



Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1996

EPA ADMINISTRATOR RELEASES NEW REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THREATS TO CHILDREN

Luke C. Hester 202-260-1383

EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner today released a major new report that details health threats faced by children from toxics in the environment and sets forth a new national agenda to protect children from those risks more comprehensively than ever before.

Browner said, "We've learned that children face significant, long-term and unique threats from environmental toxics. For the first time, this report looks comprehensively at the impact of environmental pollution on children, and we believe that we must take a comprehensive approach to providing children with stronger health protection. Only when we have protected our children from toxic threats can we be sure that we are providing adequate public health protection for all Americans."

Browner said the report, Environmental Health Risks to Children, was prompted by the wide array of children's health problems that can be brought on by environmental risks. Among the report's findings are that:

- Asthma deaths among children and young people increased by 118 percent between 1980 and 1993, and asthma is now the leading cause of hospital admissions for children;
- Children exposed to tobacco smoke at home have 16 million more days of restricted activity, 10 million more days of bed confinement, and miss 7 million more school days each year than other children;
- Lead poisoning affects as many as 1.7 million children age five and under;
- Ten million children under the age of 12 live within four miles of a toxic waste dump;
- Polluted waters can affect children when they swim in rivers or lakes, and when they eat certain freshwater fish;
- Children may face developmental effects from emerging problems, such as the potential effects on endocrine systems from pesticides and industrial chemicals;
- Children are more at risk from toxics because their systems are still developing and because they consume more food and fluids, relative to their body size, than adults do; and
- Children's unique behavior -- crawling on the ground or playing outside -- exposes them more to pollutants and related health risks.

"We must meet the challenge of protecting our children from toxics in our environment," said Browner. "An awareness of children's unique susceptibility and exposure to toxic threats must guide every action we take to protect public health and the environment." She noted that the Agency will embark on implementing a comprehensive National Agenda to Protect Children's Health from Environmental Threats.

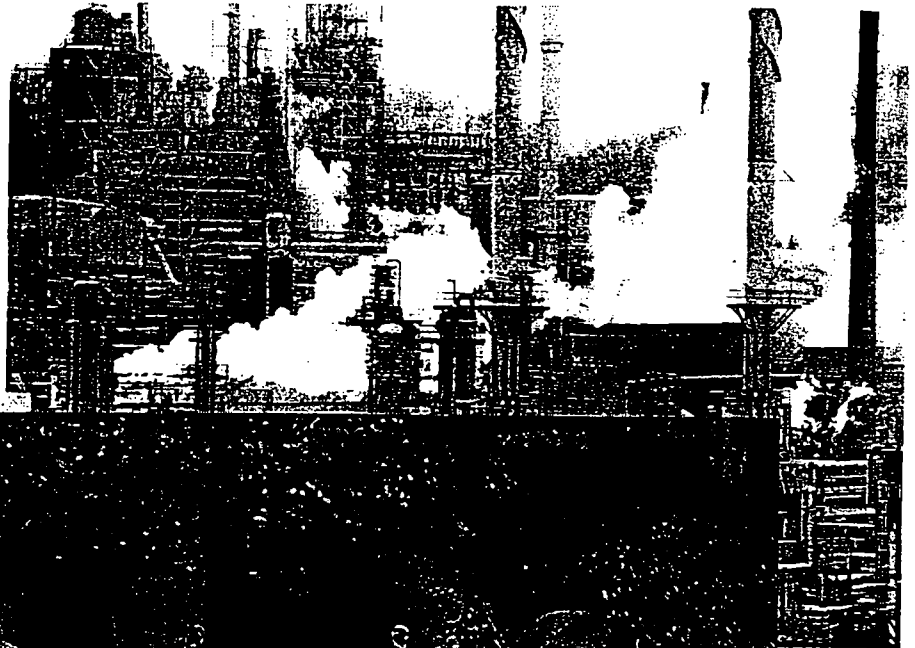
The Agenda, described in the report, will be undertaken by EPA, other governmental agencies, industry and health professionals, parents, teachers, and other stakeholder groups. The Agenda includes several specific actions to provide better protection of children's environmental health in such key areas as setting protective public health standards, expanding scientific research, and providing families with expanded right-to-know information. Among the actions outlined in the Agenda are:

- 1) EPA will set public health and environmental standards to ensure that they protect children, under a new national policy, and review the most significant current standards to ensure that they protect children.** New standards will reflect prevention of threats to children where possible, and existing standards will be re-evaluated as new scientific knowledge emerges. Five of the Agency's most significant current standards will be re-evaluated on an expedited basis; they will be selected with public input and scientific peer review.
- 2) To ensure that EPA applies the best science to its efforts to protect children, the Agency will identify and expand research on their unique susceptibility and exposure to environmental pollutants, so that new protections can be established that meet their unique needs.** The Agency will seek to establish and fund two National Centers of Excellence on Children's Environmental Health at established medical institutions to provide a focus for such research.
- 3) To ensure that children's health is approached comprehensively, EPA will address children's total exposure to toxic chemicals, moving beyond chemical-by-chemical approaches of the past.** The new policies will be implemented Agency-wide to better reflect cumulative and simultaneous exposures.
- 4) EPA will greatly expand its right-to-know and education efforts about children's environmental health threats, to provide better consumer information to families about children's risks; educate parents, teachers and community leaders about those risks and steps they can take to identify and address them; and educate health professionals to identify, prevent and reduce toxic threats to children.**

The agenda builds on a series of actions taken by EPA to protect children, including: unprecedented steps to protect children from the risks posed by pesticides in their food; a national policy to take into account children's health risks when assessing environmental risks on which standards are based; and safety controls and widespread public information on toxic hazards in the home, including lead-based paint.



Environmental Health Threats To Children





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

September 1996

Dear Reader:

EPA's report on *Environmental Health Threats to Children* presents the latest information on a major issue concerning today's families -- how children's health is directly and uniquely affected by our environment. Today, we recognize that children face an array of complex environmental threats to their health -- from asthma-inducing air pollution to toxic chemicals. This report describes how and why children are affected by these threats.

The report also details the Clinton Administration's substantial efforts to protect children from environmental health threats. These actions range from signing new laws that explicitly protect children from pesticides and provide safer drinking water, to expanding families' right-to-know about lead-based paint and other environmental pollutants, to issuing tough new standards for industrial air pollution. I firmly believe that we can best protect the health of all Americans and our environment by protecting our children.

Also contained in this report is EPA's *National Agenda to Protect Children's Health from Environmental Threats*, in which we call for a national commitment to ensure a healthy future for our children. We call on national, state and local policy makers -- as well as each community and family -- to learn about the environmental threats our children face; to participate in an informed national policy debate on how together we can best reduce health risks for children; and to take action to protect our nation's future by protecting our children.

EPA is committed to providing the American people with as much information as possible about environmental issues affecting children's health. This report is a major step forward in educating the nation about what we can do to ensure for our children a healthy environment and a healthy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol M. Browner".

Carol M. Browner



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Executive Summary

Protecting Our Children Is Fundamental

Protecting our children is one of the Clinton Administration's highest priorities. Healthy children and strong families are fundamental to the future of our nation. Protecting our environment is critical to our children's health today, and lays the groundwork for a healthier future for their generation, and for generations to come. As a nation, we must remain vigilant about protecting our children from environmental hazards—which we now recognize pose many unique threats to children's health. This report outlines the status of children's environmental health; sets forth Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) accomplishments in protecting children from environmental health risks; and puts forward EPA's agenda that challenges the nation to ensure our children's healthy futures.

Children Are Particularly Vulnerable to Environmental Health Risks

For several years, the Clinton Administration has recognized and worked to improve our understanding of how children are at increased risk from many environmental threats, compared to adults. Children are particularly at risk from environmental hazards in three ways:

- Because children's systems are still developing—including rapid changes in growth and development, immature body organs and tissues, and weaker immune systems in infancy—they are more susceptible to environmental threats.
- Because children eat proportionately more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air per pound of body weight, and because they play outside more, they are more exposed to environmental threats.
- Because children are least able to protect themselves, their behavior—such as crawling on the ground or the floor—exposes them to different environmental hazards.

Children Face a Wide Array of Environmental Hazards

Children today face significant and unique threats from a range of environmental hazards. Government and its partners have never faced a more complex challenge in protecting children. Environmental health hazards that threaten children range from asthma-inducing air pollution and lead-based paint in older homes, to treatment-resistant microbes in drinking water and persistent industrial chemicals that may cause cancer or induce reproductive or developmental changes. Just as the nation rose to meet the challenge of uncontrolled industrial pollution over the past 25 years, so too should we now commit to meet this new and critical challenge for our future.

The Clinton Administration Has Acted to Protect Children from Environmental Risks

The Clinton Administration has made great strides in protecting children. The Administration's new policy ensuring consideration of special environmental threats to children in the development of risk assessments, as well as its research agenda focusing on food pesticides and other exposures unique to children are among the many efforts the Clinton Administration has made to improve protection of children's health, based on cutting-edge science.

