

ergy defense, environment safety and health” account as the Committee has done in previous years and to reduce the remaining amount of the request by \$2,406,000.

Line management support.—The Committee has provided \$16,244,000 for line management support, the same amount as provided in fiscal year 1997 when a \$4,500,000 adjustment is made to reflect the shift of the certification, packaging, and transportation of nuclear materials program from this account to the nondefense “Environmental management” account in fiscal year 1998.

External regulation.—The Committee notes with interest the joint efforts by the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to evaluate the costs and benefits of an independent regulatory entity overseeing certain DOE nuclear activities or facilities. In particular, the Committee understands that the NRC and the DOE are developing a small pilot program to test regulatory concepts for DOE nuclear activities or facilities and understands that this work will be performed under a reimbursable arrangement from the DOE to the NRC. The Committee recommends that the pilot program have the following objectives: to obtain sufficient information about a set of DOE nuclear activities or facilities to determine the value added if NRC had regulatory oversight of the activities or facilities; to evaluate alternative regulatory approaches to NRC regulation of DOE nuclear activities or facilities; to determine the status of a set of DOE facilities with respect to meeting existing NRC requirements, and to identify any significant safety issues; to identify potential issues associated with a transition to NRC oversight of DOE nuclear facilities; and to assess the costs (to NRC and DOE) associated with NRC regulation of DOE nuclear facilities. The Committee recommendation includes \$1,000,000 for this purpose.

Program direction.—The Committee recommendation for environment, safety, and health program direction is \$45,835,000. The \$350,000 reduction from the request is to be taken from the proposed travel budget resulting in a travel budget of \$2,000,000, a \$500,000 increase over the fiscal year 1997 level.

MAGNETIC FUSION ENERGY

Appropriations, 1997	\$232,337,000
Budget estimate, 1998	225,000,000
Committee recommendation	240,000,000

This Fiscal Year 1996 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act provided \$244,144,000, a reduction of \$128,419,000 or 34 percent from the amount requested, for the magnetic fusion energy program. In the conference report accompanying the act, the conferees instructed the Department to prepare, with the participation of the Fusion Energy Advisory Committee, a strategic plan to implement the necessarily restructured program. The conferees directed that the plan should assume a constant level of funding in the base program for the next several years; as appropriate, it should be integrated with the plans of the international magnetic fusion program; and it should address the institutional makeup of a domestic program consistent with the funding assumptions.

Last year, the Committee was impressed that, with the assistance of the Fusion Energy Advisory Committee, the Department

was able to develop a balanced program consistent with the directions of the Committee. However, because of budget pressures, the Committee was able to recommend only \$240,000,000. That amount was further reduced in conference with the House so that the final level provided for fiscal year 1997 was \$232,337,000.

For fiscal year 1998, the Committee recommends \$240,000,000 for the magnetic fusion energy program. This amount will fulfill the Committee's commitment to provide level funding in light of the magnetic fusion community's successful effort to restructure the program. This amount includes \$2,000,000 transferred to the "Magnetic fusion energy" account from the "Nuclear energy" account for advanced test reactor fusion irradiation.

ENERGY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 1997	\$110,300,000
Budget estimate, 1998	112,220,000
Committee recommendation	111,993,000

Energy support activities include the technical information management program, program direction, construction, and field office management. The Committee recommends \$111,993,000, a reduction of \$227,000 from the request.

Technical information management.—The Committee recommends \$2,200,000 for technical information management, \$227,000 below the request and the same amount as provided in fiscal year 1997.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

(NONDEFENSE)

Appropriations, 1997	\$591,711,000
Budget estimate, 1998	684,684,000
Committee recommendation	664,684,000

In previous years, nondefense environmental restoration and waste management and nuclear materials and facilities stabilization were included in the "Energy supply, research, and development" account.

FUSRAP.—The reduction from the request is due to budget constraints, and the Committee recommends that it be taken from the Formerly Utilized Site Remediation Action Program [FUSRAP]. The Committee strongly supports FUSRAP and last year urged the Department to increase the request for FUSRAP. The Committee appreciates the Department's responsiveness in this regard; the budget request increases from \$75,085,000 to \$182,079,000, a 142-percent increase. Unfortunately, budget constraints prevent the Committee from providing the full amount of the increase. The Committee recommendation includes \$162,079,000 for the program, a 116-percent increase over fiscal year 1997.

From within available funds, the Committee recommendation is to continue the support of the University Research Program in Robotics at \$3,500,000.

The Committee supports the multi-institution, multistate consortium known as the Integrated Petroleum Environmental Consortium [IPEC], and is especially encouraged with its level of research expertise and development of technology to address biological waste

treatment and bioremediation. The Committee encourages the Department to fully support the initiative of this multi-institution consortium.

