



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

MEMORANDUM

March 31, 2014

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Members, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

FROM: Majority Committee Staff

RE: Hearing on “The Fiscal Year 2015 EPA Budget”

On Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power and Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy will hold a joint hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency budget for fiscal year (FY) 2015.

I. WITNESS

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

II. BACKGROUND

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1970 to consolidate in one agency a variety of Federal research, monitoring, standard-setting, and enforcement activities to ensure environmental protection.¹ EPA’s headquarters are located in Washington, D.C., and there are 10 regional offices, more than a dozen laboratories and field offices nationwide, and over 15,500 employees.² The EPA is charged with administering, in whole or in part, a wide range of Federal environmental statutes and Executive Orders.³

¹ EPA was created in 1970, through an [executive reorganization plan](#), as the regulatory agency responsible for the implementation of Federal laws designed to protect the environment.

² See [EPA History](#); [EPA Organizational Structure](#); [EPA “Our Mission and What We Do”](#); [FY 2015 EPA Budget in Brief](#).

³ For links to the statutes and executive orders administered by EPA and additional information, see [EPA Summary of Environmental Laws and Executive Orders](#). Statutes within the Energy and Commerce Committee’s jurisdiction include, but are not limited to, the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act.

On March 4, 2014, President Obama proposed a budget of **\$7.89 billion** for EPA for the FY 2015 (October 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015).⁴ The proposed budget is approximately \$310 million, or nearly 4 percent, below the FY 2014 enacted level, but still higher than the FY 2009 enacted level of \$7.6 billion. The budget sets forth five performance goals and proposes the following in funding:

Goal 1: Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality:
\$1.031 billion (+\$46 million)

Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters:
\$3.489 billion (-\$555 million)

Goal 3: Cleaning Up Our Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development:
\$1.909 billion (+\$121 million)

Goal 4: Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution:
\$673 million (+\$43 million)

Goal 5: Enforcing Environmental Laws and Assuring Compliance:
\$793 million (+\$41 million)

A chart showing the budget by goal, dollar totals, and percentages, is attached. Major proposed budget changes from EPA's FY 2014 enacted budget include the following:⁵

1. Addressing Climate Change and Air Quality

- Address Climate Change: \$234.7 million (+\$45.2 million)
- Improve Air Quality: \$741.9 million (-\$2.5 million)
- Restore and Protect the Ozone Layer: \$17.3 million (+\$520,000)
- Minimize Exposure to Radiation: \$37.3 million (+\$2.9 million)

2. Protecting America's Waters

- Protect Human Health: \$1.118 billion (-\$155.4 million)
- Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems: \$2.372 billion (-\$400 million)

3. Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development

- Promote Sustainable and Livable Communities: \$457.5 (+\$1.67 million)
- Preserve Land: \$236.3 million (+\$9.4 million)
- Restore Land: \$1.094 billion (+\$76.3 million)
- Strengthen Human Health and Environmental Protection in Indian Country: \$120.3 million (+\$33.6 million)

⁴ For links to EPA's budget materials see [Press Release](#), [FY 2015 EPA Budget in Brief](#), EPA [FY 2015 Justification of Appropriation Estimates](#) (CJ). For prior year budget information, see [Historical Planning, Budget, and Results Reports](#).

⁵ Amounts are subject to rounding and are based on the [FY 2015 EPA Budget in Brief](#).

4. Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution

- Ensure Chemical Safety: \$618.9 million (+\$40.3 million)
- Promote Pollution Prevention: \$54.0 million (+\$2.2 million)

5. Enforcing Laws and Assuring Compliance

- Enforce Environmental Laws to Achieve Compliance: \$792.7 million (+\$40.8 million)

III. ISSUES

The following issues may be examined at the hearing:

- Funding and program priorities;
- Major budget changes;
- Eliminations and efficiencies;
- Major rulemakings;
- Priority science and research in support of future Agency plans;
- Grants; and,
- Enforcement activities.

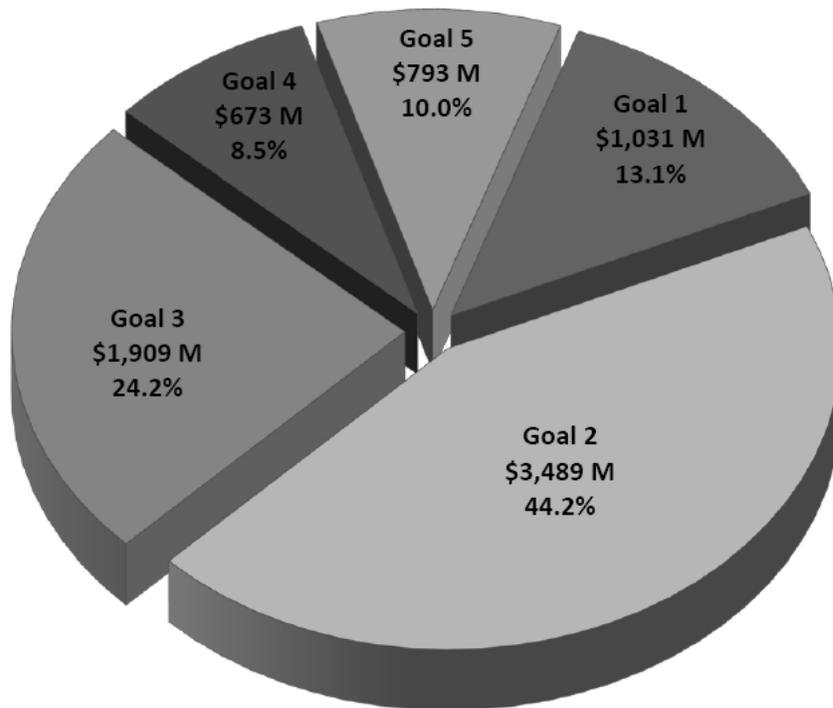
IV. STAFF CONTACTS

For questions regarding the hearing, please contact Mary Neumayr, Tom Hassenboehler, or David McCarthy at (202) 225-2927.

APPENDIX

***Environmental Protection Agency's
FY 2015 Budget by Goal***

Total Agency: \$7,890 Million



- Goal 1: Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality
- Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters
- Goal 3: Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development
- Goal 4: Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution
- Goal 5: Protecting Human Health and the Environment by Enforcing Laws and Assuring Compliance

Notes: Dollar totals and percentages in chart exclude \$5 million rescission of prior year funds.
Totals may not add due to rounding.