

**Chairman Mike Simpson**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Hearing on the Department of Energy's**  
**Science Account**  
**2:00pm, March 25, 2014**  
**Opening Statement As Prepared**

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The hearing will come to order.

I'd like to welcome our witness, Dr. Pat Dehmer, Acting Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

Dr. Dehmer, this morning the subcommittee heard from the Department's applied energy programs. One of the challenges they continually face from the Committee and from Congress is to justify how their programs are able to support this nation's energy sector without displacing or duplicating work the private sector is or should be doing. It's a question that has no easy answer, but we need to be mindful of staying on the right side of that line.

The challenge you'll be facing this afternoon is an entirely different one -- to explain to this Subcommittee, populated as it is with non-scientists like myself, why investing in your programs is a good use of taxpayer dollars. Your program has, of course, generally received broad bipartisan support. However, as budgets continue to be constrained, you and your colleagues will have to work even harder to find ways to illustrate the importance of your programs as they compete with others for funding.

This challenge is made even harder because it seems as if the very nature of scientific investment has changed over the last couple of decades. Cutting edge science is more reliant than ever before on multibillion dollar facilities that few, if any, countries are willing to fully support alone. That means investigating the biggest scientific questions of our day relies at least partly on multinational teams. At the same time, it is difficult to justify spending billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars on international efforts abroad when our constituents here at home need jobs and support.

Yet even our domestic facilities, many of which are among the best in the world, face an uncertain future. Realistically, your out-year budgets are most likely flat, if not declining. We've been telling you this for years. Yet, your budgets are increasingly consumed by operating your existing machines and constructing new ones. I hope we'll hear today what you feel to be the correct balance between facility operations and investments on one hand, and on the other hand investing in the highly trained workforce needed to preserve our country's position leading the international scientific community.

Dr. Dehmer, please ensure that the hearing record, questions for the record, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee are delivered in final form to us no later than four weeks from the time you receive them. Members who have additional questions for the record will have until close of business tomorrow to provide them to the Subcommittee office.

With that, I'll turn to Ranking Member Kaptur for her opening statement.

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