

# Energy and Water Development: FY2026 Appropriations

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## Energy and Water Development: FY2026 Appropriations

The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations (E&W) bill funds civil works activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the Department of Defense; the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Central Utah Project (CUP); the Department of Energy (DOE); the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); and several other independent agencies. DOE typically accounts for about 80% of the bill's funding.

### Overall Funding Totals

President Donald Trump submitted his initial FY2026 budget request on May 2, 2025, followed by more details in late May and subsequent weeks. The Trump Administration request includes \$54.438 billion in discretionary appropriations for energy and water development agencies, a decrease of \$6.839 billion (-11%) below the FY2025 enacted amount, excluding emergency appropriations, mandatory appropriations, rescissions, offsets, and adjustments. The House passed its version of the bill (H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213) on September 4, 2025, at 12% above the Administration request and less than 1% below the FY2025 level. An FY2026 E&W bill (S. 3293) introduced by Senate E&W Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Kennedy on December 1, 2025, would provide nearly level E&W funding with the FY2025 total, plus transfers of unobligated appropriations. The FY2025 budget reconciliation measure (P.L. 119-21) includes rescissions and additional appropriations for several E&W programs affecting various years. Many E&W accounts are also bolstered by supplemental, emergency, and advance appropriations from other acts. E&W agencies are currently funded by a continuing resolution (P.L. 119-37) at their FY2025 rate of operations through January 30, 2026.

### Energy and Water Development Appropriations, FY2025 and FY2026 Actions (in millions of nominal dollars and % change from FY2025 enacted)

Agency	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 Enacted	FY2026 Request (% Change)	FY2026 House Com. (% Change)	FY2026 House (% Change)	FY2026 S. 3293 (% Change)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	8,703	8,703	6,663 (-23%)	9,883 (14%)	9,891 (14%)	9,791 (13%)
Bureau of Reclamation/CUP	1,923	1,889	1,290 (-31%)	1,895 (<1%)	1,895 (<1%)	1,600 (-15%)
Department of Energy	50,247	50,176	46,772 (-7%)	48,763 (-3%)	48,510 (-3%)	49,574 (-1%)
Independent Agencies	502	502	231 (-54%)	460 (-8%)	460 (-8%)	531 (6%)
<b>Total appropriations</b>	<b>61,375</b>	<b>61,271</b>	<b>54,956 (-10%)</b>	<b>61,002 (&lt;1%)</b>	<b>60,756 (&lt;1%)</b>	<b>61,496 (&lt;1%)</b>
Rescissions, transfers, and scorekeeping	-22	-22	-518	-3,701	-3,562	4,131
<b>Adjusted total</b>	<b>61,353</b>	<b>61,248</b>	<b>54,438 (-9%)</b>	<b>57,300 (-4%)</b>	<b>57,194 (-4%)</b>	<b>65,626 (7%)</b>

**Sources:** S. 3293 and draft report; H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213; FY2026 Administration budget request; P.L. 119-4; S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-580; FY2025 Administration budget request; explanatory statement for Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024.

**Notes:** FY2025 enacted amounts are the same for most accounts as FY2024 enacted, as specified by P.L. 119-4. FY2026 House scorekeeping offsets are the sum of the appropriations accounts minus the officially scored (adjusted) total. The Senate-introduced bill adjusted total includes \$4.170 billion in transfers. FY2026 House transfers of \$5.104 billion are not included. CUP = Central Utah Project Completion Account. Enacted amounts do not include supplemental or reconciliation appropriations.

### Selected Key Issues

**Zero Funding Request for Wind, Solar, and Hydrogen R&D.** No appropriations are requested in FY2026 for Wind, Solar, and Hydrogen R&D, which were allocated a total of \$108 million in DOE's FY2025 spending plan (down from \$625 million in FY2024). The House approved \$220 million for those activities, while the Senate draft report would provide \$439 million.

**Termination of Regional Commissions and Authorities.** All but one of the regional economic development commissions and authorities would be terminated by the FY2026 request; the Appalachian Regional Commission annual appropriation

would be reduced from \$200 million in FY2025 to \$14 million in FY2026 (-93%). The House voted to continue funding for the regional commissions and authorities with a reduction of 19% from their FY2025 enacted levels. The Senate-introduced bill proposed continued funding for the regional commissions and authorities with an increase of 4% from their FY2025 enacted levels. The bill also proposed funding for a new regional commission for distressed areas in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

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## Introduction and Overview

Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations (E&W) bills typically include funding for civil works activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the Department of Defense, in Title I; the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Central Utah Project (CUP), in Title II; the Department of Energy (DOE), in Title III; and a number of independent agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), in Title IV. **Figure 1** compares the major components of the E&W appropriations acts from FY2022 through FY2025.