These funds also support continued standby condition for the fast flux test facility to be evaluated as a possible backup option for tritium production.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING
FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$200,200,000
Budget estimate, 1998	248,788,000
Committee recommendation	230,000,000

The uranium enrichment decontamination and decommissioning fund was established in accordance with title XI of Public Law 102-486, the National Energy Policy Act of 1992. The funds provided for the environmental cleanup of the Department's uranium enrichment plants, two of which are currently leased to the USEC, and the cleanup of uranium mill tailings and thorium piles resulting from production and sales to the Federal Government for the Manhattan project and other national security purposes.

Due to severe budget constraints, the Committee recommendation includes a reduction of \$18,788,000 from the budget request of \$248,788,000.

NUCLEAR WASTE FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$182,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	190,000,000
Committee recommendation	160,000,000

The Committee has provided \$350,000,000 for the civilian nuclear waste program; \$160,000,000 derived from the nuclear waste fund and \$190,000,000 derived from the "Atomic energy defense" account. These funds should be used to proceed in accordance with the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Draft Program plan issued by the Department in May 1996. No later than September 30, 1998, the Secretary shall provide to the President and to the Congress a viability assessment of the Yucca Mountain site. The viability assessment shall include: the preliminary design for the critical elements for the repository and waste package; a total system performance assessment, based upon the design concept and the scientific data and analysis available on June 30, 1998, describing the probable behavior of the Yucca Mountain geologic setting relative to the overall system performance standards; a plan and cost estimate for the remaining work required to complete a license application; and an estimate of the costs to construct and operate the repository in accordance with the design.

The Committee has provided \$1,500,000 for the State of Nevada and \$6,175,000 for affected local governments in accordance with statutory restrictions contained in the act.

SCIENCE

Appropriations, 1997	\$2,239,517,000
Budget estimate, 1998	2,260,377,000
Committee recommendation	2,223,077,000

The Committee has consolidated the Department's science programs, previously in energy supply research and development and general science and research, into a single "Science" account. Those programs are: high energy physics, nuclear physics, biological and environmental research, basic energy sciences, and other energy research.

The Committee is concerned that the level of funding requested by the Department for science is inadequate to make full use of research facilities in which the Federal Government has made significant capital investments. The Committee urges the Department, in preparing its fiscal year 1999 budget request, to more fully support the capabilities of new facilities, including support for laboratory completion and operating costs and for university researchers conducting experiments at these facilities.

HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS

Appropriations, 1997	\$670,075,000
Budget estimate, 1998	675,035,000
Committee recommendation	675,035,000

The Committee has provided the full amount of the request for high energy physics and strongly endorses U.S. participation in the large hadron collider.

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Appropriations, 1997	\$315,925,000
Budget estimate, 1998	315,925,000
Committee recommendation	315,925,000

The Committee has provided the full amount of the request for nuclear physics.

The Committee understands that by providing an additional \$3,000,000 in operating funds for the Thomas Jefferson National Laboratory such that its budget is \$70,400,000 instead of the requested \$67,400,000, the laboratory could operate for an additional 8 weeks in fiscal year 1998. The Committee encourages the Department to review its budget for nuclear physics and provide the additional funds if possible.

BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Appropriations, 1997	\$389,075,000
Budget estimate, 1998	376,710,000
Committee recommendation	376,710,000

The Committee has provided the full amount of the request for biological and environmental research, including \$9,700,000 for the National Institute for Global Environmental Change.

The Committee has provided \$3,930,266, an increase of \$730,266 over the current year, to continue the nuclear medicine research program in biological imaging at the University of California Los Angeles. Also, at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, \$300,000 is recommended to establish a biological and environmental research genetic biodiversity laboratory and \$150,000 to study indoor air quality.

The Committee notes that the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA, is establishing a new women's cancer center as

a focal point of care for its own patients and those of community hospitals by introducing new technologies and promoting and facilitating biomedical research. The Committee further notes that the Einstein Center is located in an area with nearly twice the national proportion of households with incomes under \$15,000 per year and that cancer is a particular problem for the poor, who often neglect their health for financial reasons. The Committee directs the Department to consider a proposal from the Einstein Center for a research and health care delivery project to determine whether it meets the objective of using the Department's unique scientific and technical capabilities to solve major problems in medicine and biology.

BASIC ENERGY SCIENCES

Appropriations, 1997	\$649,348,000
Budget estimate, 1998	668,240,000
Committee recommendation	668,240,000

The Committee has included the amount of the budget request for basic energy sciences.

EPSCoR.—The Committee recommendation includes \$10,000,000 to continue the Department's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCoR] Program. Also, the Midwest superconductivity consortium is continued at the current level.

