

ANALYSIS OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

Turning Back the Clock on 50 Years of Environmental Protection

February 12, 2020

Introduction

President Trump's proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021 continues the ongoing effort to dismantle EPA program by program, and undermine our nation's system of environmental protection. It would slash EPA's budget by 27%, and severely damage programs that have protected America and its children for decades, threatening the health of families and communities across America. The cuts to essential EPA programs and staffing levels and to critical funding for state programs would make it increasingly difficult for federal and state environmental professionals to carry out their legally mandated responsibilities to protect public health and the natural environment; these efforts are essential for community well-being and long-term economic growth. The environmental and public health protections provided by EPA contribute tremendous benefits to society: a Trump administration [draft report](#) to Congress estimated the annual benefits of EPA regulations to our nation's people over the last decade at between \$196 and \$706 billion, dwarfing costs to polluters of \$54 to \$65 billion.

The FY2021 budget would leave EPA with its smallest workforce in more than 30 years and return EPA's budget in real dollars to funding levels not seen since the 1980s, before Congress enacted or strengthened laws expanding the agency's mission to ensure [clean air](#), [water](#), and drinking water; protect the public from exposure to [hazardous waste](#), [chemicals and pesticides](#), and address [Superfund contaminated waste sites](#); and support [science](#) and [enforcement](#). It proposes EPA staffing at historically low levels continuing to drain off the skilled professionals whose knowledge and institutional memory are essential to making environmental protection work, and drastically undermining the agency's ability to do its job of protecting our nation and its people's health and environment.

The FY2021 budget would also continue EPA's ongoing war on science, slashing EPA science and research funding and eliminating virtually all of EPA's climate programs, even as warming continues and climate change impacts worsen. It also cuts nearly half a billion dollars (43%) in categorical grant funding for [state environmental programs](#), even though many states have suffered severe funding cuts over the last decade, and state environmental programs, on average, depend on federal funding for roughly 25% of their operating budgets. States play vital roles as EPA's partners in protecting our nation's environment. It is cynical and disingenuous for the Trump/Wheeler administration to claim it wants to shift more responsibility to the states, even as its budget proposes to starve them of the help 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 those budgets were. But repeatedly suggesting cuts of this magnitude sends a strong message that EPA's budget should be reduced dramatically, particularly when it is accompanied by incendiary and destructive rhetoric that attacks EPA and its mission, undermining agency morale and eroding public confidence in EPA and the laws it administers, and in the value of protecting public health and the environment.

NOTE: Four tables at the end of this document. One is a basic list of programs and cuts, another is a list of eliminated programs, and the two others report cuts in EPA grant programs. [Also note the tables here.](#)

Cuts Would Cripple EPA's Core Programs

The Trump/Wheeler administration falsely claims to be emphasizing “basics,” traditional core programs such as clean air, land, and water, but its 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 decades. Today it is easy to forget the visible and lethal air pollution in cities across the country, the lakes “dead” from algal blooms and fish kills, and the burning rivers that led to the creation of EPA in 1970. Yet the country still faces serious public health and environmental challenges from air and water pollution, [lead](#) and other contaminants in drinking water, and chemical contamination of our environment.

Reduced Air Protection (46%)

Everyone breathes the air, and dirty air is unhealthy. It 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 protect human health, improve air quality and reduce exposure to [radiation](#). EPA claims that one of its key priorities is to improve air quality, but by its own count, it proposes to cut support for that goal by \$376 million (46%), from \$813 million to \$437. This includes proposed cuts of \$155 million (37%) in support to the air and radiation program, another \$133 million (93%) in cuts to grant programs that protect air quality and \$88 million (35%) in support for state programs that address air and radiation.

Cuts to Support for Clean and Safe Water (32%)

Americans depend on clean and safe water. More than 215 million people live within two miles of a polluted lake, river, stream or coastal area, and nearly half a million square miles of the country’s surface waters are classified as “impaired,” because they do not meet one or more standards for water quality, a list that is growing each year.

By its own count, the EPA budget proposes cuts of \$1.392 billion (32%) in support for “clean and safe water.” This includes \$782 million in cuts to support infrastructure for treatment and delivery of surface and drinking waters from \$2.77 billion to \$1.983 billion (28%) and another \$35 million (58%) from a program for infrastructure innovation. It also cuts support for EPA water programs by 11%, from \$257 million to \$229 million; cuts \$256 million (61%) from categorical grant support to help states control pollution, protect their beaches and wetlands, and address nonpoint source pollution; and cuts support for state safe drinking water efforts by \$42 million (36%). And despite the fact that Administrator Wheeler identifies safe drinking water as our greatest environmental challenge—more pressing than climate change—the budget actually *cuts* support for EPA drinking water protection programs.

