



FY20 Spending Minibus Bill Provides \$200M Increase to EPA Over FY19 Levels February 2020

On December 20, President Trump signed several pieces of legislation into law to avoid a government shutdown. President Trump has stated in the past he will no longer sign enormous spending bills; here, he signed two bills. The bills cover a myriad of activities, ranging from border wall money to raising the national minimum tobacco-buying age to providing paid family leave to federal employees, and will keep the government open until September 30, 2020. The consensus spending bills raise EPA's annual budget to \$9 billion, an increase of \$207 million over FY19 levels. The budget bill does not include legislation governing EPA regulations of PFAS substances under the Safe Drinking Water Act, which was recently stripped from separate defense authorization legislation. EPA's FY20 spending is detailed in a sweeping bill that includes most non-defense appropriations.

Spending levels negotiated by House and Senate leaders would turn aside the Trump administration's request to cut EPA's budget by \$2.6 billion. However, it also drops the still-higher spending levels sought by House appropriators. While lawmakers did not attach PFAS legislative requirements, some are touting the bill's new spending requirements to address the contamination. The bill also provides a \$53 million increase for EPA's regional programs, for a total of \$510 million. Of that increase \$20 million goes to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, rejecting the President's request to terminate most of these programs. It includes \$3.38 billion for EPA's "core science and environmental program work," which is \$70 million above FY19 levels; \$4.25 billion for the State and Tribal Assistance Grants account, including level funding for the water State Revolving Funds, for a \$115 million increase above the FY19 figure; a \$25 million boost to the Superfund program, up to \$1.84 billion; and \$10.2 million for the agency's environmental justice work, which would be a 47% boost from current levels.