The centerpiece of EPA's effort has been Administrator Carol M. Browner's national policy, announced on October 23, 1995, to consistently and explicitly take into account health risks to children and infants from environmental hazards when conducting assessments of environmental risks. This new policy directly responds to issues raised by the National Academy of Sciences 1993 report, *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*, and is an extension of Administrator Browner's efforts to make children's health a priority throughout the Agency.

The Clinton Administration also has made children's health issues a high priority across all of EPA's work, including: drinking water protections; toxic waste clean-ups; toxic air pollution reduction; protections for rivers, lakes and streams; safety controls for toxic chemicals used at home; lead poisoning prevention; enforcement of environmental laws; and, most critically, use of the best scientific research to answer the many questions that remain about how children's health is affected by environmental hazards.

Responding swiftly to recommendations in the National Academy of Sciences 1993 report, the Clinton Administration took unprecedented steps to protect the health of children from the risks posed by pesticides in their food. The Administration committed to ensuring the safety of foods our children eat by considering children's unique exposures and risks, and by reducing the overall use and risks of pesticides in the United States. EPA has intensified its efforts to: reduce the use of high-risk pesticides; increase the research and testing needed to learn more about children's exposure to pesticides in food; and establish new standards to protect children and infants from dietary health risks posed by pesticides. EPA also is expanding its assessment of the effects from substances on children's neurological, endocrine, and immune systems.

More Remains to be Done

The array of environmental threats facing children today—and the uncertainties in the adequacy of current protections derived principally to protect adults—will require great care and commitment to address. We recognize that children's environmental health issues are a

top priority and must become a central focus of all EPA's efforts.

We thus challenge our partners in industry, governments, Congress, academics, health professions and interest groups to commit to adopt and help to implement EPA's

National Agenda to Protect Children's Health From Environmental Threats.

To meet this challenge, the Administration will:

1. As a national policy, ensure that all standards EPA sets are protective of the potentially heightened risks faced by children, and that the most significant current standards be re-evaluated as we learn more;

2. Identify and expand scientific research opportunities on child-specific susceptibility and exposure to environmental pollutants so that the best information can be employed in developing protections for children;

3. Develop new, comprehensive policies to address cumulative and simultaneous exposures faced by children—analogous to the goal of EPA's Common Sense

Initiative—moving beyond the chemical-by-chemical approach of the past;

4. Expand community right-to-know—building on successes under the current law and expanding the available tools through a Family Right-to-Know Initiative—to allow families to make informed choices concerning environmental exposures to their children;

5. Provide parents with basic information so they can take individual responsibility for protecting their children from environmental health threats in their homes, schools, and communities;

6. Expand educational efforts with health and environmental professionals to identify, prevent, and reduce environmental health threats to children; and

7. Commit to provide the necessary funding to address children's environmental health issues as a top priority among relative health risks, as started in the President's Fiscal Year 1997 Budget.

EPA's National Agenda to Protect Children's Health from Environmental Threats will, together with the efforts of our partners, ensure that children receive the protection they need and deserve, and help our nation fulfill its obligation to protect future generations.



Note to Correspondents

FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1997

President Clinton today signed an executive order to reduce environmental health and safety risks to children. Attached are statements by Vice President Gore and EPA Administrator Browner and a fact sheet on the executive order.

R-60

**John Kasper, Director
Press Services Division**

**THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, April 21, 1997

CONTACT: 202-456-7035

**VICE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE ORDER TO REDUCE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS TO CHILDREN
Action Will Require Agencies to Consider Effects of Federal Rules on Children**

WASHINGTON D.C. — Vice President Gore visited the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. today (4/21) and announced an executive order to reduce environmental health and safety risks to children.

"This executive order says to every federal agency and department: put our children first. We Americans owe our largest responsibility to our smallest citizens" said Vice President Gore. "From now on, agencies will have to take a hard look at the special risks and disproportionate impact that standards and safeguards have on our children."

The executive order, which President Clinton signed today, includes actions that will strengthen policies and improve research to protect children, and ensure that new safeguards consider special risks to children. It would, for the first time, require agencies to analyze and explain the effects of their rules on children.

Studies have demonstrated that children are at a disproportionate risk from environmental health, and safety hazards. These disproportionate risks — which can lead to illnesses like cancer, leukemia, and asthma — stem from fundamental differences, in terms of physiology and activity, between children and adults.

The Clinton Administration has taken bold steps to provide explicit protection for children in initiatives such as the Food Quality Protection Act and Safe Drinking Water Act; development of new standards for passive restraints for children in cars; and administrative action to protect children from tobacco, lead and other hazards. This executive order is another example of the Administration's continued commitment to protecting America's children from environmental and safety hazards.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Carol M. Browner, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Executive Order to Protect Children
from Environmental Risks and Safety Risks
Washington, DC
April 21, 1997**

I am delighted to welcome everyone here today -- the doctors, the nurses and everyone associated with this wonderful hospital -- and especially the Vice President and Secretary Shalala -- for the announcement of this historic initiative to strengthen America's families, protect the public health, and safeguard the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land on which we live.

At last week's White House conference on early childhood development, the First Lady offered these words from the Chilean poet, Gabriela Mistral:

"Many things we need can wait; the child cannot. Now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, his mind being developed. To him, we cannot say, tomorrow. His name is today."

Today, on the eve of Earth Day -- the day on which we pay tribute to the critical task of protecting our environment and our health -- we herald an important step by President Clinton and Vice President Gore to put those words into action, and to give children a healthier start in life.

It directs federal departments and agencies to step back from the normal regulatory, rulemaking and standard-setting process and ensure that, at the end of the day, our children are protected from environmental health risks and safety risks.

In so doing, it builds upon EPA's experience in addressing the unique challenges of protecting children from environmental health hazards -- most notably:

- Our 1995 requirement that every environmental standard we set includes an evaluation of specific and real-world risks to children.
- Our 1996 policy that all future EPA rulemakings put children first in protecting the public health.

- Our report last September providing a national assessment of environmental health threats to children -- as well as a national agenda for addressing these concerns.
- And, most recently, our creation of an EPA Office of Children's Health Protection.

In my dual responsibilities as the mother of a 9-year-old and as EPA administrator, I have become especially familiar how children suffer disproportionately from environmental hazards.

When you account for their size, children eat more of certain types of food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air than adults do. The youngest ones crawl on the floor or the ground. The older ones spend a lot of time outdoors. Thus, children are often more exposed to potentially harmful pollutants in the soil, around the house or in the air and water.

And despite all the progress we have made in environmental protection over the past quarter-century -- progress we will celebrate tomorrow on Earth Day -- there is still great cause for concern about what is happening to America's children.

We live in an era in which millions of children live near toxic waste dumps, in which 100,000 children a year accidentally ingest pesticides, and in which childhood asthma and cancer rates are on the increase.

Under these circumstances, doesn't it make sense that our government should do everything it possibly can to ensure that children are protected from these threats to their health and safety?

I thank the President and the Vice President for giving us this critical tool to carry out that responsibility. I look forward to working with Secretary Shalala to see that this executive order delivers on its promise. And I am delighted to turn the floor over to her.

Enhancing Protection of Children's Health

April 21, 1997

Vice President Gore today announced an executive order to reduce environmental health and safety risks to children. For the first time, federal agencies will be required to assign high priority to addressing these risks, to coordinate their research priorities on children's health, and to ensure that their standards take into account special risks to children.

Because children are still developing and because of they take in more food, water, and air relative to their body weight than adults, they are more susceptible than adults to environmental threats. In the past 25 years we have made great progress in protecting public health from environmental hazards, but we still have far to go: Asthma is now the leading cause of hospital admissions for children, 10 million children under the age of four still live within four miles of a toxic dump, and despite a steady decline in childhood lead poisoning, there are still nearly one million children under the age of five who suffer from this condition.

The executive order, which President Clinton signed today, includes the following actions:

- ***Strengthen Policies to Protect Children.*** The executive order requires all agencies to make the protection of children a high priority in implementing their statutory responsibilities and fulfilling their overall missions.
- ***Improve Research and other Initiatives to Protect Children.*** The proposed executive order would create an interagency task force to establish a coordinated research agenda, to identify research and other initiatives the Administration will take to advance the protection of children's environmental health and safety, and to enlist public input for these efforts. The Office of Management and Budget is charged with convening an Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, to produce an annual compendium of the most important indicators of the well being of the Nation's children.
- ***Ensure that New Safeguards Consider Special Risks to Children.*** The executive order would, for the first time, require agencies to analyze and explain the effects of their rules on children. When a major regulation addresses special risks to children, agencies would have to 1) consider disproportionate impacts on children; and 2) explain why their proposed action is preferable to other alternatives. The primary goal of this provision is to link policy decisions to the emerging science regarding children's environmental health and safety. This provision ensures accountability to the public and helps agencies identify their research needs.

Finally, and perhaps most important, this executive order will help us make sure that our policy decisions are linked to the latest science regarding children's health and safety.

If the success stories that we've already had -- the Safe Drinking Water Act and the new tobacco provisions, the NetDays and the Earth Days -- if those success stories teach us anything, it this: we are at our best when we work together. So let's work together to do right by our children. And let's make this -- the strongest nation in the world -- stronger and healthier still.

