

# Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

## Budget Adjustment Request

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SECRETARY

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ANR CFO

# BAA Requests

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- Waste Management Fund → Environmental Contingency Fund
  - PCB testing in schools
- Brownfields
- Green River Reservoir
- Fish & Wildlife RFR

# Waste Management Fund → Environmental Contingency Fund

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- Section B.710 Environmental conservation – air and waste management
  - Transfer of \$3,500,000 from the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the Waste Management Assistance Fund to the Environmental Contingency Fund for the PCB testing program
  - Supports PCB sampling in schools and remediation planning work
    - Work will be done under ANR contracts, reducing the burden on schools to contract for the work with technical service providers
    - Allows more of the existing Education Fund dollars to be dedicated to necessary cleanup
  - Of the 96 schools sampled to date the following indoor air information is available:
    - 61 (63%) schools have had no PCB detections above the School Action Level (SAL)
    - 35 (37%) schools have PCB detections above the SAL
    - 13 schools (13% of all schools tested) have PCB detections above the Immediate Action Level (IAL)
  - A total of 324 schools require testing consistent with Act 74 (2021)

# Brownfields

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- Section B.1103(h)
  - In FY24, \$2,500,000 was appropriated to DEC for “...for the Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act as codified in 10 V.S.A. chapter 159. Funds shall be used for the assessment and cleanup planning for **a maximum of 25** brownfields sites.”
  - Cap was intended to promote geographic diversity; it has the opposite effect
    - \$100,000/site in assessment means focus is on the largest, most contaminated sites that tend to be concentrated in the most populous areas of the state (i.e., greater Burlington area, Springfield, Bellows Falls, Rutland, Bennington)
    - Removing the cap would allow the program to provide funding support for smaller projects in a broader array of communities across the state
    - Would be more consistent with the average size of first-time funding requests received in 2023, which was ~\$28,000 per project

# Green River Reservoir

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- Section B.1103(n)
  - Green River is an aging and high hazard dam that is nearing the end of its original design life; State is being asked to consider assuming ownership
  - \$350,000 was appropriated in FY21 BAA *“to evaluate and provide an analysis of the capital and ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the Green River Dam.”*
  - RFP was developed and put out to bid; a contract was issued which started on 7/3/23
  - Additional \$165,000 is needed to fully fund the scope of work

# Fish & Wildlife RFR

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- Section B.702 Fish and wildlife – support and field services
  - \$430,108 for class RFR for Fish and Wildlife Specialists to Fish and Wildlife Scientists
    - Program managers from the Fish and Wildlife Divisions submitted a class RFR request in August 2023
    - The RFR proposes to shift Fish and Wildlife Specialists to Fish and Wildlife Scientists to better reflect their responsibilities and resulted in:
      - New job descriptions for the Fish and Wildlife Scientist Series
      - Need for a new Fish and Wildlife Scientist V class based on higher levels of administrative responsibilities
  - There will be changes to 77 positions