



**United States  
Environmental Protection Agency**

**FISCAL YEAR 2024**

**Justification of Appropriation  
Estimates for the  
Committee on Appropriations**

**Tab 10: Inland Oil Spill Programs**

**EPA-190-R-23-001**

**March 2023  
[www.epa.gov/cj](http://www.epa.gov/cj)**

**Environmental Protection Agency  
2024 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

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**Environmental Protection Agency  
FY 2024 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Inland Oil Spill Programs  
Resource Summary Table  
(Dollars in Thousands)**

	<b>FY 2022 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget v. FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b>Inland Oil Spill Programs</b>				
Budget Authority	\$21,709	\$22,072	\$27,551	\$5,479
Total Workyears	76.9	85.8	99.8	14.0

**Bill Language: Inland Oil Spill Programs**

*For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, including hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$27,551,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, to remain available until expended.*

**Program Projects in Inland Oil Spill Programs  
(Dollars in Thousands)**

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2022 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget v. FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Compliance				
Compliance Monitoring	\$278	\$649	\$2,152	\$1,503
Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)				
LUST / UST	-\$1	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enforcement				
Civil Enforcement	\$2,660	\$2,565	\$2,665	\$100
Oil				
Oil Spill: Prevention, Preparedness and Response	\$17,136	\$17,501	\$21,412	\$3,911
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$854	\$682	\$641	-\$41
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$782	\$675	\$681	\$6
<b>TOTAL Inland Oil Spill Programs</b>	<b>\$21,709</b>	<b>\$22,072</b>	<b>\$27,551</b>	<b>\$5,479</b>

\*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.



## **Compliance**

## **Compliance Monitoring**

Program Area: Compliance

Goal: Enforce Environmental Laws and Ensure Compliance

Objective(s): Detect Violations and Promote Compliance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2022 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget v. FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$108,996	\$112,730	\$162,105	\$49,375
<b><i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i></b>	<b>\$278</b>	<b>\$649</b>	<b>\$2,152</b>	<b>\$1,503</b>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$1,278	\$1,017	\$1,032	\$15
Total Budget Authority	\$110,552	\$114,396	\$165,289	\$50,893
Total Workyears	438.5	478.9	520.4	41.5

### **Program Project Description:**

The Compliance Monitoring Program is a component of EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program (OECA) that allows the Agency to detect noncompliance and promotes compliance with the Nation's environmental laws. Under this program, EPA integrates the data from the Facility Response Plans (FRP) and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) systems into EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS). Data related to compliance with FRP and SPCC requirements are made available to the public through EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) website.

### **FY 2024 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Work in this program directly supports Goal 3/Objective 3.2, Detect Violations and Promote Compliance in the *FY 2022 - 2026 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2024, the Agency will continue accelerating efforts to modernize ICIS and support better integration with ECHO. EPA will continue to implement its comprehensive action plan for integrating Environmental Justice (EJ) and climate change considerations throughout all aspects of the Program, including a performance measure tracking the percentage of inspections affecting communities with potential EJ concerns. This effort answers the President's call to "strengthen enforcement of environmental violations with disproportionate impact on overburdened or underserved communities through the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance" [*EO 14008, sec. 222(b)(i)*], and to "combat the climate crisis with bold, progressive action" (*EO 14008, sec. 201*). It also will improve the availability of FRP and SPCC compliance data to EPA, states, and the public.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

EPA's FY 2024 Annual Performance Plan does not include annual performance goals specific to this program.

**FY 2024 Change from FY 2023 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$25.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$1,528.0) This program change increase will allow EPA to accelerate its efforts to modernize the Integrated Compliance Information System, support better integration with the Enforcement and Compliance History Online website, and enhance efforts to address compliance concerns in disadvantaged and other environmental justice communities.

