



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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SUMMARY: 2008 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS Full Committee Markup

In the 1970s, when our nation faced an energy crisis we responded with unprecedented initiatives for energy research. Over the years, gas prices came down, incentive was lost, and these efforts fell by the wayside.

Today, we again face an energy crisis, only this time it is coupled with the enormous challenge of addressing the reality of global climate change. This bill attempts to face these twin crises with over three billion dollars to address global climate change – researching its effects and working on technologies to slow it down – and investment in renewable energy programs that both reduce greenhouse gases and help our nation meet its energy needs.

The bill cuts funding for poorly thought-out plans for nuclear weapons recognizing that because of the enormous cost and the importance to our national security they require smart strategies not blank checks. Instead it works to keep Americans safe with a 75% increase in funding for nuclear non-proliferation efforts. It also funds the Army Corps of Engineers, strengthening our nation's navigation infrastructure and improving flood control programs.

And it ensures that these investments go to good use by encouraging, and requiring good management practices.

Bill Total

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2007 Enacted: | \$30.3 billion |
| President's Request: | \$30.5 billion |
| Committee Mark: | \$31.6 billion |

KEY INVESTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY: \$25.243 billion, \$1.150 billion above 2007 and \$480 million above the President's request.

Office of Science: \$4.516 billion, \$116.2 million above the President's request and \$716.8 million above 2007 for basic scientific research, supporting 3,500 additional researchers and allowing almost all of the science facilities to operate at maximum capacity.

- **Climate Change Science:** \$150 million, \$20 million above the President's request and \$24 million above 2007 for research into Climate Change including: modeling using state-of-the-art super computers; monitoring radiation in the atmosphere; and long-term experiments on the impact of increased carbon dioxide levels on forests and other ecosystems.
- **Basic Energy Research:** \$208 million, \$30 million above the President's request and \$35 million above 2007 for research into improving technology for energy storage and generation.

Reducing Our Dependence on Foreign Oil in a Way that Cuts Greenhouse Gas Emissions: \$1.9 billion, \$638 million above the President's request and \$400 million above 2007 for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

- **Solar Energy:** \$200 million, \$40.6 million over 2007 and \$51.7 billion above the President's request for research, development and demonstration projects to make solar energy affordable.
- **Biofuels:** \$250 million, \$50.3 million above 2007 and \$70.7 million above the President's request for research and development of alternative fuels such as corn based and cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel.
- **Vehicle Technology:** \$235.4 million, \$47.4 million above 2007 and \$59.3 million above the President's request to collaborate with industry on developing technologies for improved fuel efficiency such as improved batteries or engines that burn clean diesel.
- **Energy Efficient Buildings:** \$146.5 million, \$42.1 million above 2007 and \$60 million above the President's request for research into building and industrial conservation technologies that would reduce energy demand. This includes developing affordable, net-zero energy use homes.
- **Weatherization Grants:** \$245.6 million, \$101.6 million above the President's request level and \$41 million above 2007, for insulation and other cost-effective energy conservation measures, restoring the program to its 2006 funding level.
- **Hydropower:** \$22 million, not funded in 2007 or in the President's request, to research new ways of generating power from water flow. (this is on top of the \$95 million for upgrades to existing hydropower dams funded under the Army Corps)
- **Geothermal Energy:** \$44.3 million, \$39.3 million above 2007 and eliminated in the President's request.

Nuclear Energy (Non-GNEP): \$639.2 million, \$232.5 million above the President's request and \$324.5 million above 2007 including funding for a Next Generation Nuclear Power Plant at the Idaho National Lab that will use safer, more efficient technology.

Fossil Energy: \$708.8 million, \$142 million above the President's request and \$116.2 million above 2007 for: demonstration of technology that captures carbon exhaust as recommended in the [MIT Coal report](#); improvements to existing coal power plants that were zeroed in the request; and the [FutureGen](#) initiative to create the world's first zero-emissions fossil fuel plant.

Environmental Clean-up: \$6.671 billion, \$358.8 million above the President's request and \$30.9 million below 2007 to clean up contamination from 60 years of manufacturing nuclear weapons and various cancelled projects for handling spent nuclear fuel. DOE has outstanding commitments to clean-up 23 sites in 14 states. These funds would allow DOE to finish clean-up at a number of the smaller sites while continuing work at many of the larger ones.

Nuclear Nonproliferation: \$1.684 billion, \$11 million above the President's request and \$.3 million above 2007 bringing total available funding for nonproliferation to \$2.07 billion due to \$387 million available from prior years. Additionally, \$491 million in un-related work was transferred to other accounts, creating a 74% increase in funds for non-proliferation over last year. This includes work to secure nuclear weapons and materials in the former Soviet Republic, as well increasing efforts to keep them from getting into the United States.

- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nuclear Fuel Bank:** \$100 million to establish an IAEA nuclear fuel bank to create a reliable source of nuclear fuel for countries should their traditional sources be interrupted. This would eliminate the need for countries to develop their own nuclear fuel uranium enrichment programs.

Yucca Mountain: \$494.5 million, \$48.8 million above 2007, matching the President's request for nuclear waste disposal.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS: \$5.584 billion, \$246 million above 2007 and \$713.4 million above the President's request.

- **Operations and Maintenance:** \$2.655 billion, \$681.9 million above 2007 and \$184 million above the President's request to address an over \$1 billion backlog of operations and maintenance needs to sustain the coastal and inland navigation infrastructure critical to the U.S. economy.
- **Construction:** \$2.009 billion, \$327.5 billion above 2007 and \$485.9 below the President's request for projects including on-going measures to address gaps in flood protection put in the spotlight after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.
- **Hydropower:** \$95 million to repair and update hydropower dams to increase energy production.
- **Management Reforms:** Continues management reforms instituted at the Corps of Engineers, including the requirement for five-year plans and limitations on reprogramming and contracting methods.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project: \$1.073 billion, \$72 million above the President's request and \$13.9 million above 2007 for dams, canals, water treatment and conservation, and rural water projects.

SIGNIFICANT CUTS

Strategic Petroleum Reserve: \$163.5 million, \$168.1 million below the President's request and \$1 million below 2007, rejecting the President's proposal to double the size of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve so as to instead invest in conservation measures and alternative fuels.

Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP): \$120 million, \$285 million below the President's request and \$47.5 million below 2007 for the initiative to reprocess spent nuclear fuel and burn long-lived radioactive materials. It is unnecessary to rush into a plan that continues to raise concerns among scientists and has only weak support from industry given that there are reasonable options available for short term storage of nuclear waste and that this project will cost tens of billions of dollars and last for decades.

Weapons Programs: \$5.9 billion, \$632 million below the President's request and \$396 million below 2007 with cuts to 37 specific weapons program accounts.

- **New Facilities and the Reliable Replacement Warhead:** Prohibits the development of a reliable replacement warhead until the President has a post cold war strategic nuclear weapons plan necessary to guide transformation and downsizing of the stockpile and nuclear weapons complex away from its expensive Cold War configuration to a more affordable, sustainable structure.
- **Construction Mis-Management:** DOE construction management has remained on the [GAO High-Risk List](#) for seventeen years, improvements must be made before new efforts proceed.

Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX): \$167.8 million, cut \$263.5 million below the President's request and \$115.1 million below 2007 because the Administration asked for more than could be spent in 2008 and last year's funds are sufficient to continue construction.