

Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2003 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 inform decision making and 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 2001 Actuals	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Req. v. FY 2002 Ena.
Quality Environmental Information	\$180,067.6	\$199,249.3	\$199,124.0	(\$125.3)
Increase Availability of Quality Health and Environmental Information.	\$80,122.2	\$121,920.2	\$120,414.7	(\$1,505.5)
Provide Access to Tools for Using Environmental Information.	\$83,127.7	\$53,515.0	\$48,181.3	(\$5,333.7)
Improve Agency Information Infrastructure and Security.	\$16,817.7	\$23,814.1	\$30,528.0	\$6,713.9
Total Workyears	674.0	846.1	847.1	1.0

Background and Context

Information about the environment underlies all environmental management decisions. The availability of and access to information as well as the analytical tools needed to understand it are essential for measuring environmental improvements and assessing progress. The more accurate, complete, timely, and accessible are our data and information, the better able we will be to make decisions. This goal recognizes the importance of working with the public, our partners, and stakeholders to collect, manage, and make available the information needed at the national, Regional, state, local, and Tribal levels to make sound decisions leading to a cleaner, healthier environment.

The importance of sound and reliable information technology was demonstrated following the events of September 11, 2001 and has crystallized the need to continually assess and secure our infrastructure to meet emerging security threats as well as emergency response needs.

Providing the American public and environmental decision makers at all levels of government with access to sound environmental information and involving the public in our work are essential parts of a comprehensive approach to protecting the environment.

This goal is premised on the concept that the U.S. public has a right to know about the pollutants in their environment, including land, air and water pollution, as well as potential health effects of the chemicals used in the food they consume. This premise is especially important to minority, low-income, and Native American communities that suffer a disproportionate share of health effects from poor environmental conditions.

Access to environmental information enables the American public and our governmental partners to make informed decisions about their environment. It also leads to creative and sustainable solutions to environmental problems, as well as opportunities for preventing pollution. The Agency believes that the U.S. public has the right to information to improve public policy and environmental decision-making.

Means and Strategy

The purpose of this goal is to provide government decision makers and the American public with information about the environment. Environmental information can better enable the public to understand conditions and make informed decisions about protecting the health and the environment of local communities. It can lead to creative and sustainable solutions to environmental problems and opportunities for pollution prevention. Environmental information of known and documented quality is crucial to sound decision making and to establishing public trust and confidence in those decisions. EPA and its partners will focus on eight activities to accomplish this goal.

First, EPA will continue to increase the availability of health and environmental information by providing citizens with 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 on its mandate 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, our partners, and stakeholders.

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. EPA, through its public and congressional liaison functions, Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) functions, media relations, print and web content review and oversight responsibilities, will implement strategies designed to continually inform and educate all segments of the public about Agency initiatives, policies, regulations, services and environmental information resources, and will develop and monitor feedback mechanisms to learn from them.

Second, EPA will continue to develop the Exchange Network (formally known as the National Environmental Information Exchange Network). The Exchange Network is a comprehensive, integrated information exchange system designed to facilitate information sharing among EPA, the states, other Federal agencies, Tribes, localities, and the regulated community. This will include standardized data formats and definitions, a centralized approach to receiving and distributing information, and improved access to timely and reliable environmental information. The Exchange Network will improve environmental decision making, improve data quality and accuracy, ensure security of sensitive data, avoid data redundancy, and reduce the burden on those who provide and those who access information.

Third, EPA will develop and implement program policies and guidance in several areas including web content, website management, and privacy.

Fourth, the Agency will solicit customer feedback to systematically improve information usability, clarity, accuracy, reliability, and scientific soundness. EPA will develop and implement 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 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 stakeholders. In addition, the Agency is committed to developing analytical and other tools to help users interpret and apply environmental data .

Fifth, 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 all of the 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.

Sixth, EPA will streamline information collection, making it more efficient and cost-effective. The Agency will examine the information reporting burdens we have placed on our partners and on the regulated community and ensure that information collections address specific needs.

Seventh, 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.

Finally, strengthening and securing its information infrastructure is fundamental to increasing the availability, usability, and reliability of environmental information. EPA must remain vigilant in maintaining a strong and secure information infrastructure that directly supports the mission of the Agency and homeland security.

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

Research

Research efforts supporting this goal include the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) and the Risk Assessment Forum (RAF). IRIS is an EPA database of Agency consensus health information on environmental contaminants. The database is used extensively by EPA, the states, and the general public to access consistent, reliable toxicity information needed for credible risk assessments. In FY 2003, the Agency will develop new and updated Agency consensus human health assessments of environmental substances of high priority to EPA and make them publicly available on IRIS. The RAF promotes Agency-wide consensus on difficult and controversial risk assessment issues and ensures that this consensus is incorporated into appropriate Agency risk assessment guidance.

Strategic Objectives and FY 2003 Annual Performance Goals

Increase Availability of Quality Health and Environmental Information

- 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.
- The public will have better information on toxic releases and wastes being managed in their communities. EPA will also work with the owners and operators of facilities to reduce the record-keeping and reporting burdens associated with submitting their TRI forms to EPA by 14%.

Provide Access to Tools for Using Environmental Information

- Ensure that EPA's policies, programs and activities address disproportionately exposed and under-represented population issues so that no segment suffers disproportionately from adverse health and environmental effects.
- 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.

Improve Agency Information Infrastructure and Security

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

Highlights

Recent changes in information technology, combined with a dramatic increase in public demand for information, have fundamentally altered the way the Agency and the states collect, manage, analyze, use, secure, and provide access to environmental information. EPA is working with the states and Tribes to strengthen our 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 thereby allowing users to understand local, state, Regional, and national environmental conditions. These improvements support better-informed environmental decision-making and management based on environmental results.

These improvements will enable citizens to get answers to the questions they have about what EPA is doing to protect the environment and the health 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. The environmental justice (EJ) community will have improved and increased access to the data and information they need to hold facilities’ and local government managers environmentally accountable. 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

national Paperwork Reduction Act and the Government Paperwork Elimination Act burden reduction goals.

