

## Agency Makes Wetlands Announcement

EPA has announced that it will use a manual issued in 1987 to identify wetlands.

The announcement brought to a close a long-running controversy sparked by the Bush administration's proposed changes in wetlands delineation procedures. The action formally killed the proposal, which environmentalists said could eliminate Clean Water Act protections for large amounts of wetlands.

EPA's use of the 1987 manual will eliminate confusion over federal wetlands programs by assuring consistency and predictability in wetlands determinations made by EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the agency said.



## Budget Cuts Will Hamper Pesticides, Toxics Work

Congressional budget reductions will cut sharply into EPA's pesticides and toxics efforts, according to a report assembled by the agency and submitted to House and Senate appropriations committees.

According to the report, Congress reduced by \$10 million President Bush's request for money to be used in the agency's pesticides programs.

The reduction resulted in a 22-percent cut in contracting money and a 7-percent drop in research for the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

However, the cuts will not prevent the agency from meeting statutory or court-ordered deadlines in the pesticides or toxic substances areas, the report noted.

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