

Patricia D. Hastings

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To: "NJinPAS Advisory Committee" <NJinPASadvisory@AESOP.RUTGERS.EDU>; "Department of Extension Specialists" <des@AESOP.RUTGERS.EDU>; <ag@AESOP.RUTGERS.EDU>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2005 4:52 PM
Subject: IMPT: EPA FY2006 Funding Cuts Possible

From: AAPSE American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators --
 [mailto:AAPSE@LISTSERV.VT.EDU]On Behalf Of Winand K. Hock
 Sent: Friday, January 14, 2005 10:45 AM
 To: AAPSE@LISTSERV.VT.EDU
 Subject: EPA FY2006 Funding Cuts Possible

Dear AAPSE Colleague,

Although this doesn't bode well in terms of EPA extramural funding for FY2006, you AAPSE Executive Committee felt you should all be aware of the situation. Only after Congress acts on the FY2006 fiscal package for EPA will we have a better handle on the funding situation.

Win Hock on behalf of your AAPSE EC

EPA FACES MAJOR BUDGET CUT IN BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S FY06 REQUEST

Date: January 10, 2005 -

The Bush administration is poised to seek \$300 million less funding for EPA in its upcoming fiscal year 2006 budget request than it sought last year, according to an agency source, raising the specter of a new round of cuts to the agency's programs even deeper than congressional Democrats had predicted last summer.

The expected decrease in EPA funding could bode ill for clean water programs, which took a blow in the FY05 budget. FY05 appropriations included a 20 percent cut to EPA's clean water state revolving loan fund, setting the level at \$1.1 billion, and also cut funding to the agency's Clean Water Act section 319 program by \$29.5 million. The 319 program provides federal funding to states to address pollution from nonpoint sources -- including agricultural, stormwater and abandoned mine runoff.

The likely FY06 cuts come amid widespread expectation of lean budget times not only for EPA but many other federal agencies, a trend that is already mobilizing industry groups to push to save the federal programs they favor.

While the budget request is not yet final, the source says it appears the administration will seek \$7.5 billion in funding for EPA in FY06,

\$300 million less than the administration's request of \$7.8 billion in FY05.

That reduction would be twice as great as House Democrats predicted last year, based on a May 2004 guidance from the White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) to federal agencies on developing budget requests. In June 2004, House Budget Committee Democrats said the guidance, as well as a secret OMB database, showed EPA's budget would be cut by \$150 million.

The EPA source would not provide details on specific program reductions, but another knowledgeable source says the anticipated cuts may not be equally distributed across EPA programs.

The Bush administration's work on its FY06 request is being completed while EPA is still finalizing its operating plan for the current fiscal year after Congress in November approved an omnibus appropriations bill that included \$8.1 billion for EPA. The omnibus bill contained many spending earmarks and resulted in a \$277 million cut from FY04 appropriated funding levels. The bill also contained significant cuts to a number of EPA programs, including a 20 percent reduction to the revolving loan fund for sewer and water infrastructure projects.

EPA press officials did not return a call seeking comment. The president is expected to unveil his FY06 budget request early next month.

The prospect of EPA budget cuts comes amid expectations that fewer federal agency programs will escape reductions in FY06 than in previous years, such cuts would likely stem in large part from increased homeland security spending, the war in Iraq and sizable tax cuts. -- Doug Obey

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