

Environmental Protection Agency
2004 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification
Table of Contents

Goal 7: Quality Environmental Information	VII-1
Increase Availability of Quality Health and Environmental Information.....	VII-11
Provide Access to Tools for Using Environmental Information.....	VII-25
Improve Agency Information Infrastructure and Security.....	VII-37

Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2004 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

Quality Environmental Information

Strategic Goal: The public and decision makers at all levels will have access to information about environmental conditions and human health to help assess the general environmental health of communities. The public will also have access to educational services and information services and tools that provide for the reliable and secure exchange of quality environmental information.

Resource Summary (Dollars in thousands)

	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Quality Environmental Information	\$202,315.0	\$199,040.4	\$228,322.1	\$29,281.7
Increase Availability of Quality Health and Environmental Information.	\$125,899.5	\$120,331.1	\$118,203.3	(\$2,127.8)
Provide Access to Tools for Using Environmental Information.	\$49,493.9	\$48,181.3	\$47,071.0	(\$1,110.3)
Improve Agency Information Infrastructure and Security.	\$26,921.6	\$30,528.0	\$63,047.8	\$32,519.8
Total Workyears	846.1	847.1	840.0	-7.1

Background and Context

Accurate, timely, and comprehensive information should be the foundation for virtually every action taken by EPA, states, and others charged with the responsibility to ensure a safer, healthier world for the generations that follow. EPA's obligation to work with other Federal, state, and local allies on homeland security issues is another dimension of EPA's information management activities.

Our response to these challenges, built on the foundation provided by the President's Management Agenda (PMA), requires us to look for new ways to foster existing Agency practices that support this direction. The FY 2004 budget proposals described in this goal represent a major new investment by the Agency to:

- better integrate the information EPA collects to ensure the Agency is better able to set priorities, make sound decisions, manage for results, and measure performance;

- adopt an enterprise-wide approach to managing information, including administrative and programmatic systems, investment priorities, and resource allocation; and,
- work collaboratively with states and other Federal agencies to transform and streamline business practices, develop common and consistent standards and systems, share data, and adopt a citizen-centric approach to information services.

No less important is the need to ensure that environmental information is accessible and usable by the American public – including those who have been historically disenfranchised. Information and the public's ability to acquire, use, and understand it will increasingly become an important tool for addressing environmental problems and challenges.

Means and Strategy

Strategy: Information as a Strategic Resource

The context for EPA's information management efforts is the explosion of emerging technologies, such as e-commerce and web services, that enable organizations to become extremely productive, effective, and proactive in service delivery. EPA and as well as other organizations face a similar underlying challenge: how to get the right data and tools to the right person to ensure quality environmental decisions.

The Agency's broad strategy is to transform its information management activities from the provision of information technology (IT) services (i.e., back room operations focused primarily on component parts of the Agency) to managing information as an enterprise-wide strategic resource.

Means: Building the Best Information Capability at the Least Cost

During FY 2004, EPA will pursue three objectives based upon this strategy: to increase the availability of quality, useful health, and environmental information; to provide access to new analytical tools to improve the ease of interpretation and the accuracy of information; and, to improve the Agency's information infrastructure and security.

Enterprise Thinking

To successfully manage IT, EPA must carefully align technology, people, and processes with goals. Identifying the business processes developed to support goals, and the data, the systems, and technology needed is called enterprise architecture. Enterprise architecture drives our investment decisions and ensures that we select the Agency's investments wisely.

EPA's Chief Information Officer (CIO) will continue to pursue an investment strategy to support a strong Agency architecture program and investment management process as outlined by the Federal CIO Council and required by the Clinger-Cohen Act. An enterprise-wide approach to information will allow EPA to make key information, technology, and funding decisions at an Agency-wide level and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the

governance structure and operations. Funding for individual systems development and modernization efforts will remain in individual National Program Manager accounts, but will be governed by the architecture and investment review processes. There are three key points regarding what the Agency builds and how it pays for it.

First, EPA is no different from other Federal agencies that require upgrades and continued maintenance of its IT infrastructure. EPA is proposing a major investment in this area and proposing that these costs, which are predictable and necessary, be considered as basic to the Agency budget as is the funding for its buildings. It is the cost of doing business in the information age.

Second, the Agency's costs of electronic access to EPA information through its web site, epa.gov, continue to rise as the number of access "hits" increase, as more applications, data processing, and mapping tools become available, and as many of the e-Government (e-Gov) transactions are carried out via the central Agency internet site. Through epa.gov, EPA has developed an increasingly popular mechanism for one-stop access that has ongoing operations and maintenance costs. The Agency recognizes the importance of this mechanism for conducting business with the public and must face its associated cost.

Finally, EPA is aligning IT capabilities with the e-Gov strategy developed as part of the President's Management Agenda (PMA). While the Agency works with states, tribes, and local partners in our day to day environmental business, EPA must likewise commit to the economies and efficiencies that can be derived from collaborating with other Federal agencies. These economies and efficiencies will not only improve the quality of services but will also drive down the cost of basic government functions. The PMA's e-Gov efforts seek to simplify processes and unify operations to better serve citizens' needs. EPA will continue its efforts to implement this vision, and eliminate redundancies and overlaps in such activities as small business compliance, payroll, and other enterprise-wide resource functions, on-line rule making, and geospatial information. Overall, EPA is actively participating in 14 designated e-Gov projects and in all four sectors of the PMA (government to citizen, government to government, government to business, and internal efficiencies).

The National Information Exchange Network

EPA has learned from efforts under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) as well as the draft State of the Environment Report (SOE) - EPA's first national indicator project - that far more data is needed than is currently collected. The latest estimates for the SOE report indicate that at least 40% of the data EPA needs to better measure true environmental outcomes is either missing or unavailable. Some of the data gaps identified can be filled by other Federal agencies and state and local governments.

Based on a five year partnership between leading states and EPA, the Agency is creating an internet-based National Environmental Information Exchange Network (Exchange Network). With the Exchange Network in place, people can quickly and easily share information and EPA will be able to take advantage of the wealth of environmental and health data collected by other

Federal agencies, states, and local governments. Others have done this, though most examples are in the private sector with decentralized operations. The Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have made the most progress, working for the past five years with state and local parties on just such a model.

A number of our state and tribal partners are currently designing their capacity to participate in the Exchange Network. At least 35 states are building integrated, multimedia, geographic-based systems using facility information as the core of the system; and over 40 states and 10 tribes applied in FY 2002 for EPA's \$25.0 million Exchange Network grants. These grants foster technical readiness to share information over the national network.

Building Capacity and Creating Centers of Excellence in Regions

The future of partnership-based information management and a variety of joint planning and innovations efforts depend on working with our state and tribal partners identifying problems and crafting joint solutions. Clearly, an ability to access, analyze, interpret, and respond to data is a core capability necessary to acquire. The EPA regions, and related non-Headquarters sites, have the most critical operational interfaces with external partners. They also are the point of entry for information access by on-scene coordinators and first responders. Currently, inadequate basic IT infrastructure at the regional level impedes consistent, effective access. Implementing the upgrades to deliver reliable, effective capacity to support Agency and external partner information access nationally is a long-term challenge.

Through a combination of a new Agency base investment, one that will continue in the outyears, and a targeted investment of \$10,000,000 in order to address highest priority regional problem areas, EPA proposes to address the information access infrastructure problem in a strategic manner in FY 2004. This will close the major infrastructure gaps at the most vulnerable locations, build a stable foundation for state and tribal partnerships and e-Gov work, and enable subsequent annual network upgrades and maintenance at base levels in the outyears.

Performance Measurement

The enterprise-wide approach to information management supported by this budget proposal is the underpinning of EPA's ability to accurately measure the environmental outcomes of the Agency's programs. The Agency fully supports the performance measurement focus of the PMA and is developing its first national environmental indicators report, entitled the SOE report, and is establishing a comprehensive set of environmental indicators. The Agency is also working to improve the performance measures associated with information management efforts. To the degree that these efforts support other programmatic activities, the performance measures are more likely to be indirect. EPA is working on outcome measures associated with information access programs that provide information to the public as a means for accomplishing environmental goals.

Research

Research efforts supporting this goal include the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). IRIS is an EPA database of Agency consensus health information on environmental contaminants, used extensively by EPA, other federal agencies, states, and the public to access toxicity information that may be needed for performing risk assessments. In FY 2004, EPA will continue the modernization and expansion of IRIS, which began in 2002, including dedicating additional staff to the program. Another effort to support Goal 7 is the Risk Assessment Forum (RAF), which promotes Agency-wide consensus on difficult and controversial risk assessment issues and ensures that this consensus is incorporated into appropriate Agency risk assessment guidance.

Several mechanisms are in place to ensure a high-quality research program at EPA. The Research Strategies Advisory Committee (RSAC) of EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB), an independent chartered Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) committee, meets annually to conduct an in-depth review and analysis of EPA's Science and Technology account. The RSAC provides its findings to the House Science Committee and sends a written report on the findings to EPA's Administrator after every annual review. Moreover, EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) provides counsel to the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development (ORD) on the operation of ORD's research program. EPA's scientific and technical work products must undergo either internal or external peer review, with major or significant products requiring external peer review. The Agency's Peer Review Handbook (2nd Edition) codifies procedures and guidance for conducting peer review.

Strategic Objectives

- Increase Availability of Quality Health and Environmental Information
- Provide Access to Tools for Using Environmental Information
- Improve Agency Information Infrastructure and Security

Highlights

EPA will continue to work with the other Federal agencies, states, tribes, and others to strengthen its information quality, leverage information maintained by other government organizations, and develop new tools that provide decision-makers and citizens with simultaneous access to multiple data sets and information products. These improvements will support better-informed environmental decision-making and management based on environmental results. They will also enable citizens to get answers to the questions they have about what EPA is doing to protect the environment and the quality of their communities. Stakeholders will have "one-stop" access to the regulatory and policy implementation guidance that they need to improve the performance of their facilities and sectors. Facility operators will be able to submit their data to states, regions, and Federal systems simultaneously via the internet without having to fill out paper forms; an improvement which will help EPA to meet the burden reduction goals of the National Paperwork Reduction Act and the Government Paperwork Elimination Act.

Effectively managing the process by which the public is educated and informed regarding the Agency's resources is pivotal to accomplishing the mission of the Agency. To this end, the Agency will expand its two-way communications with the public. EPA, through its public and Congressional liaison functions, Federal Advisory Committee Act functions, media relations, print and web content review, and oversight responsibilities, will inform and educate the public about Agency initiatives, policies, regulations, services, and environmental information resources. The Agency will also develop and monitor feedback mechanisms to learn from them. In order to accomplish this goal, EPA and its partners will focus on the following.

