximately \$8 billion (aside from a spike of stimulus funds in 2009-11), and the agency had an average staff level of 17,238 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE). Compared to that baseline, the Trump administration's proposed FY2021 budget, adjusted for inflation, would be more than 40% lower and staffing would be down by 30%.

Needless to say, the environmental challenges that EPA is responsible for addressing have not shrunk over this same period of time. To use just two rough indicators, since 2000, the population has grown by 15% and Gross Domestic Product has gone up 75%.

State agencies, which depend on EPA assistance for more than 25% of their operating budgets, <https://www.ecos.org/documents/green-report-on-status-of-environmental-agency-budgets/> are in dire straits. EPA support has been flat, and state environmental programs have been facing resource challenges over the last decade. Forty states have eliminated 5,700 environmental jobs; over half the states have cut their environmental program budgets, with a third cutting more than 20% and the hardest-hit losing a third of their funding.

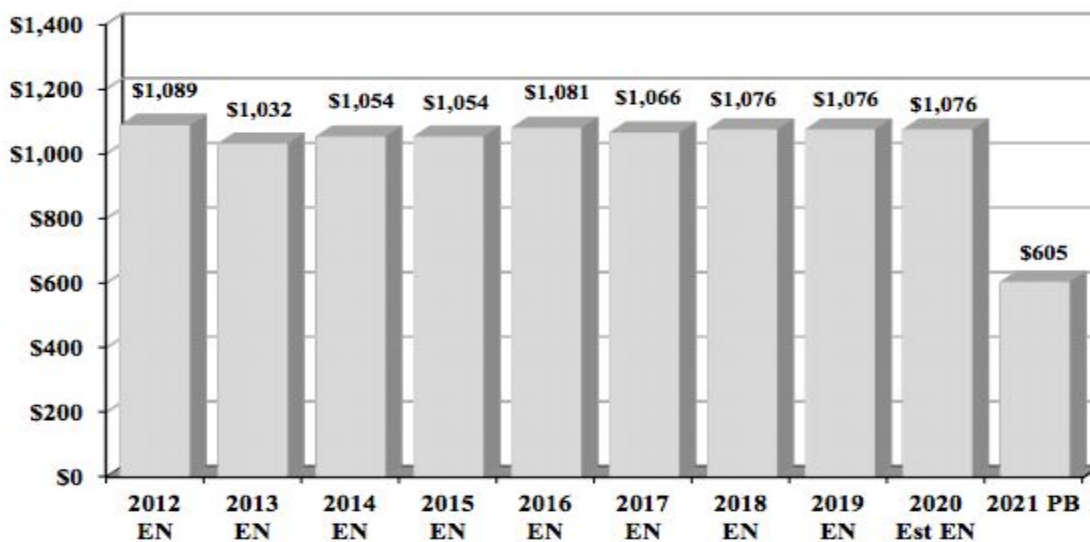
<https://environmentalintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/The-Thin-Green-Line-report-12.5.19.pdf> With EPA support flat and many states’ budgets in substantial decline, the states have been “doing more with less” for over a decade. Many EPA programs are currently underfunded while the economy and population continue to grow and Congress imposes new demands on the agency. Even so, EPA is proposing to expand the role states play in protecting the environment, and cutting nearly half a billion dollars in support for state programs.

In sum, the budget is a massive cut to environmental programs when most objective indicators suggest that EPA and state agencies need additional resources to simply carry out their essential functions. The cuts threaten to reverse the remarkable progress EPA and the states have made in addressing our nation’s environmental challenges over the last half century.

Cuts Would Cripple State Capacity and EPA-State Partnerships

The proposed budget calls for a \$471 million (44%) cut in categorical grants to support state and tribal environmental agencies and programs. States are the first line of defense against air, water and waste pollution affecting their residents, and do much of the work to address such pollution; they rely on EPA funding to support that work.