The Agency 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. EPA's work will include online rule-making (e-dockets), electronic docket management, and participation in the human resources and financial management improvement projects.

The Agency's environmental justice program will help communities access information to ensure that they do not experience a disproportionate amount of pollution. Since 1994, more than 950 grants have been awarded to community organizations. As a result of these grant awards, community-based organizations (i.e., grassroots groups, churches, and other nonprofit organizations) have expanded citizen involvement and given residents the tools to learn more about exposure to environmental harms and about associated risks and to protect their families and their communities. These small grants have served as the "seed-money" for empowerment of the residents of these communities, allowing them to speak for themselves and make their own decisions. In 2003, the program will continue to assist community-based organizations through the community small grants program.

Key to achieving our objectives will be the further development of the Exchange Network. The Network builds on a strengthened partnership between EPA and the states. It uses an internet-based, multi-media approach to environmental information exchange that is standards-based, highly connected, flexible, and secure. The Exchange Network will provide a wide range of shared environmental information to the states, Tribes, localities, regulated community, EPA, and the public. Additionally, through the information grant program, begun in 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 data to EPA's data systems. In 2003, the CDX infrastructure, a key component of the Exchange Network, will service 35 state and a total of 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 2003, electronic reporting through CDX will be possible for all of the national environmental systems.

In 2003, 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 the Environmental Data Registries. This 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.

Users of EPA's website have a tool for notifying the Agency of potential errors they find in the national environmental data systems. The error correction program is the first step in an internal process 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 will continue to operate in 2003 and will serve as the basis for the data and information quality "complaint resolution process" called for in the Office of Management and Budget's recently-published quality guidelines.

Citizens and the regulated community will have greater online access to information contained in EPA's rule-making dockets. The Regulatory Public Access System will be the internet complement to EPA's combined docket facility, and will be first available in mid-2002 and more fully populated in 2003. This effort is part of the Administration's e-government initiative.

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.

In 2003, the Agency will continue its efforts to promote public access through the Agency's Access to Interpretative 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 (PPA), mandate that EPA annually collect information on listed toxic chemicals from certain industries and make the 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 better protect the environment.

In 2003, 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)." EPA 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 2003, EPA will release data for the first reporting year since the Agency lowered the TRI reporting thresholds for lead and lead compounds in 2001. EPA will also be issuing a rule to transition from using the old industry classification system, the Standard Industrial Code (SIC) system, to the new classification system, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICs) for TRI reporting. As part of its on-going responsibilities under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (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 2003, the Agency will continue to modernize its information systems in cooperation with the states. Modernization efforts will focus on data integration and data quality. These projects will be planned and managed under the Clinger-Cohen Act investment review with oversight by EPA management.

EPA's information technology program will maintain its commitment to strong customer service and strategic investment in new technology to ensure our 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 information technology infrastructure. In 2003, 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'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.

Research

In FY 2003, the Agency will continue to provide technical guidance for conducting risk assessments to improve the scientific basis for decision making. To achieve this goal, the Agency's Risk Assessment Forum will focus in three areas: cumulative risk assessment, ecological risk assessment, and risk assessments for children. Efforts will result in technical guidance on the identification of appropriate age groupings for exposure assessments for children, technical issue papers, and a framework for preparing cumulative risk assessments. EPA will also collect, manage, and present environmental information for the benefit of the Agency and the public in order to enhance the availability and utility of data, information, and tools for decision making. To that end, the Agency will develop and/or update Agency consensus human health assessments for 8-10 environmental substances of high priority to EPA and make them publicly available on Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS).

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 our information programs. Seeking advice and input from the regulated community and the public will ground our 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, we must work with those who provide and use EPA's information to ensure that data are maintained effectively, and protected appropriately.

To be efficient and cost-effective, EPA's information systems and technologic infrastructure must be flexible enough to respond to changes and take advantage of innovations

in technology. To reduce our vulnerabilities and ensure that we can meet current and future information needs, EPA's systems and technology infrastructure must keep pace with advances in available technology.

Our evolving user community will also affect the success of our information efforts. As more states and Tribes develop the ability to integrate their environmental information, we must adjust EPA's systems to ensure that we are able 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 2003 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 2001 Actuals	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Req. v. FY 2002 Ena.
Increase Availability of Quality Health and Environmental Information.	\$80,122.2	\$121,920.2	\$120,414.7	(\$1,505.5)
Environmental Program & Management	\$75,761.5	\$94,690.7	\$93,749.7	(\$941.0)
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$647.6	\$2,229.5	\$1,665.0	(\$564.5)
Science & Technology	\$3,713.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	\$0.0	\$25,000.0	\$25,000.0	\$0.0
Total Workyears	462.1	478.2	492.1	13.9

Key Program (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Req. v. FY 2002 Ena.
Administrative Services	\$307.6	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Community Assistance	\$3,618.0	\$650.2	\$921.8	\$271.6
Congressional Projects	\$1,979.2	\$2,078.6	\$1,991.3	(\$87.3)
Congressional/Legislative Analysis	\$4,357.6	\$4,852.2	\$4,857.8	\$5.6
Congressionally Mandated Projects	\$2,011.4	\$1,100.0	\$0.0	(\$1,100.0)
Correspondence Coordination	\$2,658.6	\$1,200.7	\$1,096.3	(\$104.4)
Data Collection	\$3,614.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Data Management	\$2,463.7	\$2,400.7	\$2,630.1	\$229.4
Data Standards	\$3,753.8	\$500.0	\$2,785.4	\$2,285.4
Direct Public Information and Assistance	\$10,431.0	\$8,612.7	\$8,998.4	\$385.7
Environmental Education Division	\$9,003.4	\$9,160.2	\$0.0	(\$9,160.2)
Executive Support	\$83.6	\$0.0	\$83.6	\$83.6
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$6,903.7	\$7,002.0	\$7,031.5	\$29.5
GLOBE	\$997.8	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Geospatial	\$0.0	\$154.8	\$464.0	\$309.2
Homeland Security	\$0.0	\$600.8	\$473.3	(\$127.5)
Information Exchange Network	\$0.0	\$25,000.0	\$25,000.0	\$0.0
Information Integration	\$3,719.8	\$4,675.8	\$9,728.5	\$5,052.7

