

JULY 9, 1970

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

The President is submitting to the Congress today Reorganization Plans Nos. 3 and 4 of 1970, establishing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a new, independent agency within the Executive Branch, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Department of Commerce.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The EPA brings together in a single organization the major Federal pollution control programs now existing in four separate agencies and one interagency council. The creation of the EPA fulfills the President's pledge of February 10, 1970, to recommend improved administrative machinery to meet the current pollution crisis.

The mission of the EPA will be to organize the fight against environmental pollution on an integrated basis which acknowledges the critical relationships between pollutants, forms of pollution, and control techniques. Under the present organization, pollution control activities are conducted by many departments and agencies. Each is typically concerned with a single pollutant or source (radiation, pesticides), a single environmental medium (air, water, food), or a limited aspect of the total problem (health or economic effects, aesthetics). This fragmentation of effort has resulted in confusion and overlap, some delay in the recognition of new problems, and the continuance of inefficient management techniques. It has effectively inhibited any comprehensive examination of the total effects of pollutants by man, plants, animals, and ecological systems.

The creation of EPA will have the following advantages:

- It will upgrade the effectiveness of the Federal Government's major pollution control programs.
- It will provide a central focus for an evaluation of all pollution-related activities of the Federal Government.
- It will serve to upgrade the importance of environmental considerations and pollution programs within the Federal Government, and over a period of time tend to have a similar effect on program priorities within state and local governments.
- It will clarify industry responsibility by providing consistent standards and a single enforcement agency.

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--State and local pollution control agencies will be able to look to one Federal agency for all their financial support and technical assistance.

--It will insulate pollution abatement standard-setting from the promotional interests of other departments.

The EPA will have an estimated FY 1971 budget of \$1.4 billion and 5650 personnel, and consist of the following:

--The Federal Water Quality Administration (FWQA), now in the Department of the Interior;

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--the National Air Pollution Control Administration (NAPCA), now in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare;

--parts of the Environmental Control Administration (Bureaus of Solid Waste Management, Water Hygiene and a portion of the bureau of Radiological Health), also from HEW;

--the pesticides research and standard-setting program of the Food and Drug Administration, HEW;

--the pesticides registration authority of the Department of Agriculture;

--authority to perform general ecological research, from the Council on environmental Quality (CEQ);

--certain pesticide research authorities of the Department of Interior;

--the environmental radiation protection standard-setting function of the Atomic Energy Commission;

--The functions of the Federal Radiation Council (FRC).

[There followed a similar description of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.]