

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2006, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

NOVEMBER 7, 2005.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HOBSON, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2419]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2419) “making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes”, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, for energy and water development and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to rivers and harbors, flood control, shore protec-

in the quality assurance for water modeling done by the U.S. Geological Survey, several significant legal setbacks, and a major, controversial proposed change to the radiation standard for the repository. These events impact on the Department's ability to submit a quality License Application during fiscal year 2006, as originally scheduled. Further significant schedule slippages are likely. While the Department claims to be taking a number of corrective actions to address these problems, these changes mean that the Department will not be performing all of the license preparation and license defense activities that were originally envisioned when the fiscal year 2006 budget request of \$651,000,000 was developed. The conferees believe that \$450,000,000 will be sufficient in fiscal year 2006.

Assistance to affected units of local government.—Within the funds made available for the repository program, the conferees provide \$2,000,000 to the State of Nevada; \$7,500,000 for the affected units of local government; and \$500,000 for Nye County, Nevada, as authorized under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act for appropriate oversight actions. These funds for Nye County shall be separate and apart from oversight funding under Section 116(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The conferees have included bill language reducing the Department's fiduciary responsibility for this oversight funding in light of the adversarial nature of the license application process. Additionally, the conferees direct the Department to renew, as appropriate, existing cooperative agreements with affected units of local government. The Department is specifically directed to enter into a three-year cooperative agreement with Inyo County, California, to complete the study of groundwater connections between Yucca Mountain and Death Valley National Park. The conferees expect this agreement to be in place in time to enable winter test drilling in Death Valley during the winter of 2005–2006.

Integrated spent fuel recycling.—Given the uncertainties surrounding the Yucca Mountain license application process, the conferees provide \$50,000,000, not derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, for the Department to develop a spent nuclear fuel recycling plan. Under the Nuclear Energy account, the conferees provide additional research funds to select one or more advanced recycling technologies and to complete conceptual design and initiate pre-engineering design of an Engineering Scale Demonstration of advanced recycling technology. Coupled with this technology research and development effort, funds are provided under the Nuclear Waste Disposal account to prepare the overall program plan and to initiate a competition to select one or more sites suitable for development of integrated recycling facilities (i.e., separation of spent fuel, fabrication of mixed oxide fuel, vitrification of waste products, and process storage) and initiate work on an Environmental Impact Statement. The site competition should not be limited to DOE sites, but should be open to a wide range of other possible federal and non-federal sites on a strictly voluntary basis. The conferees remind the Department that the Nuclear Waste Policy Act prohibits interim storage of nuclear waste in the State of Nevada. To support the development of detailed site proposals for this competition, the conferees make a total of \$20,000,000 available to the site offerors,

with a maximum of \$5,000,000 available per site. To be eligible to receive these funds, each applicant site must be able to identify all state, regulatory, and environmental permits required for permitting this facility, including identifying any legislative or regulatory prohibitions that might prevent siting such a facility. The conferees direct the Secretary to submit a detailed program plan to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not later than March 31, 2006, and to initiate the site selection competition not later than June 30, 2006. The target for site selection is fiscal year 2007, and the target for initiation of construction of one or more integrated spent fuel recycling facilities is fiscal year 2010. Any funds deemed to be in excess of the needs for the integrated recycling program plan may only be diverted to other activities after submittal and approval of a formal reprogramming to Congress.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

The conference agreement provides a net appropriation of \$129,817,000 for Departmental Administration expenses. This amount includes a transfer of \$87,575,000 from Other Defense Activities for defense-related Departmental Administration activities and the Congressional Budget Office estimate of \$123,000,000 for revenues. Specific funding levels for each organization funded under the Departmental Administration account are detailed in the accompanying table. The conferees include bill language requiring a report on security at Building 3019, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Chief Information Officer.—The conferees provide \$39,385,000, an increase of \$1,418,000 over the current year level. The conferees do not support the proposed 63 percent growth in support services contracts for the Chief Information Officer.

Congressional and intergovernmental affairs.—The conference agreement provides \$4,826,000, the same as the current year funding level. The conferees expect that the Department will continue the long-standing practice that the primary channel for Departmental liaison with the House Appropriations Committee shall be the Chief Financial Officer.

Policy and international affairs.—The conference agreement provides \$14,993,000, the same as the current year funding level.

Office of Engineering and Construction Management.—The conferees support the House report language regarding the importance of improving project management within the Department.

Cybersecurity and secure communications.—The conference agreement provides \$24,733,000, the same as the current year funding level.

Corporate management information program.—The conference agreement provides the requested level of \$23,055,000. However, the conferees are concerned about the recent failures of STARS and remind the Department of the importance of having a system that provides timely and accurate accounting information.

Working Capital Fund.—The conferees renew the guidance provided in House Report 107–681 regarding management of the Working Capital Fund.