Cuts to Superfund (9%)

The budget cuts funding for the Superfund hazardous waste cleanup program, supposedly a high-priority area, by \$106 million (9%).

Cuts to RCRA Waste Management Program (21%)

It also calls for 21% cuts to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) waste management program, despite the fact that 80% of the population lives within three miles of one of the 60,000 hazardous waste facilities regulated under RCRA, and 50% live within one mile.

Cuts to Underground Storage Tank Program and Inland Oil Spill Program (42%)

The budget proposes to cut the underground storage tank and inland oil spill programs from \$122 million to just over \$71 million (42%).

Cuts in Pesticide Licensing and Toxics Risk Review (20%)

EPA protects the public from the effects of toxic chemicals and pesticides using sound science to evaluate risks to human health and the environment. It reevaluates pesticides and assesses the risks of emerging technologies and genetically modified crops and nanotechnology, and works to prevent or reduce pollution before it is created. Congress recognized the need to protect the public from the harmful effects of toxic substances in use throughout the nation, and recently amended the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), giving EPA significant new responsibilities. But the FY2021 budget cuts funding for EPA toxics risk review and prevention by \$22 million (24%) and also proposes to cut the Pesticide Licensing program by 17% from \$107 million to \$89 million.

Deep Cuts in EPA Scientific Research (43%)

Sound science is at the core of almost everything EPA does to protect the American public. EPA must rely on the best available science in all its actions—from setting environmental standards for air and water pollution, to deciding whether new chemicals are safe. EPA scientists conduct, assess and fund studies that provide the scientific and technological information needed to develop effective pollution standards, measure and monitor pollution, and identify 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 administration's budget cuts funding for agency research by \$213 million (43%) from \$494 million to \$289 million. 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, which often rely on federal research and depend on it as an essential component of their decisions. Along with proposing 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 reliable scientific evidence in rulemaking.

Most Programs to Protect America's Greatest Water Bodies Eliminated (35%)

America's majestic waters—the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, Puget Sound, San Francisco Bay and many more—are national treasures and part of our national identity. But their health is jeopardized by pollution from a complex range of sources. EPA's geographic 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 proposes to cut \$180 million from those programs, eliminating or drastically cutting programs to protect and restore these national treasures.

Programs for Low-Income and Communities of Color (92%)

Low-income, indigenous communities and communities of color are particularly vulnerable to environmental harms, and in many areas are already overburdened. The budget proposes devastating cuts to several programs that protect these communities. First, it proposes a 73% cut in the agency-wide Environmental Justice program, which addresses disproportionate environmental burdens on vulnerable, low-income communities of color and [indigenous](#) people, and to eliminate the Superfund Environmental Justice program. It also would eliminate programs to address the lack of basic drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, such as flushing toilets and running water, in communities along both sides of the 2000-mile [U. S-Mexico border](#), and cuts 90% from infrastructure for isolated [Alaska Native rural villages](#).

Nearly 50 Programs or Subprograms Eliminated

Largely repeating its unsuccessful FY2018, FY2019 and FY2020 efforts, the Trump budget would completely eliminate or provide no funding for nearly 50 programs that benefit the American people. These include many climate protection programs, as well as [Energy Star](#); beaches protection; [pollution prevention](#); [lead risk reduction](#); and the [endocrine disruptors program](#) that studies chemicals that can damage human reproductive capacity, growth and development. Most of the programs proposed for elimination were unsuccessfully proposed to be cut in previous budgets.

Attachment A lists the programs proposed for elimination or denied funding.

Attachment B lists cuts to EPA core programs under the Trump budget.

Attachment C lists cuts to categorical grants under the Trump budget.

ATTACHMENT A

EPA PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION UNDER THE TRUMP FY 2021 BUDGET

Programs and activities eliminated in the FY 2021 Budget total approximately \$680 million compared to Estimated FY 2020 Enacted Budget levels.