Categorical Grants
(Dollars in Millions)



Note: EN – Enacted, Est EN – Estimated Enacted, PB – President’s Budget

States and [Tribes](#) do much of the actual implementation of our environmental laws, and the administration argues that they should play a larger role and receive less oversight from EPA. In theory, this is possible, but as noted, many states have seen significant budget cuts and staff reductions in the last decade. States and Tribes often lack the political will or the financial capacity to increase their environmental funding, and are highly dependent on technical and other support from the federal government. The Trump budget would cut grants that support the core air, water and other programs run by the states and Tribes, and eliminate many grant programs. These enormous cuts would devastate state and tribal programs, including permitting, implementation and enforcement. Combined with deep cuts to EPA's programs, including its [10 regional offices](#), the proposed budget would fundamentally weaken state environmental agencies and the partnerships between EPA and state agencies, the cornerstone of the nation's system of environmental protection.

Under most federal environmental laws, EPA and the states work as partners, with EPA generally establishing national standards to ensure clean air, water and land, and states implementing those standards through such measures as issuing permits, carrying out inspections, and enforcing laws and regulations. EPA's regional offices, which assist and undergird state programs, are geographically closer to and more familiar with states than EPA national offices, helping EPA to respond more quickly and effectively to state needs and issues. The budget cuts would undermine every piece of this partnership by draining staff and resources from EPA offices that set national policy and from regional offices that work closely with states in implementing environmental programs. The proposed 44% cut in state program grants would reduce state resources to manage environmental programs; tailor implementation to local needs; respond to emergencies like hurricanes, floods and severe storms; clean up contaminated sites; and take other actions to protect public health and the environment.

Climate Change Programs Targeted for Near Elimination

A lethal combination of unsound administration policies and associated funding cuts would effectively eliminate the EPA program that focuses on the most serious environmental threat we face today—the changing climate. According to a 2010 National Research Council report commissioned by Congress and confirmed by more recent assessments from other groups, “Climate change is occurring, is caused largely by human activities, and poses significant risks for—and in many cases is already affecting—a broad range of human and natural systems.” Greenhouse gases (GHGs) released into the atmosphere are already causing and will continue to cause average global temperatures to rise, resulting in the severe and dangerous consequences of a warming climate: increased sea-level rise; greater storm surges and increased storm severity; more widespread and frequent droughts, wildfires, and heavy rain and floods. These impacts, affecting public health and environmental conditions, were dramatically demonstrated for millions across the U.S. in 2019. Even so, the term “climate change” barely appears in the agency's proposed budget, as if it were impolite to use in mixed company, and is used only twice in identifying programs proposed for elimination. A White House document isn't so coy, using the phrase three times on a [single page](#) in announcing plans to eliminate funding for smaller voluntary partnership programs related to energy and “climate change” without so much as a trigger warning or even an asterisk or a blush.

The budget provides virtually no funding for EPA climate change programs and research, and proposes to [eliminate most voluntary climate programs](#). This continues a pattern of attacks on EPA climate work, virtually identical to last year's, and starkly demonstrates the administration's willful and fatuous denial of the overwhelming scientific consensus that human activities are causing dangerous changes to the earth's climate and that those changes must be addressed.

Some of the most significant reductions in GHG pollution achieved by the federal government are the result of the work carried out by EPA climate change programs. Notwithstanding that achievement and the devastating impacts already occurring from a warming climate, the 2021 budget eliminates important climate programs and cuts \$66 million to support them. These “savings” will actually cost Americans tens of billions of dollars from increased risks to their lives, health and property, and the loss of ecosystems that protect communities from flooding and provide recreational benefits on which many community economies are based. As the impacts of climate change continue to grow, it will be critical to build our understanding of the magnitude and severity of those impacts, where they are most likely to occur, what they mean for communities and regions, and how best to adapt to them. The budget provides no funding for such efforts and fails to support the Clean Power Plan, the centerpiece of EPA’s climate change programs.

The Clean Power Plan aimed to reduce GHG pollution by 30% and other pollutants that contribute to the soot and smog that make people sick by more than 25%. EPA estimated that the Clean Power Plan would have produced climate and health benefits worth between \$55 billion and \$93 billion in 2030—vastly outweighing its costs of between \$7.3 billion and \$8.8 billion from 2018 to 2030. Instead, the administration will be using its resources to *attack* climate programs, replacing the Clean Power Plan with an industry-friendly alternative, and reducing future improvements in national vehicle mileage standards and prohibiting California and other states from setting their own standards.