EPA is currently an active participant in 14 of the 24 e-Gov projects included in the PMA. This effort seeks to eliminate redundant activities across agencies and achieve a more seamless, citizen-centered provision of services. The resources requested in FY 2004 will enable EPA to improve the way in which we engage citizens and the regulated community. The Agency expects to use e-tools to: lessen paperwork burden; improve how the Agency works with local, state, and Federal partners; provide easier, smarter, and faster means for citizen's to obtain environmental information and services; and, ultimately to ensure that better environmental decision that will enhance national ability to protect human health and the environment. EPA is currently involved in the following e-Gov projects: e-Authentication; Disaster Management; e-Grants; e-Records; e-Training; e-Travel; Enterprise Human Resources; Geospatial One-Stop; Integrated Acquisition; On-Line Rulemaking; One-Stop Business Compliance; One-Stop Recruitment; Payroll; and Safecom Wireless Communications.

EPA will continue to increase the availability of useful health and environmental information internally and to the public by providing better access to accurate and reliable environmental information. For instance, with the final expansion of *Window to My Environment* - a geographic portal to community-based environmental information - EPA is moving forward to provide the public with electronic and non-electronic access to accurate, useful, and reliable environmental data. This data source will include information collected by EPA, its partners, and stakeholders.

EPA will continue to develop the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is a comprehensive, integrated information exchange program designed to strengthen the partnership between and facilitate information sharing among EPA, the states, other Federal agencies, tribes, localities, and the regulated community. The Exchange Network will provide a wide range of shared environmental information and improve environmental decision making through increased availability of data, better data quality and accuracy, security of sensitive data, avoidance of data redundancy, and reduced burden on those who provide and those who access information. It uses an internet-based, multi-media approach to environmental information exchange that is standards-based, highly connected, flexible, and secure. Additionally, through an information grant program begun in FY 2002, states and tribes will be better positioned to participate in the Exchange Network.

The Central Data Exchange (CDX) is the electronic portal through which information is securely received, translated, and forwarded to EPA's data systems. In FY 2004 the CDX infrastructure, a key component of the Exchange Network, will service 46 states and a total of over 25,000 facilities, companies and laboratories will use it to provide data to EPA

electronically. By widely implementing an electronic reporting infrastructure, CDX will reduce reliance on less efficient paper-based processes, resulting in improved data quality, reduced reporting burden, and the creation of new opportunities for simplifying the reporting process. By the end of FY 2004, electronic reporting through CDX will be possible for all of the national environmental systems.

EPA will develop and implement program policies and guidance in several areas including web content, website management, privacy, and quality system. The Agency will solicit customer feedback to systematically improve information usability, clarity, accuracy, reliability, and scientific soundness. Other efforts to improve information will include the development and, in particular, the implementation of necessary data standards and associated registries to improve the consistency, quality, and comparability of data managed in national environmental systems. EPA will ensure that data quality is known to and appropriate for intended uses. Usability testing and customer satisfaction baselines will assure that the information the Agency provides is meeting the needs of its customers. In addition, the Agency is committed to developing analytical and other tools to help users interpret and apply environmental data.

EPA will provide the means for using and understanding environmental information. Environmental data are most meaningful when examined from a holistic perspective; that is, when users are able to examine multi-media data about a particular location or source at once. Users must also have the underlying documentation that describes the limitations of the data and the context in which it is most useful. In FY 2004 the Agency will continue the development of its Environmental Indicators Initiative in order to establish a set of performance indicators that measure environmental results. Environmental indicators are an important tool for analyzing, and communicating information about environmental conditions and human health to the public in an understandable manner.

EPA will streamline information collection. Streamlining will help regulated entities to meet their regulatory requirements while eventually easing burdens placed on states and the Agency to collect information. The Agency will examine the information reporting burdens placed on its partners and on the regulated community and ensure that information collections address specific needs. EPA will improve the timeliness and completeness of requests for information by implementing an Agency-wide electronic records and document management system. The Agency plans to develop and acquire the necessary software and hardware to begin phased implementation of the system throughout the Agency.

EPA will play an integral role in supporting homeland security. Accurate information about EPA-regulated facilities and areas of environmental interest is critical to EPA's ability to support homeland security efforts. The ability to identify and report on regulated facilities, their location and spatial coordinates, their materials, and their corporate ownership is an important piece of the homeland security picture. Part of the Agency's homeland security role is to deliver secure, reliable, and timely data access and communications to on-scene coordinators, emergency response teams, and investigators in the field.

EPA will strengthen and increase the security of its information infrastructure. This is fundamental to increasing the availability, usability, and reliability of environmental information. EPA must maintain a strong and secure information infrastructure that supports Agency mission and homeland security requirements with adequate capacity, resulting in the right technology at the right time, with rigorous cyber-security protection. In FY 2004, the Agency will upgrade its IT and cyber-security infrastructure to address gaps. The upgrades will deliver Agency-wide enhancements based on the priorities identified in the enterprise architecture, which identifies best technology options to support program strategic directions, and directs capital planning to achieve cost-effective Agency-wide IT solutions that are sustainable across the multi-year cycles typical of major technology projects and investments.

Priorities for FY 2004 include: network capacity upgrades to enable reliable information access for the Agency, its partners, and the public; and cyber-security and technology enhancements to support secure access to EPA data. Network upgrades will be managed under the Agency's working capital fund desktop service, with appropriated funds allocated to programs to pay their proportional share of the desktop charge.

EPA's IT program will maintain its commitment to strong customer service and strategic investment in new technology to ensure EPA's continued ability to deliver information services efficiently, effectively, and securely. Through emphasis on acquiring the right skills, technologies, and services, EPA will take additional steps to strengthen and secure the Agency's IT infrastructure. In FY 2004, EPA will implement a program to ensure that all of its central infrastructure, financial, and mission critical environmental systems are assessed for potential security risks as part of regular system security plan updating.

EPA will improve its System of Registries. By FY 2004, data standards will be expanded to include additional areas of environmental information. Access to related information for use by EPA's partners and stakeholders will be greatly enhanced by improvements to EPA's System of Registries. The Agency's expanding system of registries will continue to provide the technical detail needed to promote the adoption of data standards by other parties, and will also provide authoritative sources for populating records, thereby promoting data sharing and integration.

EPA will assemble core environmental program data, geospatial resources, meta data, Facility Registry, Environmental Data Registries, and other systems of data registries into one integrated Enterprise Repository that is accessible to all. The Repository will help move EPA beyond the current limitations of the "stove-pipe" approach to information management and support more effective data-sharing, integration, and accessibility to information for environmental management and homeland security decision makers. In FY 2004, EPA will establish a comprehensive and secure "System of Access" to EPA's data resources that will allow users to easily locate relevant data from internal and external sources and access the tools needed to analyze it based on their own individual level of authorization.

EPA will continue its error correction efforts. Users of EPA's website have a tool for notifying the Agency of potential errors they find in the national environmental data systems. The Integrated Error Correction Process is a procedure by which the Agency or a state will

assess all reported potential errors, and notify the individual who reported the error of the findings and corrective actions. This program, which is already serving as the basis for the data and information quality “complaint resolution process” called for in the Agency’s Information Quality Guidelines, will continue to operate in FY 2004.

As part of the government-wide e-Rule making initiative, EPA will continue to enhance the Agency’s internal rule making system and public participation in the rule making process. As of May 2002, citizens and the regulated community have greater online access to information contained in EPA’s rule-making and non-rule making dockets. EPA Dockets (EDOCKET) is an online complement to EPA’s combined docket facility. The system allows the public to search available and historic dockets at any time, view docket contents, print and download materials, and provide comments on EPA’s rule-making and non-rule making activities. By FY 2004, nearly all of the Agency’s dockets will be contained in EDOCKET. The combined docket facility and EDOCKET represent a substantial financial savings over our previous approach.

In partnership with the states, the Agency will continue its efforts to expand publicly available information, both electronically via the Internet and through non-electronic media. This includes the Envirofacts database, a major data warehouse comprised of 11 national databases. It is used extensively by EPA, the states, and the public.

The Agency will continue its efforts to promote public access through the Agency’s Access to Interpretive Documents project (formally known as Enhanced Public Access). This project is designed to make all significant Agency guidance, policy statements, and site specific interpretations of regulated entities’ environmental management practices electronically available to the states, industry, and the public in a secure manner.

EPA will continue to implement the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program. The TRI Program provides the public with information on waste management and releases of chemicals to the environment. Two laws, Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) and Section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act, mandate that EPA annually collect information on releases of listed toxic chemicals from certain industries and make this information available to the public through various means, including a publicly accessible national database. Using this information, citizens, businesses, community groups, researchers, and governments can work together to address releases in their communities.

EPA will continue to reduce TRI reporting burdens on industry and improve TRI data quality by distributing its new software tool, “TRI Made-Easy (TRI-ME).” The Agency expects to further increase the percentage of TRI reporting forms that are submitted in digital format. EPA will continue to refine and expand the public’s understanding of TRI data by improving data access tools such as the “TRI Explorer.” In FY 2003, EPA will release data for the first reporting year since the Agency lowered the TRI reporting thresholds for lead and lead compounds in FY 2001. As part of its on-going responsibilities under EPCRA, EPA will continue to respond to petitions to add and delete chemicals on the TRI list and to other petitions to amend the program.

EPA's quality program will continue to develop the Agency-wide policies and procedures for planning, documenting, implementing, and assessing data collection and use in Agency decisions. The quality program will also develop training material on the various policies and oversee implementation of EPA's quality systems. EPA will also continue to implement its Data Quality Guidelines.

By focusing on these areas, EPA will keep pace with the rapid advances in IT and meet the growing demand for reliable, high quality environmental information.

Research

In FY 2004, the Agency will continue to provide technical guidance for conducting risk assessments to improve the scientific basis for decision-making within IRIS and RAF. The Agency's Risk Assessment Forum will focus on three areas: cumulative risk assessment, ecological risk assessment, and risk assessments specific to children. Efforts will result in guidance on preparing cumulative risk assessments, technical issue papers, and guidance on the identification of appropriate age groupings for exposure assessments for children.

External Factors

EPA's information comes from many sources, including states, tribes, local governments, research, and industry. Working in partnership with state and tribal governments is an essential element of EPA's information programs. Seeking advice and input from the regulated community and the public will ground EPA's information programs and approaches and make them more responsive to stakeholders' needs. In order to achieve an integrated information network that increases efficiency and fosters information sharing, the Agency must work with those who provide and use EPA's information to ensure that data are maintained effectively, and protected appropriately.

Rapidly changing technology presents opportunities to address mission needs in better ways, as well as challenges where legacy technology must be replaced. The Agency must manage how it adopts new technology from an Agency-wide perspective to gain benefits, minimize risk, and demonstrate incremental, earned-value results. The Agency is also outsourcing major technology operations under performance-based contracts to achieve greater returns and obtain more flexibility in responding to requirements for technology change; whether driven by program needs or technology advances.

The evolving user community will also affect the success of the Agency's information efforts. As more states and tribes develop the ability to integrate their environmental information, the Agency must adjust its systems to receive and process reports from states and industry in keeping with the Agency's statutory requirements. Local citizen organizations and the public at large are also increasingly involved in environmental decision-making, and their need for information and more sophisticated analytical tools is growing.

Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2004 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

Quality Environmental Information

Objective: Increase Availability of Quality Health and Environmental Information.

Through 2006, EPA will continue to increase the availability of quality health and environmental information through educational services, partnerships, and other methods designed to meet EPA's major data needs, make data sets more compatible, make reporting and exchange methods more efficient, and foster informed decision making.

