

Due to severe budget constraints, the conferees have not included the Senate language encouraging the Department to start a new program developing metal matrix composites.

The conference agreement does not direct a specific reduction in the number of federal employees at Headquarters.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

The conferees have provided \$38,000,000 for the light water reactor program, \$2,000,000 less than the budget request and the Senate amount. This is the final Federal contribution to the light water reactor program. The conferees have not included funding to demonstrate or study annealment of reactor cores.

The conferees note that there is insufficient funding to support a viable nuclear engineering and radiation science research program. This program is underfunded to the point where the viability of the nuclear engineering academic departments in the United States, and the nuclear science capability of the nation, are at risk. The health and vitality of the academic infrastructure in nuclear science and engineering in the U.S. depends on an adequately funded research program. Therefore, the conferees urge the Department to include sufficient funding to reinstate the Nuclear Engineering Education Research program in the fiscal year 1998 budget request.

The conference agreement includes \$12,704,000 for the isotope support program including \$5,000,000 to implement the Department's record of decision on the production of molybdenum-99.

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH

The Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) is a private foundation co-funded by the governments of the United States and Japan to study the effects of radiation on the survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The conferees agree that this program is a defense-related activity and have included the fiscal year 1997 funding of \$15,000,000 in the environment, safety and health program under Other Defense Activities.

ENERGY RESEARCH

Biological and environmental research

The conference agreement includes \$10,000,000 for the final phase of the Biomedical Information Communication Center at the Oregon Health Sciences University. The database resulting from the project will be used to track the efficacy and effect of medical treatments, and assist in research efforts associated with the long-term effects of low-level exposure to potential environmental hazards such as radiation or electromagnetic fields. The conference agreement also includes \$3,000,000 for the Indiana University School of Medicine. The University is nationally renowned for its achievements in the field of nuclear medicine. This contribution will allow the university to expand its efforts in the research and treatment of cancer, AIDS and other life-threatening diseases.

Within available funds, \$1,000,000 is provided to establish a collaborative Boron Neutron Capture Therapy (BNCT) program utilizing the nuclear radiation capabilities at the McClellan Nuclear

Radiation Center (MNRC). This program will help establish the efficacy of BNCT for the treatment of inoperable brain tumors and will expand to include other difficult-to-treat malignancies such as melanoma, skull-base tumors, inherently radio-resistant tumors, long-bone sarcoma in children and pediatric brain tumors.

Fusion

The conferees have provided \$232,500,000 for the fusion energy program, an increase of \$7,500,000 over the House recommendation. The conferees support the House and Senate inclusion of program direction and computational support within the amount provided for the fusion program. The conferees encourage the Department to reduce the amount identified for program direction, but do not stipulate amounts for program direction or computational support. To further provide maximum flexibility, the conferees have not included the prescriptive language included in the House report.

The conferees have provided funds to continue and complete operations and provide for safe shutdown of the TFTR in fiscal year 1997. This is the final year of funding for fusion operations at the TFTR.

The conference agreement includes funding to continue the U.S. participation in the engineering design activities phase of the international thermonuclear experimental reactor (ITER) project, to which the United States is committed through fiscal year 1998.

Basic energy sciences

Funding of \$7,000,000 is provided for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program. Also, the conference agreement provides \$3,200,000, for the Midwest Superconductivity Consortium. The conferees support collaborative multi-institution, multi-discipline materials research efforts involving ion exchange membranes, ion exchange resins, and solidification-stabilization for immobilization of hazardous wastes. The conferees are aware of an industrial multi-institutional consortium in the southeast which is exploring research in these applications and encourages the Department to determine whether there is a Departmental interest in joining this consortium.

The conference agreement includes \$10,000,000 for the University of Alabama. Funding of \$9,500,000 is provided to complete the Energy, Minerals, and Materials Research Center which focuses on fundamental research in state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies related to energy efficiency and conservation, environmentally responsible production techniques and advanced information systems at the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa. The remaining \$500,000 is provided to the University of Alabama-Birmingham in support of a cooperative research agreement to use magnetic resonance imaging systems to develop advanced cardiovascular imaging applications. The conference agreement also includes \$7,000,000 for the Center for Technological Research with Industry at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. This project will complement the school's ongoing efforts to increase our nation's competitiveness by coordinating technology-based research with industrial and governmental sponsors.

Other energy research activities

The conference agreement includes \$10,000,000 for the establishment of the energy and environmental technology applications project at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. The project will enhance fundamental automation research in areas designed to improve the nation's global competitiveness and energy efficiency.

The conferees have included the House recommendation for program direction, \$30,600,000, but do not agree with the House direction that \$2,500,000 be available for expenses related to workforce reduction. The conferees have not recommended a specific amount for the technology transfer program.

