

## House Keeps EPA R&D Even with FY 2000

(This analysis is part of a series of AAAS R&D Funding Updates on the FY 2001 congressional appropriations process. This analysis includes information on R&D in House appropriations for EPA. The complete series of AAAS R&D Funding Updates, including continually updated analyses of R&D by agency in FY 2001 appropriations, is available on the AAAS R&D Web Site (<http://www.aaas.org/spp/R&D>) in the “FY 2001 R&D” or the “What’s New” sections.)

On June 7, the House Appropriations Committee drafted an FY 2001 VA-HUD appropriations bill that would provide mostly level funding for R&D programs in the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA budget would fall [5.5 percent or \$417 million to \$7.1 billion,] but this appropriation would essentially be the same total as EPA’s requested cut to \$7.3 billion after adjusting for two transfers of funds. **EPA’s R&D would be funded at almost the same level as FY 2000 for a total of \$649 million, just \$3 million or 0.4 percent more than FY 2000** (see Table). The House would reject EPA’s proposal to increase its R&D spending in FY 2001 and would provide what is essentially a status quo budget.

[On June 21, the full House approved the bill after making several amendments, including one that reduced a non-R&D EPA account by \$5 million to pay for an increase in veterans programs.]

The House FY 2001 VA-HUD bill would provide \$76 billion for discretionary programs, an increase over the \$72 billion FY 2000 total, but the increase would go mostly to the bill’s veterans and housing programs, leaving flat funding for most R&D programs. The President requested a far higher \$85 billion for the bill’s programs, including substantial increases for NSF and a smaller one for NASA, but because Congress chose to allocate only \$605 billion for total discretionary spending compared to the President’s \$622 billion, while at the same time increasing defense spending more than the President, Congress has far less money than the President to allocate for domestic programs such as the ones in the VA-HUD bill.

While the President requested increases for most agencies funded in the VA-HUD bill, EPA was an exception. EPA requested \$7.3 billion for its total budget, a decline from \$7.6 billion in FY 2000 because of a requested cut in State and Tribal Assistance Grants from \$3.4 billion to \$3.2 billion. The House would provide nearly the same total amount for EPA as the request after adjusting for two transfers of funds. [The \$7.1 billion House appropriation is \$130 million less than the request,] but the House would appropriate \$130 million directly to two agencies rather than the traditional pattern of including the funds in the EPA budget and having EPA transfer the funds to them (see Footnote in Table). The Superfund program traditionally transfers part of its appropriation to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS, part of the National Institutes of Health) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for their work on hazardous substances. The House bill would bypass Superfund and provide \$60 million to NIEHS and \$70 million to ATSDR directly. If the transfers are included in the EPA budget, the House appropriation would actually be slightly higher than the EPA request, though below FY 2000.

**EPA’s R&D**, mostly funded in the **Science and Technology** account, would total \$649 million, nearly the same as FY 2000 for a \$3 million or 0.4 percent increase. This would be \$23 million below the request, however, because the House would fund programs for which EPA had requested increases at FY 2000 levels. Although EPA had requested a doubling of funding for transportation-related research in the **Climate Change Technology Initiative**, the House would provide \$27 million, the same as FY 2000. **Climate change research** would receive \$21 million, the same as FY 2000, instead of the requested \$23 million. In

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contrast to past years' House bills, there is only minimal guidance for EPA in the management of its research programs and only three congressionally designated research projects, in contrast to dozens in other years.

Although the House bill would stick closely to the requested total for the EPA budget, there would be several changes in priorities. The House would add \$272 million to the requested amount for **State and Tribal Assistance Grants**, bringing the total to \$3.2 billion, still \$267 million short of the FY 2000 level but well above the request. Most of this money goes to state and local governments, and is perennially more popular with Congress than EPA. For **Environmental Programs and Management**, which funds most of EPA's operating expenses, the House bill would provide \$1.9 billion, nearly the same amount as FY 2000 but [\$204 million] less than the request. The **Superfund** program would be cut \$127 million below the FY 2000 funding level for a total of \$1.2 billion, but would be slightly above the FY 2000 level after factoring in the NIEHS and ATSDR appropriations. \$40 million of the \$60 million separate NIEHS appropriation would fund a hazardous substances research program related to Superfund issues, and Superfund would continue to fund \$35 million (down \$3 million) in EPA's own research on hazardous substances.