Climate Programs

Climate Programs are not consistently identified by name or current funding level in the budget. *Climate change activities in virtually every air and in other media program elements would be eliminated.* Eliminations include the Global Change Research sub-program and 14 voluntary partnership programs as part of the Atmospheric Protection Program, see list below:

- Green Power Partnership (to increase the use of renewable electricity in the US)
- Combined Heat and Power Partnership (promotes use of wasted heat, saving both energy and water and reducing pollution)
- Global Methane Initiative
- Natural Gas STAR (voluntary oil & gas industry program to reduce methane leaks)
- AgSTAR (helps farmers recover biogas from livestock waste)
- Landfill Methane Outreach Program
- Coalbed Methane Outreach Program
- Voluntary Aluminum Industrial Partnership (to reduce release of potent greenhouse gases)
- SF6 Reduction Partnership (voluntary EPA/electrical industry effort reducing leakage)
- Responsible Appliance Disposal Program
- GreenChill Partnership (food retailers reduce refrigerant leaks that destroy the ozone layer)
- State and Local Climate Energy Program
- Center for Corporate Climate Leadership
- SmartWay (shipping goods with less fuel and less pollution)
- Energy Star (rates consumer products for their energy efficiency); propose to operate through user fee collections

Geographic and Water Programs

- Gulf of Mexico
- Lake Champlain
- Long Island Sound
- Puget Sound
- San Francisco Bay
- Lake Pontchartrain and Southern New England Estuary and “other activities”
- State Grants for Non-Point Source Pollution (CWA § 319)
- National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways (EPA-staffed program and grants)
- Beaches Protection (EPA-staffed program and grants)
- Fish Protection (EPA-staffed program and grants)
- Mexico Border (internal program and infrastructure assistance)
- Water Quality Research and Support Grants (traditional congressional add-on almost never requested by agency)
- Safe Water for Small and Disadvantaged Communities

Other Programs and Special Initiatives

- Lead Risk Reduction Program

- Pollution Prevention (internal program and state grants)
- Radon state grants
- Underground Storage Tanks state grants
- Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Prevention
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Endocrine Disruptors (studies substances that adversely affect the hormone system)
- Environmental Education
- Indoor Air Radon programs (for the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the US)
- Indoor Air: Reduce Risks
- Regional Science and Technology
- Pesticides – Science Policy and Biotechnology Advisory Panel
- Stratospheric Ozone: Multilateral Fund
- Targeted Airshed Grants
- Trade and Governance
- STAR Research Grants (“sub-program” across four ORD core programs)
- WaterSense (a “sub-program” of Surface Water Protection that is a voluntary partnership program to label water-efficient products)
- Gold King Mine Water Monitoring (non-recurring program providing grants for monitoring rivers contaminated by the Gold King Mine Spill)
- Superfund Enforcement: Environmental Justice
- Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

See also the [FY 2021 EPA Budget in Brief](#) (on EPA’s website) for the agency’s account of “Eliminated Programs” (pp 107-111).

ATTACHMENT B
CUTS TO EPA CORE PROGRAMS UNDER THE TRUMP BUDGET
FY 2021 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				
Science and Technology (S&T), Clean Air	116,064	90,383	-25,681	-22
S&T, Indoor Air and Radiation	5,149	5,214	65	1
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
<u>Air and Radiation: Total</u>	<u>421,257</u>	<u>266,341</u>	<u>-154,916</u>	<u>-37</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
<u>Water Quality and Ecosystems: Total</u>	<u>256,753</u>	<u>229,083</u>	<u>-27,670</u>	<u>-11</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
<u>Water: Drinking Water Total</u>	<u>106,581</u>	<u>101,826</u>	<u>-4,755</u>	<u>-4</u>
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
<u>Pesticides and Toxics: Total</u>	<u>203,647</u>	<u>164,129</u>	<u>-39,518</u>	<u>-19</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
<u>RCRA, UST and Inland Oil Spills: Total</u>	<u>235,061</u>	<u>161,490</u>	<u>-73,571</u>	<u>-31</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				
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	-6
Superfund enforcement and support	168,375	179,625	11,250	7
Inland Oil Spills Enforcement and Support	2,552	2,462	-90	-4
<u>Enforcement: Total</u>	<u>526,821</u>	<u>514,572</u>	<u>-12,249</u>	<u>-2</u>

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.

