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 Industrial Hygiene Congress



Occupational Hygiene Congress OSHA
 NIOSH AIHA Occupational
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 Occupational Health and Safety
 House of Representatives U.S.

HAPPENINGS FROM THE HILL

**American Industrial Hygiene Association
 Government Affairs Department**

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SPECIAL EDITION - - FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET

President Bush announced his fiscal year 2008 budget on February 5. A breakdown of those areas of importance to AIHA:

OSHA

Proposed FY 2008 Budget (Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2007	FY 2008	Change
Safety and Health Standards	\$16.5	\$16.9	\$0.4
Federal Enforcement	172.6	183.0	10.4
State Programs	91.1	91.1	-
Technical Support	21.4	22.1	0.7
Federal Compliance Assistance	72.5	79.6	7.1
State Consultation Grants	53.3	54.5	1.2
Training Grants	2.6	0	(2.6)
Safety and Health Statistics	31.8	32.1	.3
Executive Direction and Administration	10.6	11.0	0.4
Total, OSHA Budget Authority	\$472.4	\$490.3	\$17.9
Full Time Equivalents (includes 8 reimbursable FTE)	2,133	2,186	53

Selected OSHA Workload Data

	FY 2007	FY 2008	Change
Notices of Proposed Rulemaking	4	4	--
Final Rules	3	3	--
Federal Inspections	36,500	37,700	1,200
State Program Inspections	54,500	52,000	-2,500
Total VPP Participants (Federal)	1,313	1,589	276
Consultation Visits	32,250	32,250	-
Training Participants	415,800	432,300	16,500

Comments:

The good news is that the \$490 million requested by the President is more than he requested for fiscal year 2007 (\$483 million). During the 2007 budget debate, the House agreed to provide OSHA with the President's request for 2007. The Senate looked as if they were going to increase this amount to around \$491 million. However, we all know what happened – Congress could not agree on a budget for 2007 and a continuing resolution was adopted for the entire fiscal year, through September 30, 2007.

Now the bad news! With this continuing resolution OSHA is authorized to spend the 2006 approved amount which is approximately \$472 million. In other words, while the President is requesting an increase for 2008, OSHA actually took a huge hit for 2007.

Also, expect this requested amount to change once the debate begins in Congress. With a new Democratic majority, we expect to see additional dollars spent on enforcement and the dollars appropriated for training grants to be restored.

NIOSH

No breakdown is yet available on where the dollars for NIOSH will be spent, but this much we do know:

2006 Actual Dollars Appropriated to NIOSH	\$263 million
2007 President's Request	\$250 million
2007 Continuing Resolution	\$253 million
2008 President's Budget Request	\$253 million

Comments:

It's very clear that additional work is needed to convince Congress to increase the amount appropriated for NIOSH. NIOSH is the primary (and only) federal entity responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work related illness and injury. We have our work cut out for us, but when all is said and done look for this Congress to increase the NIOSH budget.

MSHA

The President has proposed a budget of \$313.5 million for fiscal year 2008. This is a \$35.8 million increase (13 percent) over the agency's current funding level under a continuing resolution from Congress. That increase includes \$22.6 million to fully fund 244 more personnel than the agency's current staffing level. MSHA currently has approximately 2,060 staff under the continuing budget resolution.

Comments:

Don't be surprised if Congress increases this amount by a considerable margin. There are numerous members of Congress who have a very strong view of what is need at MSHA.

EPA

EPA would be provided \$7.2 billion in spending in fiscal year 2008, a decrease of \$100 million from the 2007 spending authorization of \$7.3 billion. Even more alarming is the fact that the 2007 spending authorization of \$7.3 billion was a decrease from the 2006 budget of \$7.6 billion.

Comments:

It will be interesting to see what this Congress does with the EPA budget. While there will be considerable interest, Congress has many other issues to deal with and may not have the time to consider this budget in detail.

For information on any of the items in this report, please contact Aaron Trippler.