

**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
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee, 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) 2009 budget request is \$7.1 billion, which continues strong support for the brownfields program, maintains funding for further Superfund cleanup progress, and continues an emphasis on homeland security and emergency response efforts.

The President's 2009 budget for EPA protects the environment, advances economic competitiveness and strengthens the security of our homeland, while contributing to the Administration's effort to control federal spending.

Brownfields and Land Revitalization

Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment continues to be one of the Administration's top environmental priorities. The President's FY 2009 budget request provides \$165.7 million for the brownfields program, including \$93.6 million to fund brownfields program assessment, cleanup, revolving loan fund, and job training grants. The budget request will fund 129 assessment grants, 96 cleanup grants, 7 revolving loan fund grants, and 12 job training grants. In FY 2009, brownfields grantees are expected to assess 1,000 properties, clean up 60 properties, leverage 5,000 cleanup and redevelopment jobs, 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. In addition, by incorporating “green” and sustainable approaches into brownfields redevelopment, we can further increase the environmental benefits from land revitalization.

Superfund

The Superfund program protects human health and the environment by requiring clean up 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 encourage reuse and redevelopment of Superfund sites. The President's budget provides \$1.264 billion for the Superfund program to continue the progress we are making cleaning up contaminated sites. The budget request maintains Superfund cleanup funding at essentially the same level as enacted in FY 2008.

In general, 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 determines that existing water supplies are unsafe due to releases from contaminated sites, we provide alternative sources of drinking water. To date, EPA has provided more than two million people near these sites with alternative sources of drinking water. Similarly, through short-term actions, the Superfund program controls exposure to hazardous substances so human health is protected while long-term clean up is underway. The Superfund removal and emergency response program conducted 351 emergency response and removal cleanup actions in FY 2007, and to date has completed more than 9,400 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. As of the end of FY 2007, cleanup construction had been completed at 1,030 of the National Priorities List (NPL) sites,

which represents 66% of the sites listed on the NPL. Building upon the 24 sites where construction was completed in FY 2007 and the completion goal of 30 sites in FY 2008, the goal of completing construction at 35 sites in 2009 keeps EPA on track 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.

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 beyond construction completion and help keep the public informed about site cleanup milestones.

To better measure long-term progress, in 2007 the program adopted a Site-Wide Ready for Anticipated Use measure. This measure tracks 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. Those anticipated uses and needed controls are outlined in the site Record of Decision (ROD). EPA expects to make at least 30 sites ready for anticipated use in 2009. In 2007, EPA exceeded its goal of 30 sites, making 64 Superfund sites ready for anticipated use, and EPA expects to meet or exceed its goal of 30 sites in FY 2008.

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 2007, EPA obligated more than \$380 million of appropriated, state cost-share, and responsible party funding to conduct cleanup construction and post-construction work at Superfund sites, which included more than \$82 million to begin construction at 19 new Superfund projects.

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 Framework 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 \$55.8 million FY 2009 budget request for the OSWER Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness and Response program is \$12 million above the FY 2008 request. The additional resources requested will strengthen EPA's capability to respond to multiple incidents of national significance. The Homeland Security Environmental Lab Response Network (eLRN) initiative is increased by \$3.5 million to a total of \$9.6 million to improve coordination among existing laboratory networks and to expand a laboratory chemical warfare agent quality assurance and calibration surety program at the Federal and state levels. Funding for training and exercises for Response Support Corps and Incident Management Team volunteers as well as the base response workforce is increased by \$4.4 million. An additional \$3 million is requested to purchase an airplane that will increase real-time monitoring capabilities that will help reduce EPA response time during incidents of national significance. An additional \$1.1 million is requested for enhanced data management and secure equipment.

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 \$13.9 million for the OSWER's portion of EPA's oil spill program. Our oil spill program focuses on preventing oil spills from occurring, reducing the risk of hazardous exposure to people and the environment, and responding 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.