

Secretary of Energy unveils proposed 2004 budget

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham released the Department of Energy's fiscal year 2004 budget request to Congress, calling it a "good reflection on the Energy Department, its programs and its people."

Abraham said the \$23.4 billion budget request demonstrates that the administration and the Congress recognize the critical contribution the department is making toward national security, energy security and our leadership position in science and technology.

"The President demands results and we have delivered," Abraham said in announcing the budget request. "We have proven our worth by taking huge strides in carrying out our national- security mission by maintaining our nuclear stockpile, rebuilding the capabilities of our defense complex, and preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and materials." He also discussed the department's efforts to revise and accelerate environmental cleanup plans.

Environment

Abraham said the budget request of \$7.2 billion for Environmental Management, an increase of \$361 million over the FY 2003 request, reflects a commitment to accelerating the cleanup of legacy waste. Over the past year, he noted, DOE has worked very closely with the states, federal regulators and the general public to establish strategies and prepare detailed performance management plans for 18 of the 39 remaining DOE cleanup sites.

A new Office of Legacy Management has been formed, with responsibility for post-cleanup activities and administering DOE's human and physical resource obligations after a site is closed.

The President's recommendation and Congress' approval of Yucca Mountain, Nev., as the nation's high-level nuclear waste repository was a step forward in advancing the department's goal to ensure the safe and secure disposition of dangerous nuclear materials. The budget request maintains the fiscal 2003 level of \$591

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	FY02	FY03	FY04
	792	852	963
	1,028	1,132	1,079
Total Hanford	1,820	1,984	2,042

\$ In Millions

NOTE: Proposed FY 2004 figures do not include the Federal Program Direction budget which is considered a "national program."

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million for the department's repository program. This funding will enable DOE to complete work needed for a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2004 and develop transportation capabilities.

The budget also includes \$138 million for the Office of Environment, Safety and Health and \$15 million for the Office of Worker and Community Transition.

Office of Science

The request for the Office of Science includes \$197 million, an increase of \$64 million over the FY 2003 request, to support nanoscience research, the study of matter at the atomic and molecular level, which will benefit every aspect of society. Through this effort, the United States will lead the world in the area of nano science. With this amount, the department will design and construct five new nanoscience research centers.

The department requested \$173.5 million for the Advanced Scientific Computing Research program. The program's goal is to foster and support fundamental research in advanced scientific computing and provide the high-performance computational and networking tools that enable the department to succeed in its science, energy, environmental-quality and national-security missions.

In biological and environmental research, the Genomes to Life program, which funds research to address energy, environmental and national-security needs, continues to expand from \$34.5 million to \$59 million in FY 2004, as a research program on the leading edge of biology.

The FY 2004 budget request reflects the transfer of several activities to the newly established Homeland Security Department. The transfer includes activities relating to chemical and biological, nuclear smuggling, national security, energy security, and nuclear threat assessment. Other related homeland security activities will remain within DOE.

The entire FY 2004 budget can be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mbe.doe.gov/budget>. ■