EPA’s vital work in understanding and addressing climate change, which the budget either undermines or eliminates, includes:

- Programs targeting existing power plants, the largest sources of GHG pollution (31% of total U.S. GHG pollution) and vehicle emissions (26%);
- Complementary voluntary programs that promote GHG reductions;
- Research, data gathering and reporting on GHG issues, such as how climate change augments the impact of other air pollution, like smog;
- Technical assistance to states, localities and Tribes;
- Public education about climate change; and
- Efforts that promote the reduction of GHG pollution internationally. EPA efforts to substantially reduce GHG pollution and help advance climate science have been key to persuading other countries, including those emitting more GHG pollution than the U.S., to reduce their GHG pollution.

Cuts Would Devastate EPA’s Core Programs

Although the Trump/Wheeler administration professes to be emphasizing “basics,” [traditional core programs](#) such as clean air and water, the budget cuts funds for implementing the public health laws that have served as the backbone of the nation’s environmental protection system. These are the programs that protect air, water and drinking water; address the harmful effects of pesticides, chemicals and hazardous waste; enforce environmental rules and regulations; advise on the legality of agency decisions; and many other functions.

These cuts threaten to reverse the remarkable progress EPA and the states have made over the last half century. Today it is easy to forget the visible and lethal air pollution, the lakes “dead” from algal blooms and fish kills, and the burning rivers that led to the creation of EPA in 1970. Yet the nation still faces serious public health and environmental challenges from air and water pollution, lead and other contaminants in drinking water, hazardous waste, and chemical contamination of our environment.

Reduced Air Protection (46%)

Everyone breathes the air, and dirty air is unhealthy and contributes to serious, sometimes fatal, health

problems such as heart attacks, lung and heart disease, asthma attacks and other respiratory conditions, and even premature births. Using the regulatory tools Congress gave the agency, EPA develops policies, [programs](#) and regulations to improve air quality and reduce exposure to radiation through measures to address industrial air pollution, pollution from vehicles and engines, [indoor air quality](#), radon, [radiation hazards](#), acid rain and climate change. Among the tools are pollution prevention and energy efficiency, two particular targets of the Trump budget. The proposed cuts could slow or reverse progress in cleaning the air adults and especially children breathe, and addressing harmful pollutants that cause serious health effects.

By EPA's own count, it is proposing to cut funding to "improve air quality" by \$376 million (46%), from \$813 million to \$437 million. Some specific cuts outlined in the budget:

- [Federal vehicle and fuel standards and certification programs](#) that have reduced millions of tons of emissions and helped states meet health-based air quality standards would be cut by \$14 million (15%) to \$81 million.
- **Federal air quality management** would be cut by \$17 million (13%) to \$114 million.
- **Two programs to protect the stratospheric ozone layer** that would save millions of American lives from skin cancer, avoid hundreds of millions of non-fatal skin cancers and tens of millions of cases of eye cataracts would be cut by 69% to \$4.1 million.
- **Radon and indoor air protection programs** would be cut by \$20 million (80%), to \$4.8 million. These programs protect the public from radon, which causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year, and educate the public about indoor air pollution threats.

Air and radiation categorical grants to states would be cut \$88 million (35%), to \$161 million.

- **Grants for state and local air quality management** would be cut by \$76 million (33%) to \$152 million.
- **Grants for tribal air quality management** would be cut by \$3.9 million (30%), to \$9 million.
- **Radon grants**, previously funded at \$7.8 million, would be eliminated.

Other grants to protect air quality would be reduced \$133 million or 93%.

- **Diesel grants** to retrofit highly polluting diesel engines would be cut \$77 million (89%), from \$87 million to \$10 million.
- **Targeted airshed grants** to help areas with particularly serious air quality problems, previously funded at \$56 million, would be eliminated.

