

Excerpts from BNA: *Office of Management and Budget Plays Critical Part in Environmental Policymaking, Faces Little External Review* ([1976](#))

The Office of Management and Budget plays an influential part in shaping federal environmental policies, frequently with little public awareness or understanding of its role.

Through OMB's "quality of life" review, environmental regulations are subject to a detailed—and EPA officials complain time consuming—evaluation by OMB and other federal agencies. The [Quality of Life review](#) was established by then-OMB Director George P. Shultz....(emphasis supplied)

Because of the review, EPA regulations are "more reserved, more scientifically aggressive, less environmentally aggressive, this EPA official states.

John E. Moss (D-Calif) who chairs the House Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations frequently has complained that OMB "interferes" with EPA program and policy decisions. Moss has indicated also that he is concerned that OMB and other Executive agencies and departments try to get EPA to change its regulations and standards in ways contrary to law.

The question of OMB's injecting itself into the EPA-Congress relationship arose also when Senator Frank E. Moss (D-Utah) recently asked EPA for its position on Clean Air Act nondegradation amendments. While OMB was delaying EPA's response because it could not establish an Administration position on nondegradation, the EPA official said.

Although the EPA legislative official said he sees some merit in the OMB quality of life review and the inter-agency review of legislation, he said he resents OMB officials' attitude as the "ultimate arbiters of virtue".