The House bill contains a legislative provision, carried over from previous years' bills, that would prohibit EPA from implementing actions called for under the U.N. Kyoto Protocol, which has not been submitted to nor ratified by the Senate. Otherwise, the EPA appropriation is free of legislative language that could curtail EPA's activities.

[The VA-HUD bill was approved by the full House on June 21 after long, contentious debates between Democrats and Republicans. Most proposed Democratic amendments to boost funding levels failed. A few amendments to shift funding between programs were approved, including one to reduce EPA Environmental Programs and Management by \$5 million in order to boost funding for veterans programs.] The Senate has not drafted its version yet. The House bill is likely to draw a veto threat because its funding levels fall far short of the request, and because it would eliminate the Corporation for National and Community Service, one of the Clinton Administration's high-priority programs. Because of the unusually strong leverage the President has in this election year, it is likely that final funding levels for VA-HUD bill programs will be far higher than House-proposed levels before the appropriations process is over. It is unclear, however, whether EPA will receive any extra funds since the House total already matches the request.

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**Table. Environmental Protection Agency  
House Action on R&D in the FY 2001 Budget  
(budget authority in millions of dollars)**

	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 2001 Request	Action by House				
			FY 2001 House	Chg. from Request Amount	Chg. from Request Percent	Chg. from FY 2000 Amount	Chg. from FY 2000 Percent
EPA R&D:							
Science and Technology <sup>1</sup>	497	493	<b>502</b>	9	1.8%	5	1.1%
Superfund	38	36	<b>35</b>	-1	-2.2%	-3	-7.7%
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	1	1	<b>1</b>	0	-14.3%	0	0.0%
Oil Spill Response	1	1	<b>1</b>	0	-10.0%	0	0.0%
Other R&D Support Costs	111	142	<b>111</b>	-31	-22.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total EPA R&amp;D</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
EPA Budget:							
Science and Technology <sup>2</sup>	681	710	<b>685</b>	-25	-3.5%	4	0.6%
Environ. Progs. and Management	1,895	2,099	<b>1,895</b>	-204	-9.7%	0	0.0%
Superfund <sup>2</sup>	1,362	1,414	<b>1,235</b>	-179	-12.7%	-127	-9.3%
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	3,446	2,907	<b>3,179</b>	272	9.4%	-267	-7.7%
Buildings and Facilities	62	24	<b>24</b>	0	-0.3%	-38	-61.4%
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	70	72	<b>79</b>	7	9.7%	9	12.9%
Oil Spill Response	15	16	<b>15</b>	-1	-6.3%	0	0.0%
Inspector General	32	34	<b>34</b>	0	0.0%	2	6.3%
<b>Total EPA Budget</b>	<b>7,563</b>	<b>7,276</b>	<b>7,146</b>	<b>-130</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>	<b>-417</b>	<b>-5.5%</b>

AAAS estimates based on FY 2001 appropriations bills. Includes conduct of R&D and R&D facilities.

FY 2000 and FY 2001 request figures based on OMB R&D data and supplemental agency budget data.

Figures are rounded to the nearest million. Changes calculated from unrounded figures.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include transfers from Superfund.

<sup>2</sup> Transfers from Superfund to S&T account recorded under S&T. FY 2001 House figures exclude \$130 million appropriated directly to NIEHS (in NIH) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. In FY 2000 and FY 2001 request, these programs were funded through Superfund appropriations transferred to the two agencies.

**June 8, 2000 (revised June 22) - House-approved appropriations.**

**These appropriations reflect amendments approved on the House floor.**