



## **House/Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Conference: Nuclear Weapons Highlights**

House and Senate conferees for Energy and Water Development Appropriations met on November 7, 2005, with Rep. David Hobson (R.-OH) chairing the House subcommittee and Senator Pete Domenici (R.-NM) chairing the Senate subcommittee. Energy and Water Development Appropriations fund both massive water projects and the Department of Energy (DOE). In recent years, Hobson and Domenici have had differing views of the nuclear weapons complex, with Hobson essentially arguing that the future complex needs to reflect the long-ago end of the Cold War. The House bill for Fiscal Year 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations was \$373 million lower than the Senate bill for the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA's) nuclear weapons programs. The conferees met to reconcile that and a total of \$1.5 billion in differences.

The reconciled bill has already passed the full House, and is expected to pass the Senate very soon. From there, it will go to President Bush for his expected signature. Given that, the following highlights related to the NNSA's nuclear weapons shall become public law:

- Overall "Total Weapons Activities" were cut from the \$6.63 billion requested by NNSA to \$6.43 billion. Whether this is a cut from FY05 depends on whether one uses "Original Appropriation" of \$6.23 billion or "Comparable Appropriation" of \$6.58 billion. In either case, funding for nuclear weapons research and development, testing and production remains nearly 50% above the Cold War average.
- Life Extension Programs were cut from the \$348.3 million requested to \$300.8 million. B61 Life Extension Program funded in full, the W76 and W80 took the hits.
- Stockpile Systems funded at the requested \$311.8 million.
- Stockpile Services cut from \$716.3 million requested to \$688.6 million.
- Dismantlements raised from the \$35 million requested to \$60 million.
- Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator deleted (\$4 million).
- Reliable Replacement Warhead funded at \$25 million, up from \$9.4 million requested. Out of that, Senator Domenici said that \$15 million is going to Sandia National Laboratories.
- All of the above (with the exception of the first point) fall under the budget category of Directed Stockpile Work (DSW). In all DSW was cut from the requested \$1.42 billion to \$1.39 billion.
- Plutonium pit production funded at the full request of \$248.76 million, with the exception that out of that \$7.69 million was deleted for the Modern Pit Facility.

- National Ignition Facility (NIF) construction funded in full at the requested \$141.9 million. In his press release, Senator Domenici said he remained skeptical of the NIF. Related, the FY06 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill channels more money to Sandia National Laboratories's Z-pinch fusion facility.
- Inertial Confinement Fusion Campaign raised from requested \$460.42 million to \$549.07 million. This campaign includes all of NIF's costs. Nearly half of the increase was \$48 million for "inertial fusion technology," which Congress restored despite the NNSA not asking for it.
- Science Campaigns raised from requested \$261.9 million to \$279.5 million. However, Enhanced Test Readiness (an effort to reduce the lead-time in which to return to full-scale nuclear weapons testing from 24 months to 18) was cut from \$25 million requested to \$20 million. Further, the bill directed the NNSA to keep the 24-month readiness posture.
- All readiness campaigns (high explosives, non-nuclear, tritium, advanced design and production) funded as requested.
- Advanced Simulation and Computing Campaign cut from \$660.83 million requested to \$605.83 million.
- Readiness in Technical and Facilities raised from \$1.63 billion requested to \$1.65 billion.
- Chemical and Metallurgical Research Building Replacement Project, an advanced plutonium lab in direct support of pit production at LANL, funded at the requested \$55 million. Domenici had passed \$65 million in the Senate.
- Energy and Water Report directs DOE to free up floor space for pit production at Los Alamos National Laboratory's plutonium facility by coming up with a strategy to "expeditiously" relocate plutonium-238 activities to the Idaho National Laboratory.

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