

Message

From: Louis Jacobson [Ex. 6]
Sent: 4/25/2018 7:27:18 PM
To: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: Journalist query from PolitiFact

Greetings,

Lou Jacobson here from PolitiFact. Hope all is well.

I am checking a statement in the Republican Senate debate in West Virginia recently. Rep. Evan Jenkins, R-W.Va., said: "I've cut a half a billion (dollars) out of the EPA just in the last two years. We've cut 3,000 jobs out of the EPA."

I wanted to run by you the data I have, so you could clarify if you see matters any differently.

BUDGET

According to [OMB](#), I see the following EPA spending:

2016: \$8.725 billion

2017: \$8.165 billion

2018 (est.): \$7.916 billion

Difference between 2018 and 2016 ("two years") is \$809 million, or more than half a billion. So on that part he appears to be right.

EMPLOYMENT

Using FedScope data from OPM (which in the past has been described to me as the best measure) I looked at the most recent quarterly data (Sept. 2017) and then went back every September as far as 2009. Here is what I found:

Sep 2017: 15,058
Sep 2016: 15,634

Sep 2015: 15,445
Sep 2014: 15,852
Sep 2013: 16,950
Sep 2012: 18,061
Sep 2011: 18,777

Sep 2010: 18,742

Sep 2009: 18,448

If you assume that Rep. Jenkins intended the 3,000 drop to refer to the past two years, as he used for the budget figure, then the drop was not as dramatic -- it's down by 387 employees in the past two years, at least as officially verifiable data shows.

The only way you can get to a 3,000 drop is to compare 2017 to 2012 -- a five year gap, and two years before Jenkins was elected to Congress.

I also suspect -- but am trying to confirm -- that the 2009-2012 EPA levels were boosted by temporary stimulus funding.

Let me know if you'd like to get a word in the piece.

Thanks much,
Lou Jacobson, senior correspondent, PolitiFact