###

BACKGROUND

There is a growing body of evidence, highlighted by a 1993 study by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on the exposure of children to pesticides, demonstrating that children are at disproportionate risk from environmental health, and safety risks. The report also concludes that federal regulatory standards often fail to consider these risks fully.

These disproportionate risks stem from several fundamental differences between children and adults, in terms of physiology and activity. Children are still developing, and thus are neurologically and immunologically more susceptible to certain risks. Children eat, drink and breathe more for their weight, exposing them to greater amounts of contamination and pollution for their weight. Children are less able to protect themselves by use of judgment and skill (e.g. navigating traffic, reading and following warnings). Concurrent with their recognition of these factors, scientists have documented an alarming increase in the incidence of conditions in children that may be linked to environmental health and safety risks. These include childhood cancer, leukemia, and asthma, as well as childhood deaths and injuries from accidents.

President Clinton has taken bold action to respond to the challenge posed by this new science. President Clinton's initiatives resulted in explicit protection for children in the Food Quality Protection Act and Safe Drinking Water Act; development of new standards for passive restraints in cars that are more protective of children; and administrative action to protect children from tobacco, lead, and other hazards. Each of these initiatives responds to major threats to children that are of major concerns to American families.

These successes highlight the need for an overall, coordinated approach to children's issues that highlights their priority, coordinates federal research, and ensures that federal standards consistently account for disproportionate risks to children. Today's executive order, developed through extensive consultation with affected agencies, would fill this gap with provisions to address each of these areas.



Note to Correspondents

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1996

President Clinton today signed the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996.

Attached are the White House press release on the signing, a fact sheet on the Act and a state-by-state breakdown of potential funds under the Act.

R-116

**John Kasper, Director
Press Services Division**

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LEGISLATION TO ENSURE AMERICANS SAFE DRINKING WATER

August 6, 1996

The President today will sign into law new legislation to ensure American families have clean, safe tap water. In his remarks, he will emphasize the fundamental importance of providing Americans with confidence that they have safe food and water. He will also highlight the bipartisan support for this bill which allows American families that security.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 strengthens and expands the nation's drinking water protections. The new law is based on the Administration's 1993 reform proposal including a drinking water treatment loan fund and protection for drinking water sources. *See attached fact sheet.*

Today's bill signing builds on Administration actions to protect our families by keeping our food and water supply as safe as possible.

- Today's bill reflects improvements that the Clinton Administration has called for since September 1993.
- Last week, the President signed the Food Quality Protection Act, which updated the standards for pesticide use in our food, making our food supply safer.
- President Clinton by executive order and through administrative actions strengthened and expanded the Community Right to Know law, which gives the public information about toxic releases and requires polluters to disclose that information to the public.
- Last year the Administration put in place strong new protections to ensure that seafood is safe.
- Last month, President Clinton announced steps to revamp our meat and poultry inspection system for the first time in 90 years.

The following is the program for the event:

- EPA Administrator Carol Browner makes remarks.
- Diana Neidle, safe drinking water activist, makes remarks.
- The President makes remarks.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT WILL PROVIDE STRONGER PROTECTIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

A new safe drinking water law will provide strengthened protections to ensure that American families have clean, safe tap water -- improvements that the Clinton Administration has called for since September 1993, when the Administration announced key reform proposals for the Safe Drinking Water Act. The new law is based on provisions in the Administration's 1993 reform proposal, including a drinking water treatment loan fund and protections for drinking water sources. The new law will strengthen and expand the nation's drinking water protections in four important ways:

- **Giving the American people the right to know about tap water contaminants:** The Clinton Administration proposed improvements in consumer information about local tap water in 1995. The Administration actively supported strong requirements now in the new law that will make more information public than ever before, giving Americans access to direct, simple information -- sent directly to their homes in water utility bills -- about local water quality, contaminants, water sources, and whether the water poses a risk to health.
- **Strengthening standards to protect public health from the most significant threats to safe drinking water:** The new law will strengthen standards that will protect Americans from contaminants that pose the greatest health risks -- a principle already embraced in the President's budget. The law sets clear schedules for developing standards for deadly microbial contaminants like cryptosporidium, and calls for considering special populations such as the elderly, children, people with HIV/AIDS, and others when standards are set, to ensure stronger health protection. The law also mandates technical assistance to help water systems nationwide do a better job of delivering safe, clean water.
- **Providing money that communities need to upgrade drinking water systems:** The new law authorizes up to \$9.6 billion in loan funds that would go straight to the states to upgrade drinking water treatment systems in communities nationwide through the year 2003; the funds are contingent upon future appropriations actions by the Congress. In 1993, the President for the first time ever proposed establishing a loan fund for safe drinking water. President Clinton has proposed a total of \$2.3 billion for this purpose in his budget request since FY94.
- **Protecting the sources of our drinking water:** The Clinton Administration has long called for measures to prevent pollution of drinking water sources *before* they become contaminated. The Administration has acted to protect many water sources, including the Great Lakes -- which provide drinking water for 23 million Americans -- and the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which supplies drinking water to 2/3 of all Californians. The new law calls for identifying and assessing potential pollution threats to local sources of water; it also provides states with a flexible, common-sense framework to develop and fund local projects to protect the rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater that serve as the sources of our nation's tap water.

Safe Drinking Water Loans: Potential Funds for States

In 1993, President Clinton proposed the first Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund to help states and communities across America upgrade aging drinking water systems to provide safe, clean water. The new Safe Drinking Water Act establishes that fund by authorizing \$9.6 billion through the year 2003, but Congress must still appropriate the necessary monies. Once Congress acts, the following potential amounts would become available to states in FY97, based on the current allocation formula:

Alabama	\$12,458,800	Ohio	\$42,727,900
Alaska	\$26,822,700	Oklahoma	\$17,421,700
Arizona	\$16,803,100	Oregon	\$18,769,400
Arkansas	\$12,458,800	Pennsylvania	\$52,843,700
California	\$75,075,600	Puerto Rico	\$12,458,800
Colorado	\$16,650,200	Rhode Island	\$12,458,800
Connecticut	\$21,237,100	South Carolina	\$14,703,400
Delaware	\$12,458,800	South Dakota	\$12,458,800
DC	\$12,458,800	Tennessee	\$12,674,500
Florida	\$44,771,000	Texas	\$69,591,200
Georgia	\$25,568,900	Utah	\$12,458,800
Hawaii	\$12,458,800	Vermont	\$12,458,800
Idaho	\$14,045,000	Virginia	\$29,206,800
Illinois	\$38,194,100	Washington	\$30,896,600
Indiana	\$25,506,500	West Virginia	\$12,458,800
Iowa	\$16,722,700	Wisconsin	\$41,213,500
Kansas	\$13,982,600	Wyoming	\$12,458,800
Kentucky	\$12,458,800		
Louisiana	\$20,257,100	Other jurisdictions*	\$ 4,152,900
Maine	\$12,552,500	Indian Land	\$19,125,000
Maryland	\$17,500,000	Research	\$10,000,000
Massachusetts	\$14,230,200		
Michigan	\$59,202,600		
Minnesota	\$41,748,800	TOTAL	\$1,275,000,000
Mississippi	\$16,342,800		
Missouri	\$21,682,900		
Montana	\$14,708,000		
Nebraska	\$12,721,900		
Nevada	\$12,458,800		
New Hampshire	\$13,645,200		
New Jersey	\$27,723,700		
New Mexico	\$12,658,200		
New York	\$58,693,400		
North Carolina	\$45,744,600		
North Dakota	\$12,458,800		

* Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and Pacific Trust Territories.



Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1996

Attached is a statement by the President on Senate passage of the Food Quality Protection

Act.

R-109.

**John Kasper, Director
Press Services Division**

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 26, 1996

Statement by the President

I am pleased that the Senate tonight passed the Food Quality Protection Act.

Americans have every right to expect the world's most bountiful food supply will also be the world's safest. Earlier this month, I announced tough new measures to improve meat and poultry safety. Meeting goals I set early in my Administration to strengthen our pesticide laws, this legislation is another major step forward. It puts in place a strong health-based standard, provides special safeguards for children, and protects our health and safety using the best science available. This bill demonstrates how Congress and the Administration can work together to help farmers and consumers, and I look forward to signing it.

