

State of Risk: How Hobbling the EPA Would Threaten Illinois' Health, Families, Jobs and Economy

The Environmental Protection Agency has worked for decades to protect public health and the environment, cleaning up our air, water, and land as our economy has continued to grow.

But now the Trump administration is [proposing](#) deep cuts to the EPA's budget, including the [\\$144 million in EPA grants](#) that Illinois received last year (FY2016).

Decisions are being made in Washington, D.C. that could move Illinois backward to a dirtier and more dangerous era. Hollowing out the EPA would be a disaster for Illinois, imperiling a generation's worth of environmental safeguards.

If President Trump succeeds in his plan to cut EPA's budget by almost one-third, the lowest since the 1970s, Illinoisans would face a future with more asthma attacks, more mercury, arsenic, lead and other toxic substances in our drinking water, more untreated waste sites, higher cancer risks, and fewer investigations to make polluters pay for the costs of cleaning up their waste.

Breathing would be at risk in Illinois

- More than [676,000 adults and 179,000 children](#) in Illinois have been diagnosed with asthma. Asthma was responsible for [over 72,000 emergency room visits and nearly 19,000 hospitalizations](#) in Illinois in 2011, and missed work days due to asthma cost Illinois families hundreds of millions of dollars every year. EPA is responsible for implementing clean air safeguards designed to prevent [up to 850,000 asthma attacks](#) across the country every year.
- EPA's [longstanding work](#) to cut smog pollution has helped reduce the occurrence of "[Code Red](#)" days – when air pollution is so bad that people are advised not to spend time outside. EPA grants cover [over 25%](#) of state and local air quality monitoring costs, but [one-third of that funding would disappear](#) under the Trump budget.

Drinking, swimming and outdoor water activities in Illinois would be at risk

- [Over 4.8 million people in Illinois](#) rely on surface waters for drinking. EPA helps deal with "[nonpoint source](#)" [runoff pollution](#) that drains into those waterways. This includes fertilizers and insecticides, grease and toxic chemicals from energy production, acid drainage from abandoned mines, and bacteria and nutrients from livestock, and faulty septic systems. EPA provided Illinois with \$6.7 million to help protect its surface water in FY 2016, but the Trump administration would eliminate that funding.
- Trump's budget would even eliminate the EPA [program](#) that protects the Great Lakes from toxic substances, pollution, and invasive species.

Lead poisoning would be a risk in Illinois

- Over five decades, EPA has worked to stop the use of lead in gasoline, paint, plumbing pipes, and soil, reducing the amount of lead in Americans' blood by [more than 90%](#) since the mid-1970s. But [more than a million kids](#), disproportionately in low-income communities of color, still have elevated levels of lead in their blood, as the crisis in Flint, Michigan reminded us. Trump's budget would eliminate the EPA's Lead Risk Reduction Program, cut millions of dollars from the Children's Health program, and do away with the Environmental Justice program that seeks to ensure our environmental laws don't discriminate based on race, ethnicity, or income level.

Land in the Prairie State would be at risk

- EPA is responsible for cleaning up the most polluted areas in the country, known as **Superfund sites**, which contain toxic waste and other hazardous materials. EPA also **provides support** for states and local communities to clean up polluted sites called brownfields so that they can be used or redeveloped, spurring economic growth.
- There are **45 Superfund sites** and **1,103 brownfields** in Illinois. Yet the Trump administration has proposed slashing **more than a third** of the funding for Superfund enforcement and cutting funding to states for the brownfields program by **30 percent**.
- Trump also wants to cut funding that ensures Americans are told which toxic chemicals are in their communities, and eliminate the board that investigates chemical industry accidents.

The Trump Administration’s road map: Eliminating and slashing EPA programs that protect the environment		
Programs, Grants, and Initiatives	Purpose	Trump Budget
Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program (section 319 grants)	Fights runoff pollution from roads, parking lots and excessive fertilizer	Eliminated
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks grants (LUST)	Protects water and soil from tanks leaking chemicals	Eliminated
Trust Fund monies to address Backlog of Hazardous Tanks		Cut 48%
BEACH Act Grants for Great Lakes and ocean coastal communities	Monitors fecal, algal, and other beach pollution	Eliminated
Water Pollution Control Grants (Section 106)	Supports water quality improvement and clean up	Cut 30%
Public Water System Supervision (PWSS section 1443a)	Helps ensure safe drinking water	Cut 30%
Superfund (1300+ sites)	Supports toxic and radioactive waste cleanup of most polluted sites	Cut 30%
Superfund Enforcement	Tracks down polluters + makes them pay	Cut 37%
Superfund Emergency Response Funds	Responds to urgent threats	Cut 18%
Brownfield Grants (450K active sites)	Supports cleanup and redevelopment of polluted sites	Cut 30%
Air Pollution Grants	Reduces “Code Red” and “Code Orange” days	Cut 30%
Indoor Radon Grant Program	Reduces radon in homes, schools and buildings	Eliminated
Lead Paint Professional Certification	Helps with lead abatement, risk assessment and inspections	Eliminated