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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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Minority (202) 225-2927

April 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Subcommittee on Energy
FROM: Committee Majority Staff
RE: Hearing titled “The Fiscal Year 2027 Department of Energy Budget.”

I. INTRODUCTION

The Subcommittee on Energy will hold a hearing on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (ET) in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing is entitled, “The Fiscal Year 2027 Department of Energy Budget.”

II. WITNESSES

The Honorable Chris Wright, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy

III. BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is one of the more dynamic federal agencies: it performs critical nuclear weapons, national security, and energy security missions; maintains world-class scientific, technological, and engineering capabilities; operates as the largest non-Defense Department contracting agency in the federal government; and manages some of the most challenging environmental remediation projects in the world.

DOE traces its origins and core nuclear weapons, scientific, and technological missions to the Manhattan Project and subsequently, to the Atomic Energy Commission, which was established by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, as amended in 1954.¹ By the early 1970s, concerns about domestic energy supplies and shortages increased attention on energy research and

¹ See Atomic Energy Act of 1954 42 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq. The Act established the nation’s policy of civilian control of nuclear energy, which maintains that, subject to the needs of common defense and security, the research, development, and control of nuclear energy and related technology be directed toward “improving the public welfare, increasing the standard of living, strengthening free competition in private enterprise, and promoting world peace.” It serves as a guiding policy for civilian nuclear power development in the United States and export of U.S. nuclear technology internationally.

development (R&D), as well as regulatory interventions to ensure reliable and affordable energy supplies.² By 1977, in response to the continued energy concerns of the time, Congress and the administration sought to develop a structure for implementing a coherent national energy policy. As a result, Congress enacted the Department of Energy Organization Act to establish DOE in its current form.³ The new agency consolidated the core nuclear weapons and R&D programs of its predecessor agencies with other energy-related programs from throughout the federal government into a single department under the authority of a single Cabinet Secretary.⁴

Today, the Secretary of Energy (Secretary), a member of the National Security Council (NSC) and the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC), is responsible for a broad range of national security, scientific, and environmental activities, including maintenance of the nation's nuclear weapons deterrent, supporting the United States' international nonproliferation programs, and carrying out nuclear propulsion work for the U.S. Navy. The Secretary oversees environmental cleanup of the nuclear weapons complex, and management and disposal of commercial and DOE-owned spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

DOE supports and conducts basic science research and advanced computing research, along with promoting scientific and technical innovation, energy-related research, and energy conservation. It maintains the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to assure fuel supply security. It conducts programs to ensure domestic energy security, reliability, and resilience, including work to secure U.S. energy infrastructure against all hazards; to reduce the risks and impacts of cyber threats; and to lead energy emergency response and restoration activities. It conducts regulatory programs, including establishing minimum energy efficiency standards and permitting certain natural gas exports. DOE also provides a central energy data collection and analysis program through the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

The Secretary oversees DOE's performance of these various missions through a nationwide enterprise that is comprised of 84 sites across 29 states and the District of Columbia, including 17 National Laboratories.

In keeping with the practice of past administrations, on November 20, 2025, the Secretary of Energy announced an organizational realignment of the Department. Similar to previous administrations, the realignment reflects administration priorities "of expanding American energy production, accelerating scientific and technological leadership, and ensuring the continued safety and readiness of the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile."⁵ Changes include renaming the

² In light of the changing energy policy and regulatory demands, Congress disbanded the Atomic Energy Commission in 1975 and transferred its nuclear regulatory functions to a newly established Nuclear Regulatory Commission and its defense and R&D programs moved with other federal energy research programs to a new agency, the Energy Research and Development Organization.

³ Pub. L. No. 95-91.

⁴ U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY (DOE), *A Brief History of the Department of Energy*, <https://www.energy.gov/lm/brief-history-department-energy> (last visited June 6, 2025); U.S. DEP'T OF ENERGY, *The Institutional Origins of the Department of Energy* (last visited June 6, 2025), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/Origins-of-the-Department-of-Energy.pdf>.

⁵ Press Release, U.S. DOE, *Energy Department Announces Organizational Realignments to Strengthen Efficiency and Unleash American Energy* (Nov. 20, 2025), <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-organizational-realignment-strengthen-efficiency-and-unleash>.