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Req. v. FY 2002 Ena.
Information Technology Management	\$3,525.3	\$3,872.9	\$3,000.0	(\$872.9)
Intergovernmental Relations - OA	\$1,263.4	\$1,519.8	\$1,835.4	\$315.6
Legal Services	\$1,730.3	\$1,979.1	\$2,082.7	\$103.6
Management Services and Stewardship	\$365.3	\$1,410.8	\$1,314.9	(\$95.9)
Multi Media Communications	\$0.0	\$821.3	\$870.3	\$49.0
NACEPT Support	\$1,560.6	\$1,803.1	\$1,670.1	(\$133.0)
NAFTA Implementation	\$403.3	\$514.3	\$747.9	\$233.6
National Association Liaison	\$235.5	\$346.0	\$262.5	(\$83.5)
Pesticide Registration	\$196.2	\$570.6	\$221.4	(\$349.2)
Pesticide Reregistration	\$194.9	\$392.2	\$198.1	(\$194.1)
Public Access	\$2,724.5	\$4,857.5	\$5,165.2	\$307.7
Regional Management	\$1,630.6	\$1,262.2	\$1,267.8	\$5.6
Regional Operations and Liaison	\$428.3	\$547.5	\$477.6	(\$69.9)
Regulatory Development	\$4,629.5	\$5,000.5	\$4,817.4	(\$183.1)
Reinventing Environmental Information (REI)	\$0.0	\$5,066.8	\$4,279.1	(\$787.7)
SBREFA	\$571.9	\$686.2	\$608.8	(\$77.4)
Small, Minority, Women-Owned Business Assistance	\$2,048.2	\$2,295.5	\$3,305.0	\$1,009.5
System Modernization	\$7,168.6	\$6,827.7	\$7,254.6	\$426.9
Toxic Release Inventory / Right-to-Know (RtK)	\$14,105.6	\$13,278.0	\$14,206.9	\$928.9
Web Products Quality Control	\$0.0	\$879.5	\$767.0	(\$112.5)

FY 2003 Request

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 122 -million in of October 2001. 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 2002. E-Gov is a major component of the President's Management Agenda and will spur government-wide service improvements and efficiencies. EPA's work will include online rule-making (e-dockets), electronic dockets management, and participation in the human resources and financial management improvement projects.

Key to achieving improved information quality will be further development of the Exchange Network. The Network is a comprehensive, integrated information exchange network that is being designed to facilitate information sharing among EPA and its partners using standardized data formats and definitions, a centralized approach to receiving and distributing information. The Exchange Network will fundamentally change the way the Agency and the

states do business and will improve data accuracy, reduce burden, and improve the utility of environmental information for decision making at all levels.

In 2003, EPA will continue its environmental information grant program to promote state and Tribal participation in the Exchange Network. This grant program builds on work underway in several states and assists states and Tribes in evaluating their readiness to participate in the Exchange Network, enhances their efforts to complete necessary changes to their information management systems to facilitate Exchange Network participation and supports state information integration efforts. In 2003, the Agency will increase the number of EPA systems receiving data electronically via the network, 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 2003, the CDX will be firmly established as EPA's enterprise-wide electronic reporting gateway to the Agency's information network. The CDX will 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.

As mandated by Section 313 of EPCRA and Section 6607 of the PPA, EPA annually collects information on listed toxic chemicals from certain industries and make the information available to the public through various means, including a publicly accessible national database. In 2003, EPA will continue to reduce TRI reporting burdens on industry and improve TRI data quality by distributing its new software tool, TRI-ME. EPA also expects to increase the percentage of TRI reporting forms that are submitted in digital format (electronically and via floppy disc).

EPA will continue to refine and expand the public's understanding of the TRI data by improving data access tools such as the ATRI Explorer.[@] In 2003, EPA will release data for the first reporting year since the Agency lowered the TRI reporting thresholds for lead and lead compounds in 2001. EPA will also be issuing a rule to transition from using the old industry classification system, the SIC system, to the new classification system, the NAICs, for TRI reporting. 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.

Making information accessible to the public is a primary component of an effective strategy to expand the public's right-to-know. The environment in which the pesticides program operates is constantly changing. New pesticide active ingredients are developed for registration; new uses are proposed; new standards (as with Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) are applied to old pesticides; and new information is received about pesticides and their impact on the environment. Because pesticides affect everyone, it is especially important that citizens have accessible, comprehensive and useful information about their effects and uses.

The Agency will utilize the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) and its standing committees, facilitate and monitor the Agency's response to NACEPT recommendations, and manage statutorily-mandated advisory committees dealing with implementation of the environmental side accords to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and with environmental and infrastructure issues along the U.S./Mexico border. The respective committees are: the Good Neighbor Environmental Board and the National and Governmental Advisory Committees. Through these stakeholder committees, EPA receives broad advice as national and international environmental policy is developed and implemented. This is accomplished mainly by ensuring staff support 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 information, EPA is committed to providing quality information to stakeholders. EPA has also been a leader in the Federal government in the use of consensus building techniques to assist in the area of regulatory development. EPA will continue to develop negotiated rulemakings, policy dialogues and other consensus-based stakeholder involvement techniques at the national, Regional, local and international levels. Involvement of stakeholders in crafting the programs and rules by which they will abide promotes innovative, effective and cost effective solutions and fosters earlier, more complete compliance with environmental protection measures.

In 2003, the Agency will continue to advance this objective 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 to expand outreach to small entities such as small businesses, governments and non-profits, and will establish formal mechanisms and build partnerships to advocate small entity involvement in Agency rulemakings. EPA will complete Regulatory Flexibility analyses for all rulemakings that may have significant impacts on a substantial number of small entities and initiate a small communities outreach program to gather information on impacts of EPA rules on these 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 Q&A's.