OTHER ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 1997	\$205,094,000
Budget estimate, 1998	229,267,000
Committee recommendation	212,167,000

Other energy research programs such as energy research analysis, laboratory technology transfer, advisory and oversight, multi-program energy laboratory support, and program direction are funded in this section.

University and science education.—The Department of Energy through its national laboratories and sites has unique physical and intellectual resources available to support the Nation's efforts to prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers by improving teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering, and math at all levels. The Committee regrets the elimination last year of the university and science education program and has provided \$10,000,000 to reinstate it. The Department is directed to focus its educational efforts on two areas in fiscal year 1998: expanding undergraduate and faculty research opportunities through programs such as the successful University Lab Cooperative Program; and reinstating programs to support minority institutional development, in particular, the Minority Technical Education Program.

Next-generation internet.—The Committee has not provided the \$25,000,000 requested for the Department's participation in the next-generation internet. The Committee concurs with the Department's finding that increased internet capabilities would facilitate broader use of and benefit from the Department's scientific user facilities. However, given the rapid rate of commercial internet technology development, the Committee concludes it is unnecessary for the Department to fund the development of enabling technologies to meet its internet requirements.

Computational and technology research.—The Committee recommendation for other energy research programs includes \$760,000 for computing equipment at the Institute for Computational Chemistry and Molecular Modeling at the University of Georgia.

Program direction.—The Committee has provided \$28,500,000 for program direction, the same as the amount provided in fiscal year 1997 and \$2,100,000 less than the request.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

(GROSS)

Appropriations, 1997	\$215,021,000
Budget estimate, 1998	232,604,000
Committee recommendation	220,847,000

(MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES)

Revenues, 1997	\$125,388,000
Budget estimate, 1998	131,330,000
Committee recommendation	131,330,000

For fiscal year 1997, the Congress reduced funding for departmental administration by 9 percent and is generally pleased with the Department's implementation of the reduction. However, during the reduction, the Department maintained the number of full-time equivalents [FTE's] in the Office of General Counsel and increased the number of FTE's in the Office of the Secretary. In order to return the number of FTE's in the Office of the Secretary to the 1996 level, the Committee has provided \$2,500,000, \$500,000 more than was provided in fiscal year 1997 but \$350,000 less than the request, for the Office of the Secretary. Within general management—personnel compensation and benefits, the Committee has provided \$13,950,000 for salary and benefits for the Office of General Counsel and expects the Secretary to reduce the number of FTE's in the Office to 150 instead of increase it to 170 as requested. In accordance with a budget amendment submitted by the Department, of the amount provided for other expenses within Departmental Administration, \$1,623,000 is available for salaries and expenses in the Office of the Secretary in order to pay the salaries and expenses of employees otherwise on detail to the Office of the Secretary.

INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 1997	\$23,853,000
Budget estimate, 1998	29,499,000
Committee recommendation	27,500,000

The Committee has provided \$27,500,000, \$1,999,000 less than the request, for the Office of the Inspector General. The Committee is aware that, by utilizing unobligated balances, the Office of the Inspector General has maintained total program costs of \$28,000,000 and \$28,600,000 for the previous 2 years. Due to budget constraints, the Office will have to reduce its total program costs in fiscal year 1998.

Total, Nuclear energy R&D	115,515	111,903	66,642
Termination costs	76,889	76,035	72,035
Construction:			
97-E-200 Modifications to reactors, sodium system drain and closure, Argonne National Lab—West, ID	1,200		
97-E-201 Modifications to reactors, hot fuel examination facility equipment upgrades, ANL-W	1,000		
Subtotal, Construction	2,200		
Total, Termination costs	79,089	76,035	72,035
Uranium programs		79,135	65,000
Construction:			
98-U-200 depleted UF6 cylinder storage yards, Paducah, KY		400	400
96-U-201 depleted UF6 cylinder storage yards, Paducah, KY		6,000	6,000
Subtotal, Construction		6,400	6,400
Total, Uranium programs		85,535	71,400
Isotope support	12,704	21,704	17,504
Program direction	13,502	16,700	16,700
Prior year projects	- 920		
TOTAL, NUCLEAR ENERGY	219,890	311,877	244,281
ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH:			
Environment, safety and health	46,703	62,731	41,944
Program direction	37,300	46,185	45,835
TOTAL, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH	84,003	108,916	87,779
MAGNETIC FUSION:			
Fusion energy	232,436	225,000	240,000

