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! REPORT
111-203

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2010

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

TOGETHER WITH

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 3183]



JULY 13, 2009.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on
the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

border security sites. The recommendation includes \$194,014,000 for Megaports, \$250,000 less than the request.

ELIMINATION OF WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION

The Committee recommendation for the Elimination of Weapons-Grade Plutonium Production Program (EWGPP) is \$24,507,000, the same as the budget request and \$116,792,000 less than the fiscal year 2009 appropriation. EWGPP is a cooperative effort with the Federation of Russia to halt plutonium production at the only three nuclear plutonium power-generation reactors still in operation, two located at Seversk and one at Zheleznogorsk. The Committee lauds the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation for nearing completion on this decade-long project to prevent the production of an additional 25 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium had the Russian reactors continued to operate.

FISSILE MATERIALS DISPOSITION

The Committee recommendation provides \$36,366,000 for fissile materials disposition activities, the same as the budget request excluding the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication (MOX) and Waste Solidification Building (WSB). No funding for MOX and WSB is recommended here since funding for these programs has been provided in Other Defense Activities. The Fissile Material Disposition Program is directed to continue collaboration with Russia on gas-reactors using available resources.

GLOBAL THREAT REDUCTION INITIATIVE

The Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) mission is to identify, secure, remove and facilitate the disposition of high-risk, vulnerable nuclear and radiological materials and equipment around the world. The Committee recommends \$333,500,000 for GTRI activities. The Committee strongly supports GTRI's mission to secure vulnerable material worldwide as quickly as possible. However, the Committee is concerned that funds are not being spent to secure the most vulnerable materials first. The Committee recognizes that agreements have been reached that obligate GTRI to secure material in low-risk countries but all efforts should be made to address the most vulnerable material first. Within this initiative, the Committee recommends:

Highly Enriched Uranium Reactor Conversion.—The Committee recommends \$71,500,000 for Highly Enriched Uranium Reactor Conversion, which is the same as the request and \$11,847,000 less than the fiscal year 2009 appropriation. This essential program will accelerate conversion of uranium reactors from Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) to Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU) which is an order of magnitude less suited for use in an improvised nuclear weapon. The Committee commends NNSA for its progress in developing the technologies to enable conversion of HEU reactors to LEU.

The Committee is deeply concerned with the current shortfall in supplies of the isotope Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99), which is used for medical purposes. The Committee is aware that civilian facilities throughout the country have the ability to increase production of this important isotope. The Committee is aware that Mo-99 can be

produced using low-enriched uranium, and that the Department is working to help convert domestic reactors to its use. The Committee encourages the Department to request additional funds for this program or identify existing resources if such funds can speed the conversion of these reactors.

The Committee has included an additional \$10,000,000 for university reactors in Office of Science Medical Isotope Production and Applications, University Operations. The Committee directs that activities to support the short-term production of critical isotopes in short supply, including Mo-99, be given the highest priority for this funding. The Department should also evaluate the need for material processing facilities to support this effort.

Gap Nuclear Material Removal.—The Committee recommends \$31,000,000 for Gap Nuclear Material Removal, which is \$20,000,000 less than the request and \$23,721,000 above the fiscal year 2009 appropriation. The reduction is in response to recent setbacks in negotiations with North Korea. Preparations, including long-lead procurement, should continue to be taken for dismantling the North Korean program, and \$20,000,000 is provided for this effort.

BN-350 Nuclear Material Protection.—The Committee recommends \$9,000,000, the same as the request, for BN-350 nuclear material protection. This marks the final phase of an important effort in Kazakhstan to secure approximately 3,000 kilograms of weapons grade plutonium and 10,000 kilograms of HEU in spent fuel.

Concern Regarding Small Business.—The Committee is concerned that NNSA is not providing appropriate opportunities to small businesses qualified to take part in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. The Committee directs the NNSA to report to the Committee not later than 30 days following enactment of this Act on the status of awards during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 under the DOE/NNSA's Global Threat Reduction Initiative Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) small business program. NNSA shall consider transferring the IDIQ small business contracts from the NNSA Service Center to the Office of the Administrator at NNSA.

Congressionally Directed Projects.—The Committee recommendation includes \$250,000 for the following projects and activities. The Committee believes these projects are consistent with or complementary to the purposes and objectives of existing Department of Energy activities and authorizations passed by Congress. The Committee directs the Department to work closely with recipients of congressionally designated funding to ensure that funded projects are consistent with authorized energy purposes and goals. The Department should remind recipients that statutory cost-sharing requirements may apply to these projects.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION PROJECTS

PROJECT

Global Seismographic Network Equipment Renewal

\$250,000