

2. Funding for the RCRA Program and RCRA Reauthorization

What is the current status of the funding for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program? When will the RCRA statute be reauthorized?

When the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA) amended RCRA, §2007(a) authorized funding for the RCRA program through September 30, 1988. There have been no changes made to §2007(a) since 1984. Instead, funding for the RCRA program has been provided through an annual Congressional “de-facto” appropriations process. Through this process, Congress is able to appropriate money to EPA without going through the lengthy process of reauthorizing the statute. If Congress does not appropriate money, the funding for the program would expire. EPA's authority to regulate pursuant to RCRA, however, is separate from all funding issues and would not be affected.

Several different bills addressing various solid and hazardous waste issues have been introduced in the House and the Senate.

