

## Senate Provides 7.7 Percent Increase for EPA R&D

(This analysis is part of a series of AAAS R&D Funding Updates on the FY 2003 congressional appropriations process. This analysis includes information on R&D in Senate-approved FY 2003 appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The complete series of AAAS R&D Funding Updates, including continually updated analyses of R&D by agency in FY 2003 appropriations, is available on the AAAS R&D Web Site (<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd>) in the “FY 2003 R&D” or the “What’s New” sections.)

On July 25, as part of a rush to draft all 13 FY 2003 appropriations bills before a month-long August recess, the Senate Appropriations Committee drafted an FY 2003 VA-HUD appropriations bill (S. 2797) that would provide a substantial increase for R&D in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Senate would provide EPA with a total budget of \$8.3 billion in FY 2003, \$170 million or 2.1 percent more than FY 2002 and an even greater \$679 million amount above the request. **In the Senate plan, EPA’s R&D funding would rise 7.7 percent for a total of \$624 million, including a doubling of the Superfund research program** (see Table). The Senate would mostly provide for EPA’s requested priorities but would also add congressionally designated projects.

The Senate FY 2003 VA-HUD bill would provide \$91 billion for discretionary programs. The bill funds science agencies including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), EPA, and non-R&D programs for veterans and housing. The President requested \$93 billion for the bill’s programs, but the Senate would rearrange priorities to give EPA \$679 million more than requested and would fund some priorities out of emergency funds which do not count against the bill’s total. The House is not expected to draft its version of the bill until September or later.

EPA requested \$7.6 billion for its total budget, a cut of \$508 million or 6.8 percent from FY 2002 because of cuts to State and Tribal Assistance Grants, perennially a higher priority for Congress than for EPA, cuts in funds for congressionally designated projects, and the inclusion in the FY 2002 total of \$226 million in emergency funds provided to EPA in the aftermath of the September 11 and anthrax attacks. The emergency funds paid for anthrax decontamination, vulnerability assessments of drinking water supplies, and security upgrades for EPA facilities. The Senate would boost total EPA funding above the FY 2002 level by adding \$546 million to the request for State and Tribal Assistance Grants and also adding funds for Science and Technology, Environmental Programs and Management, and the Superfund program, mostly in the form of congressionally designated projects. The \$8.3 billion Senate appropriation is \$170 million more than FY 2002 level including emergency funds (see Table).

**EPA’s R&D**, mostly funded in the **Science and Technology** account, would total \$624 million, up \$45 million from FY 2002 for a 7.7 percent increase. EPA requested a 6.4 percent increase, mostly for new homeland security investments. EPA requested \$75 million in new funding from the Superfund program for building decontamination research to build on the capabilities EPA demonstrated in cleaning the Senate Hart Building of anthrax. The Senate would provide \$50 million; these funds would be in addition to Superfund’s ongoing hazardous-substances research program funded at \$37 million in both FY 2002 and FY 2003. The Senate would add funds to other EPA R&D areas. While the EPA proposed to eliminate dozens of congressionally designated research projects and keep core research funding mostly flat, the Senate bill would add \$32 million for 24 congressionally designated research projects, mostly in the Science and Technology account with some in the normally non-R&D Environmental Programs and Management account. These additions and the new Superfund R&D funding would leave most core EPA research programs near the FY 2003 request and FY 2002 funding levels if not slightly below. Among the new starts proposed by EPA and approved by the Senate are \$2.7 million for a Computational Toxicology Program and \$4.9 million for Biotechnology Research.

**The Senate would reject the proposed transfer of the STAR (Science to Achieve Results) Fellowships Program to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and would provide \$9.8 million (the same as FY 2002)**

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within the S&T account. This program helps to fund graduate education and research in environmental research disciplines.

Included in EPA's S&T account for FY 2003 is \$8 million for **the Homestake Mine**. Last year, Congress approved \$10 million in FY 2002 in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to maintain the closing Homestake Mine in South Dakota in preparation for possible construction of a National Underground Science Laboratory for particle physics research on the site. The FY 2002 Defense appropriations bill transferred title of the mine from the mine owners to the state of South Dakota in exchange for liability relief from environmental hazards on site. The FY 2003 site maintenance costs would be covered by EPA; next, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will review the laboratory proposal and would cover the laboratory construction costs and operating costs if the project is approved by the National Science Board.