###

NEW FOOD SAFETY LAW PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE OVERHAUL OF NATIONAL HEALTH PROTECTIONS

The new food safety law will provide a **comprehensive overhaul to strengthen the nation's food safety system** that regulates pesticides on foods -- reforms that the Clinton Administration has urged since 1993. These reforms will replace the current system, resulting in protections that will ensure health and safety for American families in three important ways:

- **A more protective, more stringent health-based standard to increase protection from pesticide exposure:** The new law provides a stronger, health-based standard to be applied across the board, for all pesticide uses on all foods. The Delaney clause in the existing law only dealt with cancer-causing pesticide residues on processed food. The new law will replace the existing system that provided inconsistent protection because it applied different standards for different types of foods. All pesticide residue levels will be required to meet the new standard; older pesticides will be reviewed to ensure they meet updated standards; and safer substitutes will be approved faster so they can reach the market sooner, replacing older pesticides that may pose greater health risks. The new, more stringent law will apply across the board, so that American families will be assured of more comprehensive protection from any pesticides, on any food they buy.
- **Special new provisions to protect the health of infants and children from pesticide risks:** Several provisions in the new law will specifically protect infants and children from pesticide health risks -- measures that will carry out the key recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences in its 1993 report on "Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children." The law requires an explicit determination that the allowable levels of pesticide residues on food are safe for children; if evidence of safety is uncertain, allowable levels will err on the side of child safety, providing as much as ten times more protection. The law also will require EPA to consider children's special sensitivity and exposure to chemicals when setting pesticide limits. Arguments about the economic benefits of a pesticide could not be used to override limits based on protections for children. Regulators will be able to limit the amount of risk that pesticides pose to a child in any one year -- an important child-protection step, since many young children eat the same fresh foods in large amounts than adults do, putting them at greater risk.
- **New measures to expand consumers' right-to-know about pesticide health risks:** To ensure that Americans have both comprehensive health protection and the tools they need to protect themselves from pesticide risks, the law includes special right-to-know provisions that will provide more public information than ever before about risks from pesticides on foods. The law requires distribution of health information about pesticides on food -- with information about how consumers can avoid those health risks -- in major food stores nationwide. In addition, the law gives EPA new authority to require chemical manufacturers to disclose information about their pesticide products, beyond the requirements in existing laws. A specific provision will allow EPA to require manufacturers to provide information about the possible health effects pesticides may have on reproductive and developmental health.



Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1997

EPA ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR PROTECTING FOOD SAFETY, REGULATING PESTICIDES UNDER THE 1996 FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT

AL HEIER 202-260-4374

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today issued a comprehensive, detailed plan for implementing the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). The new law includes sweeping new food safety protections and requires major changes in how pesticides are regulated, with the goal of improving environmental and public health protection, especially for children.

"The Food Quality Protection Act is one of the most significant pieces of legislation enacted in the past two decades," said EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner. "We are committed to providing greater assurance that infants and children are protected from pesticide risks, expanding the public right-to-know about pesticides, and using the best available science in reaching our regulatory decisions as we carry out this important new law."

The FQPA Implementation Plan is based on five guiding principles that will govern the Agency's actions: sound science; a protective, health-based approach to food safety; promotion of safer, effective pest control methods; an open, fair and consistent process that involves consultation with stakeholders and an informed public; and public accountability of EPA's actions and resources to achieve the goals of the law.

The major provisions of the new law include:

- o Establishing a single, health-based standard for all pesticide residues in food, whether raw or processed;--
- o Providing for a more thorough assessment of potential risks, with special protections for potentially sensitive populations, such as infants and children;
- o Requiring EPA to reassess roughly 9,000 existing tolerances (maximum legally permissible residue levels in food) to ensure they meet the new standard;

- o Requiring EPA to develop consumer information, to be displayed in grocery stores, on the risks and benefits of pesticides used in or on food, as well as recommendations to consumers for reducing dietary exposure to pesticides while maintaining a healthy diet; and
- o Ensuring that all pesticides will be periodically re-evaluated to make sure they meet current testing and safety standards.

Among the major reforms of FQPA are requirements that EPA routinely address a number of new considerations in establishing tolerances for pesticide residues in food. Many of these new provisions raise complex scientific issues and call for new policies and evaluation methods. EPA has already brought a number of these issues before expert scientific review panels and will continue to consult with these expert bodies as implementation proceeds. Specifically, FQPA requires EPA to:

--use an extra safety factor in conducting risk assessments to assure the protection of infants and children;

--assess total pesticide exposure from all non-occupational sources including through the diet, in drinking water, and as a result of household pesticide use;

--assess effects of exposure to multiple pesticides with a common mechanism of toxicity;

--assess effects of in utero exposure; and

--assess potential effects on the endocrine system.

"The FQPA calls for a comprehensive overhaul of pesticide policies and we are working with leading scientists and other interested groups to update and reinvent our procedures and scientific approaches as called for by this law," said Dr. Lynn Goldman, EPA Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. "In the meantime, we must continue to make decisions and move ahead. We have adopted interim measures to ensure that decisions meet the new requirements of the law, including decisions on new pesticide registrations and the establishment of new tolerances for residues in food."

Soon after FQPA was enacted, EPA convened a broadly representative, high level Food Safety Advisory Committee to advise the Agency on strategic implementation issues. The Committee met in public sessions four times and concluded its work in December. EPA also established a new Endocrine Disruptors Screening and Testing Advisory Committee which met in December and February. This group is working to develop a chemical screening and testing

program to assess potential estrogenic and other hormonal effects as required by FQPA and the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996. EPA is also continuing to consult with the ongoing Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, including the formation of a working group to address such major new efforts on the development of consumer right-to-know information on pesticides for display in retail stores.

Since the FQPA was passed in August 1996, relying on the interim strategy released earlier this year, the Agency has registered six new conventional pesticides active ingredients (two of which are reduced risk products), 10 new biological pesticides and one new anti-microbial pesticide. EPA has also granted 52 emergency exemptions requested by the states facing critical pest control needs to deal with pest outbreaks that could not be controlled by currently registered products.

The Implementation Plan and additional information on FQPA and its implementation are available through the Office of Pesticide Programs Public Docket located at 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Va., Rm. 1132; telephone: 703-305-5805. Information is also posted on the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/lawsregs.htm>.

Reporters can obtain a copy of the plan by calling Al Heier at 202-260-4374. Others should call the Office of Pesticide Programs at 703-305-5017.

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1996

EPA PROPOSES AIR STANDARDS FOR PARTICULATE MATTER AND OZONE

Dave Ryan 202-260-2981

Based on evidence of harm to human health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today proposed new national air quality standards for particulate matter (soot) and ground-level ozone (smog).

Because of the significance of the proposal, EPA will seek broad public comment on its recommended approach and on the need for any changes to the particulate matter and ozone proposal. The purpose of the comment period is to reach out to all stakeholders in order to obtain the best information available for determining the appropriate final standards.

"In the Clean Air Act, Congress required EPA to review and incorporate the best available science into public health standards to protect Americans from air pollution," said EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner. "The EPA proposal would provide new protection to nearly 133 million Americans, including 40 million children. We will use the very best science to do what is necessary to protect public health in common-sense, cost-effective ways."

Particulate matter (PM), or soot, comes largely from combustion from sources like power plants or large incinerators. Ozone is primarily the haze of chemicals from car exhausts and smoke-stack emissions that shrouds many cities on hot summer days.

EPA and a board of independent scientists have reviewed 86 PM-related human-health studies, covering millions of people, that showed harmful effects from breathing particles at the current standard. The proposed standard, along with clean air programs already planned, would reduce premature deaths by 40,000 per year, and reduce serious respiratory problems in children by 250,000 cases per year.

Another 185 of the latest ozone-related studies on human health also were reviewed. All of them showed harmful effects from ozone at the current standard, including more than 1.5 million incidences a year of significant respiratory problems, such as loss of lung capacity and exacerbation of both childhood and adult asthma. In addition to threatening health, ozone and PM can damage agricultural crops, and diminish visibility in national parks, in some cases by as much as 77 percent.

Browner said, "EPA has based its proposal on a thorough review of the best available science. We are now hoping to hear from a wide range of the American people, from scientists and environmentalists to industry experts, small business owners, doctors and parents, to receive the broadest possible public comment and input on this important issue."

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The PM standard currently calls for regulation of particles the size of 10 microns or smaller (PM-10) in concentrations of 50 micrograms per cubic meter annually and 150 micrograms per cubic meter daily. The proposed PM standard calls for 2.5 microns or smaller (PM 2.5) in concentrations of 15 micrograms per cubic meter annually and 50 micrograms per cubic meter daily. EPA today also proposed maintaining the current standards for PM-10 so that larger, coarse particles would continue to be regulated. The current ozone standard is .12 parts per million measured over one hour. EPA's proposed standard calls for .08 parts per million measured over eight hours. EPA also is seeking comment on several other options, including an ozone concentration of .09 parts per million measured over eight hours, as well as a range of ozone concentrations from .07 parts per million measured over eight hours to .12 parts per million measured over one hour, the current standard. On both proposed standards, EPA has also specified the way in which attainment of these standards would be measured.

EPA believes that the standards being proposed are consistent with the work of the independent scientists on the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee, which is part of EPA's long-standing Science Advisory Board. EPA will be taking comment on the scientific evidence during the comment period.

Browner today also expanded the membership and the mandate of an implementation advisory committee, to ensure that any plans to carry out the standards will include the advice and participation of state and local governments, industry, small business and environmental groups in order to identify common-sense, cost-effective options for implementation of the standards.

Plans to meet any finalized standards would be due in 2002 for PM, and in 2000 for ozone control strategies. Deadlines for achieving full compliance would occur several years thereafter for both types of pollution.

