



Ecological Society of America
1990 M St, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

October 20, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy:

We write to urge full funding in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the National Atmospheric Deposition Program¹ (NADP), which is a national resource that provides critical long-term air quality records.

The NADP is a cost-effective, collaborative network that tracks our nation's air quality and the chemistry of rain and snow (atmospheric deposition). The NADP network consists of over 250 federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, educational institutions, private companies, and nongovernmental organizations and includes approximately 350 stations positioned across the U.S., many of which have been operating for more than 35 years.

The president's FY 2018 proposed federal budget for agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management would result in closure of 100 NADP sites. Closure of this number of sites would compromise the integrity and effectiveness of the overall national network.

NADP data are our nation's only public resource for monitoring the release and transport of air pollutants throughout the U.S. and are used to evaluate the efficacy of public policy and air quality management initiatives. NADP data are free of charge, and in 2016 alone 27,000 data sets were provided to the community of 33,000 registered users.

Specifically, the proposed federal budget would limit the nation's ability to assess the effectiveness of emission control programs under the Clean Air Act, including the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards; the contribution of the deposition of nitrogen and other pollutants to lakes, streams, and coastal waters listed as impaired under the 303(d) program of the Clean

¹ <http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu/>

Water Act; and the attainment of thresholds of atmospheric deposition for National Parks, National Forests, and other Class I wilderness areas. These are just some examples of the clean air and clean water goals that NADP data helps measure progress.

Thank you for your prior investments in the NADP. If we can provide additional information on the NADP network please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Katherine S. McCarter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine S. McCarter
Executive Director
Ecological Society of America

Attachment: NADP fact sheet



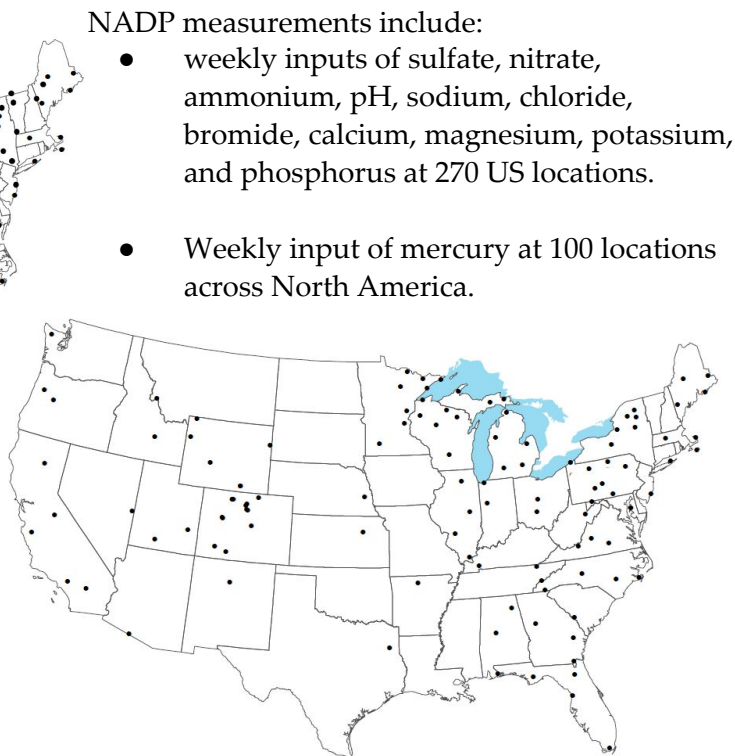
NADP

Impacts of the proposed FY18 Federal budget to the National Atmospheric Deposition Program

The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) monitors the chemistry of rain and snow (atmospheric deposition) at about 350 locations across the U.S. Recently released fiscal 2018 budget plans by federal agencies would have a major impact on the NADP, resulting in the permanent closure of over 100 long-term sites. The majority of these sites have been in continuous operation for approximately 35 years, providing a critical long-term record of the state of the environment.

The NADP is a cost effective collaborative network of over 250 federal, state, tribal and local agencies, educational institutions, private companies and nonprofit organizations working together to support science, policy, and land management understanding and decision-making nationwide. NADP has consistently monitored atmospheric deposition since the 1970s, and provides unique, internationally recognized, accurate and high-quality data on a continental scale.

A fundamental NADP objective is to provide scientific investigators world-wide with long-term, high-quality, atmospheric deposition data for nutrients, acidic compounds, mercury and other chemicals of significance to support research in air quality, water quality, agricultural effects, soils, forest productivity, materials effects, ecosystem studies, watershed studies and human health. A key application of these observations is tracking air pollutants moving into U.S. ecosystems. NADP data are available free of charge and in 2016 alone, NADP provided over 27,000 data sets to a community of 33,000 registered users and was cited in over 248 peer reviewed publications.



Current (above) and remaining sites (right), under the proposed FY18 Federal budget.

Consequences of Proposed 2018 Federal Budget

Agency	Sites closed	NADP funding loss	Specifics
U.S Geological Survey	83	\$ 1,576,000	Eliminate all USGS, Water Mission Area, National Water Quality Program support to NADP including site closures across 32 states. Eliminates the NADP external quality assurance program and U.S. Canadian intercomparison site.
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.	5, & 5 AIRMoN	\$ 400,000	Eliminate all NADP support and participation from the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory including the NADP-AIRMon network.
Environmental Protection Agency	7	\$ 130,000	Eliminate 7 NADP sites at co-locations of EPA's dry deposition sites (CASTNet). Reduce quality assurance support for NADP mercury networks.
National Park Service	6	\$ 36,000	Eliminate approximately 6 NADP sites which are used to track conditions and trends and assess ecological impacts of air quality in national parks.
USDA Forest Service	4	\$ 20,000	Eliminate 4 NADP sites located in research areas in National Forests and used for air quality studies and deposition effects on forest growth and water quality.
Bureau of Land Management	unspecified	unspecified	Reduce air and water quality monitoring stations on BLM lands, used for compliance with the <i>Clean Air Act</i> , <i>Clean Water Act</i> , oil and gas permitting, NEPA.

Site closures would impair the ability of NADP to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of new and ongoing emission control measures such as the Clean Air Act & Amendments and the Mercury Air Toxics Standard;
- Estimate deposition of pollutants across the U.S. by using site-specific monitoring data to model estimates for other areas lacking deposition monitoring equipment;
- Track long term trends of atmospheric inputs over time and assess whether conditions are becoming better or worse, including impacts of long range pollutant transport from other countries;
- Determine the contribution of nitrogen and mercury inputs from atmospheric sources to impaired waters identified under 303(d) Clean Water Act listings and whether deposition thresholds have been exceeded in sensitive ecosystems such as national parks and forests;
- Provide estimates of mercury deposition in the U.S. and Canada; and
- Address emerging issues, such as developing estimates of phosphorus inputs to sensitive aquatic ecosystems.

NADP: <http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu/>

(Dr. David Gay, Coordinator, dgay@Illinois.edu, 217.244.0462)