

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**STATEMENT OF
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ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEBRUARY 14, 2007**

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Subcommittee, I am Susan Parker Bodine, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Also appearing today is Mr. Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Water. We are pleased to be here to discuss President Bush's budget request for EPA and our views on Clean Water Act programs, Superfund, brownfields, and other programs that fall within the Agency's Offices of Water and Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

The President's budget provides the necessary funds for EPA to carry out our mission efficiently and effectively - to protect human health and safeguard the environment. The fiscal year (FY) 2008 budget request is \$7.2 billion, which maintains steady funding for the brownfields program, maintains funding for continued Superfund cleanup progress, and continues an emphasis on priority programs of our homeland security and emergency response efforts.

The President's 2008 budget for EPA reflects the need for controlling spending while increasing environmental protection, advancing economic competitiveness and strengthening the security of our homeland.

Superfund

The Superfund program protects human health and the environment by requiring cleanup of hazardous waste sites and short-term actions to mitigate immediate threats to human health. This program also works with both public and private partners to promote reuse and redevelopment of Superfund sites.

The President's budget provides \$1.245 billion for the Superfund program to continue progress cleaning up hazardous waste sites. As of the end of FY 2006, cleanup construction has been completed at 1,006 National Priorities List (NPL) sites.

Before or during long-term remedial action, the Superfund program often completes short-term removal actions to mitigate immediate health threats at sites prior to completion of investigations and the start of long-term cleanup construction. For example, where EPA has determined that existing water supplies were unsafe due to contamination, we provided alternative sources of drinking water to more than 2 million people near these sites. Similarly, through removal actions, the Superfund program controls exposure to hazardous substances so human health is protected while long-term cleanup is underway. The Superfund removal and emergency response program conducted more than 290 emergency response and removal cleanup actions in FY 2006, and, to date has completed nearly 8,900 removals at hazardous waste sites to reduce the immediate threat to human health and the environment.

Protecting human health and the environment in the long-term is an important goal of the Superfund program. EPA's construction completion measure was developed more than a decade ago to measure interim progress in the Superfund program. While it continues to be a measure by which to assess program progress, construction completion does not mark the achievement of long-term protection. As the Superfund program has continued to mature and evolve, EPA has

looked for additional ways to assess program progress and help keep the public informed about site cleanup milestones.

To address long-term progress, beginning in FY 2007, the program adopted a new measure to capture site progress beyond the construction completion milestone: Site-Wide Ready for Anticipated Use. This measure will track the number of NPL sites where the remedy is constructed (construction complete) and all of the controls are in place to ensure that the land is protective for reasonably anticipated uses over the long term. These anticipated uses for which the land is protective are outlined in the site Record of Decision (ROD). EPA's FY 2007 goal is to make 30 Superfund sites ready for anticipated use and we expect to achieve that goal.

Finally, EPA has continued its effort to efficiently utilize every dollar and resource available to clean up contaminated sites and to protect human health. In FY 2006, EPA obligated \$390 million of appropriated, state cost-share, and responsible party funding to conduct ongoing cleanup construction and post-construction work at Superfund sites which includes nearly \$45 million to begin construction at 18 new Superfund projects. However, the average size and complexity of remaining sites are much greater than for sites that have already reached construction completion. Sites that have reached construction completion have an average of 1.8 operable units, while sites not yet completed have an average of 4.3 operable units. Based upon the construction schedules at these larger, complex sites, EPA expects to complete construction of all remedies at 24 sites in FY 2007 and 30 sites in FY 2008. EPA expects to complete construction at 165 sites during the FY 2007 to FY 2011 time period, the goal established in the Agency's FY 2006 to FY 2011 Strategic Plan.

Homeland Security

EPA's Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness and Response program will continue to develop and maintain an Agency-wide capability to respond to incidents of national significance with emphasis on those that may involve Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). EPA is the lead federal agency under the National Response Plan for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10, which addresses Oil and Hazardous Materials, and works with other agencies to provide support for a number of other Emergency Support Functions, including ESF #3, which addresses Public Works and Engineering.

The FY 2008 President's budget provides \$6 million to enable EPA to enhance Federal and state laboratory systems to support responses to national security incidents. This provides necessary funding for the Homeland Security Environmental Lab Response Network (eLRN) initiative to coordinate among existing laboratory networks and to maintain a laboratory chemical warfare agent quality assurance and calibration surety program at the Federal and state levels. EPA's lab activities will continue to address the gap in providing environmental analyses of chemical, biological and radiological agents associated with WMD.

Brownfields and Land Revitalization

Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment continues to be one of the Administration's top environmental priorities. The President's FY 2008 budget provides \$162.2 million to fund brownfields program assessment, revolving loan fund, and cleanup grants. EPA is also shifting \$3.5 million from headquarters contracts and interagency agreements to increase the funding available for site assessment and cleanup grants to state and local governments. It is estimated

that FY 2008 funding will produce 1,000 brownfields property assessments, and leverage \$900 million in cleanup and redevelopment funding.

EPA will continue its land revitalization initiative which includes all of EPA's cleanup programs as well as partners at all levels of government and in the private and non-profit sectors. The goal of land revitalization is to restore our nation's contaminated land resources and enable America's communities to safely return these properties to beneficial economic, ecological, and societal uses. EPA is ensuring that cleanup programs protect public health, welfare, and the environment; and also is ensuring that the anticipated future uses of these lands are fully considered in cleanup decisions.

Experience has taught us that one of the best ways to clean up contaminated sites and to address blighted properties in communities is to expressly consider the future uses of this land. The country has accepted the economic and ecological importance of recycling various consumer products – and our understanding of sound resource management must now also embrace the recycling of contaminated properties.

Oil Spill Program

EPA's oil spill prevention program requires protection of inland waterways through oil spill prevention, preparedness, and enforcement activities associated with the more than 600,000 non-transportation related oil storage facilities that EPA regulates.

The President's budget request provides \$13.5 million for the OSWER's portion of EPA's oil spill program. Our oil spill program focuses on preventing oil spills from occurring, reduces the risk of hazardous exposure to people and the environment, and responds to spills when necessary. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard evaluate thousands of spills annually to

determine if assistance is required. On average, EPA either manages the oil spill response or oversees response efforts of private parties at approximately 250 to 300 sites per year.

Conclusion

EPA will continue to protect human health and the environment by requiring responsible parties to clean up hazardous waste sites and looking for ways to improve Superfund and brownfields program efficiency and effectiveness. I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to address the Superfund and brownfields programs, and other programs entrusted to the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. The President's budget request for EPA will help ensure that we are able to accomplish the Agency's important mission - - to protect human health and the environment.