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 groups

receive the 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. This office 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 the Small Town Advisory Subcommittee.

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.

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 assists in the quality control of executive responses.

The Agency's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) provides technical assistance to both Headquarters and Regional program office personnel to ensure that small, minority and women-owned businesses receive a "fair share" of Agency 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. This activity enhances the ability of small, minority and women-owned businesses to participate in the Agency's objective to protect public health and the environment.

The Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations (OCEMR) will use diverse media resources to aid public understanding of science in order to increase public awareness and enhance public perception of environmental issues and their technological and scientific solutions. The Office will inform the public about environmental problems and goals, and strengthen communications by integrating the policy-regulatory decisions and communications messages. OCEMR, and its Regional counterparts, will provide a leadership role in managing the EPA homepage, web site, and web product review for all EPA offices, programs and Regions. It will also edit EPA's web content and work with the Office of Environmental Information to put this information on the EPA website, manage EPA's Press Release Database and the Administrator's Speech Database, and design the Newsroom Web page for the Office of Media Relations. OCEMR will work with the Administrator to keep Agency staff and the public informed about major policy decisions, initiatives, events and key personnel appointments. The Office will also be responsible for the electronic distribution of mass mail information for the Administrator and her designees.

The Agency plans to accelerate efforts by the compliance and enforcement program to promote public access during 2003. The program will continue to support data integration projects, such as Integrated Data for Enforcement Analysis (IDEA) which makes integrated compliance data from several media-specific data bases available nationally in an interactive online mode. The enforcement and compliance assurance program will continue to work to increase states use of IDEA by demonstrating its analytical capabilities to support targeting and screening based on risk and other compliance concerns.

The compliance and enforcement program 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.

FY 2003 Change from FY 2002 Enacted

EPM

- (+\$3,365,200) Provides support for the Agency to build the Information Exchange Network infrastructure needed to meet the needs of the states and our other data partners.
- (-\$6,735,900) This decrease reflects the transfer of the Environmental Education program to the National Science Foundation's math and science programs.
- (-\$2,424,800) This decrease reflects the transfer of the Environmental Education program's workyears in Headquarters and the Regions to the Office of Children's Health Protection, the Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations and regional work in support of the Agency's small and disadvantaged business utilization commitments.
- (+\$1,009,500) This increase reflects increased support for the Agency's goals.

EPM

- (+\$2,000,000) Provides EPA funding for E-Government activities in support of the President's Management.

S&T

- (-\$1,300,000) The FY 2003 request is \$4,875,000 below the FY 2002 Enacted budget level due to Congressional earmarks received during the FY 2002 appropriations process which are not included in the FY 2003 President's Request

EPM

- (+\$7,634,800) Provides support for the Agency to build the Information Exchange Network infrastructure needed to meet the needs of the states and our other data partners.
- (-1,028,400) The Emergency Supplemental Appropriation for Homeland Security efforts was not requested in FY 2003

Superfund

- (+\$3,000,000) Provides support for the Agency to build the Information Exchange Network infrastructure needed to meet the needs of the states and our other data partners.
- (-900,000) The Emergency Supplemental Appropriation for Homeland Security efforts was not requested in FY 2003

Annual Performance Goals and Measures

Process and Disseminate TRI Information - OEI

In 2003	The public will have better information on toxic releases and wastes being managed in their communities. EPA will also work with the owners and operators of facilities to reduce the record-keeping and reporting burdens associated with submitting their TRI forms to EPA by 14%.
In 2002	EPA will reduce reporting burden, improve data quality, lower program costs, and speed data publication by increasing the amount of TRI electronic reporting from 70 to 85 percent.
In 2001	120,000 chemical submissions and revisions processed; published annual summary of TRIS database in April 2001; and TRI Public Data Release published in April 2001.

Performance Measures:	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 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.)		85		Percent
TRI Public Data Release	Published			Published
Chemical submissions and revisions processed.	120,000			Forms
TRIS database complete and report issued	Published			Published
Data quality: keep data entry error rate below 1% per form				Error Rate
Increase magnetic media use for TRI reporting				Magnetic Media
The number of forms containing Toxic Release Inventory data being reported electronically on computer diskettes will increase from 85% to 90%.			90	Percent

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

Enhanced Public Access

In 2003	Improve public access to compliance and enforcement documents and data through multimedia data integration projects and other studies, analyses and communication/outreach activities.		
In 2002	Improve public access to compliance and enforcement documents and data through multimedia data integration projects and other studies, analyses and communication/outreach activities.		
In 2001	EPA improved public access to compliance but in areas covered by the performance measures EPA did not meet targets.		
Performance Measures:	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003

By the end of FY 2001, all ten EPA Regions will have an enforcement and compliance web-site	Actual	9	Enacted	Request	Websites
Make 90% of enforcement and compliance policies and guidances issued this FY available on the Internet within 30 days of issuance		86	90	90	Percent
By April 2001, make summaries of all significant cases available on the Internet		50			Percent

Baseline: OECA enhances public access to compliance and enforcement documents through our efforts to make available through the internet newly issued enforcement and compliance documents.

Information Exchange Network

- 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, a key component of the environmental information exchange network, will become fully operational and 15 states will be using it to send data to EPA thereby improving data consistency with participating states.

Performance Measures:	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	
States using the Central Data Exchange to send data to EPA.		15		States
The number of states using the Central Data Exchange will increase to 45 as the means by which they submit data.			45	States
Implement four data standards in 13 major systems and develop four additional standards in 2003.			4	Data Standards

Baseline: The FY 2001 baseline for this program is zero as it is a new program.

Verification and Validation of Performance Measures

Performance Measure: The number of states using the Central Data Exchange will increase to 45 as the means by which they submit data.

Performance Database: CDX Customer Registration Subsystem.

Data Source: Data are provided by state CDX users.

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 a CDX quality assurance guidance.

Data Quality Review: 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 secondary level of analysis that takes time and human resources.

New/Improved 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.

