



**NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS  
UPDATE ON THE PRESIDENT'S FY08 BUDGET FOR EPA**

On February 5, 2007, President Bush presented his moral choices for the country in his \$2.9 trillion budget proposal to Congress. The Administration proposed \$7.2 billion for FY 2008 in discretionary budget authority, \$116 million below the FY07 proposed amount, for the Environmental Protection Agency to meet its goals of protecting the air, water, and land as well as safeguarding the nation against terrorist attacks. Below are some of the programs relevant to Indian Country within the EPA budget.

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**(Dollars in Thousands)**

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2006 Obligations</b>	<b>FY 2007 Pres Bud</b>	<b>FY 2008 Pres Bud</b>	<b>FY 2008 Pres Bud v. FY 2007 Pres Bud</b>
Tribal General Assistance Program	\$60,086.9	\$56,925.0	\$56,925.0	\$0.0
Tribal Air Quality Management	\$11,723.9	\$10,939.5	\$10,940.0	\$0.5
Categorical Grant: Underground Storage Tanks	\$14,328.1	\$37,566.7	\$22,274.0	(\$15,292.7)
Brownfields Projects	\$93,549.0	\$89,119.4	\$89,258.0	138.6
Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319)	\$203,807.2	\$194,040.0	\$194,040.0	\$0.0
Pollution Control (Sec. 106)	\$220,772.4	\$221,661.0	\$221,664.0	\$3.0
Infrastructure Assistance: Alaska Native Villages	\$33,905.5	\$14,850.0	\$15,500.0	\$650.0
Infrastructure Assistance: Clean Water SRF	\$905,435.8	\$687,555.0	\$687,554.0	(\$1.0)
Infrastructure Assistance: Drinking Water SRF	\$813,735.3	\$841,500.0	\$842,167.0	\$667.0

General Assistance Program: Tribes use EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) funding to support assessment and basic environmental program development activities in pursuit of protecting human and environmental health through compliance assistance, incentives, and monitoring and enforcement. Tribal environmental program managers view GAP activities, funded under State and Tribal Assistance Grants, as one of their highest priorities. The President proposed \$56.9 million for GAP in FY 2008, level with the FY07 request, and \$3.2 million below the FY 2006 obligated amount.

GAP funds are used to: assess the status of a tribe's environmental condition; develop appropriate environmental programs and ordinances; conduct public education and outreach efforts to ensure that tribal communities are informed and able to participate in environmental decision-making; and promote communication and coordination between Federal, state, local and tribal environmental officials.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund: The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program provides funds to capitalize state revolving loan funds that finance infrastructure improvements for public wastewater systems and projects to improve water quality. The

CWSRF includes a 1.5% set-aside of funding for tribes to better address serious water infrastructure problems and attendant health impacts. The 2002 World Summit in Johannesburg adopted the goal of reducing the number of people lacking access to basic sanitation by 50% by 2015. The EPA contributes to this goal by providing for the development of sanitation facilities for tribes and Alaska Native villages.

*Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:* The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is designed to support states in helping public water systems finance the costs of infrastructure improvements needed to achieve or maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements and to protect public health. EPA reserves 1.5% of appropriated funds for Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages, in accordance with Section 1452(i) of SDWA, as amended. These funds are awarded either directly to tribes or, on behalf of Tribes, to the Indian Health Service through Interagency Agreements.

*Alaska Native Villages Infrastructure Assistance:* The Alaska Rural and Native Village (ANV) Program addresses the lack of basic drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, such as flushing toilets and running water, in rural and Native Alaska communities, where often honey buckets and pit privies are the sole method of sewage collection and disposal. The grant to the State of Alaska provides funding to improve or construct drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities to improve the health and sanitation conditions of these communities. The program also supports training, technical assistance, and educational programs related to the operation and maintenance of sanitation systems. The President requested \$15.5 million for this program for FY08, \$18.4 million below the FY06 amount – a 54% reduction from FY06.

*Tribal Air Quality Management:* This program includes funding for Tribal air pollution control agencies and/or tribes. Through Clean Air Act (CAA) section 105 Grants, tribes may develop and implement programs for the prevention and control of air pollution or implementation of national primary and secondary ambient air standards. Through CAA Section 103 grants, tribal air pollution control agencies or tribes, colleges, universities, or multi-tribe jurisdictional air pollution control agencies and/or non-profit organizations may conduct and promote research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, studies and training related to air pollution. The President's request for this funding is essentially level with the FY07 requested amount and \$784 thousand below the FY06 obligated amount.

*Underground Storage Tanks:* EPA provides funding to states, tribes, and/or Intertribal Consortia through the Underground Storage Tanks (UST) categorical grants to encourage owners and operators to properly operate and maintain their USTs. In FY08, EPA will use funds for direct implementation of release detection or release prevention (spill, overfill, and corrosion protection requirements) programs on Tribal lands where EPA carries out the UST program.

EPA has the primary responsibility for implementation of the UST Program in Indian country. In FY 2008, grants under P.L. 105-276 will continue to help tribes develop the capacity to administer UST programs. For example, funding is used to support training for tribal staff, educate owners and operators in Indian country about UST requirements, and maintain information on USTs located in Indian country. EPA will also implement the UST Tribal strategy developed in FY 2006 in Indian country. As specified in the EPAct, EPA is

required by August 8, 2007, and every three years thereafter, to conduct on-site inspections in Indian country of all tanks not inspected since 1998.

*Pollution Control (Sec. 106)*: Section 106 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes EPA to provide Federal assistance to states, tribes qualified under Section 518(e), and interstate agencies to establish and maintain adequate measures for the prevention and control of surface and ground water pollution from point and nonpoint sources.

*Non-Point Source Pollution*: Non-point source pollution is the greatest remaining source of surface and ground water quality impairments and threats in the United States. Grants under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) are provided to states, territories, and Tribes to help them implement their EPA-approved non-point source (NPS) management programs by remediating NPS pollution that has occurred in the past and by preventing or minimizing new NPS pollution. The Administration request eliminates the statutory one-third of one percent cap on CWA Section 319 Non-Point Source Pollution grants that may be awarded to tribes.