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Project title	Current year enacted	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation
Prior year projects	- 99		
TOTAL, MAGNETIC FUSION	232,337	225,000	240,000
ENERGY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES:			
Technical information management program	2,200	2,427	2,200
Program direction	8,700	8,560	8,560
Construction	1,000	1,000	1,000
 Total, Technical information management program	11,900	11,987	11,760
Field offices and management	98,400	100,233	100,233
TOTAL, ENERGY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	110,300	112,220	111,993
SUBTOTAL, ENERGY RESEARCH	912,874	1,102,713	985,475
Renewable energy research program			
Use of prior year balances	- 48,177	- 18,535	- 18,535
General reduction for contractor training			
Prior year projects	- 197		
TOTAL, ENERGY RESEARCH	864,500	1,084,178	966,940
URANIUM SUPPLY AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES			
Uranium program activities	52,466		
Program direction	4,000		
Construction: 96-U-201 depleted UF6 cylinder storage yards, Paducah, Kentucky gaseous diffusion plant	4,000		

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Project title	Current year enacted	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation
NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL FUND			
Discretionary funding	182,000	190,000	160,000
SCIENCE			
High energy physics:			
Research and technology	210,000	205,240	205,240
Facility operations	360,075	418,945	418,945
Construction:			
98—G—304 Neutrinos at the main injector, Fermilab		5,500	5,500
98—G—305 C—Zero area experimental hall, Fermilab		5,000	5,000
97—G—303 Master substation upgrade, SLAC	3,000	9,400	9,400
94—G—304 B—Factory, SLAC	45,000		
92—G—302 Fermilab main injector, Fermilab	52,000	30,950	30,950
Subtotal, Construction	100,000	50,850	50,850
Subtotal, Facility operations	460,075	469,795	469,795
Total, High energy physics	670,075	675,035	675,035
Nuclear physics	250,925	256,525	256,525
Construction: 91—G—300 Relativistic heavy ion collider, BNL	65,000	59,400	59,400
Total, Nuclear physics	315,925	315,925	315,925
Biological and environmental research:			
Biological and environmental research R&D	352,962	376,710	376,710
Construction:			
94—E—339 Human genome lab, LBL	1,000		

91-EM-100 Environmental & molecular sciences laboratory, PNL, Richland, WA	35,113		
Subtotal, Construction	36,113		
Total, Biological and environmental research	389,075	376,710	376,710
Basic energy sciences:			
Materials sciences	332,051	392,475	392,475
Chemical sciences	171,601	199,933	199,933
Engineering and geosciences	41,225	41,371	41,371
Energy biosciences	28,161	27,461	27,461
Capital equipment	45,695		
Construction:			
GPE-400 General plant projects	9,275		
97-E-305 Accelerator and reactor improvements and modifications, various locations	2,500		
95-E-305 Accelerator improvement projects	9,840		
96-E-300 Combustion research facility, Phase II, SNL/L	9,000	7,000	7,000
Subtotal, Construction	30,615	7,000	7,000
Total, Basic energy sciences	649,348	668,240	668,240
Other energy research:			
Computational and technology research	153,500	175,907	150,907
Energy research analyses	1,834	1,500	1,500
University and Science Education			10,000
Program direction	28,500	30,600	28,500
Multiprogram energy labs—facility support:			
Multiprogram general purpose facilities:			
Construction:			
MEL-001 Multiprogram energy laboratory infrastructure projects, various locations ¹		7,259	7,259
95-E-301 Central heating plant rehabilitation, Phase I (ANL)	2,500	3,442	3,442
95-E-303 Electrical safety rehab (PNL)	1,500		
95-E-310 Multiprogram laboratory rehabilitation, phase I (PNL)	2,960		
94-E-363 Roofing improvements (ORNL)		4,000	4,000

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Project title	Current year enacted	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation
Subtotal, Multiprogram gen. purpose facilities	6,960	14,701	14,701
Construction:			
96-E-333 Multiprogram energy laboratories upgrades, various locations	7,424	5,273	5,273
95-E-307 Fire safety imp. III (ANL)	1,000	718	718
95-E-308 Sanitary system mods. II (BNL)	1,032	568	568
95-E-309 Loss prevention upgrades (BNL)	4,620
93-E-320 Fire and safety improvements, phase II (ANL)	224
Subtotal, Construction	14,300	6,559	6,559
Subtotal, Multiprogram energy labs—fac. suppor	21,260	21,260	21,260
Total, Other energy research	205,094	229,267	212,167
Science program direction	10,000	10,200	10,000
Use of prior year SSC balances	- 15,000	- 35,000
TOTAL, SCIENCE	2,239,517	2,260,377	2,223,077
DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION			
Administrative operations:			
Office of the Secretary—salaries and expenses	2,000	2,850	2,500
General management—personnel compensation and benefits	100,695	104,530	101,695
Severance, termination and related cost	6,000
General management—other expenses	74,900	77,356	73,000
Program support:			
Minority economic impact	1,500	2,320	2,000
Policy analysis and system studies	500	2,096	500
Consumer affairs	40	40	40