Performance Measure: The number of forms containing Toxic Release Inventory data being reported electronically on computer diskettes will increase from 85% to 90%.

Performance Database: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) System

Data Source: EPA tracks on a weekly basis the production statistics for TRI data. These statistics report how TRI data are transmitted to EPA by facilities: on paper; through the Central Data Exchange or by diskette.

QA/QC Procedures: The determination of how data are received is automated through system modules in TRIS.

Data Quality Review: EPA reviews the production statistics on a weekly basis.

Data Limitations: N/A

New/Improved Data or Systems: N/A

Performance Measure: Implement four data standards in 13 major systems and develop four additional standards in 2003.

Performance Database: N/A

Data Source: Data on implementation is provided by system and program managers to Data Standards Branch (DSB) staff in the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) and recorded in a Data Standards Implementation Matrix. The development of new data standards is a cooperative process with state and Tribal partners.

QA/QC Procedures: Once drafted, new data standards are made available for public review and comment through notices in the Federal Register, on EPA's Environmental Data Registry (www.epa.gov/edr), and on the Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC) website (www.epa.gov/edsc). DSB staff use periodic conformity reviews to confirm compliance with final Agency standards in individual systems. In addition, staff provide outreach and training to system and program managers to help implement the data standards.

Data Quality Review: During the Capital Planning and Improvement Control process, information included in the Data Standards Implementation Matrix is reviewed annually. Once developed, the EDSC annually reviews data standards for usefulness and applicability to EPA, state, and Tribal business needs.

Data Limitations: Due to resource limitations, DSB staff cannot perform detailed conformity analyses on every system. In addition, conformity reviews do not necessarily indicate how data are transferred from systems. Finally, conformity reviews suggest conformance options but do not guarantee their implementation in the systems.

New/Improved Data or Systems: Data Standards improve the consistency, quality, and comparability of data managed in EPA systems. Developing new standards and ensuring the implementation of those in place allows for enhanced data integration and exchange.

Coordination with Other Agencies

EPA works on environmental information with its state partners under the State/EPA Information Management Workgroup and the Environmental Data Standards Council. The State/EPA workgroup has created seven 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 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), and Chief Information Officer Council. The Agency is actively involved with a variety of 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. EPA works with the other agencies in helping them determine how their facilities should best report to TRI. Further, 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 comprise 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; such as in geographic information systems.

EPA will work with the Small Business Administration, as appropriate, on regulations that affect small businesses. 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 AToxicological 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, the National Toxicology Program, the 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

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, A 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 (ERDDA) of 1981
Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App.)
Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA)
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S. C. 136-136y)
Executive Order 12915 - Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation
Superfund Authorization Reauthorization Act (SARA)

Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2003 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 2001 Actuals	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Req. v. FY 2002 Ena.
Provide Access to Tools for Using Environmental Information.	\$83,127.7	\$53,515.0	\$48,181.3	(\$5,333.7)
Environmental Program & Management	\$63,688.0	\$39,786.3	\$34,707.9	(\$5,078.4)
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$3,123.9	\$3,002.0	\$4,105.9	\$1,103.9
Science & Technology	\$16,315.8	\$10,726.7	\$9,367.5	(\$1,359.2)
Total Workyears	210.8	183.5	169.7	-13.8

Key Program (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Req. v. FY 2002 Ena.
Administrative Services	\$169.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Capacity Building	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$162.8	\$162.8
Communicating Research Information	\$5,955.6	\$5,543.7	\$5,569.6	\$25.9
Congressionally Mandated Projects	\$0.0	\$6,175.0	\$0.0	(\$6,175.0)
Data Collection	\$1,888.5	\$125.9	\$125.9	\$0.0
Data Standards	\$3,092.5	\$4,839.9	\$3,695.2	(\$1,144.7)
EMPACT	\$10,607.5	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Environmental Justice	\$4,986.9	\$5,064.4	\$4,978.8	(\$85.6)
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$2,950.7	\$2,865.7	\$2,345.8	(\$519.9)
Geospatial	\$522.3	\$860.5	\$279.4	(\$581.1)
Homeland Security	\$0.0	\$260.1	\$0.0	(\$260.1)
Information Integration	\$1,940.8	\$1,440.3	\$0.0	(\$1,440.3)
Information Technology Management	\$12,803.1	\$7,206.7	\$9,362.1	\$2,155.4
Legal Services	\$751.9	\$812.2	\$925.0	\$112.8
Management Services and Stewardship	\$1,421.5	\$918.8	\$799.9	(\$118.9)
Public Access	\$6,666.4	\$7,252.6	\$9,983.5	\$2,730.9
Regional Management	\$740.6	\$715.7	\$754.3	\$38.6
Reinventing Environmental Information (REI)	\$0.0	\$2,290.9	\$2,277.3	(\$13.6)
System Modernization	\$5,891.4	\$6,265.0	\$5,835.4	(\$429.6)
Toxic Release Inventory / Right-to-Know (RtK)	\$0.0	\$877.6	\$1,086.3	\$208.7

FY 2003 Request

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 enhance these efforts, the Agency is committed to working in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to implement a national spatial data infrastructure, which will enhance communities ability to pinpoint the environmental information most relevant to their locale.

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, and 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'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.

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 compiling an Agency-wide indicator inventory that will be used to produce a state-of -the environment report in the short term and, in the long term, will be utilized to identify gaps and set 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.

In 2003, EPA will continue to modernize its programmatic and administrative information systems. Modernizing information systems will drive Agency technology decisions which affect capacity on networks, data storage, and services to the Agency and public. Updating our programmatic systems will include acquiring Agency-wide data sets and improving the accuracy of locational data. The Agency will also redesign its capital planning and investment control process to assure more efficient use of Agency information technology resources and improved accounting of information technology expenditures through project control and monitoring. This process will also be more closely integrated with the Agency's enterprise architecture, integration initiative, and budget process. These projects will be planned and managed under the Clinger-Cohen Act investment review, with oversight by EPA management.

