URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

The conference agreement appropriates $220,200,000 instead of $225,000,000 as proposed by the House and $196,827,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees understand that an increase in the authorization for the Federal reimbursement for thorium mill tailings is necessary to raise the ceiling from $65,000,000 to $140,000,000. The conferees support this necessary increase in the Federal reimbursement for thorium mill tailings.

SCIENCE

The conference agreement appropriates $2,682,860,000 for Science instead of $2,399,500,000 as proposed by the House and $2,634,207,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement deletes language proposed by the Senate earmarking funds for the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

High energy physics.—The conference agreement provides $696,500,000 for high energy physics. This is the amount provided by the House and represents a $3,000,000 increase over the budget request for facilities operations and a $2,500,000 increase for research and technology over the amount requested by the Administration. The increase is provided for maximum use of university and laboratory-based user facilities.

Nuclear physics.—The conference agreement provides $335,100,000 for nuclear physics. This is the amount provided by the House and represents a $2,500,000 increase over the amount requested by the Administration. The increase is provided for maximum use of university and laboratory-based user facilities.

Biological and environmental research.—The conference agreement includes $443,600,000 instead of $405,900,000 as recommended by the House or $407,600,000 as recommended by the Senate. The conferees have included $3,000,000 in addition to the amount in the budget request for the low-dose effects program for which an additional $5,000,000 is provided in the Defense Environmental Management account. The conferees have provided $10,500,000 only for the Institute of Molecular Biology and Medicine, to continue microbial genomics research initiated in fiscal year 1998. The conferees have also provided $8,000,000 to Sacramento County as the Local Redevelopment Authority for medical research and educational development at the McClellan nuclear reactor center, in conjunction with the University of California—Davis.

The conferees have provided $1,000,000 for the Gallo Institute of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey for regional prostate cancer research, education and treatment initiatives to develop model outreach and early diagnosis and intervention strategies, focusing on one of the highest incidence regions in the nation and of prostate cancer in minority men. The conference agreement also includes $1,000,000 to begin planning for the marine mammal research and education center at the National Energy Laboratory in Hawaii. The conferees have also provided $2,500,000 for the bone marrow trans-

plantation/radioimmunotherapy demonstration project at the City of Hope National Medical Center in California.

The conference report includes $10,000,000 for the creation of a program to develop technologies using advanced functional brain imaging methodologies, including magnetoencephalography, for conduct of basic research in mental illness and neurological disorders. The conference report includes $2,000,000 for the State University (New York), Stony Brook, to create a comprehensive cancer institute to serve as a focal point (in conjunction with regional cancer centers, the Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory) for a concentrated, multi-disciplinary approach to basic and clinical research, detection and molecular analysis of cancer, and development of new diagnostics and therapies targeting cancer. The conference report includes $1,000,000 for the design, planning and construction of an interdisciplinary science facility at the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa. The conference report includes $1,000,000 for the continued construction of the Highlands University Science Center in New Mexico. The conference report includes $7,000,000 to be evenly divided between the West Virginia University National Education and Technology Center and the University of South Carolina Medical Center to support the utilization of Positron Emission Tomography.

Basic energy sciences.—The conference agreement includes $809,100,000 instead of $779,100,000 as recommended by the House or $836,100,000 as recommended by the Senate. The conferees have included $7,000,000 for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, the same as the House-approved level and $3,000,000 less than the amount provided by the Senate. The conference agreement also includes $500,000 for research related to identification of trace element isotopes in environmental samples to be done at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Spallation Neutron Source.—The recommendation includes $130,000,000 to begin construction of a new spallation neutron source. The conferees have provided $101,400,000 for line-item construction costs and $28,600,000, the amount of the budget request, for related research and development. The total amount provided is a reduction of $27,000,000 from the budget request and an increase of $107,000,000 over the current fiscal year.

Computational and technology research.—The conference agreement includes $143,000,000 instead of $138,640,000 as recommended by the House or $150,000,000 as recommended by the Senate. The conferees support the House provision regarding funding for the Next Generation Internet initiative. However, the conferees have provided $5,000,000 more than the amount provided by the House for improved utilization of the Department's existing computing infrastructure. Funding is provided for unique Internet tools for technologies that will not be available in the commercial marketplace in any reasonable timeframe and to maintain existing connections to the university community that are supported in the present research network.

FUSION ENERGY SCIENCES

The conferees have provided a total of $229,750,000 for fusion energy sciences, a $1,590,000 increase over the amount in the budget request. The conference agreement includes $223,300,000 for the fusion energy sciences program. Funding for this program has been provided in the Science account as recommended by the Senate instead of the Energy Supply account as recommended by the House. The conferees have provided up to $6,450,000 for all program direction expenses related to the fusion program within the $49,800,000 provided in the Science account for program direction. The conferees note that the Department continues to emphasize tokamak development at the expense of other promising technologies. The conferees continue to be very supportive of the increased emphasis on innovative confinement concepts and university-based experiments. The conferees encourage the Secretary to provide sufficient resources for these efforts. In particular, special emphasis should be placed on funding operations, upgrades, and enhanced design work on both existing and proposed alternative concept experiments at the proof-of-principle level, including an increase for inertial confinement.

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).—The conferees note that the ITER agreement expired on July 21, 1998. For the past several years, Congress has been clear that the U.S. commitment to ITER extended only through fiscal year 1998. The Department is directed not to sign an extension of this agreement without the written consent of the authorizing and appropriations committees of the House and Senate. The conferees understand and support the value of international collaboration. The Department is encouraged to consider the possibility of utilizing the existing international fusion center in San Diego in future collaborations.