ENERGY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

The conferees agree with the House recommendation that funding for University and Science Education programs be provided from the sponsoring programs in the Department. The Department of Energy spends well over \$100,000,000 throughout its programs to support science and education activities. To the extent such activities benefit and are a byproduct of the line programs, those programs should, within available funds, be the educational sponsor.

IN-HOUSE ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Last year, Congress eliminated the In-House Energy Management program as a stand-alone program. Notwithstanding this direction, the Department defied the clear intent of Congress and continued the program by using other available Departmental resources. The conferees encourage the Department to continue to carry out energy conservation activities, but do not support the resurrection of a separate program which was eliminated last year. To the extent the Department has not already done so, the conferees recommend that the Department conform its procurement regulations to the procurement authorities provided by subsections (a) and (c) of section 546 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8256). The conferees expect the Department to set an example and continue to lead the Federal Government in the procurement of energy saving devices and services.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT (NON-DEFENSE)

The conferees agree with the House report language on the Wayne, New Jersey project.

The university robotics program is funded in the Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management program.

URANIUM SUPPLY AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The conference agreement appropriates net funding of \$1,000,000 instead of \$11,772,000 as proposed by the House and no funding as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes bill language proposed by the Senate which would permit security guards to carry side arms at the gaseous diffusion plants.

The conference agreement retains bill language proposed by the Senate providing for payment by the United States Enrichment Corporation of necessary employee and agency contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund.

The conferees agree to provide up to \$10,000,000 of program funds for transparency measures.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING
FUND

The conference agreement appropriates \$200,200,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$205,200,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement retains language proposed by the House providing \$34,000,000 for the uranium and thorium reimbursement program.

GENERAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The conference agreement appropriates \$996,000,000 for General Science and Research Activities as proposed by the House instead of \$1,000,626,000 as proposed by the Senate.

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL FUND

The conference agreement appropriates \$182,000,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$200,028,000 as proposed by the Senate and deletes language proposed by the House making the appropriation subject to authorization. The conference agreement includes language proposed by the House prohibiting distribution of funds appropriated under this heading for the State of Nevada or affected units of local government. The agreement also includes language proposed by the Senate requiring the Secretary to prepare a viability assessment of the Yucca Mountain site, amended to impose a deadline of September 30, 1998 instead of June 30, 1998 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees direct that the appropriated funds be used in accordance with the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Draft Program plan issued by the Department in May 1996 and for interim storage activities as authorized by law.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

The conference agreement appropriates \$215,021,000 for Departmental Administration instead of \$194,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$218,017,000 as proposed by the Senate. Revenues of \$125,388,000 are estimated to be received in fiscal year 1997, resulting in a net appropriation of \$89,633,000. The proposed funding level includes \$6,000,000 available only for severance, termination, and related costs resulting from the reduction in personnel in Departmental Administration. The conference agreement includes \$2,000,000 in environmental policy studies for the Department to continue analytic global climate change studies.

The conference agreement deletes bill language proposed by the House specifying end-of-year employment levels by organization in the Department of Energy. However, the conferees are cognizant of these proposed employment levels and strongly urge the

Department of Energy (in thousands)

	Budget Estimate	Conference
97-E-201 Modifications to reactors, hot fuel examination facility equipment upgrades, ANL-W....	1,000	1,000
Subtotal, Construction.....	2,200	2,200
Total, Termination costs.....	79,100	79,100
Isotope support.....	12,704	12,704
Program direction.....	18,500	14,800
TOTAL, NUCLEAR ENERGY.....	248,054	222,734
ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH		
Environment, safety and health.....	73,160	48,200
Program direction.....	39,046	37,300
TOTAL, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH.....	112,206	85,500
ENERGY RESEARCH		
Biological and environmental research		
Biological and environmental research R&D.....	342,962	352,962
Construction		
91-EM-100 Environmental & molecular sciences laboratory, PNL, Richland, WA.....	35,113	35,113
Total, Biological and environmental research.....	379,075	389,075
Fusion energy.....	255,600	232,500
Basic energy sciences		
Materials sciences.....	334,560	332,060
Chemical sciences.....	173,370	171,670
Engineering and geosciences.....	41,260	41,260
Energy biosciences.....	28,185	28,185
Capital equipment.....	45,695	45,695
Construction		
GPE-400 General plant projects.....	9,275	9,275
97-E-305 Accelerator and reactor improvements and modifications, various locations.....	2,500	2,500
95-E-305 Accelerator improvement projects.....	9,840	9,840
96-E-300 Combustion research facility, Phase II, SNL/L.....	9,000	9,000
Subtotal, Construction.....	30,615	30,615
Total, Basic energy sciences.....	653,675	649,675
Other energy research		
Computational and technology research.....	158,143	153,500
Energy research analyses.....	2,000	2,000
Program direction.....	42,154	30,600
Multiprogram energy labs - facility support		
Multiprogram general purpose facilities.....	7,625	---
Construction		
MEL-001 Multiprogram energy laboratory infrastructure projects, various locations....	21,260	---
95-E-301 Central heating plant rehabilitation, Phase I (ANL).....	---	2,500
95-E-303 Electrical safety rehab (PNL).....	---	1,500
95-E-310 Multiprogram laboratory rehabilitation, phase I (PNL).....	---	2,960
Subtotal, Construction.....	21,260	6,960
Subtotal, Multiprogram gen. purpose facilities	28,885	6,960