EPA's environmental justice program will continue education, outreach, and data availability initiatives. The Program provides a central point for the Agency to address environmental and human health concerns in minority communities and/or low-income communities-- a segment of the population which has been disproportionately exposed to environmental harms and risks. The program will continue to manage the Agency's Environmental Justice Community Small Grants program which assists community-based organizations that are working to develop solutions to local environmental issues.

The Community Small Grants Program was established in 1994, and, since then, more than 950 grants of up to \$20,000 each have been awarded to community organizations. As a result of these grant awards, community-based organizations (i.e., grassroots groups, churches, and other nonprofit organizations) have expanded citizen involvement and given people the tools to learn more about exposure to environmental harms and risks, and, consequently, to protect their families and their communities as they see fit. In sum, these small grants have served as the seed-money for empowerment of the residents of these communities which have allowed them to speak for themselves and to make their own decisions.

The Agency will continue to support the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) which provides the Agency significant input from all interested stakeholders such as community-based organizations, business and industry, academic institutions, state, Tribal and local governments, non-governmental organizations and environmental groups. Six subcommittees were created around EPA's broad statutory mandates and are sponsored by the cognizant EPA office. The subcommittees are: Air/Water; Enforcement; Health/Research; Indigenous People; International; and Waste/Facility Siting.

The Agency will also continue to chair an Interagency Working Group (IWG) consisting of eleven departments and agencies as well as White House offices to ensure that environmental justice concerns are incorporated into all Federal programs. In 2000, the IWG began implementation of an Action Agenda which is centered around fifteen demonstration projects in diverse urban and rural communities in virtually all regions of the nation. The agenda is designed to achieve a variety of goals, ranging from environmental cleanup, brownfields and economic development and children's health to community education and capacity building. To date, these demonstration projects have leveraged more than \$12 million in public/private resources.

The Agency supports and encourages user-friendly environmental justice programs of state and Tribal governments and conducts outreach and technical assistance to states, local governments, and all stakeholders on environmental justice issues. In order to be able to respond to an allegation of environmental injustice, it is essential to identify the affected community. In 2001, the Environmental Justice Mapper was developed for the Internet to provide all stakeholders with information about a selected location. The Environmental Justice Mapper reflects environmental data available from the Agency's data warehouse and demographic data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. Links are provided to the health-related database of the Department of Health and Human Services. Another essential tool to foster the integration of environmental justice into Federal programs, policies and activities is training.

In support of the Agency's environmental justice efforts, criminal investigations and civil enforcement actions will be focused on industries that have repeatedly violated environmental laws in minority and/or low-income areas.

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. The database is used extensively by EPA Program Offices and Regions, the states, and the general public where consistent, reliable toxicity information is needed for credible risk assessments. Other work in this area includes that of the Agency's Risk Assessment Forum (RAF), which promotes EPA-wide consensus on difficult and controversial risk assessment issues and ensures that this consensus receives appropriate peer input and review, and is incorporated into EPA risk assessment guidance. Additional environmental information is made available through the Evaluation and Interpretation of Suitable Tests Results in AQUIRE¹ (EVISTRA), a database which provides EPA's Program Offices and Regions with ecological toxicity information.

Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)

¹AQUIRE (Aquatic Toxicity Information Retrieval) is a database containing scientific papers published both nationally and internationally on the toxic effects of chemicals on aquatic organisms and plants.

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. 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, critical for sound risk assessments. To ensure the quality, accuracy, credibility, and applicability of IRIS data, all assessments undergo external scientific peer review.

In FY 2003, the Agency's research program will continue its efforts to: 1) produce, update, and maintain health assessments in IRIS; 2) ensure appropriate external peer review of IRIS summaries and support documents; 3) facilitate Agency consensus and resolve issues in a timely manner; 4) maintain a widely-accessible Internet version of IRIS, including explanatory materials, available at the local level to support community-based environmental protection; and 5) 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 2003, the RAF will focus on: cumulative risk assessment, ecological risk assessment, and risk assessments for children; and will develop various issue papers, workshop reports, and risk assessment guidance documents.

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 criteria development for aquatic life and terrestrial wildlife. In FY 2003, the Agency will continue to develop and maintain the EVISTRA database.

FY 2003 Change from FY 2002 Enacted

EPM

- (+\$2,243,200, 0 FTE) Provides funding to make EPA's information more accessible (both within and outside of EPA) by acquiring and implementing an Agency-wide electronic records and document management system. The increase will support the necessary software and hardware to begin phased implementation of the software throughout the Agency.
- (+\$784,600, 0 FTE) Represents an internal redistribution of resources to better reflect where the work associated with these dollars is actually being done.

Research

S&T

- No significant change

EPM

- (-\$4,875,000) The FY 2003 Request is \$4,875,000 below the FY 2002 Enacted budget level due to Congressional earmarks received during the FY 2002 appropriations process which are not included in the FY 2003 President's Request.

Annual Performance Goals and Measures

Environmental Justice

In 2003	Ensure that EPA's policies, programs and activities address disproportionately exposed and under-represented population issues so that no segment suffers disproportionately from adverse health and environmental effects.
In 2002	Ensure that EPA's policies, programs and activities address disproportionately exposed and under-represented population issues so that no segment suffers disproportionately from adverse health and environmental effects.
In 2001	While EPA did meet the measures about the public meetings and responding to requests during NEJAC meetings, EPA did not meet the other targets.