Resource Summary (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Increase Availability of Quality Health and Environmental Information.	\$125,899.5	\$120,331.1	\$118,203.3	(\$2,127.8)
Environmental Program & Management	\$98,163.8	\$93,666.1	\$92,638.7	(\$1,027.4)
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,947.6	\$1,665.0	\$564.6	(\$1,100.4)
Science & Technology	\$866.3	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	\$24,921.8	\$25,000.0	\$25,000.0	\$0.0
Total Workyears	496.4	492.1	478.7	-13.4

Key Program (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Community Assistance	\$650.2	\$921.8	\$0.0	(\$921.8)
Congressional Projects	\$2,078.6	\$1,991.3	\$2,145.2	\$153.9
Congressional/Legislative Analysis	\$4,852.2	\$4,857.8	\$4,958.1	\$100.3
Congressionally Mandated	\$1,100.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Projects				
Correspondence Coordination	\$1,200.7	\$1,096.3	\$1,127.7	\$31.4
Data Collection	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2,854.0	\$2,854.0
Data Management	\$2,400.7	\$2,630.1	\$0.0	(\$2,630.1)
Data Standards	\$500.0	\$2,785.4	\$12,169.6	\$9,384.2
Direct Public Information and Assistance	\$8,612.7	\$8,992.6	\$9,475.8	\$483.2
Environmental Education Division	\$9,160.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$7,002.0	\$7,031.5	\$7,205.6	\$174.1
Geospatial	\$154.8	\$464.0	\$0.0	(\$464.0)
Homeland Security-Communication and Information	\$600.8	\$476.7	\$0.0	(476.7)
Information Exchange Network	\$25,000.0	\$25,000.0	\$25,000.0	\$0.0
Information Integration	\$4,675.8	\$9,728.5	\$0.0	(\$9,728.5)
Information Technology Management	\$3,872.9	\$3,000.0	\$10,864.9	\$7,864.9
Intergovernmental Relations - OA	\$1,519.8	\$1,835.4	\$2,871.2	\$1,035.8
Legal Services	\$1,979.1	\$2,082.7	\$2,173.0	\$90.3
Management Services and Stewardship	\$1,410.8	\$1,314.9	\$1,797.2	\$482.3
Multi-Media Communications	\$821.3	\$872.7	\$919.4	\$46.7
NACEPT Support	\$1,803.1	\$1,670.1	\$1,692.1	\$22.0
NAFTA Implementation	\$514.3	\$747.9	\$758.5	\$10.6
National Association Liaison	\$346.0	\$262.5	\$267.9	\$5.4
Pesticide Registration	\$570.6	\$221.4	\$0.0	(\$221.4)
Pesticide Reregistration	\$392.2	\$198.1	\$0.0	(\$198.1)
Planning and Resource Management	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$348.6	\$348.6
Public Access	\$4,857.5	\$5,165.2	\$6,118.2	\$953.0
Regional Management	\$1,262.2	\$1,267.8	\$1,400.0	\$132.2
Regional Operations and Liaison	\$547.5	\$477.6	\$487.5	\$9.9
Regulatory Development	\$5,000.5	\$4,817.4	\$5,043.4	\$226.0
Reinventing Environmental	\$5,066.8	\$4,279.1	\$0.0	(\$4,279.1)

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Information (REI)				
SBREFA	\$686.2	\$608.8	\$616.2	\$7.4
Small, Minority, Women-Owned Business Assistance	\$2,295.5	\$3,305.0	\$3,407.3	\$102.3
System Modernization	\$6,827.7	\$7,254.6	\$0.0	(\$7,254.6)
Toxic Release Inventory / Right- to-Know (RtK)	\$13,278.0	\$14,206.9	\$11,976.0	(\$2,230.9)
Web Products Quality Control	\$879.5	\$767.0	\$812.4	\$45.4

FY 2004 Request

In FY 2004, EPA will continue to manage and support its website - EPA.Gov - to ensure public access to a broad range of resources, applications, maps, tools, and databases. The EPA.Gov website has grown exponentially in the last five years, with web site hits rising from monthly averages of 9.7 million in 1997 to 136.0 million in the Spring of 2002. The Agency will continue to expand the capabilities of the Envirofacts database to provide comprehensive environmental information to Federal agencies, environmental interest groups, the regulated community, state and local communities, tribal governments, and the general public.

EPA will actively participate in several of the Administration's electronic government (e-gov) initiatives, building on efforts started in FY 2002. E-gov is a major component of the President's Management Agenda (PMA) and will spur government-wide service improvements and efficiencies. Some of the initiatives EPA will work on in FY 2004 include:

- *Online rule-making or e-rulemaking*, which will create a centralized docket system for all Federal agencies and will allow the public to access and search all publicly available regulatory material;
- *Electronic records management*, a project that will effectively manage and facilitate access to Agency information in order to support and accelerate decision-making, ensure accountability, and provide the tools that agencies will need to manage their records in electronic form;
- *Geospatial one-stop*, a program that will coordinate and enhance the use of geospatial information, tools, and technologies so that the Agency, regions, and industry can better make decisions about protecting and improving the environment and public health; and
- *e-Authentication*, which will establish interoperable electronic authentication solutions to match levels of risks and business needs across government agencies.

Key to achieving improved information quality will be further development of the Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is a comprehensive, integrated information network that is being designed to facilitate information sharing among EPA and its state partners using standardized data formats and definitions, and an internet based approach to receiving and distributing information. The Exchange Network will fundamentally change the way the Agency and the states and tribes do business, and will improve data accuracy, reduce burden, and improve the utility of environmental information for decision making at all levels.

The Agency will continue to increase the number of EPA systems receiving data electronically via the Exchange Network. This will, in turn, accelerate the development and use of common data exchange formats and data standards, refine the Agency's technical architecture, begin to implement a system of access, develop environmental indicators, and enhance efforts to integrate and use geospatial information.

In FY 2004, the Central Data Exchange (CDX) will be firmly established as EPA's enterprise electronic portal for collecting and exchanging environmental information. The CDX will serve as the Agency's node on the Exchange Network and have the capability to accept and translate different data transmission formats used by states, facilities, and laboratories. The CDX will be a model of e-government by providing the capability to electronically sign and file reports from the regulated community.

EPA will work on implementing a secure and comprehensive "system of access" that will allow users to easily locate relevant data from internal and external sources and access the tools needed to analyze it based on their own individual level of authorization. Investments in the out years will expand the system of access to provide for enhanced public accessibility as appropriate.

In FY 2003, EPA issued the draft EPA State-of-the Environment Report. This initial report uses environmental indicators to provide information about the condition of the environment at the national level. While this is an important step, EPA recognizes that additional public information needs exist. The public and key decision-makers often need information specific to smaller geographic regions such as states, counties, metro areas, and tribal areas. Also, EPA has identified key gaps in the data needed to generate adequate indicators to fully characterize environmental outcomes. Finally, EPA needs to put environmental indicators to use to help achieve the PMA by helping decision-makers assess the effectiveness of their environmental programs and make adjustments to manage for improved environmental results. Responding to these needs, EPA will provide interactive capabilities to allow users to access indicators at smaller geographic scales, such as states and counties; and address key priority gaps in data that need to be filled in order to generate indicators to support priority programs.

Using advanced information technology, EPA will provide the capability for decision-makers to link data about their resources and activities to indicators of environmental outcomes, enabling them to assess the effectiveness of their programs in protecting human health and the environment and supporting their ability to manage for improved results.

As mandated by Section 313 of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and Section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act, EPA annually collects information on listed toxic chemicals from certain industries and makes the information available to the public through various means, including a publicly accessible national database. In FY 2004, EPA will continue to reduce Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting burdens on industry and improve TRI data quality by distributing its new software tool, TRI-ME (Made Easy). EPA also expects to increase the percentage of TRI reporting forms that are submitted in digital format.

EPA will continue to refine and expand the public's understanding of the TRI data by improving data access tools such as the TRI Explorer. In FY 2003, EPA will release data for the first reporting year since the Agency lowered the TRI reporting thresholds for lead and lead compounds in calendar year of 2001. As part of its on-going responsibilities under the EPCRA, EPA will continue to respond to petitions to add and delete chemicals on the TRI list, and to other petitions to amend the program.

In FY 2004, investments will also bring enhancements to the EPA library collection. The collection has not been updated in the last five years, and no longer includes the core references and titles expected in a full-service environmental library.

The Enforcement and Compliance Program will continue to contribute to the Agency-wide Enhanced Public Access Project. This project is intended to make all significant Agency guidance, policy statements and site-specific interpretations of the regulated entities' environmental management practices electronically accessible to the regions, states, industry, and the public.

The Agency will also benefit from the work of the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) and its standing committees, and facilitate and monitor the Agency's progress on adopting NACEPT recommendations. In addition, EPA will manage statutorily mandated advisory committees dealing with implementation of the environmental side accords to the North American Free Trade Agreement and with environmental and infrastructure issues along the U.S./Mexico border. Through these stakeholder committees, the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, and the National and Governmental Advisory Committees, EPA receives broad advice as national and international environmental policy is developed and implemented. This is accomplished mainly by ensuring staff support via the Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, and executing efficient and effective operation of EPA advisory committees. EPA has recently concentrated on enhancing the Agency's ability to use stakeholder processes, and its Federal advisory capacity has improved vastly to enhance EPA's environmental decision making.

The regulatory development process ensures the Agency's compliance with various statutes and Executive Orders. Through improved and streamlined regulatory processes that include increased public access, EPA is working to provide quality information to stakeholders. EPA will continue to develop negotiated rulemakings, policy dialogues and other consensus-based stakeholder involvement techniques at the national, regional, local and international levels. By involving stakeholders in the crafting of programs and rules by which they must abide, EPA

promotes innovative, effective and cost effective solutions and fosters earlier, more complete compliance.

In FY 2004, the Agency will continue to advance these objectives by ensuring that EPA rulemakings adhere to all applicable statutory and executive requirements, and achieve environmental results with minimum burden on the public. The Agency will continue its outreach to small businesses, small governments, and small non-profits, establishing formal mechanisms to build small entity partnership involvement in Agency rulemakings. EPA will complete Regulatory Flexibility analyses for all rulemakings that may have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities and continue a small community's outreach program to gather information on the potential impact of EPA's rules on small communities.

In support of this objective, the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) responds to congressional requests for information, written and oral testimony, briefings, and briefing materials. It ensures that Congress receives the information needed to make policy and program decisions on environmental and public health issues. In addition to working with Congress, OCIR works closely with the Agency's program offices to keep them informed of current activities that affect their particular subject areas. OCIR develops legislative strategies to support the program offices and coordinates Agency appearances before congressional committees, as well as responses to congressional transcripts and questions for the record.

