

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

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

FY 2017 Omnibus Summary – Energy and Water Appropriations

Protecting the nation from security threats and maintaining U.S. nuclear weapons, promoting an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy, and investing in water resources projects are funding priorities

The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies portion of the Omnibus provides annual funding for national defense nuclear weapons activities, the Army Corps of Engineers, various programs under the Department of Energy (DOE), and other related agencies.

The bill totals \$37.8 billion – \$586 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and \$495 million above the previous Administration’s budget request. This funding is targeted toward national security efforts, including nuclear weapons activities, and energy and water infrastructure investments.

Bill Highlights:

Nuclear Security – The bill provides a total of \$12.9 billion for DOE’s nuclear weapons security programs, including Weapons Activities, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, and Naval Reactors – a \$142 million increase above the fiscal year 2016 level and a \$63 million increase above President Obama’s budget request. This funding will uphold the nation’s nuclear deterrence posture, maintain the safety and readiness of our weapons stockpile, and allow the U.S. to meet any nuclear threat. This includes:

- \$9.3 billion for Weapons Activities – \$471 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Within this amount, funding for nuclear weapons infrastructure is increased by 23% (\$2.8 billion total) and will address high-risk, deteriorating infrastructure and deferred maintenance;
- \$1.4 billion for Naval Nuclear Reactors – \$45 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level, which includes funding for the Navy’s Ohio-replacement submarine program;
- \$1.9 billion for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation – \$38 million below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. This includes \$335 million in funding to help fulfill the international commitment by the U.S. to operate a Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility to dispose of surplus plutonium.

The bill rejects the Obama Administration’s proposal to accelerate nuclear weapons dismantlements.

Army Corps of Engineers – The Army Corps of Engineers is funded at \$6.04 billion, an increase of \$49 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and \$1.4 billion above President Obama’s budget request. The bill focuses funding on activities that will have an immediate impact on public safety, job creation, and economic growth, including those that help increase the functionality of our ports and waterways. For example, the bill provides:

- \$2.7 billion for navigation projects and studies, including \$1.3 billion in funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and full use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, to help advance American competitiveness and export ability; and
- \$1.7 billion to support public health and safety by funding flood and storm damage reduction activities, an increase of \$29 million above fiscal year 2016 and \$506 million above President Obama’s budget request.

Environmental Cleanup – Included in the legislation is \$6.4 billion for environmental management activities, \$202 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. This includes \$5.4 billion for Defense Environmental Cleanup to safely clean sites contaminated by previous nuclear weapons production.

The legislation also provides \$30 million above the Obama budget request for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the nation’s operating repository for defense nuclear waste.

Energy Programs – Funding for energy programs within DOE is \$11.28 billion – an increase of \$257 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and \$1.1 billion below the President Obama’s request. Within this total, the bill prioritizes and increases funding for energy programs that encourage U.S. economic competitiveness and that help advance the nation’s goal of an “all-of-the-above” solution to energy independence.

Research and development projects to advance coal, natural gas, oil, and other fossil energy technologies, which will help the country make greater use of our rich natural energy resources and help keep down energy costs, are funded at \$668 million – an increase of \$36 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The bill reflects the national importance of these projects, and rejects the previous Administration’s proposal to reduce new funding for these accounts.

In addition, nuclear energy research, development, and demonstration activities are increased by \$30 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level, for a total funding level of \$1.02 billion.

Renewable energy programs, which have already received significant investments in recent years, are cut by \$808 million compared the previous Administration’s budget request.

Also included is \$230 million – \$24 million above the fiscal year 2016 level – for research and development activities to strengthen the security of our electric grid against cyberattacks and extreme weather events.

Science Research – The bill includes \$5.4 billion for science research – an increase of \$42 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. This funding supports basic energy research, the development of high-performance computing systems, and research into the next generation of energy sources. These investments lay the groundwork for a more secure energy future, maintaining U.S. science leadership and ensuring continued economic growth.

Bureau of Reclamation – The legislation contains \$1.3 billion – \$42 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and \$205 million above the previous Administration’s request – for the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation to help manage, develop, and protect the water resources of Western states.

Other policy items:

- The bill prohibits any changes to the definition of “fill material” and “discharge of fill material” for the purposes of the Clean Water Act.
- The bill restricts the application of the Clean Water Act in certain agricultural areas, including farm ponds and irrigation ditches.
- The bill prohibits new nuclear nonproliferation projects in Russia.

For the full Committee Report on the Energy and Water portion of the Omnibus, including a detailed funding table, please visit:

<https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules.house.gov/files/115/OMNI/DIVISION%20D%20-%20E%26W%20SOM%20FY17OCR.pdf>

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