

*Feb. 14, 2008*

# Overview of the Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request

## **Summary**

On Feb. 4, 2008, the Department of Energy (DOE) under Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman presented its Fiscal Year 2009 (FY 09) budget request of \$25.0 billion, an increase of \$1.13 billion over the FY 08 appropriation level. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is requesting \$9.1 billion, a decrease of 0.4 percent from the FY 08 appropriation.

## **Weapons Activities**

The Weapons Activities budget is requesting \$6.6 billion, rising \$321 million or 5.1 percent over the previous year's appropriation. The Directed Stockpile Work is requesting \$1.7 billion, an increase by 19.6 percent. The Directed Stockpile Work maintains the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile and has been increased because of the continuing costs of implementing and maintaining the new W88 pits developed as part of the Pit Campaign, a program that has been completed, and as such has been removed from the budgetary requests. Also, part of the funding for the Reliable Replacement Warhead project, which is discussed below, is included in this part of the budget.

The Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) project is being funded from various sources at \$30 million after being zeroed out of the last budget by Congress due to concerns over commencing building what would basically be a new nuclear weapon. The \$30 million is broken down as follows: \$10 million comes from the Directed Stockpile Work and \$20 million from the Science Campaign. In the Directed Stockpile Work, \$10 million is allocated to continue with research on the project and address the questions and criticisms of the independent JASON Advisory Group review, which worried that many of the new features to be implemented in RRW might actually make the weapons less reliable. In the Science Campaign, \$20 million is requested, also for the purposes of evaluating and implementing recommendations from the JASON group, particularly with regard to how to make an accredited warhead certification plan without nuclear testing (the United States has not tested a nuclear weapon since 1992). Lastly, there is an additional \$10 million requested for Enhanced Surety to evaluate the surety of future systems. While this includes some work done on the RRW, it is not all intended to be spent on it, hence it is left out of the total of \$30 million for the RRW mentioned above.

Many of the programs are receiving cuts, such as the Inertial Confinement and High Yield campaign, the Engineering campaign, the Advanced Simulation and Computing campaign, and lastly the Pit Manufacturing and Certification campaign, which is being eliminated altogether and its continuing activities folded into the directed stockpile work. Others like the Science campaign and the Readiness campaign are receiving increases.

The biggest increases come in the Nuclear Weapons Incident Response which is absorbing the International Emergency Management and Cooperation Program and the Nuclear Counterterrorism activities from the Directed Stockpile Budget. Also receiving a large increase as a percentage is the Environmental Projects and Operations budget largely as result of adding Lawrence Livermore National Lab Site 300 and the Pantex Plant to the Long-Term Stewardship program, in addition to money already allocated for compliance with environmental regulations at other sites. The biggest boost in funding in terms of dollars is the Directed Stockpile Work, which is increasing by \$274.5 million, mostly in Stockpile Services, which comes as a result of other work being transferred to it.

The DOE also continues to be interested in what they term Complex Transformation, which would combine and consolidate a number of facilities while expanding others. An example of the former is that the Tonopah Test Range would be closed and the DOE would use Department of Defense facilities for flight testing. Also, all tritium experimentation would be carried out at only at the Savannah River Site in the future. However, there are some big expansions, like the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement-Nuclear Facility, for which the DOE has requested \$100 million.

### Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

Generally this part of the budget request is down, with \$88.5 million less being requested this year than last, or a 6.7 percent decrease. Across the board, almost every program is receiving cuts, with Nonproliferation and Verification Research and Development being reduced by \$112.1 million, or 29 percent, and the International Nuclear Materials Protection and Cooperation program being reduced by \$194.8 million, or 31.2 percent, though it remains by far the largest portion of the Nuclear Nonproliferation budget.

The one budget increase was in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, for which is requested an additional \$26.4 million, or 13.7 percent. This is mostly due to some shifting of anti-nuclear threat work from the International Nuclear Materials and Cooperation program to the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.

**Table 1: Budget Request Breakdown by Category**

(Figures in millions of dollars)

Activities	FY 07 Operating Plan	FY 08 Appropriation	FY 09 Request	FY 09 vs. FY 08	
				\$	percent
<b>Weapons Activities</b>	6,259	6,297	6,618	321	5.1
<b>Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation</b>	1,824	1,336	1,247	-88.9	-6.7
<b>Naval Reactors</b>	782	775	828	53.3	6.9
<b>Office of the Administrator</b>	358	402	404	1.9	0.5
<b>Total NNSA</b>	<b>9,223</b>	<b>8,810</b>	<b>9,097</b>	<b>286.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Source: Department of Energy FY 2009 Budget Request, Office of Chief Financial Officer,

February 2008

**Table 2: Budget Request Breakdown by Program**

	FY 07 Operation Plan	FY 08 Appropriation	FY 09 Request	FY 09 vs. FY 08	
				\$	percent
<b>Directed Stockpile Work</b>	1,430	1,401	1,675	274.5	19.6
<b>Science Campaign</b>	267.8	287.6	323.1	35.4	12.35
<b>Engineering Campaign</b>	161.7	169.5	142.7	-26.8	-15.8
<b>Inertial Confinement Fusion and High Yield Campaign</b>	489.7	470.2	421.2	-49	-10.4
<b>Advanced Simulation &amp; Computing Campaign</b>	611.2	574.5	561.7	-12.8	-2.2
<b>Pit Manufacturing &amp; Certification Campaign</b>	242.4	213.8	0	-213.8	-100
<b>Readiness Campaign</b>	201.7	158	183	24.9	15.8
<b>Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities</b>	1,613.20	1,637.40	1,720.50	83.1	5.1
<b>Secure Transportation Asset</b>	209.5	211.5	221.1	9.5	4.5
<b>Nuclear Weapons Incident Response</b>	133.5	158.7	222	63.3	39.9
<b>Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program</b>	169.4	180	169.5	-10.4	-5.8
<b>Environmental Projects &amp; Operations</b>	0	8.6	40.6	32	372.4
<b>Transformation Disposition</b>	0	0	77.4	77.4	N/A

<b>Safeguards and Security</b>	761.2	899.5	859.8	-39.7	-4.4
<b>Congressionally Directed Projects</b>	0	47.2	0	-47.2	-100.0

*Source: Department of Energy FY 2009 Budget Request, Office of Chief Financial Officer, February 2008*