

Congressional Update, February 5, 2002

Summary

On Monday, February 4, President Bush released the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2003 budget proposal. In the afternoon, Secretary Abraham made available more extensive information on the Department of Energy's budget. The information provided by the Department, including budget tables for each Lab and the budget justifications for individual programs, can be found at:

<http://www.mbe.doe.gov/budget/03budget/index.htm>

The President's budget submission marks the beginning of the congressional budget cycle. This week the authorization and appropriations committees will begin holding budget hearings with witnesses from the Administration. The House Energy and Water Subcommittee is considering holding a hearing on atomic energy defense activities (NNSA) the beginning of March. The Senate Armed Services Committee is looking at March 20 for its NNSA hearing.

NNSA Budget

The budget for the National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) has increased from \$7.605 billion in FY 2002 to \$8.039 billion in FY 2003, an increase of \$433 million or 6 percent. Within this amount, the President provides \$5.9 billion for Weapons Activities, a \$306 million or 5 percent increase over FY 2002 levels. This includes \$1.234 billion for directed stockpile work, an 18 percent increase over FY 2002 levels, \$242 million for a Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program and \$724.9 million for the Accelerated Strategic Computing (ASC) program.

The President's FY 2003 budget contains \$1.114 billion for NNSA's nonproliferation programs, an 8 percent increase over FY 2002. Within this amount, the President has provided \$801 million for nonproliferation programs with Russia, a 17 percent increase. The Nonproliferation and Verification R&D program has been reduced from \$322 million in FY 2002 to \$283 million in FY 2003, however, most of this reduction is the result of the completion of funding for a construction project at LANL. Funding for operations has been held close to the FY 2002 levels of \$286.5 million.

Funding for Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management has been reduced from \$5.218 billion in FY 2002 to \$4.558 billion in FY 2003. The Administration has created an \$800 million Environmental Management Cleanup Reform Fund. Sites may receive monies for accelerated clean up from this fund if DOE is able to negotiate more favorable clean up agreements with state and Federal regulatory agencies.

Another area of reduced funding is Fossil Energy and Nuclear Energy Science & Technology. Funding for Nuclear Energy Science has been reduced from \$294 million in FY 2002 to \$250.6 million in FY 2003. Funding for Fossil Energy has been reduced from \$861 million in FY 2002 to \$815 million in FY 2003. These reductions will help pay for a new \$38 million program that was announced by Secretary Abraham to "resolve the

technical, institutional and regulatory barriers to the deployment of new nuclear plants by 2010."

\$527 million has been provided for the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management program, a 40 percent increase over last year. This account will provide funds for Yucca Mountain.

Biggest Problem for NNSA Budget Are the Cuts in the Army Corps of Engineers Budget

NNSA programs are funded out of the same appropriations subcommittee budget allocation as the Army Corps of Engineers - the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee's allocation. The Army Corps of Engineers budget has been reduced by 10 percent. This will create pressure on the Energy and Water Subcommittee, particularly in the House, to locate funds to support member backed water projects.

Livermore Specific Funding

\$943.6 million for weapons activities

\$99 million for directed stockpile work.

\$214 million for National Ignition Facility construction

\$26 million for Livermore from the Facilities & Infrastructure (F&I) Recapitalization fund

\$9.6 million for the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF)

\$10 million for the Engineering Building Technology Complex Upgrade

\$4 million for the Isotope Sciences Facility

\$5.9 million for roof reconstruction

\$4.252 million for Energy Supply R&D, up from \$4.120 million in FY 2002

\$598,000 for Nuclear Energy R&D, down from \$1.06 million in FY 2002

\$29.8 million for Defense Environmental Restoration, down from \$41.07 million in FY 2002

\$60 million for Nonproliferation and Verification R&D, down from FY2002 levels of \$68 million, but up significantly from \$42.6 million in FY 2001.