OCIR also serves as the Agency's primary point of contact for national associations and other groups representing state and local governments and for individual states and local governments on environmental issues, programs and initiatives. It ensures that these representative groups receive accurate and current information needed to make decisions on environmental and public health issues, and have an appropriate level EPA person available to participate in meetings or assemblies. Additionally, the office provides direct assistance and information to states, local governments, and elected officials on EPA issues, programs, and current environmental concerns. As a key element in building two-way communications, the office also works closely with the Agency's program offices to keep them informed of current activities at the local level and of any policies the local governments and national associations may be advocating that affect a particular program office's subject area. OCIR also supports the Local Government Advisory Committee and its Small Community Advisory Subcommittee. These committees, formed under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, provide the Agency a direct forum for exchanging important information on the management of national environmental programs and the needs and concerns of states and local governments.

As the lead for liaison with state and local agencies, OCIR provides regular, timely communications by preparing the Agency's leadership to effectively address priority issues and develop appropriate responses. It works with states and state associations to ensure that state concerns are considered in Agency policies, guidance, and regulations. Additionally, OCIR functions as the lead on state issues relating to the National Environmental Performance Partnerships System. In 2004, OCIR will assess the U.S. environmental service delivery system, including the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS).

The Office of the Executive Secretariat (OEX) logs, assigns, and tracks correspondence received by the Administrator and Deputy Administrator to help ensure that citizens' comments, questions, ideas, and concerns are directed to the appropriate program and/or regional offices for informed response, for inclusion in official public comment files, and/or for other necessary action. OEX also has responsibility for ensuring the quality control of executive responses.

The Agency's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) provides technical assistance to Headquarters and Regional program office personnel to ensure that small, minority and women-owned businesses receive a fair share of EPA's procurement dollars. This fair share may be received either directly or indirectly through EPA grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or interagency agreements. Pursuant to P.L.102-389, the Agency has a national goal of 8% utilization of minority and women-owned businesses in the total value of Agency procurement and financial assistance agreements. OSDBU and its Regional counterparts also assist the Agency in meeting its direct procurement goals for small, small disadvantaged, HUBZone, Women-Owned, and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. These efforts enhance the ability of small, minority and women-owned businesses to participate in the Agency's objective to protect public health and the environment.

As a result of the Supreme Court Decision in *Adarand v. Peña*, 115 S. Ct. 2097 (1995), EPA is in the process of proposing a rule for the participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in procurements funded through assistance agreements. OSDBU is taking the lead in this effort. During FY 2004, the Agency expects to be drafting the final rule.

The former Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations was reorganized in 2002 and renamed the Office of Public Affairs (OPA). OPA uses diverse media resources to aid the public's understanding of science to increase awareness and perception of environmental issues and their technological and scientific solutions. The Office informs the public about environmental problems and goals, and strengthens the integration of policy-regulatory decisions in its communications messages. OPA, and its regional counterparts, manage the development and approval of communication products and publish them in print and on EPA's Web site in coordination with the Office of Environmental Information. OPA manages the Agency's homepage, press releases database, Administrator's speeches database, and the newsroom Web page. The office conducts oversight of Web and print publications and directs audit reports to appropriate offices. OPA works with the Administrator to keep Agency staff and the public informed about major policy decisions, initiatives, events, and key personnel appointments. The Office is also responsible for the electronic distribution of mass mail information for the Administrator and her designees.

FY 2004 Change from FY 2003 Request

EPM

- (+\$2,700,000) Under the theme of enabling sound environmental decisionmaking through e-gov, this investment supports the following programs:
 - *Build-out of the Enterprise Repository:* Assembling our core environmental program data, geospatial information, metadata, and other systems of data registries into one integrated enterprise repository that is fully accessible.
 - *Environmental Data Registries:* Addresses EPA data management problems by establishing the tools necessary for data registration, standardization, and sharing.
 - *CDX Portal:* Provides continued support for the CDX portal as the single electronic point of entry for many environmental data submissions to the Agency; thereby reducing and simplifying EPA's vast data collection operations.
- (+\$5,900,000) EPA will actively participate in several of the Administration's electronic government (e-gov) initiatives, building on efforts started in 2002. E-gov is a major component of the President's Management Agenda and will spur government-wide service improvements and efficiencies. Some of the initiatives EPA will work on in FY 2004 include:
 - *Online rule-making or e-rulemaking,* which will create a centralized docket system for all Federal agencies and will allow the public to access and search all publicly available regulatory material;
 - *Electronic records management,* a project that will effectively manage and facilitate access to Agency information in order to support and accelerate decision-making, ensure accountability, and provide the tools that agencies will need to manage their records in electronic form;
 - *Geospatial one-stop,* a program that will coordinate and enhance the use of geospatial information, tools, and technologies so that the Agency, Regions, and industry can better make decisions about protecting and improving the environment and public health; and,
 - *e-Authentication,* which will establish interoperable electronic authentication solutions to match levels of risks and business needs across government agencies.
- (-\$6,874,600) Represents elimination of the Systems Modernization Fund (SMF). While the SMF fulfilled an urgent need in the past, EPA is not well-served by managing systems development and modernization outside the EPA's CPIC review and budget process.

- (+\$1,000,000) To assess the U.S. environmental service delivery system, including the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS).
- (-\$2,144,600, -10 FTE) Resources for public access previously in Goal 7 have been consolidated with the rest of OECA's data management program in Goal 9. OECA will continue to support data integration projects, such as Integrated Data for Enforcement Analysis (IDEA) that makes integrated compliance data from several media-specific databases available nationally in an interactive online mode. In addition, OECA will continue to contribute to the Agency-wide Access to Interpretive Documents project, intended to make all significant Agency guidance, policy statements and site-specific interpretations of the regulated entities' environmental management practices electronically accessible to the Regions, states, industry and the public.
- (-\$1,341,300, -11.9 FTE) Resources will be shifted from Goal 7, Objective 1 to streamline funding mechanisms and consolidate Community Based Environmental Protection (CBEP) programs with similar activities in Goal 3 and Goal 4.

Superfund

- (-\$380,000) Represents elimination of the SMF. While the SMF fulfilled an urgent need in the past, EPA is not well-served by managing systems development and modernization outside the EPA's CPIC review and budget process.
- (-\$485,500, -0.7 FTE) Resources for public access previously in Goal 7 have been consolidated with the rest of OECA's data management program under this objective. OECA will continue to support data integration projects, such as Integrated Data for Enforcement Analysis (IDEA) that makes integrated compliance data from several media-specific databases available nationally in an interactive online mode. In addition, OECA will continue to contribute to the Agency-wide Enhanced Public Access Project, intended to make all significant Agency guidance, policy statements and site-specific interpretations of the regulated entities' environmental management practices electronically accessible to the Regions, states, industry and the public. The Enforcement and Compliance History On-Line (ECHO) web site will make some enforcement and compliance data available to the public through the internet.

GOAL: QUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE: INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION.

Annual Performance Goals and Measures

Process and Disseminate TRI Information- OEI

In 2004	The increased use of the Toxic Release Inventory Made Easy (TRI-ME) will result in a total burden reduction of 5% for Reporting Year 2003 from Reporting Year 2002 levels.
In 2003	Expanded information on releases and waste management of lead and lead compounds will be reported by 8,000 facilities in TRI in Reporting Year 2001 and increased usage of TRI-ME will result in total burden reduction of 5% for Reporting Year 2002.

In 2002 EPA reduced reporting burden, improved data quality, lowered program costs, and speeded data publication by increasing the amount of TRI electronic reporting from 70% to 92%.

Performance Measures:	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	
Total electronic reporting of all chemical submissions processed. (Includes diskette submissions created by ATRS, TRI-ME, and other reporting software programs, as well as web-based submissions.)	92			Percent
Facilities reporting releases and waste management of lead and lead compounds.		8000		Facilities
Percentage of TRI chemical forms submitted over the Internet using TRI-ME and the Central Data Exchange.		25	50	Percent

Baseline: In FY 2001, TRI electronic reporting was 70%.

Information Exchange Network

In 2004 Improve the quality, comparability, and availability of environmental data for sound environmental decision-making through the Central Data Exchange (CDX).

In 2003 Decision makers have access to the environmental data that EPA collects and manages to make sound environmental decisions while minimizing the reporting burden on data providers.

In 2002 The Central Data Exchange (CDX), a key component of the environmental information exchange network, became fully operational and 45 states are using it to send data to EPA; thereby improving data consistency with participating states.

Performance Measures:	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	
States using the Central Data Exchange (CDX) to send data to EPA.	45	46		States
In preparation for increasing the exchange of information through CDX, implement four data standards in 13 major systems and develop four additional standards in 2003.		8		Data Standards
Number of private sector and local government entities, such as water authorities, will use CDX to exchange environmental data with EPA.			2000	Entities
CDX offers online data exchange for all major national systems by the end of FY 2004.			13	Systems
Number of states using CDX as the means by which they routinely exchange environmental data with two or more EPA media programs or Regions.			46	States

Baseline: The Central Data Exchange program began in FY 2001.

Verification and Validation of Performance Measures

FY 2004 Performance Measures:

- **Central Data Exchange (CDX) offers online data exchange for all 13 major national systems by the end of FY 2004.**
- **The number of states using CDX as the means by which they routinely exchange environmental data with two or more EPA media programs or regions.**
- **The number of private sector and local government entities, such as water authorities, will use CDX to exchange environmental data with EPA.**

Performance Database: CDX Customer Registration Subsystem.

Data Source: Data are provided by state CDX users.

Methods, Assumptions, and Suitability: All CDX users must register before they can begin reporting to the system. The records of registration provide an up-to-date, accurate count of users. Users identify themselves with several descriptors.

QA/QC Procedures: QA/QC is performed in accordance with a CDX Quality Assurance Plan. Specifically, data are reviewed for authenticity and integrity. Automated edit checking routines are performed in accordance with program specifications and CDX quality assurance guidance.

Data Quality Reviews: CDX successfully completed independent security risk assessment in the summer 2001. In addition, routine audits of CDX data collection procedures and customer service operations are provided weekly to CDX management and staff for review. Included in these reports are performance measures such as the number of CDX new users, number of submissions to CDX, number of help desk calls, number of calls resolved, ranking of errors/problems, and actions taken. These reports are reviewed and actions discussed at weekly project meetings.

Data Limitations: The CDX system collects, reports, and tracks performance measures on data quality and customer service. While its automated routines are sufficient to screen systemic problems/issues, a more detailed assessment of data errors/problems generally requires a secondary level of analysis that takes time and human resources.

Error Estimate: CDX incorporates a number of features to reduce errors, such as pre-populating data whenever possible, edit checks, etc. The possibility of an error in the number of states registered for CDX, e.g., double-counting of some sort, is extremely remote (far less than 1%).

New/Improved Performance Data or Systems: CDX coalesces the registration/submission requirements of many different state-to-EPA data exchanges into a single web-based system. The system allows for a more consistent and comprehensive management and performance tracking of many state customers. The creation of a centralized registration system, coupled with the use of web forms and web-based approaches to submitting the data, invite opportunities to introduce automated quality assurance procedures for the system and reduce human error.

References: CDX website (www.epa.gov/cdx).

FY 2004 Performance Measure: **Percentage of Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) chemical forms submitted over the internet using TRI-Made Easy and the Central Data Exchange.**

Performance Database: TRI System (TRIS)

Data Source: Facility submissions of TRI data to EPA.

