



Chairman Mike Simpson

*Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations*

**Subcommittee Markup
Fiscal Year 2015 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill
June 10, 2014
Opening Statement As Prepared**

I'd like to call the subcommittee to order.

Thank you all for being here on time.

I'd also like to recognize the hard work that Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey have put in to get the four bills through full committee so far, and the two passed by the House to date.

Before we get started, I need to thank my Ranking Member for all of her contributions this year. I'd also like to thank all of you for your work in putting this product together. I think that as you look through the recommendation, you will find that it reflects your input and perspectives.

The recommendation totals \$34.01 billion, approximately \$50 million below last year's level and \$327 million above the request.

Funding for defense programs is down \$50 million. I'm afraid that within that level, it was impossible to meet all of our defense-spending priorities. We prioritized funding for our stockpile and naval reactors work, but were unable to replace much of what the Administration's request cut out of nonproliferation.

We were, however, able to cut out approximately \$100 million in the request for activities in Russia, and redirect another \$150 million in carryover from stalled Russia programs. The recommendation uses this additional funding to increase high-priority nonproliferation work above the request in fiscal year 2015, and to avoid layoffs at the MOX plant in South Carolina until a final analysis is done on that project's future.

Overall cleanup programs are increased slightly from the request, although the defense-related activities were also reduced, due to limitations on defense spending. The recommendation does, however, provide \$120 million above the request for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant as a transfer to cover costs to get that facility up and running again.

Within energy programs, the recommendation rebalances the portfolio to provide greater emphasis on improving the efficiency of energy sources that we're using today and into the future. Especially with greater regulation pressures on our coal and nuclear plants, it's incumbent upon us to provide support to help keep electricity costs manageable for our ratepayers while helping industry cope with these dramatic and challenging regulatory actions.

Nuclear energy is \$10 million above last year's level, fossil energy is \$31 million above last year, and renewable energy is \$123 million below last year.

Funding for Basic Science Research is held level at last year's level - \$5.071 billion. Within this, funding for fusion energy is increased, restoring the domestic program to \$315 million. The recommendation also maximizes runtime at user facilities.

Finally, the recommendation increases funding for the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers by \$25 million above last year, and \$959 million above the request.

I want to restate that – nearly \$1 billion above the request. We had to look back to before 2005 – a decade ago – to find the last time we provided so little to the Corps. I can assure you that our infrastructure has not improved on its own since then.

To make up for this irresponsible request for the Corps, the recommendation provides unallocated program lines of \$916 million, with \$343 million going to flood control projects and \$484 million providing much support for our ports and inland navigation system.

Inland Waterways capital projects are increased by \$112 million above the budget request, and IWTF operations and maintenance is increased by \$45 million.

Harbor Maintenance activities are funded at not less than \$1.1 billion, an increase of more than \$185 million above the request.

The recommendation does prohibit changes to the definition of “waters of the United States” and “fill material” pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

The recommendation also includes a provision to help improve water deliveries to those devastated by the drought conditions in California.

Finally, the recommendation includes strong support for getting the Yucca Mountain license application finished up, with \$150 million going to the Department of Energy and \$55 million to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

These are some of the highlights of the recommendation.

I'd like to turn to Ms. Kaptur for any comments she may have.

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