Department of Energy (in thousands)

	Budget Estimate	Conference
Environment, safety and health		
Construction		
96-E-333 Multiprogram energy laboratories upgrades, various locations.....	---	7,424
95-E-307 Fire Safety imp. III (ANL).....	---	1,000
95-E-308 Sanitary system mods. II (BNL).....	---	1,032
95-E-309 Loss prevention upgrades (BNL).....	---	4,620
93-E-320 Fire and safety improvements, phase II (ANL).....	---	224
Subtotal, Environment, safety and health.....	---	14,300
Subtotal, Multiprogram energy labs - fac. support	28,885	21,260
Total, Other energy research.....	231,182	207,360
TOTAL, ENERGY RESEARCH.....	1,519,532	1,478,610
ENERGY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES		
University and science education programs.....	19,900	---
Technical information management program.....	2,300	2,300
Program direction.....	8,700	8,700
Construction.....	1,000	1,000
Total, Technical information management program...	12,000	12,000
Field offices and management.....	121,723	98,400
Information systems investment.....	14,900	---
In-house energy management.....	3,941	---
Construction		
IHE - 500 Modifications for energy mgmt.....	1,759	---
Total, In-house energy management.....	5,700	---
TOTAL, ENERGY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES.....	174,223	110,400
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & WASTE MGMT. (NON-DEFENSE)		
Environmental restoration.....	358,239	328,000
Waste management.....	192,799	177,994
Construction		
97-E-600 ANL waste handling facility, CH.....	360	360
94-E-602 Bethel Valley federal facility agreement upgrades, ORNL.....	1,106	1,106
91-E-600 Rehabilitation of waste management building 306, ANL.....	2,066	2,066
88-R-830 Liquid low-level waste collection and transfer system upgrade, ORNL.....	2,692	2,692
Subtotal, Construction.....	6,224	6,224
Total, Waste management.....	199,023	184,218
Nuclear materials and facilities stabilization.....	84,782	73,100
Construction		
93-E-900 Long-term storage of TMI-2 fuel, INEL....	6,571	6,571
Total, Nuclear materials and fac stabilization....	91,353	79,671

Department of Energy (in thousands)

	Budget Estimate	Conference
Site operations.....	2,799	---
TOTAL, ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND WASTE MGMT...	651,414	591,889
Subtotal, Energy supply, research and development.	3,068,674	2,759,085
Use of prior year balances.....	---	-48,177
General reduction, ESR&D.....	-48,177	---
TOTAL, ENERGY SUPPLY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT....	3,020,497	2,710,908
URANIUM SUPPLY AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES		
Uranium program activities.....	77,594	52,466
Program direction.....	5,672	4,000
Construction		
96-U-201 depleted UF6 cylinder storage yards, Paducah, Kentucky gaseous diffusion plant.....	4,000	4,000
Subtotal, Uranium supply & enrichment activities..	87,266	60,466
Revenues - Sales.....	-42,200	-42,200
Use of prior year balances.....	-17,266	-17,266
TOTAL, URANIUM SUPPLY AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES.....	27,800	1,000
URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND		
Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund.....	240,200	200,200
GENERAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH		
High energy physics		
Research and technology.....	---	210,000
Physics research.....	141,290	---
Facility operations.....	362,955	360,075
Construction		
97-G-303 Master substation upgrade, SLAC.....	3,000	3,000
94-G-304 B-Factory, SLAC.....	45,000	45,000
92-G-302 Fermilab main injector, Fermilab.....	52,000	52,000
Subtotal, Construction.....	100,000	100,000
Subtotal, Facility operations.....	462,955	460,075
High energy technology.....	74,880	---
Total, High energy physics.....	679,125	670,075
Nuclear physics.....	253,425	250,925
Construction		
91-G-300 Relativistic heavy ion collider, BNL.....	65,000	65,000
Total, Nuclear physics.....	318,425	315,925
General science program direction.....	11,600	10,000
TOTAL, GENERAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH.....	1,009,150	996,000
DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION		
Administrative operations		
Office of the Secretary - salaries and expenses.....	2,850	2,000