Methods, Assumptions, and Suitability: As part of the regular process of opening the mail at the TRI Reporting Center, submissions are immediately classified as paper or floppy disk. This information is then entered into TRIS. The identification of an electronic submission via CDX is done automatically by the software.

QA/QC Procedures: After the mail room determines whether a submission is on paper or floppy disk, staff review the determination during the normal process of entering and tracking submissions.

Data Quality Reviews : No formal data quality reviews have been conducted.

Data Limitations : Occasionally some facilities send in their forms in duplicative formats: e.g., paper and floppy disc. Both are entered into TRIS, and TRIS then shows the submission as floppy only.

Error Estimate: The error rate has not been assessed. The quality of the data is believed to be high.

New/Improved Performance Data or Systems : None.

References: www.epa.gov/TRI

Coordination with Other Agencies

EPA works with its state partners under the State/EPA Information Management Workgroup and the National Steering Board. This workgroup has created action teams to jointly develop key information projects. Action teams consist of EPA, state, and tribal members. They are structured to result in consensus solutions to information management issues which affect states, tribes, and EPA, such as the development and use of environmental data standards, and implementation of new technologies for collecting and reporting information.

EPA also participates in multiple workgroups with other Federal agencies including the United States Geological Survey, Federal Geographic Data Committee, and Chief Information Officer Council. The Agency is actively involved with several agencies in developing government-wide e-government reforms, and continues to participate with the Office of Homeland Security and national security agencies on homeland security. These multi-agency workgroups are designed to ensure consistent implementation of standards and technologies across Federal agencies in order to support efficient data sharing.

The TRI program coordinates with other Federal agencies, particularly those that are required to report to TRI pursuant to Executive Order 13148 (Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management), such as the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense. Other agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service, use TRI data. EPA works with these agencies to facilitate access and use of the data.

The TRI program coordinates with other Federal agencies in performing hazard assessments of TRI chemicals to ensure that consistent data sets are used and, to the extent

possible, that interpretation of data is consistent. In addition, TRI is one of the leading systems of its type in the world. As such, EPA participates in a number of international consortia on TRI-type systems. TRI, along with its Canadian equivalent, comprises the North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. In these arenas, EPA coordinates with the Department of State and other Federal agencies. Finally, the TRI program has substantial interaction with state agencies. States use TRI data for a number of purposes including in geographic information systems.

Statutory Authorities

National Environmental Education Act

Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act

Government Performance and Results Act

Clinger-Cohen Act

Computer Security Act

Privacy Act

Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7601-7671q) and amendments

Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 - 1387) and amendments

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675)

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act section 313 (42 U.S.C. 110001-11050)

Government Paperwork Elimination Act

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S. C. 136-136y)

Pollution Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 13101-13109)

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901-6992k)

Safe Drinking Water Act section 1445 (42 U.S.C. 300f-300j-26)

Toxic Substance Control Act section 14 (15 U.S.C. 2601-2692)

North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation

Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)

Paperwork Reduction Act Amendment of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520)

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Congressional Review Act

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Executive Order 13148, Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management

Enterprise for the Americas Initiative Act (7 U.S.C. 5404)

Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1981

Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)

Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S. C. 136-136y)

Executive Order 12915 - Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on

Environmental Cooperation

Superfund Authorization Reauthorization Act

Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2004 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

Quality Environmental Information

Objective: Provide Access to Tools for Using Environmental Information.

By 2006, EPA will provide access to new analytical or interpretive tools beyond 2000 levels so that the public can more easily and accurately use and interpret environmental information.

Resource Summary (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Provide Access to Tools for Using Environmental Information.	\$49,493.9	\$48,181.3	\$47,071.0	(\$1,110.3)
Environmental Program & Management	\$35,575.2	\$34,707.9	\$30,757.6	(\$3,950.3)
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$3,968.6	\$4,105.9	\$930.8	(\$3,175.1)
Science & Technology	\$9,950.1	\$9,367.5	\$15,382.6	\$6,015.1
Total Workyears	164.8	169.7	163.5	-6.2

Key Program (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Capacity Building	\$0.0	\$162.8	\$0.0	(\$162.8)
Communicating Research Information	\$5,543.7	\$5,569.6	\$11,399.1	\$5,829.5
Congressionally Mandated Projects	\$6,175.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Data Collection	\$125.9	\$125.9	\$0.0	(\$125.9)
Data Standards	\$4,839.9	\$3,695.2	\$4,200.6	\$505.4
Environmental Justice	\$5,064.4	\$4,978.8	\$0.0	(\$4,978.8)

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$2,865.7	\$2,345.8	\$2,606.9	\$261.1
Geospatial	\$860.5	\$279.4	\$10,437.5	\$10,158.1
Homeland Security-Communication and Information	\$253.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Homeland Security-Preparedness, Response and Recovery	\$7.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Information Integration	\$1,440.3	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Information Technology Management	\$7,206.7	\$9,362.1	\$7,761.6	(\$1,600.5)
Legal Services	\$812.2	\$925.0	\$963.0	\$38.0
Management Services and Stewardship	\$918.8	\$799.9	\$1,027.8	\$227.9
Public Access	\$7,252.6	\$9,983.5	\$7,593.1	(\$2,390.4)
Regional Management	\$715.7	\$754.3	\$0.0	(\$754.3)
Reinventing Environmental Information (REI)	\$2,290.9	\$2,277.3	\$0.0	(\$2,277.3)
System Modernization	\$6,265.0	\$5,835.4	\$0.0	(\$5,835.4)
Toxic Release Inventory / Right-to-Know (RtK)	\$877.6	\$1,086.3	\$1,081.4	(\$4.9)

FY 2004 Request

In FY 2004, EPA will implement a comprehensive system of access to environmental information resources. This investment will enable EPA to establish a comprehensive and secure “system of access” to EPA’s data resources that will allow users to easily locate relevant data from internal and external sources and access the tools needed to analyze it based on their own individual level of authorization. Investments in out years will expand the system of access to provide for enhanced public accessibility as appropriate.

EPA will continue to support comprehensive approaches to environmental protection, including supporting information management approaches that integrate and interpret the many data sets and information sources that are used to support environmental decisions. These include the increased availability and accuracy of locational and spatial data and related mapping tools. To further these efforts, the Agency is committed to working in partnership with the United States Geographic Survey (USGS) and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) through the Geospatial One-Stop e-government initiative to implement a national spatial data infrastructure, which will enhance community’s ability to pinpoint the environmental information to specific geographic locations.

EPA will utilize the Facility Registry System (FRS), a central facility identification database, to directly support the Agency's homeland security efforts. It will ensure that the facility identification record is populated with accurate values identifying the location and industrial designation of all facilities regulated under Federal environmental statutes. FRS will identify facilities that are regulated by the Agency. FRS will accurately identify regulated facilities with the proper environmental interest type (i.e., major, minor, etc.) to allow security activities to be prioritized when appropriate. Additionally, this database will allow the Agency and other government departments to design and develop decision making tools and applications focused on homeland security matters which have the need for data focused around places of environmental interest.

In FY 2004, EPA will improve its geospatial infrastructure and expand the scope and availability of "place-based" information. Having access to quality information about conditions at a "place" - whether it is a registered site, a community, or is nationally focused - is critical to effective decision-making. This investment focuses on establishment of a three-pronged effort: an EPA Geography Network that would provide a one-stop shopping capability with searching tools, geographic display, and download/access options available for EPA employees and approved external users; establishment of data standards and creation of new geographic datasets of common interest (land cover, soils, etc.); and development of sophisticated new analytical tools that integrate EPA's own geospatial data resources with important new internal and external data flows (e.g. health data, satellite imagery, land cover analysis) to enhance the scope and quality of information that can be brought directly to the desktop of our decision-makers. In order to minimize duplication of effort and to help ensure consistency across the Federal government, all geospatial efforts will be in concert with the Geospatial One-Stop e-Government initiative.

EPA will provide environmental analysis that responds to the needs of its partners and stakeholders, complementing data access with analysis to support environmental understanding. On a continuing basis, EPA will dialogue with its partners and stakeholders to make sure their needs are fully understood and are being addressed. Users will have choices between accessing data as submitted, using EPA-provided analytical tools to help draw their own conclusions from the data, or using analytical information products that present information derived from the data. The analytical environment will provide capabilities for geospatial analyses to support community-based efforts, visualization to facilitate interpretation of data, and statistical analyses that use reliable software and algorithms to aid in data interpretation.

EPA will promote analytical approaches that integrate data from different sources to provide a more holistic view and understanding of the environment, encouraging informed decision-making. EPA will undertake a best practices series of documents specifying the proper steps for creating information usable for decision making. Insights gained from environmental analysis will support a fuller understanding of environmental outcomes, and remaining challenges. Environmental analysis will support better regulatory decision-making and greater knowledge about the environment.

EPA will also increase the availability and quality of data for its emergency response and core operational business needs through development of a Situation Room - a primary physical

location with an alternative back-up site and a “virtual” analytical tool - set to allow EPA and its partners to respond effectively to emergency incidents and also support business needs (strategic planning, program development, Government Performance and Results Act analysis, resource targeting, etc.).

In FY 2004, EPA’s quality program will continue to develop the Agency-wide policies and procedures for planning, documenting, implementing, and assessing data collection and use in Agency decisions. The quality program will also develop training material on the policies and oversee implementation of EPA organizations’ Quality Systems.

EPA's posted its Agency-specific "Guidelines to Ensure and Maximize the Quality of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency" in October of 2002. These guidelines were drafted in response to Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for FY 2001 directing OMB to issue guidelines that "provide policy and procedural guidance to Federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information, including statistical information, disseminated by Federal agencies." The guidelines, available at www.epa.gov/oei/qualityguidelines, underscore EPA's commitment to disseminate high quality information and describe new mechanisms that enable affected persons to seek and obtain corrections by EPA when disseminated information, in their opinion, does not comply with EPA's or OMB's guidelines.

The Agency will continue the development of its Environmental Indicators Initiative (EII) in order to establish a set of performance indicators that measure environmental results. Environmental indicators are an important tool for simplifying, analyzing, and communicating information about environmental conditions and human health. EPA is in the process of identifying environmental indicators that will be used to produce a draft State-of-the-Environment Report in FY 2003. EPA is also reviewing these indicators to identify gaps and set long-term priorities for the EII. These indicators will measure the impact of human activities on the environment and the associated health effects on communities and ecosystems.

Research

EPA supports a portfolio of research and regulatory programs to develop and apply environmental health and ecological risk assessment methods, models, and information, ecological toxicity information, and improvements in monitoring, measurement, and data management technologies to protect human health and the environment. Providing all Americans with access to sound environmental information and involving the public in EPA’s work are essential parts of a comprehensive approach to protecting the environment. Access to environmental information enables scientists, risk assessors, government officials, and the public to be involved and to make informed environmental decisions.