Cuts to Support for Clean and Safe Water

EPA is proposing cuts of \$1.4 billion (31%) to support clean and safe water. The cuts include \$782 million (28%) from support for revolving loan funds to support infrastructure for water treatment.

The budget eliminates the [National Estuaries and Coastal Waterways Program](#), which helps address harmful pollutants in rivers, streams, lakes and coastal waters; it would be cut by \$30 million to zero.

Cuts in Research to support clean and safe water: Two research programs to protect water resources, discussed more fully in the research section, are cut by \$106 million (44%).

Cuts to Geographic Programs to protect America's greatest water bodies virtually eliminated:

America's majestic waters are national treasures and part of our national identity. Sadly, the health of these ecosystems is jeopardized by pollution from a complex range of sources. These programs have provided federal leadership for decades, working with states, Tribes and local governments to address the complex pollution problems that degrade America's great water bodies. The budget's cuts of \$180 million for these

programs would leave the costs of protecting and restoring these nationally significant waters to states, without federal leadership or financial assistance.

- The budget would eliminate programs to protect and restore: **Puget Sound, the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Champlain, Long Island Sound, San Francisco Bay and South New England Estuary.**
- **The Chesapeake Bay program** would be cut by 91% to \$7.3 million. The Chesapeake Bay is the country's largest estuary, and its watershed is home to nearly 18 million people.
- Funds for **South Florida** would be cut by 34% to \$3.2 million.
- The budget fully funds the **Great Lakes** program.

Cuts in Grants to Assist State Clean Water and Drinking-Water Programs (53%)

This includes cuts of \$241 million (57%) in categorical grants for clean water and \$42 million (36%) for drinking water.

- **State grants for surface water quality protection** would be cut by 57% to \$241 million. State programs use federal grants to protect and restore water quality by issuing permits, monitoring water quality, developing water quality standards, conducting cleanup plans, identifying violators and taking enforcement actions.
 - **Grants for surface water pollution control** cut \$70 million (31%) to \$154 million.
 - **State grants to address nonpoint source pollution:** The budget completely eliminates support for a program to address the largest remaining source of unregulated pollutants such as contaminated runoff from a wide variety of sources, cutting funding by \$172 million.
 - **State categorical grants to protect water quality at beaches,** previously funded at \$9.2 million, would be eliminated.
 - **Wetlands program development grants** would be cut 31%, to \$9.8 million.
- **State grants to protect drinking water** would be cut by \$42 million (36%), to \$75 million. Grants to supervise public drinking water supplies would be cut by \$38 million (36%), and to protect underground sources of drinking water by underground injection control by \$3.2 million (31%).
- **State categorical grants to reduce lead** in drinking water would be cut by \$4 million (29%).

Cuts to Revolving Loan Funds to Support Water Infrastructure (28%)

The budget's largest cuts, totaling \$782 million, are to Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds for construction of water and wastewater treatment infrastructure. These programs are critical to ensuring clean and safe water.

- More than 27 million Americans are served by 3,500 community water systems that do not meet health-based drinking water standards.
- Tens of thousands of homes lack access to basic sanitation and drinking water,
- Many community water systems draw their water from rivers and lakes. Many of our nation's surface waters are classified as "impaired," and 215 million people live within two miles of a polluted lake, river, stream, or ocean area.
- Billions of gallons of raw sewage is discharged into local surface waters annually from combined sewer systems that carry wastewater from buildings and stormwater from street drains.
- Each year, about 240,000 water mains break, wasting over two trillion gallons of treated drinking water. A recent survey showed that \$420 billion will be needed over the next 20 years to ensure the safety of our nation's drinking water supply.

Along with these huge cuts to the revolving loan funds, the budget proposes another \$111 million cut in

support for water infrastructure:

- \$51 million (96%) in cuts for basic drinking water and sanitation infrastructure improvements like flushing toilets and running water for poor, isolated Alaska Native villages and U.S. communities along the U.S.-Mexico border that disproportionately lack such services and face exposure to raw sewage
- \$35 million (58%) cuts in support for water quality protection under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund
- \$25 million cut by *eliminating* funding to assist public water systems in small and disadvantaged communities under the Safe Water for Small and Disadvantaged Communities program

Cuts to Superfund, Brownfields and Hazardous Waste

Funding for the Superfund hazardous waste cleanup program, supposedly a high-priority area, would be cut by \$106 million (9%), to \$1.08 billion.

