Jared Mott, jmott@nemw.org
Senior Policy Analyst
Matthew McKenna, mmckenna@nemw.org
Director, Great Lakes Washington Program

House Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill and Report

Program (funding levels in millions of $)	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17 POTUS Request	FY17 House
EPA Brownfield Projects (assessment/ cleanup)	90	80	80	90	80
EPA Categorical Grants (Sec 128, Brownfields)	47.7	47.7	47.7	49.5	47.7
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	1,448.9	1,448.9	1,393.9	979.5	1,000
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	906.9	906.9	863.3	1020.5	1070.5
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	300	300	300	250	300
BEACH Grants	9.5	9.5	9.5	0[1]	0
National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.5	24.5
Great Lakes Science Center	8.4	8.5	8.5[2]	9[2]	not available
Chesapeake Bay Program	70	73	73	70	60
Section 106 Water Pollution Control	230.8	230.8	230.8	246.2	230.8
National Estuary Program Grants	16.8	16.8	26.7	27.2	26.7
Land and Water Conservation Fund (Departments of Interior and Agriculture)	306	306	450	900[3]	322
Water Availability and Use Science[4]	---	40.9	42.1	54.4	43.8
Groundwater & Streamflow Information[4]	---	69.7	71.5	73	73
National Water Quality[4]	---	94.1	92.8	94.1	92.8

[1] Requested elimination for FY2017
[2] Estimated funding level
[3] $425 million mandatory; $475 million discretionary
[4] Budget for USGS Water Resources programs was restructured in 2016; FY 2015 levels are presented in new structure for comparison

Other notable funding and provisions:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Invasive Species - Asian carp control is funded at $8.4 million. Quagga and zebra mussel control is funded at $2 million, as requested. Sea lamprey administrative costs are funded at $711,000, as requested. Increases above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level include $250,000 for the National Fish Passage Program and $1.14 million to implement State and interstate aquatic invasive species plans mandated by the National Invasive Species Act.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation - $13 million is included for landscape conservation cooperatives (LCCs), equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund - $37.6 million is included for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund or $2.5 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and the budget request. The Committee urges the Fish and Wildlife Services to make wetlands restoration projects that protect hunting and fishing treaty rights a higher priority.

National Wildlife Refuge System - $484.9 million is included for the National Wildlife Refuge System, $3.4 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Increases above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level include: $250,000 for invasive species control in coordination with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

National Fish Hatchery System - $55.4 million is included for National Fish Hatchery System Operations, $2 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and $1.7 million above the budget request. The national wild fish health survey program is funded at not less than $1.4 million, as requested.

Report language is also included requiring the Sectary of Interior to re-issue final rules delisting recovered gray wolves in Wyoming and the Great Lakes.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
$250,000 is included for the USGS's Great Lakes Fisheries assessments and $250,000 is included for the USGS's invasive species program with the requested funding levels for Asian Carp control included in the bill.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
The Committee report includes language aimed at reducing the growth of harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
$50 million is included for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Based on current Administration estimates, the Committee believes that direct loan subsidization through $50 million in the WIFIA program may be leveraged to fund anywhere from $3 billion to $5 billion worth of water infrastructure projects nationwide.

Lead in Drinking Water
The Committee report includes language providing additional authority to allow States to provide debt relief in areas with elevated levels of lead in drinking water. The bill allocates $6.5 million to fully fund activities related to integrated planning and provides $109.7 million, an increase of $7.7 million for Public Water System Supervision grants.

The Committee report includes language emphasizing that States should give greater weight to funding projects on State Intended Use Plans that would remove lead pipes from existing infrastructure.

The Committee Report includes language urging the Government Accountability Office to expeditiously assess the number of existing lead service lines by State to better understand the prevalence of lead pipes in the water infrastructure of cities around the country.

EPA Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources — The Committee recommends $107 million, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Committee supports planned activities in fiscal year 2016 to install a mobile pipe loop rig in the Flint drinking water treatment plant to examine lead release from pipes and evaluate lead mitigation strategies and corrosion control efforts.

Diesel Emissions Reductions Grants (DERA)
$100 million is included for DERA grants. The Committee directs EPA to continue to make at least 70 percent of DERA grants available to improve air quality in non-attainment areas.

Inland Oil Spills Program
$18 million is included for the Inland Oil Spill program, $130,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and $7.3 million below the budget request.

Historic Preservation Fund
The Committee recommends $78.4 million for historic preservation, $13 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and $9 million below the budget request.