

CRS Report for Congress

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Environmental Protection Agency: FY2006 Appropriations Highlights

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As passed by the House, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for FY2006 (H.R. 2361, H.Rept. 109-80) would provide \$7.71 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), plus \$100 million in unobligated funds “rescinded” from past appropriations. The Senate Appropriations Committee recommended \$7.88 billion for EPA in reporting its version of the bill (S.Rept. 109-80), plus \$58 million in similarly rescinded funds. Both amounts are more than the request of \$7.52 billion, but are less than the FY2005 appropriation of \$8.03 billion.¹ Among individual programs, both versions of H.R. 2361 reflect decreases and increases throughout the various EPA appropriations accounts when compared to the President’s FY2006 request and the FY2005 funding levels.

Considerable debate has focused on funding for the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account, particularly the adequacy of funding for assistance to states and communities for State Revolving Funds (SRFs). These funds provide loans to communities for water infrastructure, such as sewage treatment plants and projects needed to meet drinking water standards. Including the use of rescinded funds noted above, the House-passed bill would provide \$850 million for the clean water SRF, and the Senate-reported bill would provide a higher amount of \$1.10 billion, primarily by reducing funding for other activities. The Administration’s request would have reduced funding for the clean water SRF from \$1.09 billion in FY2005 to \$730 million in FY2006. The amount in both bills for the drinking water SRF is the same as requested, \$850 million, and is similar to the FY2005 appropriation.

Other prominent issues of debate include the adequacy of funding for the cleanup of hazardous waste sites under the Superfund program, the cleanup and redevelopment of certain commercial and industrial sites referred to as Brownfields, EPA’s homeland security activities, and “congressional project priorities” or earmarks. The following table displays H.R. 2361, the FY2006 request, and the appropriations for FY2004 and FY2005 by the eight EPA appropriations accounts. (For a detailed discussion, see CRS Report RL32856, *Environmental Protection Agency: Appropriations for FY2006*.)

¹ The Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2005 (P.L. 108-447) provided \$8.09 billion for EPA, less an across-the-board rescission of 0.8%.

**Environmental Protection Agency Appropriations Accounts:
FY2004-FY2005 Enacted, the FY2006 Request, Action on Appropriations**
(in millions of dollars)

Appropriations Account	FY2004 Enacted^a	FY2005 Enacted^a	FY2006 Request^a	House Passed H.R. 2361	Senate Reported H.R. 2361
Science and Technology	\$781.7	\$744.1	\$760.6	\$765.3	\$730.8
+ transfer from Superfund account	+ \$44.4	+ \$35.8	+ \$30.6	+ \$30.6	\$30.6
Science and Technology Total	\$826.1	\$779.9	\$791.2	\$795.9	\$761.4
Environmental Programs and Management	\$2,280.1	\$2,294.9	^b \$2,353.8	^b \$2,389.5	^b \$2,333.4
Office of Inspector General	\$37.3	\$37.7	\$37.0	\$38.0	\$37.0
+ transfer from Superfund account	+ \$13.2	+ \$12.9	+ \$13.5	+ \$13.5	\$13.5
Office of Inspector General Total	\$50.5	\$50.6	\$50.5	\$51.5	\$50.5
Buildings & Facilities	\$39.8	\$41.7	\$40.2	\$40.2	\$40.2
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,257.5	\$1,247.5	\$1,279.3	\$1,258.3	\$1,256.2
— transfer to Office of Inspector General	— \$13.1	— \$12.9	— \$13.5	— \$13.5	\$13.5
— transfer to Science and Technology	— \$44.4	— \$35.8	— \$30.6	— \$30.6	\$30.6
Hazardous Substance Superfund (Net)	\$1,200.0	\$1,198.8	\$1,235.2	\$1,214.2	\$1,212.1
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program	\$75.6	\$69.4	\$73.0	\$73.0	\$73.0
Oil Spill Response	\$16.1	\$15.9	\$15.9	\$15.9	\$15.9
Pesticide Registration Fund	—	\$19.2	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$15.0
— Pesticide Registration Fees	—	— \$19.2	— \$15.0	— \$15.0	\$15.0
State and Tribal Assistance Grants: Total	\$3,877.8	\$3,575.3	\$2,960.8	\$3,127.8	\$3,395.5
<i>Clean Water State Revolving Funds</i>	<i>\$1,342.0</i>	<i>\$1,091.2</i>	<i>\$730.0</i>	^c <i>\$850.0</i>	<i>\$1,100.0</i>
<i>Drinking Water State Revolving Funds</i>	<i>\$845.0</i>	<i>\$843.2</i>	<i>\$850.0</i>	<i>\$850.0</i>	<i>\$850.0</i>
<i>Other Grants</i>	<i>\$1,690.8</i>	<i>\$1,640.9</i>	<i>\$1,380.8</i>	<i>\$1,527.8</i>	<i>\$1,445.5</i>
<i>Funds Previously Appropriated to EPA</i>	—	—	—	^c — \$100.0	^c — \$58.0
Total EPA Accounts	\$8,366.0	\$8,026.5	\$7,520.6	\$7,708.0	\$7,882.0

Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) based on amounts from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and sources noted below. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

^a Enacted amounts for FY2004 are from House Appropriations Committee report (H.R. 5041, H.Rept. 108-674) on the prior year appropriations bill, and reflect an across-the-board rescission. Enacted amounts for FY2005 and the FY2006 request are from the House Appropriations Committee (H.R. 2361, H.Rept. 109-80). The Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2005 (P.L. 108-447) included an across-the-board rescission of 0.8%. The FY2005 total includes a supplemental emergency appropriation of \$3.0 million provided in P.L. 108-324.

^b The President's FY2006 budget includes \$50 million in offsetting receipts to be derived from proposed legislative changes to Toxics and Pesticides fees, which have not been enacted (*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FY2006 Justification of Appropriation Estimates for the Committee on Appropriations* (EPA-205/R-05-001)). Neither the House-passed or Senate-reported versions of H.R. 2361 included the \$50 million offset.

^c The total for the STAG account includes \$58.0 million per the Senate Appropriations Committee, and \$100.0 million per the House Appropriations Committee, to be rescinded from previously appropriated EPA funds that were not obligated to expired contracts, grants, and inter-agency agreements.