Performance Measures:	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	
Hold 25 EPA-sponsored public meetings held where disproportionately impacted and disadvantaged communities participate	25			meetings
Respond within 60 days to 75% of requests made to each Region and National Program Manager to address complaints heard during public comment period at NEJAC	75			percent
Conduct 18 National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC) meetings and focused roundtables in local communities where problems have been identified.	13			meetings
Hold one NEJAC public meeting annually where one environmental policy which impacts disadvantaged communities is discussed and the communities actively participate.			1	Meeting
Hold meetings with the (NEJAC), all stakeholders involved in the environmental justice dialogue, and communities disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards.		30		meetings
Continue to engage the agencies in national issues of environmental concerns through the collaborative efforts of the IWG through the publication "Action Agenda for Environmental Justice".			1	Agenda
Award grants to organizations which address environmental problems in communities disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards.		90	90	grants
Increase the cumulative number of demonstration projects established under the Fed. Interagency Working Group on Env. Justice.		25		Projects

Baseline: The Agency works to address issues affecting disproportionately exposed and under-represented populations from adverse health or environmental effects. EPA identifies problem areas through: public comments received during the National

Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC) meetings; reviewing Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) filed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in which environmental justice (EJ) indicators occur; concern from communities about new or renewals of permits under RCRA, CWA, CAA, etc.; and complaints filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. EPA also works to address these issues through the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and by awarding grants to communities for addressing environmental problems.

Data Quality

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 will be part of the Integrated Error Correction Process, reducing data error.

Performance Measures:	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 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 fully operational and serving citizens across the country with Federal, state, and local environmental information specific to an area of their choice.			Fully	Operational
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	Percent

Baseline: In FY 2001, 90% of the publically available facility data from EPA's national systems accessible on the EPA Website will be part of the Integrated Error Correction Process.

Research

Environmental Science Information

In 2003 Deliver assessments of effects of exposure to chemicals on human health and the environment to EPA, other governmental organizations, industry, consultants, academics, and nongovernmental organizations to promote scientifically sound, consistent risk assessments to enhance protection of human health.

In 2002 Improve environmental decision making, risk assessment and risk communication by synthesizing human health assessment information on environmental substances.

In 2001 EPA collected, managed, and presented environmental information for the benefit of the Agency and the public in order to enhance the availability and utility of data, information, and tools for decision-making.

Performance Measures:	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	
Develop new and/or update Agency consensus human health assessments of 15 environmental substances of high priority to EPA and make them publicly available on IRIS.	7			assessments
Develop a priority list of existing data, information, and tools to provide assistance to EPA laboratories in the initial development of their inventories, to be made publicly available through EIMS.	1			list
Draft human health assessments (new and updated assessments) of 9 environmental substances of high priority to EPA for Agency IRIS consensus review.		9		assessments
Develop Agency consensus for human health assessments (new/updated) for 8-10 environmental substances of high priority to EPA, and make these accessible on the EPA IRIS Internet site.			8-10	assessments

Baseline: The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) is an electronic data base containing information on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals in the environment for use in risk assessments, decision-making, and regulatory activities. Through the IRIS Program, ORD administers an Agency-wide process of chemical nomination, assessment, consensus building, and peer review through which assessments on IRIS are produced and updated. As of December 2000, IRIS contained entries for 541 compounds. The IRIS program is continuously producing new assessments and updating existing IRIS assessments as new information becomes available. The information in IRIS is intended for those without extensive training in toxicology, but with some knowledge of health sciences. The individual chemical files in IRIS contain descriptive and quantitative information in the following categories: oral reference doses and inhalation reference concentrations (RfDs and RfCs, respectively) for chronic noncarcinogenic health effects; hazard identification, oral slope factors, and oral and inhalation unit risks for carcinogenic effects.

Verification and Validation of Performance Measures

Performance Measure: Window to My Environment (WME) is fully operational and serving citizens across the country with Federal, state, and local environmental information specific to an area of their choice.

Performance database: Envirofacts Data Warehouse and Integrated Geospatial Database (IGD).

Data Source: Data originated from Agency legacy database systems, such as, RCRIS, AIRS, and PCS and from Agency and state environmental websites.

QA/QC procedures: WME quality assurance procedures occur on several levels. Each of the legacy databases feeding into Envirofacts and the IGD have their own QA/QC screens and procedures to verify the data submitted. As the data are uploaded to Envirofacts and the IGD, a series of Envirofacts QA/QC protocols are conducted to assure that the upload is complete and accurate. The WME interface provides a self-checking mechanism that routinely monitors the stability of its website links to assure that links to external sites are functional and useful.

Data Quality Review: WME is a part of the Agency's error correction process - which serves to facilitate the reporting of data errors and track their correction.

Data Limitations: All of the data reported through the WME interface originates somewhere else - either from an EPA data source, from other Federal data sources (e.g., U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and others) or from state data sources. Ultimately, the data and the conclusions derived from the data are only as good as the underlying data.

New/Improved Data or Systems: WME is currently being expanded to 4 EPA Regions (Regions 3,5,6,8) and is expected to be available nationally by end of 2002.

FY 2003 Congressional Performance Measure (PM): Award a minimum of 90 grants to organizations which address environmental problems in communities comprised primarily of low income and minority populations.

Performance Database: Output Measure. Internal tracking system.

Data Source: Manual system. (Regional Environmental Justice grant coordinators will input data.)

QA/QC Procedures: None

Data Quality Review: None

Data Limitations: None

New/Improved Data or Systems: None

FY 2003 Congressional Performance Measure (PM): Continue to engage Federal agencies in national issues of environmental concerns through the collaborative efforts of the

Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) through the publication AAction Agenda for Environmental Justice, which describes the national projects where collaboration among the various stakeholders has been successful in addressing environmental problems.

Performance Database: Output Measure with no internal tracking system.

Data Source: EPA representatives to the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

QA/QC Procedures: None

Data Quality Review: None

Data Limitations: None

New/Improved Data or Systems: None

Performance Measure (PM): Award a minimum of 90 grants to organizations which address environmental problems in communities comprised primarily of low income and minority populations.

Performance Database: Output Measure. Internal tracking system.

Data Source: Manual system. Regional Environmental Justice grant coordinators input data.

QA/QC Procedures: None.

Data Quality Review: None.

Data Limitations: None.

New/Improved Data or Systems: None.

Performance Measure (PM): Continue to engage Federal agencies in national issues of environmental concerns through the collaborative efforts of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) through the publication AAction Agenda for Environmental Justice, which describes the national projects where collaboration among the various stakeholders has been successful in addressing environmental problems.

Performance Database: Output measure with no internal tracking system.