President Donald Trump submitted his initial FY2026 budget request on May 2, 2025, followed by more details in late May and subsequent weeks. The Trump Administration request includes \$54.438 billion in discretionary appropriations for energy and water development agencies, a decrease of \$6.839 billion (-11%) below the FY2025 enacted total of \$61.264 billion (**Figure 1**), excluding emergency appropriations, mandatory appropriations, rescissions, offsets, and adjustments.

The House Appropriations Committee approved its FY2026 E&W bill on July 17, 2025 (H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213). The bill would provide \$61.002 billion for E&W agencies, a decrease of \$263 million (less than 1%) from the FY2025 enacted amount and \$6.563 billion (12%) above the Administration request. The House passed the bill on September 4, 2025, approving \$60.756 billion for E&W agencies. The Senate Appropriations Committee majority issued a draft report on November 24, 2025, to accompany a FY2026 E&W bill (S. 3293) introduced December 1, 2025, by Senator Kennedy, chairman of the E&W appropriations subcommittee. The Senate bill would provide E&W funding nearly level to the FY2025 enacted total, plus transfers of unobligated appropriations.<sup>1</sup> E&W agencies are currently funded by a continuing resolution (P.L. 119-37) at their FY2025 levels through January 30, 2026.<sup>2</sup>

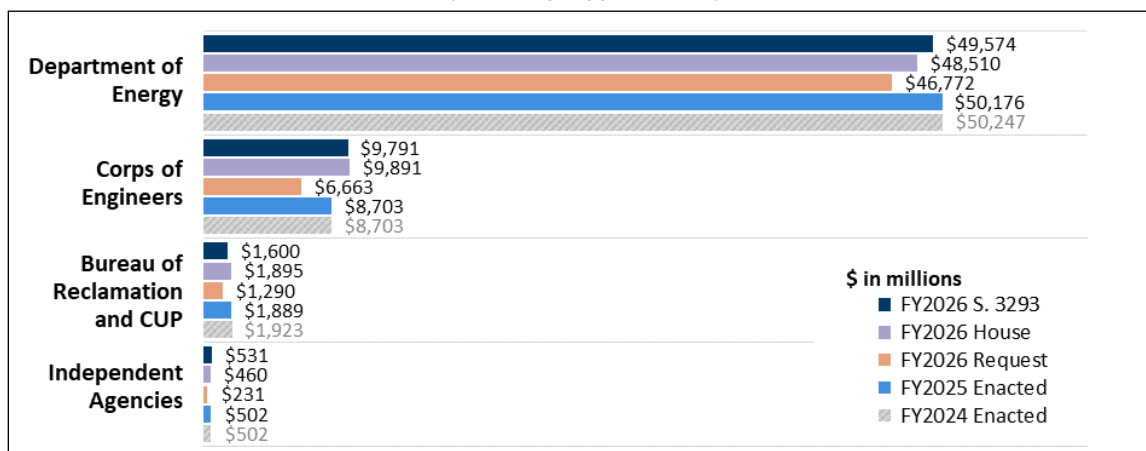
The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4) was signed by President Trump on March 15, 2025, providing annual appropriations for FY2025 at the FY2024 level for nearly all accounts (with a net decrease of \$98 million, less than 1%).<sup>3</sup> FY2024 energy and water development appropriations were included in Division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, signed into law March 9, 2024 (P.L. 118-42).

<sup>1</sup> Senate Appropriations Committee, “Bill Text: Energy and Water Development Act, 2026,” news release including link to draft committee report, November 24, 2025, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/majority/bill-text-energy-and-water-development>.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on P.L. 119-37, see CRS Report R48765, *Overview of Continuing Appropriations for FY2026 (Division A of P.L. 119-37)*, coordinated by Drew C. Aherne.

<sup>3</sup> P.L. 119-4 provided funding levels for appropriations accounts, but generally did not specify amounts for line items and programs within accounts. Further, Congress did not release explanatory language to accompany the law. Therefore, funding comparisons with the FY2026 request in the report for some line items, programs, and activities are presented based on FY2024 enacted levels and agency spending plans. For more on P.L. 119-4, see CRS Report R48517, *Section-by-Section Summary of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (Division A of P.L. 119-4)*, coordinated by Drew C. Aherne.

**Figure I. Major Components of Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bills, FY2023 Enacted Through FY2026 Actions**  
(excluding supplementals)



**Sources:** S. 3293 and draft report; H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213; FY2026 Administration budget request; P.L. 119-4; S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-580; FY2025 Administration budget request; explanatory statement for Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024; S.Rept. 118-72; H.Rept. 118-126; H.R. 4394; FY2024 Administration budget request.

**Notes:** The total for S. 3293 does not include \$4.170 billion in transfers of previous appropriations. Enacted amounts do not include supplemental appropriations or adjustments and rescissions. CUP = Central Utah Project Completion Account. Tables and figures are in nominal dollars.