Loan Program Office to the Office of Energy Dominance Financing and the creation of the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, which absorbed many of the functions of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations and Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains. The reorganization also established new offices focused on fusion and on artificial intelligence and quantum technologies.

More information on the current organization of the DOE can be found in the attached appendix.

The Trump administration proposed a budget of \$59.3 billion for DOE for fiscal year (FY) 2027.⁶ The budget requests a \$10 billion increase, or 20 percent, above the FY 2026 enacted level. Accounting for a proposed repurposing of \$4.7 billion in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) funding, and fees and revenues from other programs, the total discretionary funding request amounts to \$53.9 billion, which is \$4.8 billion or 10% over FY 2026 levels.⁷ For perspective, in FY 2021, DOE's enacted budget was \$39.6 billion.

More information on the funding requests for FY 2027 from the President for select offices and programs can be found in the attached appendix.

IV. ISSUES

The following issues may be examined at the hearing:

- Funding priorities;
- DOE mission priorities;
- Major budget changes; and
- National energy policy, including energy reliability and affordability priorities.

V. STAFF CONTACTS

For any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Mary Martin, Peter Spencer, Andrew Furman, Arthur Speck, and Calvin Huggins on the Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

⁶ See, e.g., *Department of Energy FY 2027 Congressional Justification, Budget in Brief (April 2026)*, [https://www.energy.gov/documents/doe-fy-2027-budget-brief#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Energy's%20\(DOE,FY%202026%20discretionary%20Enacted%20Level.](https://www.energy.gov/documents/doe-fy-2027-budget-brief#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Energy's%20(DOE,FY%202026%20discretionary%20Enacted%20Level.)

⁷ *Id.*

Appendix

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Appropriation Summary
FY 2027**

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	FY 2025 Enacted ¹	FY 2026 Enacted ^{2,3}	FY 2027 Request	FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted	
				\$	%
Department of Energy Budget by Appropriation					
Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation	3,098,341	1,883,250	1,121,742	-761,508	-40%
Electricity	339,750	259,750	203,477	-56,273	-22%
Baseload Power ⁴	—	—	3,500,000	+3,500,000	N/A
Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response	200,000	190,000	160,173	-29,827	-16%
Nuclear Energy (270)	1,525,000	1,525,000	1,373,735	-151,265	-10%
Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office					
Strategic Petroleum Reserve	1,226,909	647,000	676,042	+29,042	+4%
Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves	213,390	206,325	295,102	+88,777	+43%
SPR Petroleum Account	13,010	13,000	13,000	—	—%
SPR Petroleum Account	100	100	100	—	—%
Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve	7,150	7,150	3,575	-3,575	-50%
Total, Petroleum Reserve Accounts	233,650	226,575	311,777	+85,202	+38%
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning (UED&D)	855,000	865,000	854,583	-10,417	-1%
Energy Information Administration	135,000	135,000	135,370	+370	—%
Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup	342,000	322,371	338,490	+16,119	+5%
Science	8,240,000	8,250,000	7,138,815	-1,111,185	13%
Artificial Intelligence and Quantum ⁵	—	—	1,200,000	+1,200,000	N/A
Office of Fusion	—	—	10,000	+10,000	N/A
Office of Technology Commercialization	20,000	—	26,555	+26,555	N/A
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations	50,000	—	—	—	N/A
Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy	460,000	350,000	200,292	-149,708	-43%
Nuclear Waste Disposal Fund	12,040	12,040	12,040	—	—%
Departmental Administration	286,500	200,000	288,889	+88,889	+44%
Indian Energy Policy and Programs	70,000	75,000	50,038	-24,962	-33%
Inspector General	86,000	90,000	77,400	-12,600	-14%

¹ Funding does not reflect the mandated transfer of \$92.8 million in FY 2025 to the Office of Nuclear Energy for operation of the Advanced Test Reactor. Comparisons throughout the document also exclude the mandated transfer.

² Funding does not reflect the mandated transfer of \$96.7 million in FY 2026 to the Office Nuclear Energy for operation of the Advanced Test Reactor. Comparisons throughout the document also exclude the mandated transfer.

