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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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APRIL 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Subcommittee on Environment
FROM: Committee Majority Staff
RE: Hearing entitled, “The Fiscal Year 2027 Environmental Protection Agency Budget.”

I. INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (ET) in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hearing entitled, “The Fiscal Year 2027 Environmental Protection Agency Budget.”

II. WITNESS

- **The Honorable Lee Zeldin**, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

III. BACKGROUND

A. EPA’s Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027

The White House Office of Management and Budget budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2027 is \$1.8 trillion in discretionary budget authority for executive branch departments and agencies.¹ For the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency), the President seeks \$4.2 billion in base discretionary budget authority for FY 2027—a reduction of \$4.6 billion (a 52.4 percent reduction) from the FY 2026 enacted level of \$8.8 billion. EPA’s budget request would support a workforce of 12,500 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers.

¹ OFFICE OF MGMT. AND BUDGET, EXEC. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, FISCAL YEAR 2027 DISCRETIONARY BUDGET REQUEST (2026), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/budget_fy2027.pdf.

EPA's funding is allocated across the following program area accounts.

Account	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Proposed
Science and Technology	\$744,195,000	\$508,385,000
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	\$4,409,609,000	\$748,118,000
Environmental Programs and Management	\$3,114,671,000	\$2,504,386,000
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$282,749,000	\$290,043,000
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program	\$88,903,000	\$53,259,000
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$20,561,000	\$16,085,000
Buildings and Facilities	\$40,676,000	\$35,076,000
Office of Inspector General	\$43,250,000	\$37,768,000
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account	\$72,274,000	\$7,839,000
Good Samaritan Mine Remediation Fund	\$0	\$1,700,000
Total	\$8,816,888,000	\$4,202,695,000

B. EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" Initiative

On February 4, 2025, Administrator Zeldin announced an initiative called, "Powering the Great American Comeback."² EPA's budget request is organized around this initiative, which is centered on five pillars:³

1. Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American.

EPA's proposed budget includes over \$232 million in funding to ensure cleaner, healthier air.⁴ The budget includes a new \$3.4 million request to strengthen the internal federal capacity to provide assistance and effectively communicate information on wildfires. EPA plans to use the

² Press Release, Env'tl. Prot. Agency, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Announces EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" Initiative (Feb. 4, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-lee-zeldin-announces-epas-powering-great-american-comeback>.

³ ENVTL. PROT. AGENCY, FISCAL YEAR 2027 JUSTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATION ESTIMATES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (2026), <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-04/epa-fy27-congressional-justification.pdf>.

⁴ *Id.* at II.

other requested funds to reduce the backlog of state implementation plan submittals. Additionally, EPA requests \$1 million to support the National Center for Radiation Field Operations focusing on preparedness work for radiological emergency response activities.

EPA plans to continue expediting the cleanup of Superfund and Brownfields sites, focusing on a list of top priority sites.⁵ It also requests \$1.7 million in new funding to administer the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024. This program will issue “Good Samaritan” permits and investigative sampling permits to remediators of legacy hardrock mines, who will be exempt from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and the Clean Water Act.⁶

Regarding review of chemicals and pesticides, EPA has emphasized aligning these activities with the MAHA initiatives, mitigating exposure risks while providing regulatory certainty, and supporting the economy.⁷ In furtherance of the MAHA initiatives, EPA proposes a \$30 million prize challenge to encourage the development of alternatives to certain pesticides.⁸ EPA has also proposed a new investment of \$2.5 million for new approach methodologies to reduce the backlog of new chemical reviews and accelerate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in chemical evaluations.⁹ EPA also requests authorization to collect Toxic Substance Control Act service fees in FY 2027, though the statute’s authorization of appropriations expires at the end of FY 2026.¹⁰

2. Restore American Energy Dominance.

EPA proposes an investment of \$83.1 million to strengthen domestic energy independence. The Agency’s plans to identify and take actions that would eliminate barriers to domestic energy production while ensuring energy production is conducted in an environmentally sound manner. EPA requests an increase of \$1 million for the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), which is used to evaluate the impacts of regional emissions reduction programs, particularly those in rural and tribal communities.¹¹

The other funds requested to meet this goal will support the reconsideration of greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). EPA also plans to review all other actions it can take to eliminate barriers to domestic energy production. In FY 2027, EPA intends to address New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) actions under the Clean Air Act for sources of air pollutants in multiple categories including those in the power plant, oil, and natural gas sectors.

3. Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership.

The budget seeks \$1.08 billion to support this goal, including process and efficiency improvements and increased coordination with other federal agencies, Tribes, and states. EPA’s

⁵ *Id.* at 404.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* at 7.

⁸ *Id.* at V; see also, *Id.* at 10.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.* at 765.

¹¹ *Id.* at VI.

proposed budget prioritizes restructuring agency resources to streamline permitting operations. EPA seeks an increase in \$9.4 million to improve its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementation Program.

4. Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World.

The budget requests \$202.2 million for these activities. EPA seeks to utilize AI across multiple programs to enhance on-the-ground activities.¹² It plans to identify Brownfields and Superfund sites for qualifying AI projects and develop guidance for more efficient environmental reviews for certain reuse, restoring more sites to productive use.¹³ EPA has also published resources to facilitate the reuse of Brownfields sites for data centers.¹⁴ Of the requested amount, EPA proposes to use \$19.1 million for information security.

5. Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs.

Finally, EPA proposes \$3.5 million in new investments to support vehicle and engine compliance and ensure marketplace fairness. EPA plans to use these funds to reduce burdensome regulations on the auto industry and encourage domestic manufacturing while protecting American auto workers.¹⁵ EPA seeks to use these funds to identify actions to eliminate compliance burdens for vehicle manufacturers and increase consumer choice for affordable and practical vehicles. In FY 2027, EPA will reconsider and reevaluate three major on-road vehicle regulations. EPA requests a \$3.5 million increase to support vehicle and engine testing, timely certification review, and security risks to the Engine and Vehicles Compliance Information System (EV-CIS).¹⁶ EPA will also continue to conduct oversight of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program.

C. Other Priorities

On May 2, 2025, Administrator Zeldin announced plans to reorganize the Administrator's Office, the Office of Air and Radiation, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, and the Office of Water.¹⁷ This reorganization moved staff from the Office of Research and Development directly into program offices and established the new Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions (OASES).¹⁸ The restructuring refocuses EPA's research investments on high-priority, gold-standard science directly tied to statutory obligations,

¹² *Id.* at V.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Press Release, Env'tl. Prot. Agency, Reuse Considerations for Data Centers on Brownfields Sites (Jan. 28, 2026), <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/reuse-considerations-data-centers-brownfield-sites>.

¹⁵ ENVTL. PROT. AGENCY, FISCAL YEAR 2027 JUSTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATION ESTIMATES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, at 36.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 37.

¹⁷ Press Release, Env'tl. Prot. Agency, EPA Announces Next Phase of Organizational Improvements to Better Integrate Science into Agency Offices, Deliver Clean Air, Land, and Water to All Americans (May 2, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-next-phase-organizational-improvements-better-integrate-science-agency>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

concentrating resources on science with tangible, real-world environmental and public health benefits ensuring every research dollar delivers measurable results for the American people.

In the budget request for FY 2027, EPA has identified the following program areas as additional priorities for FY 2027:

Advancing Investment into America and Job Creation through Permitting Reform. EPA's objective is to streamline the permitting process and improve efficiencies causing regulatory delays.¹⁹

Reducing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Risks to the Public. EPA stated in its budget justification that it plans to accelerate the pace of cleanup of contamination at residential sites and support PFAS cleanup.²⁰ It also plans to utilize resources for PFAS and legacy contamination investigations and cleanup at federal agency facilities.²¹

D. Examples of Proposed Budget Increases

In the budget request, EPA is seeking additional investments in the following program areas for FY 2027:

NEPA Implementation Program. EPA proposes a \$9.5 million increase to support the NEPA Implementation Program, which coordinates the environmental review of federal environmental impact statements. EPA requests additional resources and FTEs to ensure the program is "better prepared to conduct permitting and environmental reviews faster, and more cost effectively, while building capacity and improving testing on innovations to environmental reviews." This increase would add 18.7 FTEs to the program.

Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs. EPA proposes a \$4.9 million increase to improve efficiency and modernize EPA's Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), an ambient air monitoring network that assesses long-term trends in rural air quality and atmospheric pollutants inputs.

Good Samaritan Mine Remediation Fund. EPA proposes an increase of \$1.7 million. The proposed budget includes a new appropriation to implement the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024, for the remediation of abandoned hardrock mines.

Hazardous Substance Superfund. EPA proposes an increase of \$7.3 million. The proposed budget continues to fund the Superfund Remedial Program and Superfund Enforcement Program from the Superfund taxes imposed under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act. EPA estimates \$1.7 billion in Superfund tax receipts were collected in FY 2026.

¹⁹ ENVTL. PROT. AGENCY, FISCAL YEAR 2027 JUSTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATION ESTIMATES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (2026), at II.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.* at 24-25.

Homeland Security Program. EPA proposes a \$5.3 million increase to support upgrading EPA's critical infrastructure protection efforts and emergency response capabilities in order to better prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies and incidents.²²

Drinking Water Programs. EPA proposes an increase of \$9 million. EPA seeks to increase water emergency preparedness and to increase capacity and resilience of the water sector.

Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program. EPA proposes an increase of \$27 million. The proposed budget seeks to expand EPA's partnership with the Indian Health Service through the use of interagency agreements and streamlining processes to implement Tribal water infrastructure.

Toxic Release Inventory/Right to Know. EPA proposes an increase of \$6.1 million. The proposed budget requests increased contract support for Toxic Release Inventory data collection information for states and Tribes, and for contract sources supporting information technology (IT) analytical tools.²³

E. Proposed Reductions

The FY 2027 budget request proposes reductions in the following program areas:

Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds. EPA proposes a reduction of \$2.5 billion. The reduction would return primary responsibility for funding local water infrastructure projects to states. The budget would provide \$305 million to allow states to adjust to alternative funding sources.

Categorical Grants. EPA proposes a reduction of \$1.1 billion. The proposed budget includes an approximately 91 percent decrease from FY 2026 enacted levels. This includes elimination of most categorical grants while maintaining funding for the Tribes and Underground Injection Control grants.

Office of Research and Development. EPA proposes a reduction of \$235 million. The proposed budget would provide \$281 million for statutorily required research in support of EPA's core mission areas.

Federal Support for Air Quality Management. EPA proposes a reduction of \$112.7 million. This program supports the development of state implementation plans and administers air grants.

Civil Enforcement. EPA proposes a reduction of \$94.1 million. The proposed budget would provide \$137 million for the Civil Enforcement Program which ensures compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

²² ENVTL. PROT. AGENCY, FY 2027 EPA BUDGET IN BRIEF 86 (2006), https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-04/00_fy-2027-bib_combined_final.pdf.

²³ ENVTL. PROT. AGENCY, *supra* note 22, at 86.

Criminal Enforcement. EPA proposes a reduction of \$54.6 million. The proposed budget would provide \$33.9 million for the Criminal Enforcement Program which enforces environmental laws investigating criminal conduct.

Research: Air and Energy. EPA proposes a reduction of \$63.2 million. The proposed budget would include \$32.0 million for this research program that provides assessments of air quality impacts.

Targeted Airshed Grants. EPA proposes a reduction of \$31.6 million. The proposed budget would provide \$36.2 million for the Targeted Airshed program.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund (WIFIA). EPA proposes a reduction of \$64 million. The WIFIA program provides low-cost loans for large water and wastewater projects.

IV. ISSUES

The following issues may be examined at the hearing:

- EPA's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2027;
- EPA rulemakings and regulatory issues;
- EPA management and operations;
- EPA coordination with other agencies on government-wide initiatives; and
- EPA financial awards programs.

V. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact the Subcommittee majority staff at (202) 225-3641.