In addition to regular annual appropriations, advance funding for E&W agencies in FY2026 has been appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; P.L. 117-58). The budget reconciliation measure commonly referred to as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA; P.L. 117-169) included funding for some E&W agencies to remain available through as long as FY2031. For details, see the section “Recent Supplemental Funding.”

In the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, the FY2025 budget reconciliation measure signed into law on July 4, 2025 (P.L. 119-21), rescinded unobligated DOE advance funding provided by the IRA for specified programs and included supplemental appropriations for Reclamation, DOE defense and loan programs, and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

## Administration Request

President Donald Trump sent his initial FY2026 “skinny” budget to Congress on May 2, 2025, describing broad budgetary outlines, reductions, additions, and initiatives.<sup>4</sup> Additional details were included in the FY2026 Budget Appendix that was released on May 30, 2025, by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).<sup>5</sup> Most E&W agencies submitted their detailed budget justifications to Congress in subsequent weeks.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> White House, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *The President’s FY 2026 Discretionary Budget Request*, May 2, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/the-presidents-fy-2026-discretionary-budget-request>.

<sup>5</sup> OMB, *Technical Supplement to the 2026 Budget: Appendix*, May 30, 2025, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/appendix\\_fy2026.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/appendix_fy2026.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Unless otherwise noted, appropriations numbers in this report for FY2024 and FY2025 are taken from agency budget justifications for FY2026, S.Rept. 118-205, H.Rept. 118-580, and the explanatory statement for the Consolidated (continued...)



Under the Administration's FY2026 request, DOE discretionary appropriations would decrease by \$3.405 billion (-7%), to \$46.772 billion. USACE funding would be reduced by \$2.040 billion (-23%), to \$6.663 billion, and Reclamation and CUP funding would decline by \$592 million (-31%), to \$1.290 billion. Appropriations for independent agencies in the bill would be reduced by \$271 million (-54%), to \$231 million, excluding adjustments and offsets.<sup>7</sup>

DOE's major program areas include energy, science, defense, and environmental management. The Trump Administration proposes to reduce FY2026 funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) from \$3.460 billion in FY2025 to \$888 million in FY2026, a reduction of \$2.572 billion (-74%). Within EERE, no appropriations are requested in FY2026 for Wind, Solar, and Hydrogen Research and Development (R&D), which received a total of \$108 million in DOE's FY2025 spending plan (down from \$625 million in FY2024). Zero funding was also requested for two other elements of the EERE appropriations account: the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP), and the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP), which provides low-income weatherization and state planning grants.

The budget request proposed no FY2026 appropriations for two other energy programs: the Office of Technology Transitions, which facilitates the commercialization of new energy technologies and received \$20 million in FY2025; and the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, which had a FY2025 appropriation of \$50 million. Funding for the Grid Deployment Office would decline by 75% from FY2025 to \$15 million. New funding of \$750 million is requested to pay the credit subsidy cost (to cover potential losses to the federal government) for DOE loan guarantees for small modular nuclear reactors.

Funding for DOE's Office of Science in FY2026 is proposed to decrease by \$1.148 billion (-14%) to \$7.092 billion from the FY2025 enacted amount of \$8.240 billion. The Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program would see the largest percentage reduction within the Office of Science, from \$900 million in FY2024 to \$395 million (-56%) in FY2026. Specifically, no FY2026 funding is requested for BER research in environmental system sciences, atmospheric system research, earth system modeling, or data management. The Atmospheric Radiation Measurement User Facility would be terminated in FY2026. The Administration is requesting \$200 million in FY2026 for the Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E), which supports research on high-risk but potentially transformative technology. This would be a reduction of \$260 million (-57%) for ARPA-E from \$460 million enacted for FY2025.

Funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semiautonomous DOE agency responsible for nuclear warheads, nuclear weapons nonproliferation, and naval reactor R&D, is proposed to increase by \$5.907 billion (24%) over the FY2025 enacted amount of \$24.135 billion. The NNSA request for FY2026 includes \$4.782 billion in mandatory funding to be provided through the congressional budget reconciliation process. The FY2025 budget reconciliation measure (P.L. 119-21) appropriated \$3.885 billion for NNSA for FY2025, to remain available through FY2029.

Environmental Management (waste management and cleanup) would decrease by \$389 million (-5%) under the Administration request, from \$8.482 billion in FY2025 to \$8.093 billion in FY2026. Environmental Management funding at DOE's largest cleanup site, the Hanford Site in

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Appropriations Act, 2024, Division D, in House Appropriations Committee Print 55-007, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CPRT-118HPRT55007/pdf/CPRT-118HPRT55007.pdf>. Some appropriations totals have changed from previously calculated amounts because of reestimates of revenue offsets and other adjustments. Where the documents provide different values for appropriations, this report shows the values from the most recently available document.