**Statutory Authority:**

Oil Pollution Act; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

## **Enforcement**

**Civil Enforcement**

Program Area: Enforcement

Goal: Enforce Environmental Laws and Ensure Compliance

Objective(s): Hold Environmental Violators and Responsible Parties Accountable

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2022 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget v. FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$179,062	\$205,942	\$242,585	\$36,643
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$631	\$661	\$682	\$21
<b><i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,660</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,565</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,665</i></b>	<b><i>\$100</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$182,354	\$209,168	\$245,932	\$36,764
Total Workyears	883.8	998.1	1,041.7	43.6

**Program Project Description:**

The Civil Enforcement Program’s goal is to protect human health and the environment by ensuring compliance with the Nation’s environmental laws. The Civil Enforcement Program collaborates with the Department of Justice (DOJ), state, local, and tribal governments to ensure consistent and fair enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. The Civil Enforcement Program develops, litigates, and settles administrative and civil judicial cases against violators of environmental laws.

The Civil Enforcement Program’s enforcement of Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, is designed to ensure compliance with the prohibition against oil and hazardous substance spills that violate the statute, as well as the oil spill prevention, response planning, and other regulatory requirements. The Civil Enforcement Program develops policies, issues administrative compliance and penalty orders, and refers civil judicial actions to the DOJ to address spills, violations of spill prevention regulations, response planning regulations and other violations (e.g., improper dispersant use or noncompliance with orders). The Program also assists in the recovery of cleanup costs expended by the government and provides support for field investigations of spills; Facility Response Plans; Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures; and other requirements.

**FY 2024 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Work in this program directly supports Goal 3/Objective 3.1, Hold Environmental Violators and Responsible Parties Accountable in the *FY 2022 - 2026 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2024, EPA will continue to streamline the Civil Enforcement Program, prioritize resources to achieve regulatory compliance, and address oil or hazardous substance spills and deter future spills. The Program will focus on facilities where enforcement will promote deterrence, tackle the climate crisis, integrate environmental justice considerations in EPA’s work to protect overburdened and underserved communities that have borne a disproportionate burden of pollution, and to ensure that spills are prevented, cleaned up, and, where appropriate, mitigated.

The Civil Enforcement Program continues to coordinate with the Criminal Enforcement Program, as appropriate.

**Performance Measure Targets:**

Work under this program supports performance results in the Civil Enforcement Program under the EPM appropriation.

**FY 2024 Change from FY 2023 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (+\$222.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the recalculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs. It also includes critical agencywide infrastructure support for Executive Order 14028 cybersecurity requirements, electronic discovery for FOIA and litigation support, and implementation of Trusted Vetting 2.0.
- (-\$122.0) This program change is a slight reduction to enforcement efforts under the Oil Pollution Act.

**Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Clean Water Act; Oil Pollution Act.

**Oil**

## Oil Spill: Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Program Area: Oil

Goal: Safeguard and Revitalize Communities

Objective(s): Prepare for and Respond to Environmental Emergencies

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2022 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget v. FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i></b>	<b><i>\$17,136</i></b>	<b><i>\$17,501</i></b>	<b><i>\$21,412</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,911</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$17,136	\$17,501	\$21,412	\$3,911
Total Workyears	63.7	71.6	85.6	14.0

### **Program Project Description:**

The Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program protects the American people by preventing, preparing for, responding to, and monitoring inland oil spills. EPA is the driving force and primary federal responder for inland oil spills, which include but are not limited to transportation-related spills from pipelines, trucks, railcars, and other transportation systems. In addition, the Program may provide technical assistance, assets, and outreach to industry, states, and local communities as part of the Agency's effort to prevent, prepare for, and respond to oil incidents.<sup>1</sup>

There are approximately 550,400 Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) facilities, including a subset of 3,821 Facility Response Plan (FRP) facilities identified as high risk due to their size and location. The Oil Pollution Act requires certain facilities that store and use oil to develop response plans that are reviewed by EPA, ensuring access and availability of response resources in the event a discharge to navigable waters or adjoining shorelines occurs.

To minimize the potential impact to human health and the environment, the Agency targets inspections at facilities that pose the highest risk. Inspections are essential to ensuring that facility staff are knowledgeable on prevention and response plans and can quickly put these plans into action. The Agency currently inspects approximately 0.07 percent of SPCC facilities per year. In FY 2022, EPA found 92.8 percent of SPCC facilities inspected to be out of compliance at the time of inspection.<sup>2</sup> The Agency currently inspects approximately 11.7 percent of FRP facilities per year. In FY 2022, EPA continued off-site compliance monitoring activities for 23 SPCC and 225 FRP facilities to further expand compliance evaluation tools available to inspectors during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup> EPA plans to continue to use off-site compliance monitoring to complement on-site inspections.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For more information, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations>.