The conferees note that the description of ITER and ITER-related activities in the budget request is not comparable to the classification of these activities in fiscal year 1998, but support the orderly completion of research and development of components that can be completed in fiscal year 1999. For example, the conferees fully expect the Department to meet its commitment to the delivery and testing of the central solenoid model coil.

The conferees have included $12,200,000 as directly related to completion of ITER-related activities, including funds to complete research and development in the base technology program and to provide for orderly ITER closeout costs. The Department must submit a reprogramming request if requirements exceed the $12,200,000 provided.

Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR).—In fiscal year 1997, Congress terminated funding for the TFTR. The conferees note that TFTR has ceased operation and that many parts of the TFTR facility will be re-used for the new National Spherical Torus Experiment. Currently, the Department is spending approximately $4,000,000 annually for care-taking of the remaining TFTR components. The Department has no immediate plans for the decommissioning of the TFTR unit, proposing to continue care-taking expenses indefinitely. The conferees have been made aware of decom-

missioning proposals to complete decommissioning in three years, with estimated savings of $25,000,000. The conferees direct the Department to prepare a reasonable, timely and cost-effective decommissioning plan and to submit a plan to begin decommissioning in the fiscal year 2000 budget request. The Department shall consult with the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory throughout the development of this plan.

University and Science Education.—The conferees have adopted the House provision to provide funding for the Laboratory Cooperative, National Science Bowl and Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships programs within the amount provided for program direction. Consistent with action taken over the last two fiscal years, the conferees have not included funding for grade school curriculum development programs and other education initiatives included in the Department of Energy's budget request. The conferees continue to support the various programs offered through the nation's laboratories. The conferees encourage the Department to seek opportunities to support work such as that performed by the Science and Technology Alliance.

PROGRAM DIRECTION

The recommendation is $49,800,000, instead of $43,100,000 as proposed by the House or $37,600,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees have provided $45,300,000 for standard program direction activities including up to $6,450,000 for salaries and expenses for the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences. The conferees have also provided an additional $4,500,000 to fund the Laboratory Cooperative, National Science Bowl, and Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships programs as proposed by the House. The conferees take this action to establish a legitimate funding mechanism for these activities.

FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS

The conference agreement includes four funding adjustments. The $7,600,000 adjustment represents previously appropriated funds the Department has identified as surplus. The funds were provided as part of the closeout costs related to cancellation of the Superconducting Super Collider. The $13,500,000 adjustment represents an estimate of the policy-related work requested as part of the Climate Change Technology Initiative. This adjustment is to be made exclusively to the Basic Energy Sciences and Biological and Environmental Research programs. The conference agreement includes a $13,000,000 prior year balance adjustment as proposed by the Senate instead of no adjustment as proposed by the House. The conference agreement also includes a $5,700,000 general reduction. To the extent practicable, the conferees direct that general reductions are not applied to operation of user facilities. The conferees have not included the general reduction of $42,353,000 as proposed by the Senate.

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

The conference agreement appropriates $169,000,000 instead of $160,000,000 as proposed by the House and $190,000,000 as pro-

	Budget Estimate	Conference
SCIENCE		
High energy physics		
Research and technology	213,365	215,865
Facility operations	456,635	459,635
Construction		
99-G-306 Wilson hall safety improvements, Fermilab	6,700	6,700
98-G-304 Neutrinos at the main injector, Fermilab	14,300	14,300
Subtotal, Construction	21,000	21,000
Subtotal, Facility operations	477,635	480,635
Total, High energy physics	691,000	696,500
Nuclear physics	315,980	318,480
Construction		
91-G-300 Relativistic heavy ion collider (BNL)	16,620	16,620
Total, Nuclear physics	332,600	335,100
Biological and environmental research	392,600	443,600
Basic energy sciences		
Materials sciences	417,216	417,216
Chemical sciences	209,582	209,582
Engineering and geosciences	44,413	44,413
Energy biosciences	32,489	32,489
Construction		
99-E-334 Spallation neutron source (ORNL)	128,400	101,400
96-E-300 Combustion research facility, Phase II, SNL/L	4,000	4,000
Subtotal, Construction	132,400	105,400
Total, Basic energy sciences	836,100	809,100

	Budget Estimate	Conference
Other energy research		
Computational and technology research	160,640	143,000
Energy research analyses	1,000	1,000
Multiprogram energy labs - facility support		
Multiprogram general purpose facilities		
Infrastructure support	1,160	1,160
Construction		
MEL-001 Multiprogram energy laboratory infrastructure projects, various locations	14,924	14,924
94-E-363 Roofing improvements (ORNL)	4,908	4,908
Subtotal, Construction	19,832	19,832
Subtotal, Multiprogram gen. purpose facilities	20,992	20,992
Environment, safety and health		
Construction		
96-E-333 Multiprogram energy laboratories upgrades, various locations	268	268
Subtotal, Multiprogram energy labs - fac. suppor	21,260	21,260
Total, Other energy research	182,900	165,260
Fusion energy sciences program	---	223,300
University science education programs		
Laboratory cooperative science centers	15,000	---
Program direction	39,860	49,800
Subtotal, Science	2,490,060	2,722,660
Use of prior year SSC balances	-7,600	-7,600
Use of other prior year balances	-12,000	-13,000
General reduction	---	-5,700
General reduction for policy papers for CCTI	---	-13,500
TOTAL, SCIENCE	2,470,460	2,682,860