

STATEMENT OF
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ADMINISTRATOR
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
UNITED STATES SENATE

FEBRUARY 23, 1982

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am here today to outline the President's 1983 budget for the Environmental Protection Agency. With me today are the Deputy Administrator, Dr. John Hernandez, and the Associate, Assistant, and Acting Assistant Administrators who oversee the implementation of the Agency's programs.

The President is requesting 8,129 permanent workyears and \$961.4 million for our operating programs in 1983. In addition, we are requesting 516 permanent workyears and \$230 million for the implementation of the Hazardous Substance Response Program, commonly known as Superfund, and \$2.4 billion for the municipal sewage treatment construction grants program.

Compared to 1982, our 1983 budget for the operating programs and Superfund represents a 7 percent reduction in dollars and a 12 percent reduction in permanent workyears. EPA will meet its environmental responsibilities with a smaller budget by focusing resources on statutory responsibilities; simplifying relationships with the States and the regulated community; eliminating duplication of effort; and pursuing regulatory reform. This is our agenda; it is open, forthright, and I will share with you our objectives.

In my statement this morning, I would like to set forth in broad terms the overall nature of our proposed budget. I would also like to clarify what our proposals mean for the future of the Environmental Protection Agency, and how we intend to meet our statutory responsibilities in 1983.