

Help Save EPA Libraries Nationwide from Permanent Closure

Government, business and citizens use EPA's libraries to protect public health, enforce environmental laws, and promote sound economic, land-use planning and other decisions.

EPA's 2007 budget calls for a \$2 M funding cut for regional, headquarters and technical libraries, which provide far more benefits than the minor cost reductions resulting from their closure. A 2004 EPA report found that the benefit-to-cost ratio for EPA libraries range from 2:1 to 5.7:1.

Although EPA's 2007 budget has not been set, this year EPA has already eliminated or reduced library service covering 31 states. (See below)

The American Library Association, American Association of Law Libraries, Special Library Association, EPA scientists and engineers, and others have spoken out against this short-sighted plan. EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance has also raised concerns regarding the adverse impacts this plan could have on enforcement of public health protections.

Senators Boxer and Lautenberg are inviting their colleagues to sign the attached letter to the Senate appropriators asking them to direct EPA in the Interior and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill to maintain access and research expertise at all of EPA's regional and headquarter libraries until the Agency solicits adequate public and congressional input on their actions. We have attached a file containing selected news stories on the library closures.

DEADLINE FOR SIGNATURE: COB, Wednesday November 1st

For Information, call:

Grant Cope, 47931 or Daniel Rosenberg, 47225

Library Closures and Reductions in Hours

EPA has recently closed libraries that serve people in 15 states:

- Region 5, which served Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- Regions 6, which serves Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Iowa.
- Region 7, which serves Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

EPA has closed public access and reduced staff access in Region 2's library, which serves people in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

EPA has reduced public and staff access at libraries that serve people in 14 states:

- EPA Region 1, which serves Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- EPA Region 9, which serves Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and Tribal Nations.
- EPA Region 10, which serves Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Native Tribes.