<sup>7</sup> In the text of this report, dollar numbers are nominal and rounded to the nearest million.



Washington state, would remain nearly constant; reductions would be spread among the other cleanup locations around the country.

Among the independent agencies in the E&W bill, funding for six federal regional commissions and authorities (FRCAs) would be eliminated under the President's FY2026 request. FRCAs use appropriations to provide economic development and energy reliability and security grants in their respective regions. Slated for defunding are the Delta Regional Authority, Denali Commission, Great Lakes Authority, Northern Border Regional Commission, Southwest Border Regional Commission, and Southeast Crescent Regional Commission. The largest FRCA, the Appalachian Regional Commission, would be reduced from \$200 million in FY2025 to \$14 million in FY2026 (-93%).

NRC, the largest E&W independent agency, would receive \$971 million under the FY2026 request, an increase of \$27 million (3%) over the FY2025 enacted amount. NRC licenses and regulates nuclear reactors and radioactive materials. NRC's FY2026 funding request would be offset by fees paid by the nuclear industry, estimated at \$819 million.

## House

The House passed its FY2026 E&W bill (H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213) by a vote of 214-213 on September 4, 2025. The bill's total appropriation of \$60.756 billion is \$6.318 billion (12%) above the request. That excludes \$3.562 billion in rescissions and scorekeeping adjustments, bringing the bill's total budget score to \$57.194 billion, an increase of \$2.756 billion (5%) over the request.

The House Appropriations Committee approved its E&W bill on July 17, 2025. The committee bill, ordered reported by a vote of 36-27, would have provided \$61.002 billion for E&W agencies, excluding adjustments and offsets.<sup>8</sup> IJA transfers of previous appropriations totaling \$5.104 billion in the House bill (Section 313) are not included in the Appropriations Committee report tables.

Under the House-passed bill, DOE would receive \$48.510 billion—a reduction of \$1.666 billion (-3%) from the FY2025 enacted amount and \$1.739 billion (4%) above the FY2026 request. USACE would receive increases of \$1.188 billion (14%) above FY2025 annual appropriations and \$3.228 billion (48%) above the request. Reclamation and CUP funding would remain nearly the same as in FY2025 (a \$6 million increase) but increase by \$605 million (47%) over the request. Appropriations for independent agencies in the bill would be reduced by \$42 million (8%) from FY2025 but increased by \$229 million (99%) over the request.

Funding in the bill for EERE would total \$1.830 billion—a reduction of \$1.630 billion (-47%) from the FY2025 enacted amount but an increase of \$942 million (106%) over the Administration's FY2026 request. According to the committee report, the bill would provide \$220 million for Wind, Solar, and Hydrogen Research and Development, which would be zeroed out by the request. These areas received a total of \$108 million in DOE's FY2025 spending plan (down from \$625 million in FY2024). In two other elements of the EERE appropriations account that would receive no funding under the request, the bill would provide \$15 million for the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) and \$250 million for the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP), which provides low-income weatherization and state planning grants.

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<sup>8</sup> The House Appropriations Committee report includes \$3.701 billion in budget scorekeeping adjustments and rescissions, reducing the bill's total for budgetary purposes to \$57.300 billion. The scorekeeping offsets for the bill as passed by the House are the sum of the appropriations accounts minus the officially scored (adjusted) total, which is \$106 million less than the committee report's adjusted total.

DOE's Office of Science in FY2026 would receive \$8.400 billion under the bill, an increase of \$160 million (2%) over the FY2025 enacted amount and \$1.308 billion (18%) over the Administration's FY2026 request. According to the committee report, Biological and Environmental Research, which the Administration proposes to reduce to \$395 million (-55%), would receive \$800 million (-8%). The Atmospheric Radiation Measurement User Facility, which the Administration proposes to terminate in FY2026, would receive \$95 million. The bill would provide ARPA-E with \$350 million, a decrease of \$110 million from FY2025 but an increase of \$150 million (75%) over the request.

NNSA funding included in the bill for FY2026 totals \$25.317 billion, an increase of \$1.182 billion (5%) over the FY2025 level and \$57 million (less than 1%) over the request. The bill would reduce Nuclear Nonproliferation funding by \$412 million (-17%) from FY2025 and \$301 million (-13%) from the request. As noted above, P.L. 119-21 appropriated \$3.885 billion for NNSA for FY2025, to remain available through FY2029. DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) funding in the bill totals \$7.703 billion, a decrease of \$779 million (-9%) from FY2025 and \$389 million (-5%) below the request.

The bill includes \$460 million for federal regional commissions and authorities (FRCAs) and independent nuclear agencies. FRCAs would be reduced by 19% from their FY2025 enacted levels but increased far above request, which called for shutdown budgets or deep reductions. For NRC, the committee bill would provide the same amount as the Administration request.