Data Source: Not applicable.

QA/QC Procedures: Not applicable.

Data Quality Review: Not applicable.

Data Limitations: Not applicable.

New/Improved Data or Systems: Not applicable.

Coordination with Other Agencies

In 2003, 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 to develop and implement the infrastructure for national spatial data. For the Environmental Indicators Initiative, 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.

Regular meetings are held with agencies named in Executive Order 12898 to review the environmental justice activities underway; to develop appropriate training tools; and to discuss participation in the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC).

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 (PPA)
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 (FMFIA)
Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
Clinger-Cohen Act
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C. 7601-7671q) and amendments
Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1251 - 1387) and amendments
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675)
Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) section 313 (42 U.S.C. 110001-11050)
Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (42 U.S.C. 6901-6992k)
Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) section 1445 (42 U.S.C. 300f-300j-26)
Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) section 14 (15 U.S.C. 2601-2692)
North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation
Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA)
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 2003 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 2001 Actuals	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Req. v. FY 2002 Ena.
Improve Agency Information Infrastructure and Security.	\$16,817.7	\$23,814.1	\$30,528.0	\$6,713.9
Environmental Program & Management	\$11,567.4	\$19,897.5	\$25,564.5	\$5,667.0
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$5,250.3	\$3,916.6	\$4,963.5	\$1,046.9
Total Workyears	1.1	184.4	185.3	0.9

Key Program (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Req. v. FY 2002 Ena.
Administrative Services	\$64.6	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Data Collection	\$1,342.3	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$409.9	\$1,648.9	\$1,558.5	(\$90.4)
Homeland Security	\$0.0	\$1,928.4	\$0.0	(\$1,928.4)
Information Integration	\$199.6	\$0.0	\$10,428.5	\$10,428.5
Information Technology Management	\$14,465.4	\$17,441.8	\$15,720.2	(\$1,721.6)
Legal Services	\$156.8	\$188.3	\$202.3	\$14.0
Management Services and Stewardship	\$0.0	\$368.1	\$254.2	(\$113.9)
Public Access	\$1,964.7	\$375.2	\$420.7	\$45.5
Reinventing Environmental Information (REI)	\$0.0	\$1,266.1	\$1,343.6	\$77.5
System Modernization	\$600.0	\$597.3	\$600.0	\$2.7

FY 2003 Request

During 2003, EPA will continue to provide a robust and secure information infrastructure, thereby increasing the availability and accessibility of environmental information to customers and stakeholders. EPA's information technology program consists of infrastructure support services, as well as policy and planning services. It provides the basic foundation for developing and managing all EPA information systems and information products. It comprises the Agency's hardware, software, and telecommunications assets and the technical services to support those infrastructure assets. These services range from mainframe, high performance computing, and distributed processing services to desktop computing support, local area network operations, internet services, and application development consulting.

Building and maintaining a credible and effective Agency information technology program requires a strong commitment to customer service as well as strategic investment in new technology to ensure efficient services delivery. It also requires a commitment to develop a highly skilled workforce capable of managing complex, multi-year information technology projects. EPA will continue to identify the skills, the technology and the services critical to effectively manage and secure the Agency's information infrastructure. When acquiring these critical resources, EPA will ensure its investments are cost-effective and based on the investment principles established in the Clinger-Cohen Act.

The information technology infrastructure planning process continues to be guided by the Agency's information priorities, including strengthening information security, ensuring data integrity, and leveraging new technology to support EPA environmental programs. With the emergence of the Internet as a fundamental business tool, EPA's new paradigm of security has become one that emphasizes not only mainframe security but also extends to the Agency's growing use of the Internet. The Agency will continue to emphasize the goal of strengthening security plans and organizational security programs through additional reviews and oversight on an Agency-wide scale. Increased efforts and investments will also be made to raise the awareness level of the EPA workforce to ensure managers understand their individual responsibilities for protecting information assets. 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.

FY 2003 Change from FY 2002 Enacted

Superfund

- (+\$2,504,100, 0 FTE) Provides support for the Agency to build the Information Exchange Network infrastructure needed to meet the needs of the states and our other data partners.

EPM

- (+\$5,707,200, 0 FTE) Provides support for the Agency to build the Information

Exchange Network infrastructure needed to meet the needs of the states and our other data partners.

Coordination with Other Agencies

EPA will continue to coordinate with other Federal agencies on information technology infrastructure and security issues by participating on the Federal Chief Information Officers' (CIO) Council. Comprised of members from the 28 largest Federal agencies, the CIO Council serves as the primary mechanism for sharing information on IT best practices and for developing common solutions to IT challenges facing the Federal government. 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 will also continue to coordinate with state agencies on information technology 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 Office of Management and Budget-led e-government initiatives. As part of this effort, EPA, OMB, the Department of Transportation, and 10 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.

Annual Performance Goals and Measures

Information Security

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

In 2002 Complete risk assessments on the Agency's critical infrastructure systems, critical financial systems, and mission critical environmental systems.

Performance Measures:	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 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	Percent
Percent of intrusion detection monitoring sensors installed and operational.			75	Percent

Baseline: In FY 2001, OEI will complete four risk assessments. The breakout is as follows: Critical Infrastructure Systems is one, Mission Critical Systems are two, and Critical Financial Systems is one.

Verification and Validation of Performance Measures

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

Performance Database: None

Data Source: Contractor task reports, verified by OEI.

QA/QC Procedures: QA/QC procedures consistent with Quality Assurance Plan.

Data Quality Review: NA

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.

New/Improved Data or Systems: NA

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.

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 and audit for compliance with Information Technology (IT) security standards. EPA's IT planning staff, under the CIO, check for appropriate security planning and procedures as part of the Information Technology Management Reform Act (ITTMRA) capital planning and investment process required by federal law.

Data Quality: Program offices are required to develop security action plans composed of tasks and milestones in a number of security action areas. Program offices self report progress toward these milestones. EPA's security staff review these self-reported data and discuss 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.

New/Improved Data or Systems: NA

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