

NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMS

The Committee recommendation for nuclear energy programs under the Energy Supply and Conservation appropriation is \$499,805,000, a decrease of \$59,947,000 below the budget request. This net decrease reflects the Committee's recommendation to fund the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) \$30,000,000 below the authorization level, continue Pu-238 consolidation, and fund nuclear energy infrastructure, and education assistance. The Committee supports the Savannah River National Laboratory's work on hydrogen production and storage, and recommends funding levels in fiscal year 2007 no less than fiscal year 2006. The Committee has provided an additional \$66,000,000 for increased programmatic activities for the Office of Nuclear Energy, as described below.

Of the total funding of \$572,751,000 provided for Nuclear Energy programs and facilities, \$72,946,000 represents costs allocated to the 050 budget function, (i.e. defense activities) for Idaho Site-wide and Security activities. Beginning in fiscal year 2007, the Idaho Facilities Management Program previously funded through Naval Reactors and Other Defense Activities is requested and appropriated under the Energy Supply and Conservation appropriation.

UNIVERSITY REACTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

The Committee recommends \$27,000,000 for grants and fellowships that support nuclear science and engineering education, and to sustain existing university reactors, an increase of \$24,053,000 over the budget request. The recommendation includes \$2,947,000 for fuel that was requested in the Radiological Facilities Management budget under Research Reactor Infrastructure. This program is important to maintaining a supply of well trained engineers and scientists to design and operate the nuclear industry of the future. It is irresponsible for the Department to zero out education assistance at a time the nuclear industry is attempting to revitalize. The Committee does recognize that once the nuclear industry is revitalized in the United States and is a source of well-paying new jobs for trained nuclear professionals, some of the support in this program may be phased out.

NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Nuclear power 2010.—The Committee provides \$54,031,000 for nuclear power 2010, the same as the budget request.

Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems.—The Committee supports the Department's collaborative efforts on the research and development of a generation IV reactor design that will be safer, more cost effective, and more proliferation resistant than current designs. The Committee recommends a total of \$31,436,000 for generation IV nuclear energy systems, the same as the budget request. Within available funds, \$4,000,000 is provided for the development of multiple high temperature fuel fabrication techniques in support of the Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems. The Committee expects future planning for generation IV nuclear energy systems to be clearly coordinated with GNEP plans.

Nuclear Hydrogen Initiative.—The Committee provides \$18,665,000 for the nuclear hydrogen initiative, the same as the