

*Environmental Protection Network
Press Statement*

March 22, 2017

**FORMER FEDERAL AND STATE CIVIL SERVANTS
ANALYZE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS
FOR EPA'S FY2018 BUDGET**

The Environmental Protection Network, a newly formed group of former federal and state employees and other environmental professionals, has produced a detailed analysis of the Trump Administration's proposals for the FY2018 budget for the Environmental Protection Agency and concluded that –

The Trump Budget Blueprint for EPA appears to be nothing less than a full-throttle attack on the principle underlying all U.S. environmental laws – that protecting the health and environment of all Americans is a national priority.

The Network's analysis assesses the consequences for EPA and state programs of the cuts proposed in the President's Budget Blueprint released on March 16, 2017. Since the Budget Blueprint provides few details about specific cuts, our analysis also considers the more detailed information in the "Passback" that OMB previously sent EPA as part of the confidential budget development process. Many of the Passback's proposed cuts have been reported, but our analysis draws on additional information we have obtained about the Passback. We believe the Passback continues to provide important insights into the Administration's plans for EPA.

It is important to note that the Budget Blueprint calls for even more draconian cuts to EPA's budget and staffing – 31% and 21% respectively – than did the Passback. The specific program cuts underlying the Blueprint's overall cuts must thus be generally deeper than those indicated in the Passback.

The size of proposed cuts detailed in the Passback vary by program, with 38 programs eliminated, others cut by half or more, and many others that are *not* related to infrastructure cut by 10-35%. The Budget Blueprint ups the ante by targeting more than 50 programs for elimination and deepening the cuts to state agency funding by 45% compared to the Passback's proposed cut of 30% in most grant categories. Deeper cuts to other programs are likely to be revealed when the Administration's detailed budget is released in May.

The Network's analysis summarizes the impacts of the proposed budget and staffing cuts, provides historical perspective and describes the federal-state partnership embedded in many U.S. environmental laws. It also assesses the impacts of cuts on EPA's current programs for climate protection, clean air and water, safe waste disposal and use of chemicals, science and research, enforcement and protection of significant water bodies and vulnerable communities.

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NETWORK

We are a growing bi-partisan network of more than 75 former employees of the Environmental Protection Agency and related federal and state agencies. We have joined together to help preserve the capacity of federal and state environmental agencies to deliver the public health and environmental protection that Americans deserve and have come to expect. As former civil servants who worked as scientists, engineers, economists, lawyers and other professionals, we have extensive first-hand, in-depth knowledge of U.S. environmental protection programs. This gives us a unique capacity to provide facts and analysis of proposed budgets and policies.

Focusing first on budget proposals affecting EPA and state agencies, we intend to update our budget analyses as more information becomes available and the budget development process continues. We plan to share our analyses with the news media, policy makers and the public. Our mission and goals statement is provided below.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NETWORK

MISSION AND GOALS STATEMENT

February 16, 2017

Mission

Our mission is to preserve and advance the nation's bi-partisan legacy of progress towards clean air, water and land and climate protection for all Americans. Our principal focus is to assure the capacity of government agencies charged with public health and environmental protection to sustain that progress.

Who we are and what we do

We are former civil servants and environmental professionals who are committed to protecting Americans' health and environment from pollution. Many of us served under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

We provide independent expertise on important environmental issues, drawing on our experience working on behalf of the American people.

Goals

We are committed to providing relevant facts and objective analysis to the public, policy-makers and the media in support of:

1. Preserving the science-based, cost-effective environmental protections that most Americans enjoy today, and ensuring that every American benefits from those protections regardless of where they live, work and play.
2. Advancing environmental protections as needed to respond to remaining and emerging threats.
3. Sustaining the budget, staffing and other resources that public agencies need to perform their essential roles in the federal-state system of environmental protection established by our nation's environmental laws.
4. Ensuring the capacity of public agencies to conduct independent scientific research and analysis and to supply critical environmental information to federal and state decision-makers and the public.
5. Promoting public understanding of scientific, legal, policy and economic issues raised by new Executive Orders or proposals to change current environmental laws and regulations.