Congress specifically named six air pollutants under the Clean Air Act to be regulated by EPA's national air quality standards. They are ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Congress directed that such standards should be reviewed at least every five years by EPA to keep up with current science, and that proposals to revise them should be based solely upon the best current scientific opinion on public health effects, not economic impacts. Since initially setting standards in the early 1970s, EPA has changed the standards only twice: Once, in 1979, and once in 1987. During the Bush Administration, a decision was made not to review the current science regarding the health effects of ozone.

There is a 60-day comment period on the proposal. Once a final regulation is issued in June 1997, it will be among the first major environmental rules reviewed by Congress under the new Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act.

Today's action will appear soon in the Federal Register, but will be computer-accessible earlier through EPA's electronic bulletin board system, the Technology Transfer Network (TTN) at <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks>. The TTN can be reached at 919-541-5742 (backup number for access problems is 919-541-5384). The notice will appear on the TTN's Clean Air Act Amendments Bulletin Board under "Recently Signed Rules." For further technical information, contact Jeff Clark of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-5557.

Public Health Effects of Ozone and Fine Particle Pollution

Every American adult breathes in 13,000 liters of air each day, on average, and children breathe in 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults do -- making public health protection from harmful air pollutants a top priority. As required by Congress in the Clean Air Act, EPA has reviewed and proposed new standards to reduce two of the most widespread forms of harmful air pollution -- **particulate matter and ground-level ozone (smog)**. Taken together, they contribute to acute health effects ranging from premature deaths to preventable respiratory problems. Following are facts about these types of pollution, related health effects, and results expected from the new proposed standards, if they are finalized in their current form:

Particulate Matter: Particulate matter is a mix of coarse and fine particles that **can't be seen individually by the naked eye, but often appear as haze, dust clouds or sooty emissions**. Sources of coarse particles include industrial crushing and grinding operations, materials handling, vehicle travel on unpaved roads and windblown dust. Fine particles result from industrial, motor vehicle and power generating fuel combustion, as well as burning wood and brush. Pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds also can form fine particles.

Effect on Public Health: Fine particles can penetrate deep into the lungs. On a smoggy day, a single breath can take in millions of fine particles. Some 74 million Americans -- 28% of the population -- are regularly exposed to harmful levels of particulate air pollution. In recent studies, exposure to fine particle air pollution -- either alone or with other air pollutants -- has been linked with many health problems:

- **An estimated 40,000 Americans die prematurely each year, according to peer-reviewed studies, from respiratory illness and heart attacks linked with particle exposure, particularly elderly people;**
- **Children and adults experience aggravated asthma: Asthma in children increased 118% between 1980 and 1993, and it is currently the leading cause of child hospital admissions;**
- **Children become ill more frequently and experience increased respiratory problems, including difficult and painful breathing; and**
- **Hospital admissions, emergency room visits and premature deaths increase among adults with heart disease, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and other heart and lung diseases.**

Increased Public Health Protections from EPA Proposal: The current standard covers reductions of coarse particles of 10 microns in diameter. If finalized in its current form, EPA's proposal would increase public health protection by helping to reduce fine particles of 2.5 microns in diameter, as well as coarse particle pollution. This approach was recommended by an overwhelming majority of independent scientists who reviewed the standard for EPA, based on 86 new health studies that indicate the need for a stronger standard. If finalized as proposed, the new standard would:

- **Cut premature deaths linked with particulate air pollution by 50%, or approximately 20,000 deaths; with acid rain controls currently underway, an additional 20,000 deaths will be avoided;**
- **Reduce aggravated asthma episodes by more than a quarter million cases each year;**
- **Reduce incidence of acute childhood respiratory problems by more than a quarter million occurrences each year, including aggravated coughing and painful breathing;**
- **Reduce chronic bronchitis by an estimated 60,000 cases each year;**
- **Reduce hospital admissions due to respiratory problems by 9,000 each year, as well as reduce emergency room visits and overall childhood illnesses in general; and**
- **Cut haze and visibility problems by as much as 77% in some areas, such as national parks.**

Ground-level Ozone: Ground-level ozone — the prime ingredient in smog in our cities — is easily formed in the atmosphere, usually during hot weather. Smog results from a reaction between such gases as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that are emitted from motor vehicles and a wide range of industrial air pollutants. Ozone also makes plants more susceptible to diseases and pests, and reduces agricultural crop yields for many economically vital crops such as wheat, cotton, soybeans and kidney beans.

Effect on Public Health: Studies show that repeated exposure to ozone pollution for several months may cause permanent structural damage to the lungs, a serious issue for the 122 million Americans — 46% of the population — who are regularly exposed to harmful levels of ozone pollution. Because ozone pollution usually forms in hot weather, anyone who spends time outdoors in the summer is at risk, particularly children, moderate exercisers, and outdoor workers. Even when inhaled at very low levels, ground-level ozone prompts a variety of health problems:

- **Children and adults experience aggravated asthma;**
- **Healthy adults' lung capacity is temporarily reduced by 15 to 20 percent;**
- **Hospital admissions and emergency room visits increase.** In the northeastern U.S., 10 to 20 percent of all summertime hospital visits for respiratory problems are linked with ozone pollution;
- **Lung tissues are inflamed, and acute respiratory problems develop; and**
- **Immune defenses are reduced, leaving people more susceptible to respiratory illness, including pneumonia and bronchitis.**

Increased Public Health Protections from EPA Proposal: Because it has not been revised since 1979, and because current science indicates that many Americans still appear to be at risk from ozone pollution, EPA is proposing to revise the standard to provide increased health protection. If finalized in its current form, the new proposal would reduce ground-level ozone concentrations from .12 parts per million measured over one hour to .08 parts per million measured over eight hours, and change to a more accurate measurement that will better reflect the actual health effects of ozone. This approach was reviewed by a panel of independent scientists and based on 185 new health studies. If finalized in its current form, the new proposal is expected to:

- **Result in over 1.5 million fewer cases of significant breathing problems (those where lung function is reduced up to 20%);**
- **Significantly reduce the need for hospital admissions, missed school and work days, restricted activity, and emergency room visits for respiratory problems;**
- **Cut illness in children overall, and reduce conditions ranging from inflamed lungs to irreversible lung damage in children;**
- **Reduce episodes when asthmatic children require medication or medical treatment; and**
- **Reduce by nearly \$1 billion agricultural crop losses caused by ozone.**

Scientific Review Process for Proposed Air Quality Standards

EPA's proposals to revise the standards for ozone and fine particle pollution are based on a scientific review required by Congress under the Clean Air Act, which mandates that the EPA Administrator determine every five years whether the nation's air quality standards are adequate to protect public health. Following is the scientific review process that led to EPA's proposals:

Broad Range of Peer-Reviewed Scientific Evidence Examined:

- To review the health standards for ozone and fine particle pollution, EPA began by **conducting a wide-ranging literature search, covering all aspects of ozone and particulate pollution.** The Agency then selected for review those studies relevant to human health effects.
- Over three years, EPA and two independent scientific review panels **identified 185 studies on the human health effects of ozone pollution and 86 studies on the links between particulate matter pollution and human health.** Studies examined included controlled human studies, epidemiological studies, and toxicological studies.
- A broad range of studies reviewed indicated that **the current standards for both ozone pollution and particulate pollution do not adequately protect public health, as required by law.** The studies show that serious health effects would occur even if the current standards were being met, indicating the need for stronger health protection.

EPA Relied on Independent, Peer Reviewed Scientific Research:

- Under the Clean Air Act, Congress requires EPA to rely on the advice of an **independent scientific review panel, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, made up of nationally recognized experts in a wide range of disciplines -- physicians, toxicologists, epidemiologists, and atmospheric scientists -- from academic research, industry and the states.** Two panels were assembled, one for each type of pollution.
- A review document summarizing published, peer reviewed research on both types of pollution and their health effects was prepared for the advisory panel. A separate panel of national scientific experts then peer-reviewed individual chapters in the summary document before the advisory panel began its review.
- The scientific advisory panels supported EPA's basic findings, supporting the conclusion that a proposal to revise the ozone standard should be made to reflect the health consequences of more prolonged exposures, and endorsing the range of ozone concentrations EPA considered. The vast majority of panel members agreed on establishing a new standard for fine particle pollution.