An important part of EPA’s effort to provide readily accessible information is the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), an EPA database of Agency consensus health information on environmental contaminants. In FY 2004, the Agency will enhance its IRIS program, which is used extensively by EPA Program Offices and Regions, the states, and the general public when consistent, reliable toxicity information is needed for credible risk

assessments. The Agency's Risk Assessment Forum will continue to promote Agency-wide consensus on difficult and controversial risk assessment issues and ensure that this consensus is incorporated into appropriate Agency risk assessment guidance. Also, additional environmental information is made available through the Evaluation and Interpretation of Suitable Tests Results in AQUIRE (EVISTRA), a database that provides EPA's Program Offices and Regions with ecological toxicity information.

Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)

The human health effects information in IRIS is widely used for risk assessments and other health evaluations at all levels of government, as well as in the public and private sectors. In order to conduct sound risk assessments, particularly as more risk-based decision-making takes place at the state and local levels, it is essential to provide access to current and credible health effects information. Enhancements to IRIS will ensure quality, accuracy, credibility, and applicability of IRIS data. Additionally, all assessments undergo external scientific peer review.

EPA estimates that the optimal level of production would be approximately 50 new or updated chemical assessments per year, updating each chemical at least once every 10 years. In pursuit of this objective, in FY 2004, the Agency will augment its investment in IRIS with the goal of increasing the number of assessments completed on an annual basis. The Agency will continue to:

- produce, update, and maintain health assessments in IRIS;
- ensure appropriate external peer review of IRIS summaries and support documents;
- facilitate Agency consensus and resolve issues in a timely manner;
- maintain a widely-accessible Internet version of IRIS, including explanatory materials, available at the local level to support community-based environmental protection; and
- provide active outreach and communication with current and potential new users.

Risk Assessment Forum

The Agency's Risk Assessment Forum (RAF) will continue to develop a number of products to assist risk assessors, such as risk assessment guidelines, technical panel reports on special risk assessment issues, and peer consultation and peer review workshops addressing controversial risk assessment issues. In FY 2004, the RAF will focus on cumulative risk assessment, ecological risk assessment, risk assessments for children, guidance on the assessment of metals and will develop various issue papers and workshop reports. The RAF will also continue to develop distance learning modules for EPA's risk assessment guidelines.

EVISTRA

EVISTRA involves the development and maintenance of a high quality database to provide ecological toxicity information to Regions, states and the public. The EVISTRA database contains ecological toxicity information used to develop water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life, terrestrial plants, and terrestrial wildlife. The database will make available evaluated and interpreted results of selected aquatic toxicity tests. EVISTRA became available on the Internet in FY 2001 with the initial release of critically evaluated chemical effects data to support risk assessments and development of criteria for regulators for the protection of aquatic life, wildlife and terrestrial plants. In FY 2004, the Agency will continue to develop and maintain the EVISTRA database.

FY 2004 Change from FY 2003 Request

EPM

- \$ (+\$2,000,000) Supports two critical elements of the Agency's public access program:
 - \$ *Public Access Base Support*: Provides additional funding to increase public access funds shortfalls in base programs.
 - \$ *Establish Critical Environmental Indicators for Decision Makers*: This project will provide decision-makers with a proto-type integrated system to support integrated access to resource data and information, performance measures, and environmental indicators to allow them to assess the relationship between planned and actual results and manage their programs for improved results.
- (-\$4,735,400, -13.0 FTE) Represents elimination of the Systems Modernization Fund (SMF). While the SMF fulfilled an urgent need in the past, EPA is not well-served by managing systems development and modernization outside the EPA's CPIC review and budget process.
- \$ (+\$2,713,500 and +2.0 FTE) Provides support to enable the Agency to create a robust, reliable Facility Registry System, continue the error correction process in order to ensure that data in EPA systems is reliable and accurate for homeland security purposes, and enhance the availability of place-based environmental information for decision makers.
- \$ (-\$4,241,600, -16 FTE) The Agency's environmental justice program has been moved from Goal 7 to Goal 9.

Superfund

- (-\$1,100,000) Represents elimination of the Systems Modernization Fund (SMF). While the SMF fulfilled an urgent need in the past, EPA is not well-served by managing systems development and modernization outside the EPA's CPIC review and budget process.

- (-\$900,000) The Agency's environmental justice program has been moved from Goal 7 to Goal 9. This does not reflect a decrease to the program.

S&T

Research

- (+\$4,923,180, and 19.2 FTE) This increase reflects the Agency's commitment to enhance the IRIS program and substantially increase the number of IRIS assessments completed/updated on an annual basis. The workyears include 7.0 new postdoctoral scientists and engineers and 12.2 redirected workyears from research on pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs), endocrine disruptor compounds (EDCs), and lower priority drinking water research on DBPs.

There are additional increases for payroll, cost of living, and enrichment for new and existing FTE.

GOAL: QUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE: PROVIDE ACCESS TO TOOLS FOR USING ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION.

Annual Performance Goals and Measures

Data Quality

In 2004	EPA increasingly uses environmental indicators to inform the public and manage for results.				
In 2003	The public will have access to a wide range of Federal, state, and local information about local environmental conditions and features in an area of their choice.				
In 2002	100% of the publicly available facility data from EPA's national systems accessible on the EPA Website is part of the Integrated Error Correction Process; thereby reducing data error.				
Performance Measures:	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request		
Publicly available facility data from EPA's national systems, accessible on the EPA Website, will be part of the Integrated Error Correction Process.	100				Percent
Window-to-My Environment is nationally deployed and provides citizens across the country with Federal, state, and local environmental information specific to an area of their choice.		Nationally			Deployed
Establish the baseline for the suite of indicators that are used by EPA's programs and partners in the Agency's strategic planning and performance measurement process.				1	Report
Baseline:	An effort to develop a State of the Environment report based on environmental indicators was initiated in FY 2002.				

Research

Risk Assessment

- In 2005 Through FY2005 initiate or submit to external review 38 human health assessments and complete 12 human health assessments through the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). This information will improve EPA's and other decision makers' ability to protect the public from harmful chemical exposure

Performance Measures:	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request		
Complete 4 human health assessments and publish their results on the IRIS website			4	assessments	
Initiate or submit to external peer review human health assessments of 30 high priority chemicals.			30	assessments	

Baseline: The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) is an EPA database containing Agency consensus scientific positions on potential adverse human health effects that may result from exposure to chemical substances found in the environment. IRIS currently provides information on health effects associated with chronic exposure to over 500 specific chemical substances. IRIS contains chemical-specific summaries of qualitative and quantitative health information in support of the first two steps of the risk assessment process, i.e., hazard identification and dose-response evaluation. Combined with specific situational exposure assessment information, the information in IRIS may be used as a source in evaluating potential public health risks from environmental contaminants. IRIS is widely used in risk assessments for EPA regulatory programs and site-specific decision making. Updating IRIS with new scientific information is critical to maintaining information quality and providing decision makers with a credible source of health effects information. Risk assessment work in FY 2004 will provide EPA and other decision makers with needed updates to IRIS so they can make informed decisions on how to best protect the public from harmful chemical exposure.

Verification and Validation of Performance Measures

FY 2004 Performance Measure: Establish the baseline for the suite of indicators that are used by EPA's programs and partners in the Agency's strategic planning and performance measurement process.

Performance Database: Repository of indicators (e.g., baseline) compiled during the drafting and finalization of the "State of the Environment Report." To develop the repository, EPA will review indicators that are currently used in the Agency's strategic planning and performance measurement process.

Data Source: Agency planning documents (e.g., EPA's Strategic Plan, Annual Performance Plan, Annual Performance Report, Annual Operating Plan, and National Environmental Performance Partnership Agreements).

Methods, Assumptions and Suitability: The Office of Environmental Information (OEI), the Office of Research and Development (ORD) and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) will review the planning documents and establish a baseline in consultation with key Agency steering committees.

QA/QC Procedures: As the baseline is established, QA/QC protocols also will be developed to ensure that the data supporting the indicators are accurate and complete.

Data Quality Reviews : To be determined and conducted once a baseline has been established.

Data Limitations : The challenge is to develop suitable indicators with sufficient data of known quality.

Error Estimate: To be determined.

New/Improved Performance Data or Systems : The baseline indicators and supporting data for EPA's "State of the Environment Report" are in development.

References: EPA's "State of the Environment Report" and "Technical Support Document" (EPA pub. no. 260-R-02-006) and all EPA planning and performance measurement documents.

FY 2004 Performance Measure: Complete 4 human health assessments and publish their results on the IRIS website.

Performance Database: Program output; no internal tracking system

Data Source: N/A

Methods, Assumptions and Suitability: N/A

QA/QC Procedures: N/A

Data Quality Reviews : Assessments

Data Limitations : N/A

Error Estimate: N/A

New/Improved Data or Systems : N/A

References: N/A

FY 2004 Performance Measure: Initiate or submit to external peer review human health assessments of 30 high priority chemicals.

Performance Database: Program output; no internal tracking system

Data Source: N/A

Methods, Assumptions and Suitability: N/A

QA/QC Procedures: N/A

Data Quality Reviews : Assessments

Data Limitations : N/A

Error Estimate: N/A

New/Improved Data or Systems : N/A

References: N/A

Coordination with Other Agencies

In FY 2004, EPA will continue to coordinate with key Federal data sharing partners including the USGS, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as state and local data sharing partners in public access information initiatives such as Window-to-My-Environment and Enviromapper. With respect to community-based environmental programs, EPA coordinates with state, tribal, and local agencies, and with non-governmental organizations, to design and implement specific projects.

The nature and degree of EPA's interaction with other entities varies widely, depending on the nature of the project and the location(s) in which it is implemented. EPA is working closely with the FGDC and the USGS through the Geospatial One-Stop e-government initiative to develop and implement the infrastructure for national spatial data. For EII, EPA is coordinating its program with other state and Federal organizations, including the Council for Environmental Quality and the Environmental Council of States, to insure that the appropriate context is represented for observed environmental and human health conditions.

Research

In developing health assessments for the IRIS database, EPA interacts frequently with other Federal agencies involved in health assessments and research. In the initial drafting, documents such as "Toxicological Profiles" produced by Health and Human Services/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (HHS/ATSDR) are routinely consulted for information. EPA also consults and utilizes assessments and research findings from the Food and Drug Administration, National Toxicology Program, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the National Library of Medicine. Federal agencies are also consulted for peer review of draft IRIS assessments. Finally, the IRIS website has electronic links to other agencies' websites for the education and convenience of the IRIS user.

Statutory Authorities

Pollution Prevent Act

Federal Fungicide, Insecticide and Rodenticide Act

Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

Safe Drinking Water Act

Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act

Government Performance and Results Act

Paperwork Reduction Act

Freedom of Information Act

Computer Security Act

Privacy Act

Electronic Freedom of Information Act

Government Paperwork Elimination Act

National Environmental Education Act

Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act

Government Performance and Results Act

Clinger-Cohen Act

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7601-7671q) and amendments

Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 - 1387) and amendments

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675)

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act section 313 (42 U.S.C. 110001-11050)

Federal Advisory Committee Act

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901-6992k)

Safe Drinking Water Act section 1445 (42 U.S.C. 300f-300j-26)

Toxic Substance Control Act section 14 (15 U.S.C. 2601-2692)

North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Congressional Review Act

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Executive Order 12866

Plain Language Executive Order Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

Pollution Prevention Act

Federal Fungicide, Insecticide and Rodenticide Act

Research

Clean Air Act (CAA) and amendments

Clean Water Act (CWA) and amendments

Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Act (ERDDA) of 1981

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and amendments

Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA)

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

Superfund Authorization Reauthorization Act (SARA)

Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2004 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

Quality Environmental Information

Objective: Improve Agency Information Infrastructure and Security.