Research				
S&T, Research: Air and Energy	94,496	33,543	-60,953	-65
S&T, Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources	110,890	78,948	-31,942	-29
S&T, Research: Sustainable Communities	132,477	58,597	-73,880	-56
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
LUST/UST, Research: Sustainable Communities	320	304	-16	-5
Inland Oil Spill Program, Research: Sustainable Communities	664	522	-142	-21
<u>Research: Total</u>	<u>494,402</u>	<u>281,167</u>	<u>-213,235</u>	<u>-43</u>

ATTACHMENT C
CUTS TO CATEGORICAL GRANTS UNDER THE TRUMP BUDGET
FY 2021 BUDGET

<u>Grant</u>	<u>FY2020 Budget</u> (\$s in 000s)	<u>FY2021 Proposed Budget</u> (\$s in 000s)	<u>\$ Change</u> (\$s in 000s)	<u>% Change</u>
Clean Water				
Clean Water Non-point Source Pollution Control	172,348	0	-172,348	-100
Clean Water Pollution Control	223,289	153,683	-69,606	-31
Clean Water Wetlands Program Development	14,183	9,762	-4,421	-31
Beaches Protection	9,238	0	-9,238	-100
<u>Clean Water: Total</u>	<u>419,058</u>	<u>163,445</u>	<u>-255,613</u>	<u>-61</u>
Drinking Water – PWS Supervision	106,250	67,892	-38,358	-36
Drinking Water – UIC	10,164	6,995	-3,169	-31
<u>Safe Drinking Water: Total</u>	<u>116,414</u>	<u>74,887</u>	<u>-41,527</u>	<u>-36</u>
Air Quality Protection				
Air – State & Local Air Quality Management	228,219	151,961	-76,258	-33
Tribal Air Quality Management	12,829	8,963	-3,866	-30
Radon	7,789	0	-7,789	-100
<u>Clean Air: Total</u>	<u>248,837</u>	<u>160,924</u>	<u>-87,913</u>	<u>-35</u>
Pesticides Protection				
Pesticides Program Implementation	12,287	8,457	-3,830	-31
Pesticides Enforcement	24,000	10,531	-13,469	-56
<u>Pesticides: Total</u>	<u>36,287</u>	<u>18,988</u>	<u>-17,299</u>	<u>-48</u>

Toxic Substances Protection				
Chem. Safety – Toxic Substances Compliance	4,759	3,276	-1,483	-31
Lead	14,049	10,000	-4,049	-29
Pollution Prevention	4,610	0	-4,610	-100
<u>Toxic Substances: Total</u>	<u>23,418</u>	<u>13,276</u>	<u>-10,142</u>	<u>-43</u>
Hazardous Waste				
Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance	96,446	66,381	-30,065	-31
Brownfields	46,190	31,791	-14,399	-31
Underground Storage Tanks	1,449	0	-1,449	-100
<u>Waste Management: Total</u>	<u>144,085</u>	<u>98,172</u>	<u>-45,913</u>	<u>-32</u>
Tribal General Assistance Program (“GAP”)	65,476	44,233	-21,243	-32
Environmental Info	9,332	6,422	-2,910	-31
Multipurpose	13,000	10,000	-3,000	-23
Pollution Prevention	4,610	0	-4610	100
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1,075,907⁴</u>	<u>605,347</u>	<u>-470,560</u>	<u>-44</u>

PWS – public water systems

UIC – underground injection controls – preventing injection wells from contaminating underground sources of drinking water

⁴ Excludes reduction for monitoring.

State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) = Non-Categorical

<u>Grant</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>
Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure				
Infrastructure Assistance: Alaska Native Villages	29,186	3,000	-26,186	-90
Brownfields Projects	89,000	80,000	-9,000	-10
Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF	1,638,826	1,119,778	-519,048	-32
Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF	1,126,088	863,235	-262,853	-23
Infrastructure Assistance: Mexico Border	25,000	0	-25,000	-100
Gold King Mine Water Monitoring	4,000	0	-4,000	-100
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	119
Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment	1,000	1,000	0	0

<u>Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure: Total</u>	<u>3,027,019</u>	<u>2,232,963</u>	<u>-794,056</u>	<u>-26</u>
<u>Protecting Air Quality</u>				
Diesel Emission Reduction Grants	87,000	10,000	-77,000	-89
Targeted Airshed Grants	56,306	0	-56,306	-100
<u>Protecting Air Quality: Total</u>	<u>143,306</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-133,306</u>	<u>-93</u>
<u>Subtotal, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)</u>				
<u>Non-Categorical Grants</u>	<u>3,170,325</u>	<u>2,242,963</u>	<u>-\$927,362</u>	<u>-29</u>

SRF – state revolving fund