## **Senate-Introduced Bill and Draft Report**

S. 3293 and the E&W draft report issued by the Senate Appropriations Committee majority would increase overall appropriations for E&W agencies to \$61.496 billion over the FY2025 amount, an increase of \$219 million (less than 1%). That total does not include the proposed transfer of \$4.170 billion in IJA unobligated appropriations.<sup>9</sup> As noted above, similar IJA transfers are not included in the Appropriations Committee report tables.

Under the Senate-introduced bill, DOE would receive \$49.574 billion, a decrease of \$616 million (-1%) from FY2025 and an increase of \$2.802 billion (6%) above the request. In addition, DOE would receive \$3.970 billion in IJA transfers. Hydrogen, wind, and solar R&D would receive \$439 million, compared with \$220 million in the House and zero in the request. The total for energy programs—including hydrogen, wind, and solar R&D—would decline by \$1.951 billion (11%) from the FY2025 level. Science would decline by \$240 million (-3%) from FY2025, to \$8.000 billion, and NNSA would increase by \$878 million (4%) to \$25.013 billion.

USACE would receive \$9.791 billion, an increase of \$1.088 billion (13%) over FY2025 and \$3.128 billion (47%) above the request. The Senate bill would fund four requested new study starts, and additional new study and construction starts under the Investigations, Construction, and Mississippi River and Tributaries accounts. Reclamation and CUP would receive \$1.600 billion, a decrease of \$289 million (-15%) from FY2025. That total does not include the Senate bill's proposed transfer of \$200 million of aging infrastructure funding from the IJA to fund FY2026 discretionary Water and Related Resources activities.

The Senate-introduced bill proposes \$330.1 million for the FRCAs, an increase of 4% from their FY2025 enacted levels. The bill also proposed funding for a new Northwest Regional Commission.

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<sup>9</sup> The adjustment in the total in the Senate draft report consists of \$4.170 billion in IJA transfers minus \$39 million in rescissions, totaling \$4.131 billion.

## **FY2025 Reconciliation**

The FY2025 budget reconciliation measure, signed by President Trump on July 4, 2025 (P.L. 119-21), rescinds unobligated appropriations in the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169) for several DOE programs, including energy loans and loan guarantees, energy efficiency grants, electricity transmission planning grants, and advanced industrial facilities deployment.

The reconciliation measure also provided additional mandatory appropriations for several E&W programs. While rescinding previous appropriations for some DOE loan programs, it expanded the scope of DOE's Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment (Section 1706) loan program and appropriated \$1.000 billion to cover the Section 1706 program's subsidy costs (potential losses).

The reconciliation measure also appropriated \$3.885 billion for NNSA weapons activities for FY2025, to remain available through FY2029, and \$1.000 billion for Reclamation for surface water storage and conveyance projects.

## **FY2025 Enacted Appropriations**

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, was signed by President Trump on March 14, 2025, providing annual appropriations for FY2025 at the FY2024 level for nearly all E&W accounts. The act stated that FY2025 appropriations are subject to "the authority and conditions provided in applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2024," unless otherwise specified.

For DOE, the largest exceptions were a \$185 million increase for Weapons Activities, to \$19.293 billion, and a \$185 million decrease for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, to \$2.396 billion. The DOE Energy Projects Account, which funded \$84 million in Congressionally Directed Spending ("earmarks") in FY2024, was zeroed out for FY2025. The total for Other Defense Activities was increased by \$27 million, to \$1.107 billion. Those changes reduced total DOE appropriations by a net of \$57 million from FY2024, to \$50.190 billion.

P.L. 119-4 directed USACE to develop a work plan to allocate the agency's FY2025 appropriations of \$8.703 billion to specific projects rather than follow the explanatory statement for FY2024.<sup>10</sup> USACE published its work plan for FY2025 appropriations as required.<sup>11</sup> FY2025 appropriations for Reclamation were reduced by \$41 million from the FY2024 level, which reflects a reduction of the same amount as FY2024 Reclamation earmark funding. The reductions for Reclamation and DOE resulted in a total E&W appropriations reduction of \$98 million for FY2025, to \$61.255 billion (a reduction of less than 1% from FY2024, including rescissions). The act directed DOE and the Department of the Interior to submit FY2025 detailed operating plans to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Reclamation published its operating plan, which included allocations to its various projects.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Regular U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) appropriations for FY2025 were not reduced from the enacted FY2024 amount. P.L. 119-4 excludes a P.L. 118-42 provision regarding the use of \$1.43 billion in prior-year unobligated and unallocated Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; P.L. 117-58) Construction funds. Those IIJA funds were mostly used to fund FY2024 Construction earmarks. In addition, Section 1111 of P.L. 119-4 establishes that the act does not provide funding for the purposes of the FY2024 earmarks.