<sup>2</sup> Information from the EPA Oil database.

<sup>3</sup> In FY 2021, the Agency conducted 348 offsite compliance monitoring activities for SPCC and FRP.

<sup>4</sup> For more information, please refer to: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-07/documents/inspectioncommitments\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-07/documents/inspectioncommitments_0.pdf).

EPA receives spill notifications through the National Response Center. The Agency is responsible for ensuring all inland oil spills are promptly responded to by working closely with state, tribal, and local first responders on smaller spills and leading the response on larger spills. EPA accesses the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard, to obtain reimbursement funds for site-specific oil spill response activities.

### **FY 2024 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Work in this program directly supports Goal 6/Objective 6.3, Prepare for and Respond to Environmental Emergencies in the *FY 2022 - 2026 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2024, the Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program will:

- Inspect oil facilities to ensure compliance with prevention and preparedness requirements. Inspections involve examining and evaluating the facility's prevention, preparedness, and response plans and discussing critical components of them with facility staff. EPA will also conduct unannounced exercises at FRP facilities to test the facility owner/operator's ability to execute preparedness and response plans. Finally, EPA will conduct off-site compliance monitoring activities for oil facilities to allow inspectors to determine compliance from remote locations as another tool to promote regulatory compliance.
- Focus inspections at high-risk facilities. High-risk facilities are identified using a number of factors including oil spill history; proximity to environmentally sensitive receptors or drinking water intakes; citizen complaints or federal, state, tribal or local agency referrals based on significant non-compliance; or the potential to cause substantial harm to the environment by discharging oil to navigable waters. The Program will increase inspections and compliance assistance at SPCC and FRP-regulated facilities, focusing on high-risk facilities located in communities with environmental justice concerns and communities with increased climate-related risks (*e.g.*, extreme weather, flooding, wildfires, etc.). These inspection activities are critical to ensuring regulatory compliance at facilities with aging oil storage infrastructure that could pose a higher risk of an oil spill, thereby substantially impacting downstream disadvantaged communities. The program expects to conduct an additional 150 inspections, compared to FY 2022, at SPCC and FRP-regulated facilities. The Program will develop additional compliance assistance materials, such as factsheets and facility guidance, reflecting the potential impacts of climate change and environmental justice.
- Maintain the National Contingency Plan's Subpart J product schedule, which highlights a list of products that may be used to mitigate oil spills.
- Target exercises to improve preparedness for communities with environmental justice concerns and increase incorporation of environmental justice into preparedness activities overall.

- Maintain the National Oil Database, which compiles data for the Program. The database assists in managing SPCC and FRP information obtained during inspections, as well as, serving as a historical repository. The Oil Database provides more efficient access to regulated facility information, streamlining inspection activities and identifying regulatory applicability. In FY 2024, EPA will continue to upgrade the National Oil Database to allow easier data entry, retrieval, and analysis to improve program implementation.
- Deliver required annual oil spill inspector training to federal inspectors and oil spill response training to On-Scene Coordinators and provide outreach to federal/state partners and industry stakeholders to improve compliance with regulatory requirements. EPA will continue developing inspector training materials and methods for inspectors to best assess SPCC and FRP facilities' incorporation of risks from natural hazards and climate change into their oil spill prevention and response plans.
- Under the Clean Water Act (CWA) authority, Subpart J of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) sets forth regulatory requirements for the use of chemical agents as an oil spill mitigation technology. In FY 2023, the Agency expects to finalize amendments to Subpart J of the NCP that include revisions to the existing product listing, testing protocols, and authorization of use procedures to complement the new provisions for dispersant monitoring that were finalized in 2021. In FY 2024, the Agency will develop guidance for implementation of the new regulatory provisions.

**Performance Measure Targets:**

Work under this program directly supports performance results in the Superfund: EPA Emergency Preparedness program under the Superfund appropriation.

**FY 2024 Change from FY 2023 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (+\$333.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the recalculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$3,578.0 / +14.0 FTE) This program change is an increase to support Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response activities in fenceline communities at risk from nearby oil facilities, including providing increased outreach/compliance assistance, improved inspector training, Oil Database improvements, regulatory updates, and inspections at regulated facilities to ensure facilities have measures in place to prevent oil accidents. In addition, resources will be used to develop inspector training materials and methods. This investment includes \$2.5 million for payroll.

