

Analysis: Federal budget cuts would contaminate Alaska's air and water, leaving Alaskans vulnerable to long-term health risks

The President's budget proposes eliminating core protections, putting Alaskans' health at risk and letting polluters off the hook.



Everyone deserves clean air and water. These basic public health rights are why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created: to prevent pollution that triggers asthma attacks and heart disease, and to safeguard our drinking water from contamination.

President Trump's budget proposes decimating the EPA, giving polluters a free pass to pump toxic chemicals into Alaskans' air and water. The proposal slashes the EPA's overall budget by more than half, including gutting more than [86%](#) of funds to provide safe drinking water to Alaska communities and a [74%](#) cut to the Alaska Native Villages Grant Program, a key source of funding for Tribal communities.

EPA's investments keep Alaskans' water drinkable and their air breathable, and it holds the polluters who threaten those basic rights accountable.

Water Contamination

Clean water isn't just a basic right—it's a requirement for survival.



**86% cut
to Alaska's Drinking
Water SRF (over \$9 mil)**



**90% cut
to Alaska's Clean Water
SRF (over \$8 mil)**



**Over 226k Alaskans
drinking problematic
level of toxic PFAS**

According to [EPA data](#), more than 226,000 Alaskans are served by a water utility releasing a problematic level of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), otherwise known as "forever chemicals," into drinking water. President Trump's budget would hamper Alaska's ability to address this issue, as well as its estimated [1,084 lead](#) service lines, as the administration proposes to eliminate most of the state's funding for ensuring clean and safe water.

EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) provide low-interest loans and other financial assistance to public water systems for critical drinking water infrastructure projects, including lead service line replacement and treatment for PFAS in drinking water.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Unsafe Drinking Water: President Trump's budget cuts mean Alaska's federal resources would be reduced by 86% (over \$9 million) for its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and by 90% (over \$8 million) for its Clean Water SRF, leaving Alaskans without the bulk of funding needed to ensure they have safe drinking water, while raising their water bills.

Insufficient Infrastructure for Alaska Tribes: President Trump's budget would cut more than 74% (\$29 million) of the Alaska Native Villages Grant Program, making it nearly impossible for many of these rural communities to [install](#) water treatment systems or build sewage lagoons.

Air Pollution

Everyone deserves clean air, and breathing shouldn't make you sick.



President Trump's budget would gut programs that support clean air and eliminate vital protections that Alaskans depend on. Over [73,000 Alaskans](#) (roughly 1 in 10), including more than 12,000 children, suffer from asthma, putting them at increased risk of attacks triggered by smog and soot from unchecked pollution.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Poor Air Quality: President Trump's proposed elimination of all federal funding for State & Local Air Quality Management Grants would have lasting effects in Alaska, which received over \$3.7 million in funding from these grants in 2023. Without federal support, state agencies would be forced to reduce staff, curtail monitoring networks, or potentially abandon certain projects altogether. This would lead to increased health risks for vulnerable populations and set back progress on meeting national air quality standards.

Increased Vehicle Emissions: President Trump's budget would eliminate the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program, which provided more than \$2.7 million to Alaska in 2024, undercutting the state's efforts to [replace](#) older polluting trucks and buses with newer, cleaner technologies that don't emit cancer-causing fumes.

Letting Polluters Off the Hook

Polluters shouldn't get a free pass to pollute, and no one is above the law.



EPA enforcement ensures that polluters are held accountable and that environmental protections are real—not just words on paper. President Trump is proposing to cut EPA's enforcement budget by 45%, a move that would make air less breathable and water less drinkable. As of September 2025, Alaska has [more than 1,070 facilities](#) with current violations. Without enforcement resources, efforts to bring polluters into compliance—like those below—risk being abandoned, resulting in unchecked pollution in Alaska.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Unmanaged Pesticides: In 2024, EPA [provided](#) more than \$340,000 in grants to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to implement its pesticide regulatory and enforcement programs across Alaska. Without these federal enforcement funds in the future, Alaskans could lose critical safeguards that help ensure pesticides are managed safely and water remains clean.

Oil Spills: In the last five years, EPA has taken more than 160 formal enforcement actions in Alaska, holding various entities accountable for unsanitary practices. In 2023, for example, EPA fined a [fishmeal company](#) for violating the Clean Water Act at its facility in Kodiak, AK, after it failed to follow federal rules for preventing oil spills—spills that could then contaminate Alaskans' seafood. Alaska relies on federal funding to help protect people from unchecked pollution.

Bottom Line

EPA's air and water safeguards should give Alaskans the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water without a second thought. But President Trump's budget request for EPA would severely weaken or outright eliminate the programs and enforcement actions protecting Alaskans from polluters.

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