



March 17, 2015

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

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2017 EPA Budget”

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## I. INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at 2:00 p.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 “Fiscal Year 2017 EPA Budget.”

## II. WITNESS

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

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> The EPA is charged with administering, in whole or in part, a wide range of Federal environmental statutes and Executive Orders.<sup>3</sup>

On February 9, 2016, President Obama proposed a budget of **\$8.267 billion** for EPA for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 (October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017).<sup>4</sup> The proposed budget is approximately \$127 million above the FY 2016 enacted level and 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:<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> See [EPA History](#); [EPA Organization Chart](#); EPA “[Our Mission and What We Do](#)”; [FY 2017 EPA Budget in Brief](#).

<sup>3</sup> For links to the statutes and executive orders administered by EPA and additional information, see EPA’s compiled list of [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.

<sup>4</sup> For links to EPA’s budget materials see [Press Release](#), [EPA Proposed Budget Fact Sheet](#), EPA [FY 2017 EPA Budget in Brief](#), <http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/fy17-congressional-justification.pdf>. For prior year budget information, see [EPA’s Budget and Spending](#).

<sup>5</sup> Amounts are subject to rounding and are based on the [FY 2017 EPA Budget in Brief](#).

Goal 1: Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality:  
**\$1.132 billion** (+\$67.9 million)

Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters:  
**\$3.746 billion** (-\$234.9 million)

Goal 3: Cleaning Up Our Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development:  
**\$1.910 billion** (+\$140.3 million)

Goal 4: Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution:  
**\$679.6 million** (+\$56.4 million)

Goal 5: Protecting Human Health and Enforcing Environmental Laws and Assuring Compliance:  
**\$800.2 million** (+\$57.7 million)

A chart showing the budget by goal, dollar totals, and percentages, is attached. Major proposed budget changes from EPA's FY 2016 enacted budget include the following:

**1. Addressing Climate Change and Air Quality**

- Address Climate Change: \$279.8 million (+\$85.6 million)
- Improve Air Quality: \$794.8 million (-\$23.5 million)
- Restore and Protect the Ozone Layer: \$17.5 million (+\$768,000)
- Minimize Exposure to Radiation: \$39.6 million (+\$4.9 million)

**2. Protecting America's Waters**

- Protect Human Health: \$1.389 billion (+\$162.3 million)
- Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems: \$2.357 billion (-\$397 million)

**3. Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development**

- Promote Sustainable and Livable Communities: \$481.6 million (+\$49 million)
- Preserve Land: \$240.8 million (+\$19.5 million)
- Restore Land: \$1.066 billion (+\$37.8 million)
- Strengthen Human Health and Environmental Protection in Indian Country: \$121.4 million (+\$33.9 million)

**4. Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution**

- Ensure Chemical Safety: \$624.7 million (+\$51.9 million)
- Promote Pollution Prevention: \$54.9 million (+\$4.5 million)

**5. Enforcing Laws and Assuring Compliance**

- Enforce Environmental Laws to Achieve Compliance: \$800.2 million (+\$57.7 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**

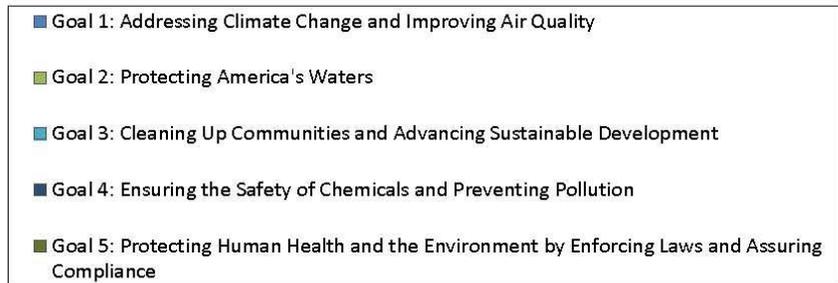
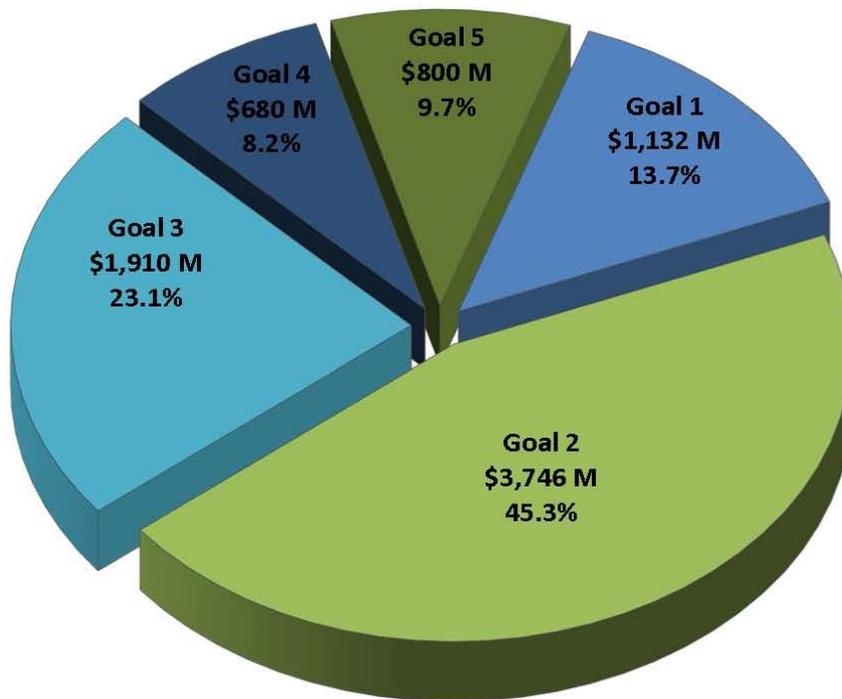
If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Mary Neumayr, Jerry Couri, Tom Hassenboehler, or David McCarthy of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

## APPENDIX

Summary Resource Charts

### **Environmental Protection Agency's FY 2017 Budget by Goal**

Total Agency: \$8,267 Million



Notes: Totals may not add due to rounding.