Although not an R&D program, the President's budget proposed to eliminate EPA's Environmental Education program (in the Environmental Programs and Management account) in FY 2003. The program received \$9.2 million in FY 2002; the Senate would provide the same level of funding in FY 2003 within EPM.

The Senate would mostly stick to the EPA's priorities for FY 2003, except for a large boost in funding for **State and Tribal Assistance Grants**. Although EPA requested a cut in this program from \$3.7 billion to \$3.5 billion, the Senate would provide a 7.3 percent increase to this account. Most of this money goes to state and local governments. For **Environmental Programs and Management**, which funds most of EPA's operating expenses, the Senate bill would provide \$2.1 billion, \$47 million more than FY 2002 but \$93 million more than the request because of congressionally designated projects. The **Superfund** program would decline \$88 million from the \$1.3 billion FY 2002 funding level.

Superfund used to transfer funds to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for its research program on environmental health, but beginning in FY 2001 and continuing with the FY 2003 request and FY 2003 Senate bill these funds are appropriated directly to NIEHS, and appear as part of the NIH budget. The NIEHS Superfund appropriation, funded in the VA-HUD bill separately from the regular NIEHS appropriation, would be \$76 million for FY 2003, the same as the request and FY 2002.

The Senate VA-HUD did not see floor debate and approval before a month-long August congressional recess, so full Senate consideration has been delayed until September. The House will not draft its version of the bill until September, at the earliest, and possibly not until October.

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**Table. Environmental Protection Agency  
Senate Appropriations Committee Action on R&D in the FY 2003 Budget  
(budget authority in millions of dollars)**

	FY 2002 Estimate	FY 2003 Request	Action by Senate				
			FY 2003 Senate	Chg. from Request Amount	Chg. from Request Percent	Chg. from FY 2002 Amount	Chg. from FY 2002 Percent
EPA R&D:							
Science and Technology <sup>1</sup>	534	504	<b>532</b>	28	5.6%	-1	-0.3%
Superfund	37	111	<b>86</b>	-25	-22.5%	49	133.6%
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	1	1	<b>1</b>	0	0.0%	0	1.3%
Oil Spill Response	1	1	<b>1</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.5%
Other R&D	7	0	<b>4</b>	4	-	-3	-42.6%
<b>Total EPA R&amp;D</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
EPA Budget:							
Science and Technology <sup>2</sup>	875	781	<b>796</b>	15	1.9%	-79	-9.0%
Environ. Progs. and Management	2,094	2,048	<b>2,140</b>	93	4.5%	47	2.2%
Superfund <sup>2</sup>	1,274	1,162	<b>1,187</b>	25	2.2%	-88	-6.9%
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	3,738	3,464	<b>4,010</b>	546	15.8%	271	7.3%
Buildings and Facilities	25	43	<b>43</b>	0	0.0%	18	69.5%
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	73	72	<b>72</b>	0	0.0%	-1	-0.9%
Oil Spill Response	15	16	<b>16</b>	0	0.0%	1	3.9%
Inspector General	34	35	<b>35</b>	0	0.0%	1	3.8%
<b>Total EPA Budget</b>	<b>8,129</b>	<b>7,621</b>	<b>8,299</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

AAAS estimates based on FY 2003 appropriations bills. Includes conduct of R&D and R&D facilities.

FY 2002 and FY 2003 request figures based on OMB R&D data and supplemental agency budget data.

FY 2002 figures adjusted to reflect supplemental appropriations in the FY 2002 supplemental bill (Public Law 107-206).

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

All figures adjusted to exclude President's proposal to fully fund federal retiree costs, and therefore differ slightly from figures presented in *AAAS Report XXVII*.

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

<sup>2</sup> Transfers from Superfund to S&T account recorded under S&T.

**August 6, 2002 - Senate Appropriations Committee-approved funding levels.**

**These funding levels may be amended or rejected on the Senate floor.**