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Long-term Environmental Monitoring and Clean Air Regulations

- ❖ **Four federal monitoring programs are crucial for assessing the effectiveness of regulations that limit acid deposition (such as Title IV of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments).**
 - **Changes in acid deposition** are monitored by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET). NADP measures precipitation and CASTNET measures atmospheric particles and gases.
 - **The response of acid-sensitive watersheds** is monitored by two surface-water monitoring networks administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): the Temporally Integrated Monitoring of Ecosystems (TIME) and the Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) network; both sample lakes and streams in areas most impacted by acid deposition. These areas include lakes in the Adirondacks (NY) and New England and streams in the Northern Appalachian Plateau (in PA and NY) and Blue Ridge region of VA and WV. The two networks use different sampling approaches and provide complementary information.
- ❖ **The Administration's proposed budget for FY08 would eliminate the TIME and LTM budgets and reduce funding for CASTNET by more than 25%.**
 - These cuts would completely shut down the TIME and LTM programs and would necessitate closure of some CASTNET dry deposition monitoring sites. Because the CASTNET budget also partially supports the NADP, some precipitation monitoring sites would also be affected.
- ❖ **When compared with the cost of implementing Title IV, the cost of these four programs is very small.**
 - NADP costs approximately \$5.5 million annually.
 - CASTNET costs approximately \$3.9 million annually.
 - TIME/LTM together cost less than \$1 million annually.

In contrast, the costs of compliance with Title IV of the Clean Air Act Amendments are estimated to be \$3 billion annually.

❖ **These programs provide the key information necessary for determining how Title IV is affecting the amount of acidic deposition and the response of sensitive ecosystems.**

- The CASTNET and TIME/LTM program will also be needed to evaluate the response of sensitive ecosystems to future emission reductions scheduled to begin in 2010 under the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR).

❖ **Legislative and Budget Details:**

- The CASTNET program is in the Clean Air Markets Division of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. The FY08 proposed budget is \$2.9 million as compared to the FY07 budget of \$3.9 million. The specific budget cut is on page S&T-9 of the Science and Technology section of EPA's Congressional Budget Justification; see <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/budget/2008/sciencetech.pdf>.
- The specific budget cut for TIME/LTM is also in the Science and Technology portion of EPA's budget. See the above link to the Budget Justification document. On page S&T-112 there is an item that shows a \$5.74M decrease in the "extramural component" of the EMAP program. Included in this (though not specified in the pdf budget document) is a \$0.8M reduction in TIME/LTM, which zeros-out the program.
- The House has already completed its appropriation bill for the EPA, but the Senate has not. In the Senate, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee has jurisdiction over EPA funding. Members of this subcommittee include: Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA), Chair; Senator Larry Craig (ID), Ranking Member; Patrick Leahy (VT); Judd Gregg (NH); Jack Reed (RI); Robert C. Byrd (WV); Byron Dorgan (ND); Barbara Mikulski (MD); Herb Kohl (WI); Tim Johnson (SD); Ben Nelson (NE); Ted Stevens (AK); Thad Cochran (MS); Pete Domenici (NM); Robert Bennett (UT); Wayne Allard (CO); Lamar Alexander (TN).

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