**Statutory Authority:**

The Clean Water Act Section 311 as amended by the Oil Pollution Act.

## **Operations and Administration**

**Facilities Infrastructure and Operations**  
Program Area: Operations and Administration  
Cross-Agency Mission and Science Support

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2022 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget v. FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$291,501	\$283,330	\$305,753	\$22,423
Science & Technology	\$68,347	\$67,500	\$72,043	\$4,543
Building and Facilities	\$24,681	\$42,076	\$105,009	\$62,933
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$922	\$754	\$727	-\$27
<b><i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i></b>	<b><i>\$854</i></b>	<b><i>\$682</i></b>	<b><i>\$641</i></b>	<b><i>-\$41</i></b>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$76,108	\$65,634	\$71,540	\$5,906
Total Budget Authority	\$462,412	\$459,976	\$555,713	\$95,737
Total Workyears	310.6	321.8	330.4	8.6

Total work years in FY 2024 include 5.4 FTE to support Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services.

**Program Project Description:**

EPA's Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program in the Inland Oil Spill Programs appropriation supports the Agency's rent, transit subsidy, and facility operations. Funding is allocated for such services among the major appropriations for the Agency.

**FY 2024 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Work in this program provides Cross-Agency Mission and Science Support and is allocated across strategic goals and objectives in the *FY 2022 - 2026 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2024, EPA will continue reconfiguring EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs while increasing EPA facility sustainability to combat the effects of climate change and ensuring a space footprint that accommodates a growing workforce. Space reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace. However, even if modifications are kept to a minimum, each move requires initial funding to achieve long-term cost avoidance and sustainability goals. These investments support sustainable federal infrastructure, a clean energy future, and goals to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. For FY 2024, EPA is requesting \$483 thousand for rent in the Inland Oil Spill Programs appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level. EPA also will continue working to increase sustainability and reduce carbon emissions through cost-effective solutions.

**Performance Measure Targets:**

EPA's FY 2024 Annual Performance Plan does not include annual performance goals specific to this program.

**FY 2024 Change from FY 2023 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$41.0) This net program change reduces Agency facilities management and operations support. The reduction is offset by an increase in transit subsidy costs.

**Statutory Authority:**

Federal Property and Administration Services Act; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

## **Research: Sustainable Communities**

## **Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities**

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities  
Cross-Agency Mission and Science Support

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2022 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 President's Budget v. FY 2023 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Science & Technology	\$133,808	\$137,857	\$146,642	\$8,785
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$312	\$341	\$351	\$10
<b><i>Inland Oil Spill Programs</i></b>	<b><i>\$782</i></b>	<b><i>\$675</i></b>	<b><i>\$681</i></b>	<b><i>\$6</i></b>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$16,562	\$16,937	\$17,364	\$427
Total Budget Authority	\$151,463	\$155,810	\$165,038	\$9,228
Total Workyears	422.1	421.8	444.3	22.5

### **Program Project Description:**

EPA is the lead federal on-scene coordinator for inland oil spills and provides technical assistance, when needed, for coastal spills.<sup>4</sup> EPA is responsible for oil spill preparedness, response, and associated research; as well as having the lead role to develop protocols for testing spill response products and agents, which is planned with the assistance of partner agencies including the United States Coast Guard, United States Department of the Interior, United States Department of Transportation, and United States Department of Commerce.

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program for inland oil spills, funded through the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund,<sup>5</sup> provides federal, tribal, state, and community decision-makers with analysis and tools to protect human and ecosystem health from the negative impacts of oil spills. EPA assists communities, including economically, socially, and environmentally disadvantaged or impacted communities, by supporting local officials in their response to a spill. As a result of EPA's research, responders can make more informed decisions on approaches and methods to reduce the spread and impact of coastal and inland oil spills, including pipeline and railway spills. Additionally, EPA provides essential remediation expertise that assists communities in addressing potential impacts on their environmental resources associated with pipeline and railway oil spills.