Cuts in Underground Storage Tank Cleanups, Brownfields Development, and Inland Oil Spill Program

- **Brownfields Revitalization**
 - EPA brownfields funding for cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties would be cut by 25%, from \$24 million to \$18 million.
 - State grants, in two accounts for brownfield projects, would be cut by \$24 million (18%). These cuts will affect jobs and redevelopment and leave contaminated sites for future generations.
- **Inland Oil Spill programs** funding would be cut 15% from \$19.6 million to \$16.6 million.
- **The Leaking Underground Storage Tank program** that enables EPA to address underground petroleum storage tanks that have seriously contaminated groundwater in many places would be cut nearly in half, by 48% to \$48 million, and state grants (\$1.5 million) would be eliminated.

Cutbacks in Hazardous Waste Management Programs (20%)

Modern industrial activity generates huge amounts of hazardous waste. There are 60,000 hazardous waste facilities regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) in the U.S., and 80% of all U.S. residents live within three miles of such a facility with 50% living within one mile. Under RCRA, EPA helps ensure that hazardous waste is managed safely from production to disposal. The budget cuts funds for EPA and states to implement RCRA. Specific cuts include:

- **General waste management activities** would be cut 25%, to \$50 million.
- **Hazardous waste financial assistance to states** would drop 31% to \$66 million.
- **The Corrective Action program** to clean up contamination from improper waste disposal would be cut from \$37 million to \$35 million.
- **Waste minimization and recycling activities** would be cut by more than half, from \$9 million to \$4.3 million.

Cuts in Toxic Chemical Risk and Prevention (24%)

The FY2021 budget deeply cuts funding for EPA and state programs to prevent and reduce toxic chemical risks. The federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires reporting, record-keeping and testing; restrictions on chemical substances in commerce that pose risks; and re-evaluation of the risks of existing chemicals. EPA has significant new responsibilities under major 2016 TSCA amendments, but instead of providing new funding to carry out those responsibilities, the budget reduces TSCA funding, including cuts in the following areas:

- The **Toxics Risk Review and Prevention** program is cut by 24% to \$69 million.
- The **Right to Know (Toxic Release Inventory)** program would be cut 34% to \$8.1 million. This program collects and releases data from over 20,000 facilities on toxic chemical releases and waste

generation for hundreds of toxic chemicals.

Toxic substances compliance assistance state grants to fund state inspections to assure compliance with chemical substance laws would be reduced 31% to \$3.3 million. And the following programs would receive no funding:

- **Pollution prevention state grants** under TSCA to support state pollution prevention outreach (\$4.6 million)
- The **Endocrine Disruptors program** to evaluate chemicals that can interfere with the body's endocrine systems and damage human reproductive capacity, growth and development (\$7.5 million)
- The **Lead Risk Reduction** program (\$11.6 million)

Cuts in Programs Protecting the Public From Pesticides (22%)

EPA protects the public from the effects of toxic chemicals and pesticides using sound science to evaluate their risks to human health and the environment, reevaluate pesticides and assess the risks of emerging technologies such as genetically modified crops and nanotechnology, and work to prevent or reduce pollution before it is created. Federal law requires that EPA register all pesticide products before they are sold and to set safe levels for pesticide residues in food.

The budget cuts the **Pesticide Licensing** program by 17%, to \$89 million. This includes cuts to the following programs directed at pesticide risks:

- **Activities to protect human health** from pesticide risks cut from \$59 million to \$51 million (13%)
- **Activities to protect the environment from** pesticide risks cut 18% to \$32 million.

These cuts will slow down the mandatory safety reviews of previously approved pesticides.

Grants to states for Pesticide program implementation and enforcement that support actions to reduce pesticide risks to workers would be cut nearly in half (48%), to \$17.3 million.