Through 2006, EPA will continue to improve the reliability, capability, and security of EPA's information infrastructure.

Resource Summary (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Improve Agency Information Infrastructure and Security.	\$26,921.6	\$30,528.0	\$63,047.8	\$32,519.8
Environmental Program & Management	\$21,124.9	\$25,564.5	\$54,922.2	\$29,357.7
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$3,911.3	\$4,963.5	\$8,125.6	\$3,162.1
Science & Technology	\$1,885.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Total Workyears	184.9	185.3	197.8	12.5

Key Program (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Data Collection	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$600.0	\$600.0
Data Standards	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$11,647.3	\$11,647.3
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$1,648.9	\$1,558.5	\$2,201.6	\$643.1
Geospatial	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$6,035.0	\$6,035.0
Homeland Security-Communication and Information	\$1,928.4	\$0.0	\$1,106.8	\$1,106.8
Information Integration	\$0.0	\$10,428.5	\$0.0	(\$10,428.5)
Information Technology	\$17,441.8	\$15,720.2	\$38,690.9	\$22,970.7

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Req. v. FY 2003 Pres Bud
Management				
Legal Services	\$188.3	\$202.3	\$210.7	\$8.4
Management Services and Stewardship	\$368.1	\$254.2	\$542.0	\$287.8
Public Access	\$375.2	\$420.7	\$2,013.5	\$1,592.8
Reinventing Environmental Information (REI)	\$1,266.1	\$1,343.6	\$0.0	(\$1,343.6)
System Modernization	\$597.3	\$600.0	\$0.0	(\$600.0)

FY 2004 Request

EPA faces many of the same information technology (IT) challenges as other organizations – private or public. However, IT plays a particularly significant role in EPA due to the Agency's reliance on scientific and analytical data and its need for close collaboration with external partners, and the Agency's responsibilities for response and recovery under Homeland Security. EPA is adapting to the explosion of emerging technologies and the information management revolution that is enabling organizations to become extremely productive, more effective and timely in decision making, and service oriented. For example, the Administration has a vision of managing for results and increasing the use of scientifically sound indicators. However, this requires the widespread availability of graphically displayed data, derived from scientific models that can only be run in high performance computing environments. The challenge is to provide secure, reliable, and timely access to the data and tools for external partners (e.g. states), other Federal partners, EPA senior managers, and staff across the Agency to make quality environmental decisions in all situations. In order to meet these challenges, EPA proposes investment in five critical areas of work. They are:

- Address critical technology gaps affecting EPA's ability to deliver information access consistently where interfacing with external partners is an essential dimension of operations.
- Deliver a high speed network and IT Infrastructure that has the capacity to handle the massive amounts of data needed to perform indicators analysis, situation planning, and to collaborate with other parties outside EPA.
- Improve management and reduce cost of IT investments to modernize Agency technology and information infrastructure through adoption of sound investment strategies and architecture planning, consistent with the President's Management Agenda (PMA) and e-Gov concepts.

- Implement cyber-security for environmental information to assess and mitigate highest priority risks, address critical homeland security requirements, and ensure reliable, secure information access for all EPA personnel, emergency responders (EPA and local) and all external partners.
- Enhance EPA's website management procedures and processes to keep pace with technological advances (with millions of visitors every year, the EPA website has become the focal point of the Agency's communication and outreach on its programs, guidance, and initiatives) and with homeland defense concerns on disclosure of certain information.

EPA has a central infrastructure that provides the basic foundation for developing and managing all EPA information systems and information products. The central infrastructure comprises the Agency's hardware, software, and telecommunications assets, as well as the technical services to support the infrastructure assets. These services range from mainframe and high performance computing, to desktop computing support, local area network operations, internet services, and application development consulting. EPA continues to do benchmarking of its services against other private and public sector entities to ensure cost effectiveness.

Implementing the Presidents Management Agenda and E-Gov initiatives

EPA is fully committed to the concepts that underlie the PMA and e-Gov initiatives and will work to ensure their harmonized implementation. The planned IT investments will support the PMA and e-Gov in the following ways:

Strategic Management of Human Capital

Upgrades to Agency-wide technology provide capacity and tools to support on-line skill building options for the workforce which can not be delivered consistently with the current outmoded infrastructure. This investment enables the Agency to sustain workforce development in the most cost effective manner on a strategic basis to accommodate new requirements as they emerge. IT investments that support this PMA topic, such as the Agency's HR Pro project, will be reviewed and implemented in concert with government-wide e-Gov efforts to help minimize duplication and maximize cost effectiveness.

Competitive Sourcing

A key factor of EPA's strategic investment is outsourcing of infrastructure operational support using performance-based approaches, focused on results with a goal of achieving expanded and higher quality service for resources expended.

Improved Financial Performance

Enhanced support and tools for Agency-wide investment management will provide executives with the fully integrated view of how IT delivers benefits to the Agency's mission. The Agency will be able to build a strong investment portfolio that continuously strengthens the

value of IT investment not only for the Agency, but from a government-wide perspective as well. Also, IT investments that support this PMA topic, such as the Agency's legacy and replacement financial systems projects, will be reviewed and implemented in concert with government-wide e-Gov efforts to help minimize duplication and maximize cost effectiveness.

Expanded Electronic Government

Sharing information with EPA partners in a secure manner is a fundamental aspect of EPA's e-Gov strategy. The infrastructure to deliver secure external partner access will enable more timely and complete exchange of information both to and from EPA. The positive results from these efforts will improve Agency services to state and tribal partners, the regulated community, and other Federal agencies. EPA will continue to integrate e-government efforts across the Agency and will maintain active participation in applicable government-wide e-Gov initiatives.

Budget and Performance Integration

Managers require timely and complete information to monitor accomplishments and make decisions about program actions which will maximize environmental benefit for available resources. Implementing consistent, reliable infrastructure Agency-wide on a sustained basis will enable all levels of the EPA workforce to create, share, and use information in effective ways. This investment also supports EPA's implementation of new tools that will link capital investment planning with financial performance to monitor and validate earned-value results of IT investments.

Investment Benefits

Address critical technology gaps affecting EPA's ability to deliver information access consistently at priority sites.

Current EPA network infrastructure does not effectively support information access for critical functions in a uniform manner across the Agency. The most critical network infrastructure gaps are located in the regions and related non-Headquarters sites where interfaces with external partners and information access are primary dimensions of operations. Implementing the upgrades to deliver reliable, effective capacity to support Agency and external partner information access is a \$30,000,000 challenge, and the regions constitute approximately \$25,000,000 of that total.

EPA proposes to address the network problem in a strategic manner starting in FY 2004 with a combination of a new Agency base investment of \$6,000,000 that will continue in the outyears and this one-time investment of \$10,000,000 to address highest priority regional problem areas. This will close the major infrastructure gaps at the most vulnerable locations, build a stable foundation for state partnerships and e-Gov work, and enable subsequent annual network upgrades and maintenance at base levels in the outyears.

EPA's basic wiring and infrastructure in its buildings and metropolitan campuses has not kept pace with the explosion of data, high performance computing needs, geographically referenced data, or scientific modeling and visualization systems that are critical to the Administration's vision of increased use of indicators and environmental results-oriented management. EPA's laboratories and many field sites often have local wiring infrastructures that are very low in capacity, unreliable, and are increasingly an impediment to productivity and information sharing. Upgrading EPA's network infrastructure will ensure greater staff productivity, more reliable communications, enhanced cyber-security, standardization of equipment, and a decrease the cost of network support. In addition, the infrastructure improvements will enable EPA to: fully support the e-Gov process; implement emerging technologies that allow Agency employees to work more productively; and, increase the capacity to exchange large files with Agency stakeholders. The enhancements will also improve EPA personnel's access to the types of on-line data and programs that create high network demand (e.g., place-based information services). Improved access to on-line data and programs will benefit external partners such as environmental scientists.

Network infrastructure upgrades will be managed across the Agency on an incremental basis under a five-year replacement cycle. This will ensure that the Agency is able to adopt new technology as it emerges. Upgrades will be managed under the Agency's working capital fund desktop service, with appropriated funds allocated to programs to pay their proportional share of the desktop charge. This will provide a permanent solution for the Agency's local infrastructure costs and eliminate the swings in investments and crisis situations that have occurred in recent years.

Manage Modernization of Agency Technology and Information Infrastructure at the Lowest Cost

The Clinger-Cohen Act directs the Administrator, the Chief Information Officer (CIO), and Agency executives to ensure cost-effective management of the Agency's IT portfolio. Consistent with the EPA Inspector General's recommendations and OMB requirements, EPA must implement substantial improvements in its enterprise architecture and capital planning and investment control (CPIC) processes to meet those statutory mandates. EPA proposes to increase the staff and resources available to these processes to provide the strength and depth necessary to ensure EPA's infrastructure planning process is guided by the PMA and e-Gov concepts (e.g., collaboration, cross-Agency development, etc.) and to ensure that the enterprise architecture and CPIC processes are fully integrated and institutionalized across all EPA programs. As these processes are fully implemented, they will allow EPA to achieve greater productivity from its enterprise IT investments.

This investment will also allow EPA executives and program personnel to manage their IT resources and investments in accordance with the PMA. It will help EPA executives and program managers make sound IT investments that promote Agency mission priorities by: supporting decision-making that maximizes the benefit of EPA's enterprise portfolio of IT investments; demonstrating true earned-value benefits including increased productivity and net cost savings through investments; and enabling the Agency to fulfill human capital development requirements for IT management functions (a priority under both the Clinger-Cohen Act and the PMA).

Implement cyber-security for environmental information to assess and mitigate highest priority risks, address critical homeland security requirements, and ensure reliable, secure information access for all EPA personnel and external partners

This investment allows EPA to expand and update the highest priority components of the Agency's cyber-security program in light of the newest types of threats. Effective, risk-based cyber-security protection is an integral component of EPA's information strategy. EPA has a role in homeland defense areas such as the water infrastructure vulnerability assessment and response to chemical incidents, as well as protecting vital data (e.g., worst case scenarios and confidential business index data). The sensitivity of these programs and the information they create and use require EPA to continuously improve cyber-security risk mitigation infrastructure and monitoring. The expansion of EPA's external partner connections and the volume of data exchanged with them requires a corresponding increase to the validation and verification of cyber-security measures protecting those exchanges.

The Agency will achieve the goal of strengthening security plans and organizational security programs through additional reviews and oversight on an Agency-wide scale. New procedures, tools, and training will increase workforce awareness of, and compliance with, individual responsibilities for protecting information assets. Special programs will target management leadership to improve cyber-security management practices. In addition, EPA will continue its aggressive efforts to assess and respond to evolving threats and integrate information security into its day-to-day business operations. Each of these steps is critical to actually achieving the cyber-security necessary to meet the new challenges of homeland defense and increased e-Gov collaboration across agencies.

