

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Outline



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- History
- Politics
- Organizational structure
- My work:
Environmental justice and hydraulic fracturing



History: Origins of the EPA

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- Established in 1970 by Executive Order 1110.2

- Responded to:
 - A growing environmental movement
 - Disorganized federal action on environmental issues

- Mission: “to protect human health and the environment”
 - “by developing and enforcing regulations, giving grants, studying environmental issues, sponsoring partnerships, teaching people about the environment, and publishing information”



History: Key Legislation

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- ❑ 1970: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- ❑ 1970: Clean Air Act (CAA)
- ❑ 1973: Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- ❑ 1974: Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
- ❑ 1976: Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- ❑ 1976: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- ❑ 1977: Clean Water Act (CWA)
- ❑ 1980: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA/Superfund)
- ❑ 1986: Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)
- ❑ 1990: Pollution Prevention Act (PPA)

Politics: EPA as Middleman



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- EPA established in the executive branch
 - Reports directly to the president
- Substantive work:
 - Mandated by legislative branch
 - Interpreted by judicial and executive branches
 - Enacted by federal EPA headquarters and regional offices as well as state EPAs
- Budget for FY2011: \$8.4 billion

Politics: EPA Administrator's Goals



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- ❑ Taking action on climate change
- ❑ Improving air quality
- ❑ Assuring the safety of chemicals
- ❑ Cleaning up our communities
- ❑ Protecting America's waters
- ❑ Expanding the conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice
- ❑ Building strong state and tribal partnerships

Organization: Headquarters



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Office of the Administrator
Lisa P. Jackson

Office of Administration and Resources Management

Office of Air and Radiation

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Office of Environmental Information

Office of General Counsel

Office of Inspector General

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Office of Research and Development

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Office of Water

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Office of Research and Development



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- “provides the science and technology to
 - identify environmental hazards,
 - assess risks to public health and ecosystems
 - determine how best to control or prevent pollution”

Organization: Office of Research and Development



Office of Research and Development

National Center for Computational Toxicology

National Center for Environmental Assessment

National Center for Environmental Research

National Exposure Research Laboratory

National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory

National Homeland Security Research Center

National Risk Management Research Laboratory

Office of the Science Advisor

Office of Science Policy

Office of Science Policy



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- Integrates
- Coordinates
- Communicates



Scientific and technical
information provided by
EPA's labs

My Work – Hydraulic Fracturing and Environmental Justice



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- Hydraulic fracturing study plan
 - Focuses on its effects on drinking water resources
 - Commissioned by Congress in 2010
 - Submitted to the EPA's Science Advisory Board in March
 - Currently undergoing revisions
 - I'll be working on revising concerns about environmental justice
- Results expected beginning in 2012
- Report expected in 2014

Sources



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- Ashford and Caldart. *Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics: Reclaiming the Environmental Agenda*. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA. 2008.
- Robert Collin. *Understanding our Government: The Environmental Protection Agency, Cleaning up America's Act*. Greenwood Press: Westport, CT. 2006.