

NEWS from

Democrat, New Mexico

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman

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BINGAMAN: SPENDING BILL FUNDS SANDIA AND LOS ALAMOS LABS, WIPP

BILL CONTAINS FUNDING REQUESTED BY BINGAMAN FOR RESEARCH ON THE NEXT GENERATION OF LIGHTING

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman reported today that a spending bill working its way through Congress contains funding levels for New Mexico's two laboratories that are very close to the level sought by the White House.

The funding is part of the fiscal year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill - legislation that funds most federal agencies. The House of Representatives could vote on the measure as soon as today. The Senate may vote on it Tuesday, and changes could be made that would require a final vote in the House later in the week.

"In the end, this is about a good a result as we could have hoped for," Bingaman said. "The overall level of funding for the labs is essentially what the president requested, not the more dramatic cuts that had been approved by the House," Bingaman said.

The bill funds stockpile stewardship activities at the National Nuclear Security Administration at \$6.355 billion, which funds the stockpile stewardship program performed by Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories, down from the original budget request of \$6.522 billion.

Specific to the laboratories, activities directed toward maintaining the existing stockpile were funded at \$1.413 billion, down 2 percent from the request of \$1.447 billion. The science and engineering campaigns were funded at \$1.890 billion, up 1.2 percent from the request of \$1.866 billion. The Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities account for Sandia was funded at \$155.3 million, down 1 percent from the request of \$156.9 million,

while Los Alamos was funded at \$287.6 million up 6 percent from the request of \$270.6 million.

The overall funding near the President's level should alleviate pressure for further reductions in force for this fiscal year. ***The funding will be subject to a 0.9 percent rescission for programmatic accounts and a 1.6 percent rescission for congressional directed activities.***

At Bingaman's request, the bill includes a \$5 million increase for solid-state lighting, bringing the total for solid state lighting R&D to \$24.2 million. This funding will benefit the research conducted at Sandia's National Center for Solid State Lighting, which works to overcome fundamental challenges critical to the success of the U.S. solid state lighting industry - the next generation of lighting. Sandia National Laboratories' Center for Integrated Nanosciences will benefit from this funding. Bingaman has been leading the effort to secure federal funds to support research and development on the next generation of highly energy- efficient lighting.

"Advancing the research and development of the next generation of lighting will be a great benefit to American consumers," Bingaman said.

Among the projects funded in the energy and water spending bill are the following:

LOS ALAMOS

\$48.9 million to for security upgrades at LANL TA-55 plutonium facility
\$17.0 million to support the LANL classified vault consolidation activities, new project initiated by the laboratory.
\$29.2 million to support the TA-18 mission relocation
\$26.4 million for LANL Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility upgrade
\$7 million cyber security upgrades at LANL
\$153.5 million for environmental cleanup at LANL (\$14 million above the President's request)

\$750,000 million for Radioisotopes research at the New Mexico Center for Isotopes in Medicine. Funding will be used for the development of applications for unique, medically useful radioisotopes that will be produced from the LANL Isotope Production Facility.
\$2 million for research on the environmental impacts for oil shale production.

WIPP

\$236.7 million for WIPP: This is \$17 million above the president's budget request. Funding will make it possible for the facility to receive and safely store 21 contact-handled and five remote-handled shipments per week.
\$1.5 million for the Neutrino Research at WIPP.

OTHER

\$12 million for the Mental Illness and Neuroscience Discovery (MIND) Institute

\$1 million for New Mexico State University's Arrowhead Center

\$1 million for the development of high efficiency cascade solar cells