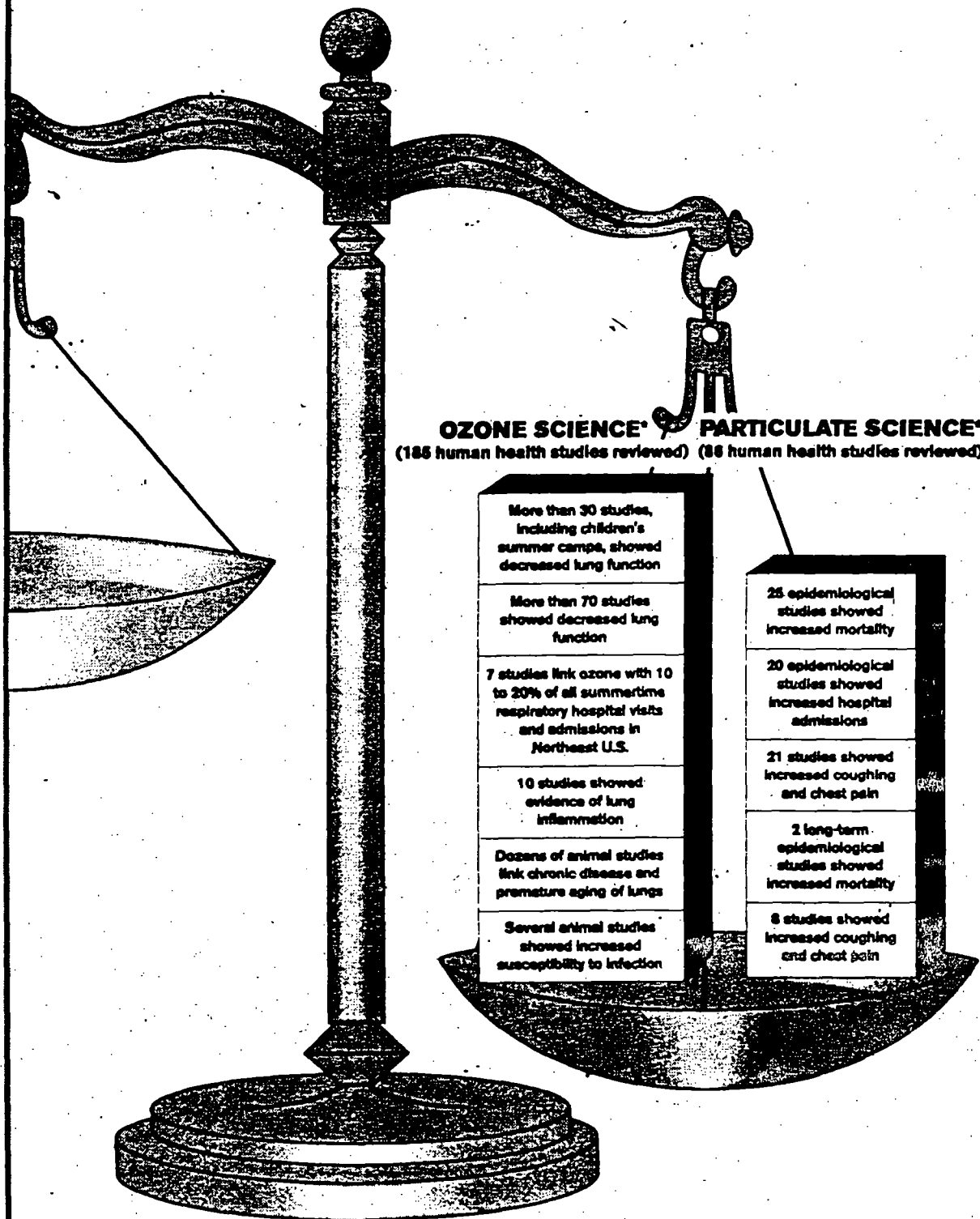
EPA Opens Extensive Public Comment Period on New Proposals

- EPA has launched a 60-day public comment period on the proposed new standards as well as the scientific evidence supporting them. In addition, the review process has been a public one, with scientific advisory panel meetings open to the public, and all review documents publicly available prior to panel meetings.

ANNUAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF PROPOSED STANDARDS

- **20,000 fewer premature deaths**
- **250,000 fewer cases of
aggravated asthma**
- **250,000 fewer incidences of acute
childhood respiratory problems**
- **60,000 fewer cases of bronchitis**
- **9,000 fewer hospital admissions**
- **1.5 million fewer cases of significant
breathing problems**

THE SCIENCE SUPPORTS MORE PROTECTIVE STANDARDS





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Carol M. Browner
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Remarks Prepared for Delivery
Town Hall Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California
April 24, 1997

On Tuesday of this week, for the 28th time, Americans celebrated Earth Day.

The first Earth Day, in 1970, was one of the largest demonstrations of public opinion in the history of our country. It was a day on which 20 million Americans stood up to say: "We must save our natural heritage. We must save our environment."

Today, one of the highlights of Earth Day is taking stock of the great progress we have made over the past quarter-century in protecting public health and the environment.

Few examples of that progress are as compelling as the air you breathe right here in Los Angeles -- and the determination of your community to make it safer and more healthy.

In 1970 alone, Los Angeles had "stage one" smog alerts on 148 days. Last year, you had seven. The "smog season" -- which used to last more than six months -- has been virtually cut in half. Last year, Los Angeles recorded its fewest number of non-attainment days since we started keeping records.

That's progress. And it's due in no small measure to your determination to work together -- industry, government, communities, citizens -- to confront one of the toughest environmental problems in the country. Your efforts have made California the only state in the country with an EPA-approved attainment plan for smog.

Your heavy industry is the cleanest anywhere. You have the cleanest cars and the cleanest gasoline. You've made a huge difference and you have every right to be proud of what you have accomplished here in L.A.

On that note, let me pay special tribute to the South Coast Air Quality Management District -- its leadership and staff -- on the occasion of your 50th anniversary.

While Earth Day is about celebrating progress, it is also a time to recognize that our job is not done -- that we still face tremendous environmental and public health challenges.

Forty percent of our rivers, lakes, and streams are still not suitable for fishing or swimming.

Millions of Americans get their drinking water from systems that violate public health standards.

One in four Americans -- including 10 million children -- still live within four miles of a toxic dump site.

Many scientists suspect that environmental factors are at least partly to blame for the steady increase over the last two decades of the most common types of childhood cancer.

Clearly, the job is not done.

That is why President Clinton and his administration are determined to create a new generation of environmental and public health protection -- one that builds on past achievements and meets the challenges of the next century.

For example, this week, the President directing federal agencies to give children -- and the unique environmental threats they face -- an extra measure of attention in the regulatory process.

The President also issued new rules expanding the right of Americans to know about toxic substances that are being released into their air, land and water. We believe that people know what's best for their own communities and, given the facts, they themselves will determine what is best to protect public health and the environment.

When it comes to air pollution, you know that the job is not done -- that L.A. still has a long way to go to the goal of air that is healthy to breathe.

What's more, EPA is now proposing to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for soot and smog.

Some have asked "why?" -- why tighten the standards when many areas are only now making progress toward meeting the current standards for these pollutants? Indeed, some in industry have vigorously objected to our proposal and have waged an expensive public campaign against them. Some, I'm afraid, have gone beyond the pale -- branding EPA as "extremist" and using scare tactics about intolerable lifestyle changes that these proposed standards would force on the American people.

What they have been saying is false. It is wrong. It is manipulative. And it is nothing more than an attempt to divert the nation from the real issue -- which is protecting the public health.

And that brings up some interesting questions: Where matters of public health are concerned, how much weight should be given to vested interests? How much say should industry have in the setting of air quality standards?

Fortunately, the Clean Air Act provides some answers.

Born under President Nixon, amended and strengthened under Presidents Carter and Bush, the Clean Air Act is the embodiment of an ongoing, bipartisan desire to protect all Americans from the harmful effects of breathing polluted air.

From the beginning, the Act has contemplated the march of technology and science. It has recognized that science will always come up with better ways to understand the health effects of the air we breathe -- and that the standards of the 1970s may not be right for the 21st Century. And it anticipated that some in industry -- some with vested interests in the status quo, some that may not want to reduce their pollution of the public's air -- might not agree with the conclusions of the scientific and public health communities.

Therefore, Congress set forth a process to ensure that the standards would be set and, if necessary, revised in a manner that puts the public health first and ensures that Americans are protected with an adequate margin of safety.

First, the Clean Air Act directs EPA to review the public health standards for the six major air pollutants at least every five years, in order to ensure that they reflect the best current science. It also lays out a specific procedure to obtain that science and, if needed, revise the standards. This is to ensure that we never get to the point where the government tells Americans that their air is healthy to breathe, when, in fact, it is not.

Next, the process requires that EPA's standard-setting work and the underlying health studies -- some 250 of them in this case -- be independently reviewed by a panel of scientists and technical experts from academia, research institutes, public health organizations and industry. The ozone and particulate matter scientific panels, over a four-year period, conducted 11 meetings, all open to the public -- a total of 124 hours of public discussion of the scientific data, research and the studies of the health effects of smog and soot.

EPA has held further public meetings, at which hundreds of representatives from industry, state and local governments, organizations -- as well as members of the public -- have offered their views. In fact, we recently closed the most extensive scientific review and public outreach process ever conducted by EPA for developing a public health standard.

We are now in the process of analyzing and considering the submitted comments and, after doing so, we will set final public health standards. Congress then has its say and may vote up-or-down on EPA's health standards.

As many of you know, members of Congress have been watching this process very closely. And Congress does have a review process for these kinds of regulations. It is a good process -- as long as it is carried out responsibly, looks at all the facts, and judges them in the best interests of all Americans. When looking at these air standards, I hope Congress will review all of the scientific analysis. I hope they will study the entire body of evidence.

EPA did look at the evidence -- all of it published, peer-reviewed and fully debated health studies -- literally peer review of peer review of peer review. The independent scientific panel looked at it, too.