Deep Cuts in EPA Scientific Research (43%)

Far from being theoretical, sound science is at the core of almost everything EPA does to protect the American public. Many forms of science, from toxicology to engineering, are interwoven into standard setting, reviews of new chemicals, disaster relief and Superfund cleanups. EPA scientists conduct, assess and fund studies that provide the scientific and technological information needed for developing effective pollution standards, measuring and monitoring pollution, and identifying new threats to public health and the environment. Sound science and technology are essential to meeting the agency's legal duty to ensure that solid evidence supports and informs its actions in such critical areas as addressing clean air; clean water; safe drinking water; safe use of pesticides, toxics and hazardous waste; and safe waste disposal. EPA funds and operates laboratories and networks to support compliance monitoring, emergency response and public health research.

The agency claims that it intends to "prioritize robust science," but by its own count, proposes to cut science spending by \$214 million (43%). Somewhat misleadingly, the administration's budget proposes to cut funding for the Science and Technology Account, which funds research and other activities, by "only" \$231 million (32%). But a closer look shows that most of those cuts are to research. The proposed cuts would weaken EPA's capacity to protect people's health and the environment, and would also be felt by state and local governments; science is an essential component of their decisions, which often rely on federal research. Even without cuts in EPA science funding, the agency has been waging a virtual war on science, replacing independent scientists with energy industry employees on science review bodies, ignoring science

findings in shaping rules, and even proposing a rule requiring EPA to ignore some scientific evidence in rulemaking.

Specific cuts to scientific research programs include:

- **65% cut in the Air and Energy** research (formerly Air, Climate and Energy) program, which works to understand the effects of air pollution, which pollutants to control and at what levels, and to prepare for responses to changes in climate and air quality. The program is cut by \$61 million to \$33.5 million.
- **29% cut in the Safe and Sustainable Water** research program, which uses science to ensure safe drinking water and restoration of surface-water resources, is cut by \$32 million to \$79 million.
- **56% cut in the Sustainable and Healthy Communities** research program, which provides data and tools to help communities understand the benefits, including children's health benefits, of the "ecosystem services" that wetlands, urban tree cover, pollinators and green spaces provide. These include natural flood control, cleaner air and water, protection from heat and economic benefits. The program is cut by \$74 million to \$59 million.
- **27% cut in the Chemical Safety and Sustainability** research program that evaluates the potential impacts on human health and the environment of thousands of chemicals in existence and under development to create the scientific knowledge, tools and models needed to conduct integrated, timely and efficient chemical evaluations. The program is cut by \$35 million to \$92 million. This includes a \$13 million (34%) cut to \$25 million in the Human Health Risk Assessment research program, which provides funding for EPA and state and local governments to assess the impacts of individual chemicals and chemical mixtures on human health. These assessments are needed to support priority risk management decisions.
- **40% cut in Superfund scientific support** to \$17.6 million.

Among other impacts, these science and research cuts would:

- Impede the development of standards and the use of science in developing standards and science-based regulations;
- Delay site-specific assessments used for cleaning up hazardous waste;
- Reduce EPA's ability to fund and leverage outside research across the country to identify new environmental technologies and better ways to protect the environment;
- Reduce EPA's ability to address complex environmental problems such as nonpoint source pollution, chemical interactions or emerging risk sources such as nanoparticles, chemical weapons, select agents and toxins; and
- Reduce funding for the Science Advisory Board, a panel of external experts that provides independent advice to the agency.

Programs for Low-Income and Minority Communities Severely Cut or Eliminated (92%)

Several draconian proposed budget cuts are directed at programs to ensure environmental protection for **low-income, minority and other vulnerable or overburdened communities** in a pattern that may reflect a deliberate effort to reduce support for those communities. These programs include:

- The **Environmental Justice program**, which addresses disproportionate environmental burdens on vulnerable low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous people. By focusing on overburdened communities that have historically borne a disproportionate share of environmental burdens and risks, the program helps the agency direct its resources where they are most needed. The EPA and Superfund Environmental Justice programs would be cut 73% to \$2.7 million.
- Two programs to support critical drinking and wastewater infrastructure for overburdened communities through the **Alaska Rural and Native Village program** cut by 26.2 million to \$3 million and the \$25 million **U.S.-Mexico Border Infrastructure Grant program** eliminated. These programs support basic drinking water and sanitation infrastructure such as flushing toilets and running water for poor, isolated,

predominantly Alaska Native rural villages, and for desperately poor U.S. communities along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border that disproportionately lack such services.