<sup>11</sup> The FY2025 work plan is available at USACE, "Civil Works Budget and Performance," <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/>.

<sup>12</sup> Reclamation's FY2025 Operating Plan is available at Reclamation, "Budget," <https://www.usbr.gov/budget/>. Detailed DOE tables for FY2025 are at <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/doe-fy-2026-budget-approps-congressional-control-v5.pdf>.

## FY2026 Budgetary Limits

Congressional consideration of the annual Energy and Water Development appropriations bill may be affected by certain procedural and statutory budget enforcement requirements. These consist primarily of procedural limits on discretionary spending (the total spending provided in annual appropriations acts) established in a budget resolution or through some other means, and allocations of this amount that applied to spending under the jurisdiction of each appropriations subcommittee.

The House Appropriations Committee adopted updated interim subcommittee allocations for FY2026 under Section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-344) on July 17, 2025. The allocation for the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee was \$57.300 billion, \$106 million higher than the amount provided in the FY2026 E&W bill passed by the House, including budget scorekeeping adjustments.<sup>13</sup>

For more information on funding ceilings, see CRS Report R46468, *A Brief Overview of the Congressional Budget Process*, by James V. Saturno.

## Key Funding Issues and Initiatives

Several issues have drawn particular attention during congressional consideration of Energy and Water Development appropriations for FY2026. The issues described in this section—listed approximately in the order the affected agencies or provisions appear in Energy and Water Development bills—were selected based on total funding involved, percentage of proposed increases or decreases, amount of congressional interest engendered, and potential impact on broader public policy considerations.

## Congressionally Directed Funding

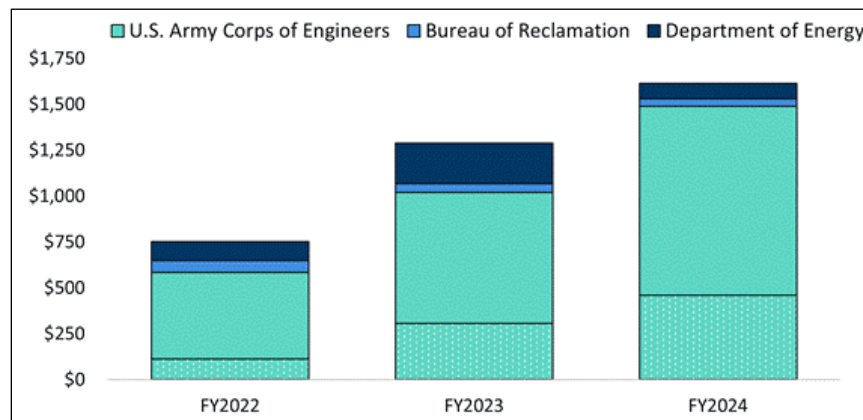
The 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, largely continuing the policies of the previous two Congresses, is allowing earmarks for site-specific projects and other activities in the appropriations process. These are referred to as “community project funding” (CPF) in the House and “congressionally directed spending” (CDS) in the Senate. From the 112<sup>th</sup> through the 116<sup>th</sup> Congresses, moratorium policies largely prohibited earmarks for such projects.<sup>14</sup> **Figure 2** shows enacted CPF/CDS amounts per agency for FY2022 through FY2024. The patterned area of the stacked columns indicates the sum of the top three CPF/CDS items (all under USACE appropriations).

<sup>13</sup> House Appropriations Committee, “Committee Approves Updated FY26 Subcommittee Allocations,” press release, July 17, 2025, <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/committee-approves-updated-fy26-subcommittee-allocations>.

<sup>14</sup> During the moratorium, Congress appropriated funding for USACE and Reclamation above the requested amounts for categories of work, called *additional funding*, without identifying specific projects. In the 117<sup>th</sup> and 118<sup>th</sup> Congresses, enacted appropriations included additional funding for USACE and Reclamation, along with community project funding (CPF) and congressionally directed spending (CDS).

**Figure 2. Energy and Water Development CPF/CDS Total Enacted Funding from FY2022 Through FY2024**

(in millions of nominal dollars)



**Sources:** Community Project Funding (CPF)/Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) tables in explanatory statements accompanying enacted annual appropriations for FY2022 through FY2024.

**Note:** The patterned area of the stacked columns indicates the sum of the top three CPF/CDS items (all under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers appropriations).

Although earmarks were included in the reports accompanying FY2025 E&W bills approved by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, P.L. 119-4 did not fund earmarks.<sup>15</sup> Section 1111 of P.L. 119-4 established that the act did not provide funding in FY2025 for the purposes of the FY2024 earmarks, unless specified otherwise. Some Reclamation and DOE accounts received decreased amounts compared with FY2024 that reflect the earmark funding for those accounts in FY2024. For example, Section 1501 of P.L. 119-4 reduced amounts provided to Reclamation's Water and Related Resources account by \$41 million. The section also reduced funding for DOE Energy Projects (CPF/CDS earmarks) to zero, from \$84 million appropriated in FY2024. Neither Section 1111 nor Section 1501 affected the availability of funds in FY2024 appropriations acts for such earmarks.