We have studies linking smog to nearly one in three hospital admissions on days when ozone levels were at or below the current U.S. standard. We have studies linking it with lung damage equal to more than half that of a pack-a-day smoker. We have inhalation-chamber studies showing breathing problems in young adults simulating routine outdoor construction work at ozone levels equal to the current standard. We have a summer camp study that found consistent loss of lung function in children at levels below the current standard.

For particulate matter, we have a study based on personal health diaries collected by the American Cancer Society that tracked 300,000 Americans in 50 cities and found that the risk of early death is 15 to 17 percent higher in areas where levels of fine particulates are highest. Another study, published in 1993 in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed that exposure to fine particulates in the air increases the risk of early death by 26 percent and, in the most polluted cities, shortens individual lives by an average of one to two years. Still another showed that air with higher soot levels was directly associated with higher numbers of elderly people going to the hospital for respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

And these studies represent only a small part of the overwhelming body of independently-reviewed evidence which tells us that the current standards for smog and for soot are not sufficient to protect the public's health with an adequate margin of safety. Serious health effects are occurring in children, the elderly and other sensitive populations at particulate matter and ozone concentrations at and below existing standards. That is why we have recommended strengthening those standards.

Let me give you some other facts:

Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in this country -- killing an estimated 335,000 Americans each year.

Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children. Nearly five million kids have it, along with nearly 10 million adults. Asthma is now the leading cause of hospital admissions for children. And deaths from asthma attacks among children and young people more than doubled between 1980 and 1993.

In 1993 alone, asthma killed 342 Americans under age 25 and sent nearly 200,000 for a stay in the hospital.

No less than the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that pediatricians make parents aware of the daily variations in ozone and -- when ozone levels are high -- keep their kids indoors.

Let me turn for a moment to the potential costs of EPA's proposed standards.

We do consider costs. We take our responsibility to do that very seriously. But the law does not, and should not, allow us to consider costs at this critical public health stage of the process. The Clean Air Act clearly requires levels of smog and soot to be based solely on health, risk, exposure and damage to the environment, as determined by the best available science -- and not projected costs for reducing pollution.

This is no accident. In the 1970 Clean Air Act debate, Congress deliberated the issue of cost -- as well as the technical feasibility of meeting clean air standards. At the time, there was a great deal of frustration that putting cost considerations first was preventing any real progress toward cleaner air. I suspect that comes as no surprise to those of you who lived here and breathed L.A.'s air back then.

Thus, the decision was made -- the public health must come first. The current best science must prevail in determining the level of protection the public will be guaranteed. Nothing else can take precedence.

This issue has been revisited each time the Clean Air Act has been amended -- in 1977 and again in 1990. And, each time, Congress and the President have come down firmly on the side of the public health first and foremost. That has been the history for the past quarter-century.

Not only does the law forbid us from considering the costs in setting these standards, but history and real experience tell us we'd be foolish to try.

Almost every time we have begun the process to set or revise air standards, the costs of doing so have been grossly overstated -- by both industry and EPA. Dire predictions of economic chaos -- always a part of the clean air debate -- have never come to pass.

Why? Because industry always ultimately rises to the challenge -- again and again -- finding cheaper, more innovative ways of meeting standards -- and lowering their pollution.

Can it be done again? Of course it can.

Here in Los Angeles -- where you've faced the toughest air pollution challenges in the country -- and you are leading the way to cleaner air. You are showing that environmental protection and economic progress go hand-in-hand.

The partnership is working. It is a model for America.

And when you think of how far Los Angeles has come in this process, to borrow the words of a song about a city on the other coast, "if we can make it there, we can make it anywhere."

And, if these new standards are adopted, EPA will work with all who are affected -- state governments, local governments, community leaders, businesses large and small -- here and elsewhere -- to find cost-effective and common sense strategies for reducing pollution and providing the public health protections. That is part of the process, too.

So as the debate over air standards rages on, I would ask that you ask yourselves the following question: "Have we reached the point where we should abandon our commitment to a public health standard for air pollution?"

I believe the answer is no. Americans want clean air. They want the public health to come first. They want their children protected. They want EPA to do its job -- which is ensuring that the air they breathe is safe and healthy. They want government to be honest about when the air is unhealthy. And they have every right to expect that industry will rise to the occasion, meet the challenges, and once again reduce their pollution of the public's air.

Clearly, this is a vital issue of tremendous importance to millions of American families. And I think that, in this debate, we all have a responsibility to stick to the facts. No more scare tactics. The public health is too important to be decided on trumped up, exaggerated charges put forth by some in industry who might be required to take steps to reduce air pollution.

Let us listen to science. Let us respond as we have before. Let us work together toward common ground -- not only on this particular issue, but on all environmental and public health issues -- to improve the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land on which we all live.

Let us do it for our children.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer your questions.



Note to Correspondents

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1997

**EARTH DAY 1997:
EPA EXPANDS RIGHT-TO-KNOW DATA TO INCLUDE MORE INDUSTRIES,
MORE INFORMATION**

Delivering on President Clinton's 1995 commitment to expand industry reporting of community right-to-know information, EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner today is signing a final rule, proposed in June 1996, that -- for the first time ever -- increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across America under the community right-to-know program. The new Clinton Administration requirement calls for approximately 6,100 new facilities -- in seven industrial sectors -- to begin reporting on toxic releases in local communities, so that a total of over 31,000 facilities will now report toxic emissions to the public, community by community, providing new information on local pollution to tens of millions of Americans.

Browner said, "Today's announcement by the President is a huge step for the American people's right to know what is in the air they breathe, the water they drink and the land on which they live. By strengthening and expanding the Toxics Release Inventory, the President has provided American families with a critical tool for making their neighborhoods cleaner, safer and healthier in the 21st Century."

Attached for your information is a fact sheet on the new right-to-know reporting requirements, and an Earth Day list of Clinton Administration accomplishments in environmental and public health protection. For more information, call Denise Kearns at 202-260-4376.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE EXPAND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW

To Keep Citizens Informed, Involved on Local Pollution Issues

April 22, 1997

"People do have a right to know that their air and their water are safe."

- President Clinton

State of the Union Address, 1/23/96

Community right-to-know information is vital to citizens who want to be informed and involved in issues related to local pollution. The Clinton Administration believes that putting environmental and public health information into the hands of the American people is one of the most effective ways to reduce local pollution and prevent it from occurring in the future. With this action, the Clinton Administration is strengthening and expanding the Toxics Release Inventory: an annual database of chemicals released in local communities and reported by industrial facilities nationwide, and the centerpiece of community right-to-know.

Individuals and more than 1,500 citizens groups across the country use the right-to-know information to work directly with companies releasing the chemicals, as well as state and local officials. Together, they work to reduce the toxic releases that go into the air, land, and water. Use of community right-to-know information is one of the most effective *non-regulatory* tools against harmful pollution: *Since the program began in 1986, facilities required to report toxic releases have reduced their emissions by 43%.*

Today's Action Requires More Industries to Report Right-to-Know Data

Today, the Clinton Administration finalized a requirement, announced in June 1996 by Vice President Gore, that -- for the first time ever -- increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across America. Today's action delivers on President Clinton's commitment to expand every citizen's right to know about local pollution in several ways. The action:

- **Requires Thousands of Local Facilities to Begin Right-to-Know Reports.** The Clinton Administration is adding 6,100 new facilities that will begin reporting on toxic releases in local communities, so that a total of 31,000 facilities will now report toxic emissions to the public, community by community.
- **Adds Seven New Industry Categories to Right-to-Know Information.** The Clinton Administration is adding seven new industrial categories under the right-to-know program. Those categories are: metal mining, coal mining, electric utilities, commercial hazardous waste treatment, petroleum bulk terminals, chemical wholesalers, and solvent recovery services. These categories will be added to 20 others already reporting on toxic releases. In addition, 700 chemical manufacturing facilities -- which report right-to-know information under existing requirements -- also will report on additional types of pollution required under today's expansion. For example, chemical manufacturers, in addition to

reporting releases under current requirements, will have to report hazardous waste treatment activities -- such as burning or stabilizing chemical wastes -- under the new expanded requirements.

- **Provides More Information on Local Pollution to Millions More Americans.** The Clinton Administration expansion of right-to-know reporting requirements to include seven new industry categories means that tens of millions of Americans in communities across the country will be able to know more than ever before about local releases of toxic pollution. For example, new right-to-know reports from bulk petroleum distribution plants will provide new, never-before available information to some 53 million Americans living near those plants.
- **Invites Stakeholders to Provide Input to Improve New Right-to-Know Reports.** Through the new expansion of right-to-know, EPA will establish a process to allow a wide range of stakeholders -- citizens, community groups, environmental organizations, businesses, and others -- to improve the type of right-to-know information available to communities, and to help streamline right-to-know reporting to ease the paperwork burden for businesses affected by the requirements.