Enhance EPA's Website management to ensure operation consistent with sound management of sensitive data

With millions of visitors every year, the EPA website has become the focal point of the Agency's communication and outreach on its programs, guidance, and initiatives. Just as the visibility and utility of the site has risen, so has its technical complexity and the complexity of governing the conduct of the site to assure appropriate content, secure delivery, timely response, and an effective user experience. EPA's Web site management procedures and processes must be enhanced to keep pace with this complexity. Technological advances are available to achieve this enhancement, and this proposed investment provides support for three critical aspects of the Agency's web site governance program: Web site content management software (CMS); a search engine replacement; and support for a new topical organization of the Web site. CMS provides a consistent enterprise-wide framework for content management and update processes. It will ensure accountability for information posted on the Web site, improve metadata creation and management, facilitate site archiving, and enforce adherence to Agency Web templates. The Agency's current search engine is nearing the end of its life-cycle and is no longer supported by its vendor. It also utilizes technology that has been superceded, and consequently its search results are considered poor by today's standards. The new engine will greatly improve Agency the user's ability to discover information. Automated text classification software will enable and enhance the Agency's current endeavor to reorganize its Web site according to a topical information architecture. The software is designed to facilitate automatic categorization/dynamic

generation of Web site views by geography, audience, regulatory program, specific chemical, etc.

FY 2004 Change from FY 2003 Request

EPM

\$ (+\$100,000) Provides additional funding to support increase in Working Capital Fund shortfalls in EPA's Regions.

\$ (+\$30,623,800/+18.0 FTE) This investment provides funding for Agency-wide fundamental building blocks of EPA's technology infrastructure at all sites (Headquarters, Regional offices, computing centers, labs, and back-up sites). Specific investments include the following:

Infrastructure Gaps at Critical Sites - Address highest priority technology infrastructure problems at EPA regional locations which support critical field personnel and external partner interfaces.

High Speed and Capacity Network - Agency program needs and evolving IT are generating rapidly increasing demands on network infrastructure. EPA's existing infrastructure (wiring, bandwidth, and switching capacity) must be adapted per the Requirements identified by program offices under the enterprise architecture program to ensure that the network can support the level of demand created by new information services when the services are ready for operations.

Manage Modernization of Agency Technology at lowest Cost - EPA needs thorough and tightly integrated management of its IT investment, architecture, training, and policy to ensure that available IT resources address those projects and activities which will provide the greatest value for the Agency's needs. Full implementation of Clinger-Cohen mandates under the direction of the CIO will deliver the needed results.

Web Governance - With millions of visitors every year, the EPA website has become the focal point of the Agency's communication and outreach on its programs, guidance, and initiatives. EPA's website management procedures and processes must be enhanced to keep pace with technological advances.

- (+\$1,106,800 and +1.0 FTE) Provides support to allow first responders, on-scene coordinators, and investigators access to EPA national information (secure extranet) to support their emergency response efforts. Resources will also be devoted to strengthening EPA's security program and cyber-security practices.
- (-\$600,000) Represents elimination of the Systems Modernization Fund (SMF). While the SMF fulfilled an urgent need in the past, EPA is not well-served by managing systems development and modernization outside the EPA's CPIC review and budget process.

GOAL: QUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE AGENCY INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND SECURITY.

Annual Performance Goals and Measures

Information Security

In 2004 OMB reports that all EPA information systems meet/exceed established standards for security.

In 2003 OMB reports that all EPA information systems meet/exceed established standards for security.

In 2002 Completed risk assessments on the Agency's critical infrastructure systems (12), critical financial systems (13), and mission critical environmental systems (5).

Performance Measures:	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	
Critical infrastructure systems risk assessment findings will be formally documented and transmitted to systems owners and managers in a formal Risk Assessment document.	12			Systems
Critical financial systems risk assessment findings will be formally documented and transmitted to systems owners and managers in a formal Risk Assessment document.	13			Systems
Mission critical environmental systems risk assessment findings will be formally documented and transmitted to systems owners and managers in a formal Risk Assessment document.	5			Systems
Percent compliance with 13 criteria used by OMB to assess Agency security programs reported annually to OMB under the Government Information Security Regulatory Act.		75	75	Percent
Percent of intrusion detection monitoring sensors installed and operational.		75	75	Percent

Baseline: In FY 2002, the Agency started planning an effort to expand and strengthen its information security infrastructure.

Agency-Wide IT Infrastructure

In 2004 Implement Agency-wide information technology upgrades that will incrementally strengthen and expand infrastructure each year to achieve secure, consistent access for mission priorities, and homeland security needs.

Performance Measures:	FY 2002 Actuals	FY 2003 Pres. Bud.	FY 2004 Request	
Annual upgrades to technology infrastructure and enterprise information tools occur on schedule per plan, with critical LAN capacity/capability upgrades managed on a five-year replacement cycle.				1 Report

Baseline: The baseline for this program is zero, as it will just begin in FY 2004.

Verification and Validation of Performance Measures

FY 2004 Performance Measure: Annual upgrades to technology infrastructure and enterprise information tools occur on schedule per plan, with critical local area network capacity/capability upgrades managed on a five-year replacement cycle.

Performance Database: Output measure. During 2004, the Agency will assess options for capturing and reporting on accomplishments in information technology upgrades.

Data Source: The enterprise architecture sequencing plan will contain Agency priorities for annual actions established by senior executive direction. Accomplishments against the plan will be documented through system inventory reports itemizing the successful installation and operations of key components (hardware/ software/application/data store).

Methods, Assumptions and Suitability: Enterprise architecture tools and products (baseline, target and sequencing plan) support executive decision-making for Agency-wide information technology change management. It associates program strategic directions with best technology options and capital planning to achieve cost-effective Agency-wide information technology solutions. Agency enterprise architecture and capital planning will be consistent with Federal models, guidelines and standards, and support explicit linkage of Agency investments with Federal e-government initiatives where applicable. Capital planning is the process used to make IT investments per the Clinger-Cohen Act, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements. The Federal government's annual Capital Planning and Investment Control process (CPIC) involves the preparation of justifications for IT investments that are reviewed/approved by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and the Chief Financial Officer and submitted to OMB as part of the larger budget process. OMB requires all Agencies to have enterprise architectures consistent with the federal enterprise architecture models.

QA/QC Procedures: N/A

Data Quality Reviews: National program managers, the Office of Inspector General (OIG), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review major enterprise architecture tools and products (baseline, target, sequencing plan) before the Agency implements them in final form.

Data Limitations: The enterprise architecture sequencing plan, in particular the technical component describing the annual investments for infrastructure, requires yearly review to ensure consistency with market directions.

Error Estimate: N/A

New/Improved Performance Data or Systems : The Agency is in the process of implementing capital planning and reporting software tools (I-TIPS). It is also creating linkages between the Agency's financial tracking systems and information technology investments to generate information needed for executive review of information technology investment progress. Financial tracking is the means to confirm actual spending against planned levels to identify potential variances.

References: Enterprise architecture products will be made accessible via the EPA internet with the exception of security architecture components, which will be reserved for reference on a need-to-know basis.

FY 2004 Performance Measure: Percent compliance with 13 criteria used by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to assess Agency security programs reported annually to OMB under Government Information Security Regulatory Act.

Performance Database: The Office of Environmental Information (OEI) maintains historical files of OMB's written assessment of EPA's annual security program report.

Data Source: EPA's security staff, located within the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO), track Agency compliance with the OMB criteria.

Methods, Assumptions, and Suitability: N/A

QA/QC Procedures: OEI reviews, interprets, and verifies the basis for OMB's written assessment. Physical tests of Agency systems are conducted using best industry practice testing protocols. Automated monitoring tools test for and audit compliance with IT security standards. The Agency certifies results to OMB, but does not send detailed data from tests because of the sensitive nature of the information; inadvertent release of this information could compromise the Agency's information technology (IT) security infrastructure. EPA's IT planning staff, under the CIO, check for appropriate security planning and procedures as part of the Information Technology Management Reform Act (ITMRA) capital planning and investment process required by federal law.

Data Quality Reviews: Program offices are required to develop security action plans composed of tasks and milestones in a number of security action areas, including OMB's 13 criteria compliance areas. Program offices self-report progress toward these milestones. EPA's security staff reviews the self-reported data and discusses anomalies with the submitting office.

Data Limitations: Resources constrain the security staff's ability to validate all of the self-reported compliance data submitted by program systems' managers.

Error Estimate: N/A

New/Improved Data or Systems: NA

References: N/A

Performance Measure: Percent of intrusion detection monitoring sensors installed and operational.

Performance Database: Output measure. None

Data Source: Contractor task reports, verified by OEI.

Methods, Assumptions, and Suitability: NA

QA/QC Procedures: The Quality Assurance procedures are established in OEI's contractual agreements with IT security contractors responsible for monitoring the intrusion detection sensors. The procedures are a combination of automated and manual processes managed by independent contractors and validated by EPA personnel.

Data Quality Reviews: N/A

Data Limitations: Data reflect the contractor's completion of technical tasks that are easily verified by OEI. Thus, there are thus no serious data limitations.

Error Estimate: N/A

New/Improved Data or Systems: NA

References: N/A

Coordination with Other Agencies

EPA will continue to coordinate with other Federal agencies on IT infrastructure and security issues by participating on the Federal CIO Council. For example, EPA (along with the Department of Labor) recently co-chaired a Federal government committee on security. EPA will continue to participate on the CIO Council committees on security, capital planning, workforce development, interoperability, and e-Government, and will engage with other Federal agencies in ensuring the infrastructure for homeland security. EPA is a leader in many areas, such as E-dockets. EPA has a modern well-supported system that can host other Agencies' docket systems, thereby reducing their costs to develop or deploy such a system. EPA will also continue to coordinate with state agencies on IT infrastructure and security issues through state organizations such as the National Association of State Information Resources Executives. In addition, EPA, along with other Federal agencies, is involved in the OMB led e-government initiatives. As part of this effort, EPA, OMB, the Department of Transportation, and ten other Federal agencies are examining the expansion of EPA's Regulatory Public Access System, a consolidated on-line rule-making docket system providing a single point of access for all Federal rules. EPA is also coordinating efforts with the National Archives and Records Administration on an e-records initiative. This effort is aimed at establishing uniform procedures, requirements, and standards for electronic record keeping of Federal e-Government records.

Statutory Authorities

Federal Advisory Committee Act

Government Information Security Reform Action

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Clean Air Act and amendments

Clean Water Act and amendments

Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1981

Toxic Substance Control Act

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

Food Quality Protection Act

Safe Drinking Water Act and amendments

Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

The Government Performance and Results Act (1993)

Government Management Reform Act (1994)

Clinger-Cohen Act

Paperwork Reduction Act

Freedom of Information Act

Computer Security Act

Privacy Act

Electronic Freedom of Information Act

Pollution Prevention Act