For FY2026, House and Senate appropriations committees provided instructions to Members for requesting CPF and CDS, respectively.

The House allowed CPF requests only for certain Reclamation and USACE accounts under E&W,<sup>16</sup> while the Senate allowed CDS requests for those accounts and for "Energy Projects" in DOE.<sup>17</sup> The E&W request submission deadline was May 23, 2025, for both chambers. The House committee E&W report includes 94 CPFs totaling \$901 million—4 for Reclamation totaling \$24 million and 90 for USACE totaling \$877 million. Construction funding for USACE projects constituted the largest CPFs for E&W: \$213 million for Chickamauga Lock, TN; \$184 million for the Upper Ohio River, PA; and \$132 million for Morganza to the Gulf, LA.

The Senate Committee draft report includes 197 CDSs totaling \$1.186 billion—144 for USACE totaling \$977 million, 10 for Reclamation totaling \$111 million, and 43 for energy projects

<sup>15</sup> For more information on earmark restrictions in P.L. 119-4, see CRS Report R48517, *Section-by-Section Summary of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (Division A of P.L. 119-4)*, coordinated by Drew C. Aherne.

<sup>16</sup> U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, "FY26 Guidance Overview," <https://appropriations.house.gov/fy26-member-requests/fy26-guidance-overview>.

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, "General Guidance on Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Requests," [https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy2026\\_appropriations\\_requests\\_general\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy2026_appropriations_requests_general_guidance.pdf).



totaling \$98 million. Construction funding for USACE projects constituted two of the largest CDSs for E&W: \$190 million for Howard A. Hanson Dam, WA, and \$55 million for Pajaro River at Watsonville, CA. The draft report also had a Reclamation CDS of \$55 million for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

## Recent Supplemental Funding

Congress provided supplemental appropriations for USACE and Reclamation from FY2018 through FY2025 for disaster response and mitigation (e.g., drought, flood); study, construction, maintenance, and repair of projects; new authorities that expand the agencies' activities; and COVID-19 precautions, among other purposes.<sup>18</sup> Congress has also provided supplemental appropriations to DOE for clean energy demonstration projects, science facilities and infrastructure, hydrogen production and distribution infrastructure, nuclear weapons nonproliferation, and renewable energy R&D, among other purposes. In addition, in some years, other agencies funded under Energy and Water Appropriations Acts received supplemental funding.

**Table 1** details in nominal dollars supplemental appropriations based on the fiscal year when funds are first available (in some cases, FY2024-FY2026). All of these funds are available until expended, except for funds from the IRA, which are available through various years from FY2026 to FY2031; funds for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation and Salaries and Expenses in P.L. 118-50, which are available through FY2025; and funds in P.L. 119-21, available through various fiscal years from FY2029 to FY2034.<sup>19</sup>

**Table 1. Enacted Supplemental Appropriations for Agencies Funded by Energy and Water Development Acts, FY2018-FY2026**

(in millions of nominal dollars)

FY Funds First Available	Act	Title I: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Title II: Bureau of Reclamation and CUP	Title III: Department of Energy	Title IV: Independent Agencies
<b>FY2018</b>	P.L. 115-123	17,398	—	22	—
<b>FY2019</b>	P.L. 116-20	3,258	16	—	—
<b>FY2020</b>	P.L. 116-136	70	21	128	3
<b>FY2021</b>	—	—	—	—	—
<b>FY2022</b>	P.L. 117-43	5,711	220	43	—
	P.L. 117-58	14,969	1,710	18,687	581
	P.L. 117-169	—	4,588	35,067	—
<b>FY2023</b>	P.L. 117-58	1,080	1,660	13,100	200

<sup>18</sup> For CRS water resource products on these acts, see CRS Report R48572, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Supplemental Appropriations*, by Anna E. Normand and Nicole T. Carter; CRS Insight IN11723, *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works*, by Anna E. Normand and Nicole T. Carter; CRS Report R47032, *Bureau of Reclamation Provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand; and CRS In Focus IF12437, *Bureau of Reclamation Funding in the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169)*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand.

<sup>19</sup> Sections 50233 and 80004 of P.L. 117-169 appropriations are to remain available through FY2026. Sections 50231 and 50232 of P.L. 117-169 appropriations are to remain available through FY2031.