- The budget also reduces protections for poor and vulnerable communities by eliminating the **U.S.-Mexico border program** (\$2.7 million), a cooperative effort by the two nations to address the serious environmental threats on both sides of the border.

Finally, the proposed cuts to **Categorical Grants to Tribes** for developing environmental programs is \$65.5 million to \$44.2 million (32%) and for air quality management programs, \$12.8 million to \$9.0 million (30%). These grants primarily serve poor and overburdened communities that suffer some of the worst poverty and health problems in the nation. For Tribes still developing strong programs, these cuts would cripple environmental protection for tribal lands.

Attachment A below lists support for EPA core functions under the Trump budget.

ATTACHMENT A
CUTS TO SUPPORT FOR EPA CORE PROGRAM FUNCTIONS UNDER THE FY2021
BUDGET

<u>Program</u>	<u>FY2020 Budget</u> <u>(\$s in 000s)</u>	<u>FY2021</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>(\$s in 000s)</u>	<u>\$ Change</u> <u>(\$s in 000s)</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Air and Radiation				
S&T, Clean Air	116,064	90,383	-25,681	-22
S&T, Research: Air and Energy	94,496	33,543	-60,953	-65
S&T, Indoor Air and Radiation	5,149	5,214	65	+1.3
Environmental Program and Management (EPM), Clean Air	273,108	163,802	-109,306	-40
EPM, Indoor Air and Radiation	24,951	4,820	-20,131	-81
Hazardous Substance Superfund, Indoor Air and Radiation	1,985	2,122	137	+7
STAG: Financial Assistance for State & Local Air Quality Management	228,219	151,961	-76,258	-33
STAG: Assistance for Tribal Air Quality Management	12,829	8,963	-3,866	-30
STAG: Radon	7,789	0	-7,789	-100
STAG: Diesel Emission Reduction Grants	87,000	10,000	77,000	-89
STAG: Targeted Airshed Grants	56,306	0	-56,306	-100
<u>Air and Radiation: Total</u>	<u>907,896</u>	<u>470,808</u>	<u>-437,088</u>	<u>-48</u>
Water Quality and Ecosystems				
EPM, Water Quality Protection	207,689	206,479	-1,210	-1
EPM, Water: Ecosystems	49,064	22,604	-26,460	-54
S&T, Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources	110,890	78,948	-31,942	-29
EPM, Geographic Programs	510,276	330,506	-179,770	-35
S&T, Research: Sustainable	132,477	58,597	-73,880	-56

Communities				
STAG: State Grants for Clean Water Non-point Source Pollution Control	172,348	0	-172,348	-100
STAG: State Grants for Clean Water Pollution Control	223,289	153,683	-69,606	-31
STAG: State Grants for Clean Water Wetlands Program Development	14,183	9,762	-4,421	-31
STAG: State Grants for Beaches Protection	9,238	0	-9,238	-100
Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF	1,638,826	1,119,778	-519,048	-32
Infrastructure Assistance: Alaska Native Villages	29,186	3,000	-26,186	-90
Infrastructure Assistance: Mexico Border	25,000	0	-25,000	-100
Gold King Mine Water Monitoring	4,000	0	-4,000	-100
<u>Water Quality and Ecosystems:</u>				
<u>Total</u>	<u>3,126,466</u>	<u>1,983,357</u>	<u>-1,143,109</u>	<u>-37</u>
Water: Drinking Water				
S&T, Drinking Water Programs	4,094	4,364	270	7
EPM, Water: Human Health Protection	102,487	97,462	-5,025	-5
STAG: State Grants for Drinking Water – PWS Supervision	106,250	67,892	-38,358	-36
STAG: State Grants for Drinking Water – UIC	10,164	6,995	-3,169	-31
Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF	1,126,088	863,235	-262,853	-23
Safe Water for Small & Disadvantaged Communities	25,408	0	-25,408	-100
Reducing Lead in Drinking Water	19,511	20,000	489	3
Lead Testing in Schools	26,000	15,000	-11,000	-42