A Long Record of Expanding the Public's Right-to-Know About Local Pollution

To ensure that current right-to-know reporting continues to give Americans a more complete picture of all the toxic pollution released into our communities, the Clinton Administration has:

- **Nearly doubled the list of chemical releases reported to the public by factories that release them into the environment, adding 286 chemicals to the Toxics Release Inventory in 1994.**
- **Ensured that right-to-know reporting will continue unabated.** President Clinton protected expansion of right-to-know reporting against Congressional efforts to undermine it with a Pollution Disclosure Executive Order in 1995, requiring federal contractors to meet EPA's pollution disclosure standards.
- **Required Federal facilities to report toxic emissions to public.** To make the federal government a leader in pollution prevention, President Clinton issued an Executive Order in 1993 requiring federal agencies to report toxic releases and cut toxic emissions in half by 1999.
- **Making information more easily available to citizens.** One of the biggest challenges is to make right-to-know information more user-friendly and accessible. The Administration has improved Internet and electronic access; made the information easier to understand and use; and is working to ensure that right-to-know information is available in more public libraries nationwide.

The Clinton Administration is Taking Bold Steps to Expand Right-to-Know to Other Important Areas

To further enhance Americans' right-to-know about information concerning our food, our drinking water, our homes and our communities, the Clinton Administration has:

- **Given the American people the right to know about tap water contaminants:** The Clinton Administration proposed improvements in consumer information about local tap water in 1995. President Clinton fought for and signed into law a new Safe Drinking Water Act that gives Americans access to direct, simple information — sent directly to their homes in water utility bills — about local water quality, contaminants, water sources, and health risks. The Administration also required drinking water monitoring for *cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants in large drinking water systems, to be made available through a toll-free hotline.
- **Expanded consumers' right-to-know about pesticide health risks:** The Clinton Administration worked to ensure that the nation's new food safety law includes special right-to-know provisions, requiring distribution of health information about pesticides on food — with information about how consumers can avoid those health risks — in major food stores nationwide. The law — signed by President Clinton in August, 1996 — gives EPA new authority to require chemical manufacturers to disclose information about their pesticide products, beyond the requirements in existing laws. EPA also can require manufacturers to provide information about possible effects pesticides may have on reproductive and developmental health.
- **Made nationwide information available for the first time on state-by-state advisories urging the public to avoid or limit eating fish due to pollution contamination.** The information is available, free of charge, on a set of personal computer diskettes or on the Internet, making it easier for Americans to learn about specific health risks.
- **Provided homebuyers and renters the right to know about lead paint before they buy or rent a property built before 1978.** Beginning in 1996, EPA and HUD now require sellers and landlords to provide any known information about lead-based paint hazards; provide consumer information; and provide an optional period for lead paint inspections.
- **Announced plans to improve consumer informational labels on home and garden pesticides and hard-surface cleaning products.** Currently, the health, safety and environmental information on certain product labels, especially on pesticides, is often difficult to find and understand. EPA has invited common-sense ideas for label improvements from consumers, industry and health professionals.
- **Expanded public access to EPA information on environmental and public health problems and solutions.** The Agency's electronic ENVIROFACTS provide public access to environmental facts about local facilities. Citizens and businesses can access new EPA rules on the Internet, as well as submit their comments electronically. This information can help citizens to reduce and prevent pollution within their neighborhoods.

Protecting the Environment

President Clinton and Vice President Gore

"I want an America in the year 2000 where no child should have to live near a toxic waste dump, where no parent should have to worry about the safety of a child's glass of water, and no neighborhood should be put in harm's way by pollution from a nearby factory."

- President Clinton, 8/28/96

During the last generation, we made great progress in protecting the environment. We now have cleaner, safer air and water. We have cut lead levels in our children's blood by 70%, and toxic emissions from factories by half. But a third of us still breathe air that endangers our health, and in too many communities, the water is not safe to drink. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to common sense reforms to environmental programs and are determined to block attempts to roll back safeguards for our families' food, water and air.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Ensuring Public Health

- **Community Right to Know:** Provided communities with access to more information about chemicals released into their air and water. Issued a Pollution Disclosure Executive Order requiring additional industries to inform the public about pollution. Nearly doubled the number of chemicals that industry must report to communities.
- **Safe Drinking Water:** Signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act and ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. Required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants such as *cryptosporidium*, which in 1993 killed 100 and sickened 400,000 in Milwaukee.
- **Toxic Waste Clean-ups:** Completed as many toxic waste clean-ups in three years as were completed in the previous 12. Accelerated cleanup of toxic waste dumps by 20% and significantly reduced cost. At Department of Energy sites, clean-up is underway at 744 former nuclear facilities, compared to 68 cleaned up in the previous administration.
- **Attempts to Roll Back Protections:** Blocked Republican Congressional attempts to roll back 25 years of environment and public health protections. Vetoed a budget that cut EPA enforcement and Superfund toxic waste clean-ups by 25%. Blocked passage of lobbyist-written bill to dismantle the Clean Water Act.
- **Pesticides and Food Safety:** Signed new food safety law -- based on principles set forth by the President four years ago -- to strengthen standards for pesticides in food, including

special safeguards for children. Canceled dozens of hazardous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into the market more quickly.

- **Clean Air:** Made the air we breathe cleaner by issuing new standards to cut toxic pollution from chemical plants by 90% and dangerous incinerator emissions by 98%.
- **Clean Water:** Blocked the lobbyist-written bill to roll back the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act keeps billions of pounds of toxic pollutants and sewage out of our rivers, lakes and streams.

Protecting Our Natural Resources

- **American Heritage Rivers:** Announced initiative to designate ten American Heritage Rivers this year to enhance our citizens' enjoyment of the historic, cultural, recreational, economic and environmental value of our rivers and to protect the health of our communities.
- **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument:** Created a new national monument protecting 1.7 million acres of spectacular red rock canyonlands, artifacts from three ancient cultures, and the most remote site in the lower 48 states.
- **National Parks:** Signed legislation that creates or improves almost 120 national parks, trails, rivers, and historical sites. Created largest park in lower the 48 states with California Desert Protection Act. Blocked Republican attempts to close national parks.
- **Everglades Restoration:** Implementing bold new Everglades plan, committing \$1.5 billion over seven years to help restore the Everglades and ensure safe, clean water for south Florida.
- **Farm Conservation:** Proposed and signed into law Farm Bill that authorizes \$2.2 billion in additional funding for conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve.
- **Yellowstone:** Reached agreement to halt massive gold mine three miles outside Yellowstone National Park, protecting the area from toxic runoff and other threats.
- **Arctic Refuge:** Vetoed a Republican Congressional bill that would have opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.
- **Endangered Species Protection:** Completed 190 Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) covering 4.4 million acres of public and private land across the country, compared to 14 before we took office. HCPs are voluntary agreements to protect open space and wildlife while giving landowners the certainty they need effectively to manage their land.

Common Sense Environmental Reforms

- **Recycling:** Issued an Executive Order to jump-start the market for recycled goods
- **Reinventing Environmental Regulation:** Created new ways to achieve greater environmental results at less cost: administrative reforms at EPA alone have eliminated more than 15 million hours of paperwork for businesses and communities — the equivalent of a quarter-million work weeks for the private sector.
- **Environmental Technology:** Helping American businesses compete more effectively in the fast-growing global market while creating jobs for American workers.
- **Revitalizing Communities:** Accelerated the cleanup of brownfields — abandoned, contaminated urban property — clearing the way for local redevelopment while protecting green areas outside our cities. Proposed targeted tax incentive for investors who purchase and clean up old waste sites in communities across the country.

Protecting the Global Environment

- **Climate Change:** Entered into 119 agreements with electric utilities to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. These voluntary agreements represent real reductions of greenhouse gases through many different actions including efficiency measures, forestry initiatives and electricity generation from renewable energy.
- **Phaseout of Persistent Pollutants:** Led the way to a worldwide agreement to phase out the use of 12 dangerous, persistent organic pollutants such as PCBs and DDT.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to support policies that protect our health and natural resources while making common sense reforms to environmental programs by:

- Recognizing and restoring outstanding stretches of America's rivers by selecting ten American Heritage Rivers this year.
- Expanding community right-to-know laws and challenging communities to use the information to work with business to cut pollution.
- Cleaning up two-thirds of Superfund sites by 2000 — 500 more in four years. Challenging Congress to provide true reform of the Superfund program and to drop proposals to force taxpayers to pick up the tab to clean up toxic waste.
- Getting tough on criminal polluters by strengthening penalties for the worst environmental criminals and ensuring that courts can secure polluters' assets in order to restore the communities they victimize.
- Protecting the global environment from climate change by negotiating a global accord to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Challenging Congress to pass the President's transportation bill with a 30% increase for congestion and air quality improvements, mass transit, and support for scenic byways and recreational trails.
- Challenging Congress to provide true reform of the Endangered Species Act to strengthen, not roll back, species protection.
- Dramatically reducing paperwork and replacing one-size-fits-all regulations with result-focused programs.
- Challenging Congress to re-examine and reverse those policies that would endanger our health and safety by weakening programs such as safe drinking water and clean air.
- Continuing to work with state and community leaders and businesses to find better ways to protect our natural resources and provide economic opportunities.