

Bush's EPA Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2009 Is a Slight Decrease from 2008 Appropriations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Stephen L. Johnson recently released the Agency's \$7.14 billion budget request for the 2009 fiscal year (FY), as proposed by President George W. Bush. "With this budget proposal, EPA will stay on course to deliver a healthier, cleaner environment," Johnson said in a Feb. 8 press release.

Overall, the president's proposed EPA budget is 5 percent lower than the amount allocated for 2008. Funds for operating programs stayed the same at \$4.3 billion, whereas money for trust funds and infrastructure financing decreased to \$1.3 billion and \$1.6 billion, respectively.

Three of EPA's five strategic goals have a smaller proposed budget than what was appropriated for FY 2008. Funds for clean air and global climate change, clean and safe water, and healthy communities and ecosystems all would experience decreases from last year. Land preservation and restoration, along with compliance and environmental stewardship were the only two parts of the budget to receive increases.

One of the biggest increases in the president's proposed budget is in improving compliance. The president has asked for \$516 million to be used for compliance — a \$10 million increase from the previous year. Funds to improve environmental performance through pollution prevention and innovation would increase by \$5.6 million under the President's plan.

Despite some increases, most of EPA's budget is expected to decrease from the previous year. The proposed funds to reduce greenhouse gas intensity are \$9 million less than the amount appropriated for FY 2008. Funding for land preservation, healthy communities and ecosystems also would experience a decrease in funding.

Funding for clean and safe water would experience the biggest drop in funding. At \$2.58 billion, Bush's budget proposal would decrease the funds for this area by \$270 million. These programs represent 36 percent of the total EPA budget — the largest portion of EPA's proposed 2009 budget.


Some legislators objected to the proposed cuts to water resource spending.

"In the EPA budget I am disappointed," said Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr., R-Tenn., during a Feb. 7 hearing of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment on the

president's proposal. "The administration continues to inadequately fund the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. This is a highly effective program that provides low interest loans to communities so that they can construct and improve their wastewater treatment infrastructure. For every federal dollar invested, more than two dollars is made available for water quality improvement."


The president has budgeted \$555 million for CWSRF, a decrease in \$124 million from 2008 appropriation levels.

Every part of the EPA budget pertaining to water — protecting human health, protecting water quality, and enhancing science and research — would experience an overall decrease in funding. Of these, water quality funding would experience the biggest decrease at \$1.29 billion. The president's proposed funding for 2009 is \$250 million less than what was enacted last year.

"President Bush's budget request will continue to deliver environmental results today, as well as keep EPA on course to deliver a cleaner, healthier tomorrow," Johnson said. "This budget represents government at its best — it helps EPA meet our environmental goals, while being responsible stewards of taxpayers' dollars." 

Green Infrastructure (continued from page 2)

"Green infrastructure can be both a cost-effective and an environmentally preferable approach to reduce stormwater and other excess flows," Grumbles said. "EPA water programs are in a pivotal position to exert leadership in the consistent and reliable implementation of green infrastructure approaches."

For more information about EPA's green infrastructure program and various green infrastructure techniques, go to: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298 

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