

*The Susquehanna River basin is being protected and restored to health with funding and effort from the EPA.*



# Rough Waters Ahead

## The Impact of the Trump Administration's EPA Budget Cuts on the Susquehanna River Basin

*The Susquehanna River provides drinking water and recreation opportunities to millions, but mining, logging and other human activity has polluted the basin's rivers and lakes. The Environmental Protection Agency has been vital to restoring the Susquehanna River to health, holding polluters accountable and supporting research for stronger protections. The Trump administration, however, has proposed cutting the EPA's budget by 31 percent, putting the future of the Susquehanna River basin in jeopardy.*

## Clean Water in the Susquehanna River Basin Requires a Strong EPA

The Susquehanna River basin is being protected and restored with funding and effort from residents, local and state governments, and the EPA. The EPA has worked to:

- **Protect residents from unsafe drinking water:** The June 2015 fire at the Miller Chemical fertilizer plant in Adams County resulted in the discharge of flame retardant foam and fertilizer compounds into a Conewago Creek tributary from which the town of New Oxford draws its drinking water. Emergency response teams used a tool developed with EPA funding to track the contamination and protect the residents of New Oxford from drinking water contamination.
- **Keep pollution out of our waterways:** The EPA has set basin-wide limits on nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution as part of its work to restore the Chesapeake Bay. This program requires bay states, including Pennsylvania, to cut pollution – helping to save the bay while improving conditions in the Susquehanna River.

- **Restore waterways to health:** In the 1990s, Miller Run in Huntingdon County was so acidic and polluted with heavy metals from acid mine drainage that fish could only be found upstream of mine pollution sources. The Shoup's Run Watershed Association received funding from the EPA and other sources, to clean up the stream and restore Miller Run to a healthy native brook trout fishery.

- **Hold polluters accountable:** The EPA found that an egg and dairy farm in the Manheim area was discharging raw manure and contaminated water to a tributary of Chiques Creek without a permit. The EPA ordered the farm to comply with its obligations under the Clean Water Act and fined the farm.

- **Conduct research and educate the public:** The EPA is funding a team of Yale researchers to investigate the relationship between water contamination due to fracking and adverse birth outcomes, like preterm births or birth defects, in Susquehanna County and five other counties in Pennsylvania and Ohio. The project will create a tool to help local health officials identify which homes may be more vulnerable to drinking water contamination to target interventions.

## More Restoration Work Needed

Water quality in the Susquehanna River has greatly improved in recent years, but the job is not done. Thousands of miles of the basin's rivers and streams are still too polluted for fishing, swimming or drinking. Now is not the time to hobble the EPA's essential work or to cut the funding it provides for state and local efforts to protect the Susquehanna River.



Acid mine drainage affects thousands of miles of streams and creeks in the Susquehanna River basin.



The EPA requires that livestock operations, like the Manheim area farm, take actions to manage raw manure and wastewater discharges to protect clean water in nearby streams.

## The Proposed Budget Cuts Target EPA Grant Programs that Help Pennsylvania to Ensure Clean Water

Program (most recent year of funding for which data are available)	Funding in most recent year	Estimated lost funding due to proposed Trump admin. cuts
Water Pollution Control Grants (FY16)	\$5,984,000	\$1,795,200
Nonpoint Pollution Control Grants (FY16)	\$4,653,006	\$4,653,006
Drinking Water Protection and Enforcement Grants (FY17)	\$4,087,000	\$1,226,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,724,006</b>	<b>\$7,674,306</b>

Note: Estimates are calculated assuming EPA budget cuts affect all states by the same percentage. Reductions are based on grants from most recent fiscal year.

## A Strong EPA Requires Full Funding

To build on the progress of recent decades and ensure that our waterways are safe for swimming, fishing and other uses, funding for the EPA and the state and local efforts it supports should be increased, not cut. Aging drinking water and sewage infrastructure across the nation are in need of replacement, at a cost of \$600 billion over the next 20 years. The EPA needs resources to establish pollution limits that protect human health, and to make sure that polluters abide by those pollution standards. The EPA also needs funding to continue its critical role in supporting cleanup of past pollution and restoring damaged rivers and streams so that they can provide clean water. Ensuring that people who live, work and play in the Susquehanna River basin have continued access to clean water requires full funding for the EPA.

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