The research performed also supports the Agency's National Contingency Plan (NCP) Product Schedule.<sup>6</sup> The NCP is used nationwide by emergency responders and federal agencies when responding to oil spills. EPA's role is to develop and evaluate response approaches that involve the use of bioremediation, dispersants, and other additives. EPA also assesses impacts to surface water and groundwater, especially if they affect drinking water supplies. The Agency relies on this research to provide testing procedures that inform cleanup decisions during an emergency spill response.

<sup>4</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/epas-scene-coordinators-oscsc>.

<sup>5</sup> For more information, please see: [https://www.uscg.mil/Mariners/National-Pollution-Funds-Center/About\\_NPFC/OSLTF/](https://www.uscg.mil/Mariners/National-Pollution-Funds-Center/About_NPFC/OSLTF/).

<sup>6</sup> For more information, please see: <http://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/national-contingency-plan-subpart-j>.

## **Recent Accomplishments of the SHC Research Program include:<sup>7</sup>**

**Improving efficiency of at-sea, in situ oil spill burns:<sup>8</sup>** Researchers advanced EPA's and the nation's capabilities to respond to oil spills by providing insight into operational strategies that can be applied during at-sea oil spill response. The presence of waves at sea increases the challenge for *in situ* oil burns due to heat loss to the underlying water and encouraging flame extinction. EPA conducted research to enhance combustion by shortening the oil plume core thickness to allow greater air penetration and radiant heat feedback to the burning oil. Oil consumption, combustion efficiency, residue characterization, and emissions were studied to optimize performance of technologies to remediate potential future at-sea spills.

## **FY 2024 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Work in this Program provides Cross-Agency Mission and Science Support and is allocated across strategic goals and objectives in the *FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan*.

In FY 2024, the oil spill program will conduct research to support regulatory activities and protocol development for EPA's programs and to support state-delegated programs. This Program will provide on-demand technical support at federal, tribal, or state-managed cleanup sites, as well as assistance during emergencies. The Program will continue to conduct health, environmental engineering, and ecological research, and prepare planning and analysis tools for localities nationwide that will facilitate regulatory compliance and improve environmental and health outcomes.

Specific activities in FY 2024 include:

- Developing a reference guide for the Subpart J decision rule, a surface washing agent effectiveness protocol in fresh and salt water, and screening for new National Contingency Plan (NCP) reference oils.
- Understanding the toxicity of oil-agent mixtures and potential exposure to marine biota, and the long-term fate of these materials in the environment including 1) determining the sensitivity of cold-water species to oils treated with Alternative Response Measures (both chemical agents and in situ burns); 2) assessing the ecological relevance of laboratory toxicity tests; 3) characterizing biodegradation of oil exposed to treating agents by high-latitude microbial cultures; and 4) evaluating Low Sulfur Fuel Oils.

## **Research Planning:**

EPA research is built around six integrated and transdisciplinary research programs. Each of the six programs is guided by a Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP) that reflects the research needs of Agency program and regional offices, states, and tribes, and is planned with their active involvement. Each research program has developed and published their fourth generation of the

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<sup>7</sup> For a more complete view of accomplishments, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/national-research-programs>.

<sup>8</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X2101050X>.

StRAPs<sup>9</sup> which continue the practice of conducting innovative scientific research aimed at solving the problems encountered by the Agency and its stakeholders.

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) works with various groups, including communities, to ensure the integrity and value of its research through a variety of mechanisms that include:

- EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC)
  - ORD meets regularly with this committee, which provides advice and recommendations to ORD on technical and management issues of its research programs.
- State Engagement
  - EPA's state engagement<sup>10</sup> is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs, and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies.
- Tribal Partnerships
  - Key tribal partnerships are established through the Tribal Science Program which provides a forum for the interaction between tribal and Agency representatives. These interactions identify research of mutual benefit and lead to collaborations on important tribal environmental science issues.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

Work under this program supports performance results in the Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities Program under the S&T appropriation.

### **FY 2024 Change from FY 2023 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$5.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE due to annual payroll increases, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$11.0) This program change reflects an increase to the Sustainable and Healthy Communities Oil Spills research program.

### **Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5 App.) (EPA's organic statute); Oil Pollution Act.

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<sup>9</sup> The StRAPs are available and located here: <https://www.epa.gov/research/strategic-research-action-plans-fiscal-years-2023-2026>.

<sup>10</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.