



February 23, 2015

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

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2016 EPA Budget”

I. INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power and the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy will hold a joint hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2016 EPA Budget.”

II. WITNESS

- The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. EPA

III. 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 15,000 employees.² The EPA is charged with administering, in whole or in part, a wide range of Federal environmental statutes and Executive Orders.³

On February 2, 2015, President Obama proposed a budget of **\$8.59 billion** for EPA for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 (October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016).⁴ The proposed budget is approximately \$452 million, or nearly 5.5 percent, above the FY 2015 enacted level, and still

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 2016 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.

⁴ For links to EPA’s budget materials see [Press Release](#), [FY 2016 EPA Budget in Brief](#), EPA [FY 2016 Justification of Appropriation Estimates](#) (CJ). For prior year budget information, see [Historical Planning, Budget, and Results Reports](#).

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:
\$1.113 billion (+\$120 million)

Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters:
\$4.053 billion (+\$70,000)

Goal 3: Cleaning Up Our Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development:
\$1.953 billion (+\$177.9 million)

Goal 4: Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution:
\$667.9 million (+\$47.4 million)

Goal 5: Protecting Human Health and Enforcing Environmental Laws and Assuring Compliance:
\$804 million (+\$66 million)

A chart showing the budget by goal, dollar totals, and percentages, is attached. Major proposed budget changes from EPA's FY 2015 enacted budget include the following:⁵

1. Addressing Climate Change and Air Quality

- Address Climate Change: \$279.5 million (+\$88.8 million)
- Improve Air Quality: \$777 million (+\$25.7 million)
- Restore and Protect the Ozone Layer: \$17.2 million (+\$486,000)
- Minimize Exposure to Radiation: \$39 million (+\$5.2 million)

2. Protecting America's Waters

- Protect Human Health: \$1.573 billion (+\$304.4 million)
- Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems: \$2.48 billion (-\$304 million)

3. Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development

- Promote Sustainable and Livable Communities: \$504.6 million (+\$63 million)
- Preserve Land: \$238.9 million (+\$17.2 million)
- Restore Land: \$1.089 billion (+\$63.5 million)
- Strengthen Human Health and Environmental Protection in Indian Country: \$121 million (+\$34.1 million)

4. Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution

- Ensure Chemical Safety: \$614.4 million (+\$44.5 million)
- Promote Pollution Prevention: \$53.5 million (+\$2.9 million)

⁵ Amounts are subject to rounding and are based on the [FY 2016 EPA Budget in Brief](#).

5. Enforcing Laws and Assuring Compliance

- Enforce Environmental Laws to Achieve Compliance: \$804 million (+\$66.2 million)

IV. 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.

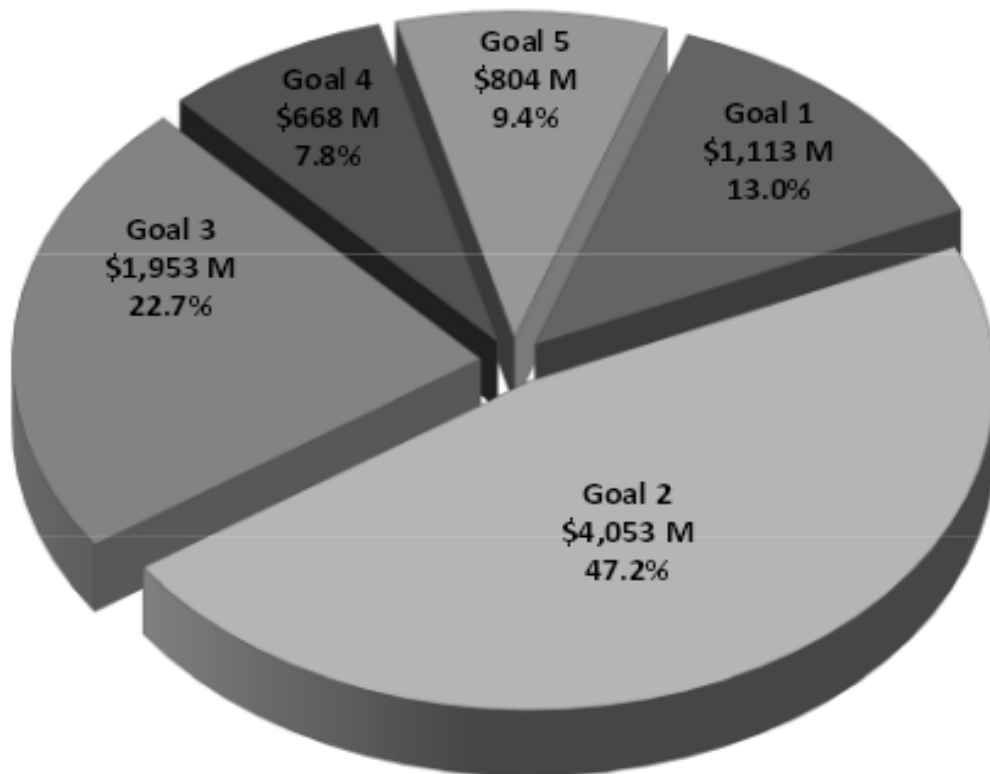
V. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Mary Neumayr, Jerry Couri, Tom Hassenboehler, or David McCarthy of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

APPENDIX

***Environmental Protection Agency's
FY 2016 Budget by Goal***

Total Agency: \$8,592 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: Totals may not add due to rounding.