Healthy Schools, School Drinking Fountains (not authorized by Congress)	0	50,000	50,000	>100
Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability	3,000	2,000	-1,000	-33
Drinking Fountain Lead Testing	0	10,000	10,000	>100
Technical Assistance for Treatment Works	12,000	7,500	-4,500	-38
Sewer Overflow Control Grants	28,000	61,450	33,450	>100
Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment	1,000	1,000	0	0
Water: Drinking Water: Total	<u>1,464,002</u>	<u>1,206,898</u>	<u>-257,104</u>	<u>-18</u>
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation	60,000	25,023	-34,977	-58
Pesticides Licensing and Toxics Risk Review				
S&T, Pesticides Licensing	5,886	5,743	-143	-2
EPM, Pesticides Licensing	107,046	89,382	-17,664	-17
EPM, Toxics Risk Review and Prevention	90,715	69,004	-21,711	-24
S&T, Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability	126,268	91,646	-34,622	-27
Superfund, Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability, Sustainable Communities	29,287	17,607	-11,680	-40
STAG: State Grants for Pesticides Program Implementation	12,287	8,457	-3,830	-31
STAG: State Grants for Pesticides Enforcement	24,000	10,531	-13,469	-56
STAG: State Grants for Chem. Safety – Toxic Substances Compliance	4,759	3,276	-1,483	-31
STAG: State Grants for Lead	14,049	10,000	-4,049	-29

STAG: State Grants for Pollution Prevention	4,610	0	-4,610	-100
<u>Pesticides and Toxics: Total</u>	<u>418,907</u>	<u>305,646</u>	<u>-113,621</u>	<u>-27</u>
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Underground Storage Tanks and Inland Oil Spill Programs				
EPM, RCRA	112,789	89,778	-23,011	-20
EPM, Underground Storage Tanks (LUST/UST)	10,750	6,863	-3,887	-36
UST, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) ¹	91,941	48,218	-43,723	-48
Inland Oil Spill Programs ²	19,581	16,631	-2,950	-15
STAG: State Grants for Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance	96,446	66,381	-30,065	-31
STAG: State Grants for Brownfields	46,190	31,791	-14,399	-31
STAG: State Grants for Underground Storage Tanks	1,449	0	-1,449	-100
LUST/UST, Research: Sustainable Communities	320	304	-16	-5
Inland Oil Spill Program, Research: Sustainable Communities	664	522	-142	-21
STAG: Brownfields Projects	89,000	80,000	-9,000	-10
<u>RCRA, UST and Inland Oil Spills: Total</u>	<u>469,130</u>	<u>340,488</u>	<u>-128,642</u>	<u>-27</u>
<u>Hazardous Substance Superfund: Total</u> ³	<u>1,184,755</u>	<u>1,078,611</u>	<u>-106,144</u>	<u>-9</u>
Enforcement				

¹ Includes funds for research and enforcement, which are also listed elsewhere.

² Includes funds for research and enforcement, which are also listed elsewhere.

³ Includes funds for research and enforcement, which are also listed elsewhere.

S&T, Forensics Support	13,592	11,723	-1,869	-14
EPM, Compliance Monitoring	101,665	95,649	-6,016	-6
EPM, Enforcement	240,637	225,113	-15,524	-7
Superfund Compliance Monitoring	995	1,004	+9	1
Superfund Enforcement and Support	168,375	179,625	11,250	7
LUST Civil Enforcement	620	541	-79	-13
Inland Oil Spills Compliance Monitoring	139	0	-139	100
Inland Oil Spills Enforcement and Support	2,552	2,462	-90	-4
<u>Enforcement: Total</u>	<u>528,575</u>	<u>516,117</u>	<u>-12,458</u>	<u>-2</u>