

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2016 Omnibus – Energy and Water Appropriations

Bill targets funding toward critical national security activities and infrastructure investments to support economic growth

The Energy and Water Subcommittee portion of the Omnibus prioritizes funding on critical national security activities – including the safety, security, and reliability of the nation’s nuclear weapons. The legislation also makes much needed, targeted investments in Army Corps of Engineers programs and other vital energy and water infrastructure efforts around the country.

The legislation totals \$37.2 billion – an increase of \$3 billion above the enacted 2015 level, and \$1.1 billion above the President’s request – for these programs. This level reflects the increased domestic discretionary funding provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which was enacted on November 2.

National Security – The bill provides a total of \$12.5 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration, which maintains the safety, security, and readiness of the nation’s nuclear weapons stockpile. This is \$1.1 billion above the fiscal year 2015 level.

Within this funding, \$8.8 billion is targeted to Weapons Activities, an increase of \$660 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. This critical national defense funding will uphold the nation’s nuclear deterrence posture to ensure the U.S. can meet any current or emerging nuclear threat.

This funding includes \$1.3 billion to fully support the ongoing nuclear warhead refurbishment programs for the B61 bomb, the Navy’s W76 and W88 warheads, and the Long-Range Standoff cruise missile. Also included is \$2.3 billion to replace aging nuclear weapons facilities and to address the backlog of deferred maintenance.

The bill also contains \$1.4 billion for Naval Reactors – an increase of \$142 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level – to support the U.S. Navy’s Ohio-replacement ballistic missile submarine and to address aging nuclear infrastructure. The bill also continues funding for nuclear nonproliferation activities to combat nuclear terrorism and secure nuclear materials around the world.

Army Corps of Engineers – The Army Corps of Engineers is funded at \$5.99 billion, an increase of \$535 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$1.3 billion above the budget request.

The bill prioritizes funding on navigation and flood control to advance public safety, boost U.S. export ability, and create jobs. This funding will help maintain and enhance national and regional waterways that handle commerce with value to the U.S. economy of over \$1.7 trillion annually. Within the total, the bill provides:

- \$2.6 billion for navigation projects and studies, including:
 - o More than \$1.2 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which is the level provided in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, for harbor operation and maintenance activities; and
 - o Full use of the anticipated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund for construction and rehabilitation of the nation's inland waterways infrastructure.
- \$1.7 billion for public health and flood and storm damage reduction activities.

Energy Programs – The bill provides \$11 billion for energy programs within the Department of Energy (DOE) – a \$794 million increase above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$528 million below the President's request. This funding will support programs that encourage U.S. economic competitiveness and help advance the nation's goal of an "all-of-the-above" energy solution. This funding includes:

- \$632 million for research and development to advance coal, natural gas, oil, and other fossil energy technologies to help the country make better use of our domestic resources and reduce energy costs. This is an increase of \$61 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$72 million above the President's request.
- \$986 million for nuclear energy research and development, an increase of \$73 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$79 million above the President's request. These investments will further the next generation of the nation's nuclear power capability while ensuring the safety and longevity of our current plants.
- \$206 million for research, development, and other programs to strengthen the nation's electric grid, an increase of \$59 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$64 million below the President's request. Funds in this account will increase the resiliency and reliability of the electric grid against cyberattacks and extreme weather events.
- **Science Research** – The bill includes \$5.35 billion for science research, \$279 million above the 2015 enacted level. This funding will help strengthen innovation and future American competitiveness by supporting basic energy research, development of high-performance computing systems, and research into the next generation of clean energy sources.

The bill also rejects cuts proposed by the President to the domestic fusion energy program – funding the program at \$323 million. This will help lay the groundwork for more efficient and practical domestic energy solutions to reduce the nation’s reliance on foreign oil.

Department of the Interior – The legislation contains \$1.275 billion – \$135 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level – for the Department of the Interior, including the Bureau of Reclamation. This funding will help manage, develop, and protect the water resources of Western states.

Policy Items – The legislation includes several significant policy provisions to support economic growth and to rein in Administration overreach. Some of these items include:

- A provision restricting the application of the Clean Water Act in certain agricultural areas, including farm ponds and irrigation ditches.
- A provision prohibiting funding for the Army Corps to change the definition of “fill material,” which could have harmful effects on many U.S. industries;
- A provision prohibiting funding for the Administration’s onerous “light bulb” standard.
- A continuation of prior-year funding for Yucca Mountain to maintain its viability for future use.

For the full Committee Report on the Energy and Water portion of the Omnibus, including a detailed funding table, please visit: <http://1.usa.gov/1TPT4Qa>.

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