³ Funding does not reflect the estimated \$20 million in FY 2026 collections to the American Energy Independence Fund. Comparisons throughout the document also exclude these collections.

⁴ The FY 2027 Request for Baseload Power repurposes prior year unobligated IIJA funding.

⁵ The FY 2027 Request for AIQ repurposes prior year unobligated IIJA funding.

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	FY 2025 Enacted ¹	FY 2026 Enacted ^{2,3}	FY 2027 Request	FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted	
				\$	%
Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program	-29,140	-56,753	179,588	+236,341	+416%
Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program	13,000	9,500	9,500	—	—%
Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program	6,300	6,300	2,000	-4,300	-68%
Total, Energy Dominance Financing	-9,840	-40,953	191,088	+232,041	+567%
Energy Projects	—	97,557	—	-97,557	100%
Office of Strategy & Technology Roadmaps	—	—	3,000	+3,000	N/A
Total, Energy Programs	17,170,350	15,087,590	17,873,506	+2,785,916	+18%
Weapons Activities ¹	19,293,000	20,378,000	27,441,159	+7,063,159	+35%
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	2,396,000	2,367,000	2,389,595	+22,595	+1%
Naval Reactors	1,946,000	2,134,000	2,393,692	+259,692	+12%
Federal Salaries and Expenses	500,000	525,000	577,097	+52,097	+10%
Total, National Nuclear Security Administration	24,135,000	25,404,000	32,801,543	+7,397,543	+29%
Defense Environmental Cleanup	7,285,000	7,375,000	6,983,318	-391,682	-5%
Other Defense Activities	1,107,000	1,170,000	1,184,721	+14,721	+1%
Defense Uranium Enrichment D&D	285,000	—	253,000	+253,000	N/A
Total, Environmental and Other Defense Activities	8,677,000	8,545,000	8,421,039	-123,961	-1%
Nuclear Energy (050)	160,000	160,000	160,000	—	—%
Total, Atomic Energy Defense Activities	32,972,000	34,109,000	41,382,582	+7,273,582	+21%
Southeastern Power Administration	—	—	—	—	N/A
Southwestern Power Administration	11,440	10,400	10,400	—	—%
Western Area Power Administration	99,872	63,372	63,388	+16	—%
Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund	228	228	228	—	—%
Total, Power Marketing Administrations	111,540	74,000	74,016	+16	—%
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	—	—	—	—	N/A
Total, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies	50,253,890	49,270,590	59,330,104	+10,059,514	+20%
Excess Fees and Recoveries, FERC	-9,000	-9,000	-9,000	—	—%
Title XVII Loan Guar. Prog Section 1703 Negative Credit Subsidy Receipt	-15,739	-157,063	-355,127	-198,064	-126%
UED&D Fund Offset	-285,000	—	-253,000	-253,000	N/A
Sale of Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve	—	—	-100,000	-100,000	N/A
<i>Repurposed IJJA Funding</i>	—	—	-4,700,000	-4,700,000	N/A
Total Funding by Appropriation	49,944,151	49,104,527	53,912,977	+4,808,450	+10%
<i>Total Discretionary Funding</i>	<i>49,944,151</i>	<i>49,104,527</i>	<i>53,912,977</i>	<i>+4,808,450</i>	<i>+10%</i>

¹ P.L. 119-21 (Working Families Tax Cut Act, or WFTCA) provided \$3,885,000,000 in funding to DOE/NNSA.

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	FY 2025 Enacted ¹	FY 2026 Enacted ^{2,3}	FY 2027 Request	FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted	
				\$	%
DOE Budget Function	49,944,151	49,104,527	53,912,977	+4,808,450	+10%
NNSA Defense (050) Total	24,135,000	25,404,000	32,801,543	+7,397,543	+29%
Non-NNSA Defense (050) Total	8,837,000	8,705,000	8,581,039	-123,961	-1%
Defense (050)	32,972,000	34,109,000	41,382,582	+7,273,582	+21%
Science (250)	8,240,000	8,250,000	8,348,815	+98,815	+1%
Energy (270)	8,732,151	6,745,527	4,181,580	-2,563,947	-38%
Non-Defense (Non-050)	16,972,151	14,995,527	12,530,395	-2,465,132	-16%



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