FY Funds First Available	Act	Title I: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Title II: Bureau of Reclamation and CUP	Title III: Department of Energy	Title IV: Independent Agencies
	P.L. 117-180	20	—	—	—
	P.L. 117-328	1,480	—	1,945	—
<b>FY2024</b>	P.L. 117-58	1,050	1,660	10,778	200
	P.L. 118-50	—	—	247	—
<b>FY2025</b>	P.L. 117-58	—	1,660	10,831	200
	P.L. 118-158	1,515	74	64	10
	P.L. 119-21	—	1,000	5,274	—
<b>FY2026</b>	P.L. 117-58	—	1,660	9,072	200

**Source:** CRS using public laws enacted in FY2018-FY2025, through July 11, 2025.

**Notes:** Fiscal year shown is when funds are first available. Amounts are shown as initially enacted, excluding any subsequent transfers or rescissions. All funds are available until expended except for funds from P.L. 117-169, which are available through various fiscal years from FY2026 to FY2031; funds for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation and Salaries and Expenses in P.L. 118-50, which are available through FY2025; and funds from P.L. 119-21, available through various years from FY2029 to FY2034. For FY2025, the American Relief Act (P.L. 118-158) provided \$1.510 billion to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for disaster economic recovery, with \$10 million of that amount to be transferred to the Delta Regional Authority. P.L. 119-21 rescinded certain unobligated advance appropriations provided by P.L. 117-169. CUP = Central Utah Project Completion Account.

Congress enacted emergency supplemental appropriations for FY2025 in Division B of the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158). The act provided funding to DOE accounts—Strategic Petroleum Reserve, Weapons Activities, Defense Environmental Cleanup—for necessary expenses related to damages caused by natural disasters, including Hurricanes Helene and Milton. USACE and Reclamation received funding for studies and projects.<sup>20</sup>

Regarding previous supplemental appropriations, the Trump Administration on January 27, 2025, ordered federal agencies to “temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance,” including funds for “the green new deal.” The Trump Administration said the temporary pause would provide it time to review agency programs and “determine the best uses of the funding for those programs consistent with the law and the President’s priorities.”<sup>21</sup> As discussed below in the section “Cancellation of IIJA and IRA Appropriations,” P.L. 119-21 rescinds IRA unobligated appropriations for a range of DOE programs, and the House-passed bill would transfer certain unobligated DOE funding provided by the IIJA to DOE’s nuclear energy program.

For more details on selected supplemental funding, see the following CRS publications:

- CRS Report R48572, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Supplemental Appropriations*, by Anna E. Normand and Nicole T. Carter.

<sup>20</sup> For information on USACE-funded studies, projects, and activities, see USACE, “Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2025,” <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Supplemental-Work/DRSAA25/>.

<sup>21</sup> OMB, “Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs,” January 27, 2025, <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/25506186/m-25-13-temporary-pause-to-review-agency-grant-loan-and-other-financial-assistance-programs.pdf>.



- CRS Insight IN11723, *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works*, by Anna E. Normand and Nicole T. Carter.
- CRS Report R47032, *Bureau of Reclamation Provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand.
- CRS In Focus IF12437, *Bureau of Reclamation Funding in the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169)*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand.
- CRS Report R47034, *Energy and Minerals Provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)*, coordinated by Brent D. Yacobucci.
- CRS Report R47262, *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA): Provisions Related to Climate Change*, coordinated by Jonathan L. Ramseur.

## Cancellation of IIJA and IRA Appropriations

The Administration request calls for cancellation of \$15.247 billion of IIJA advance appropriations for renewable energy, carbon capture from the air, electric vehicles and batteries, “and other costly technologies burdensome to ratepayers and consumers.”<sup>22</sup> It would also cancel funding for carbon dioxide sequestration pipelines and related transportation projects under the Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program established by IIJA Section 40304.

Separately, P.L. 119-21, the FY2025 budget reconciliation measure, rescinded all unobligated balances of IRA appropriations for these programs:

- State Home Energy Efficiency Training Grants (IRA Section 50123);
- DOE loan programs (IRA Section 50141);
- tribal energy loan guarantees (IRA Section 50145);
- electric transmission facility loans (IRA Section 50151);
- grants for electricity transmission project siting studies (IRA Section 50152);
- offshore wind electricity transmission planning (IRA Section 50153); and
- grants for advanced industrial facilities deployment (IRA Section 50161).

Unobligated appropriations for DOE Section 1706 loan guarantees provided by IRA Section 40144—for energy infrastructure reinvestment and repurposing—are rescinded by P.L. 119-21.<sup>23</sup> However, the act expands eligibility for Section 1706 loan guarantees to cover a broad spectrum of projects, removing requirements that projects address greenhouse gas emissions. It appropriates \$1 billion to cover subsidy costs (potential losses) for the Section 1706 loan guarantees, as well as administrative expenses, to be available through FY2028. The act also repeals the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing program (IRA Section 50142).<sup>24</sup>

The House E&W bill (Section 313) would transfer IIJA appropriations away from three programs in the DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, as discussed below in the section “Zero Funding Request for the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations.” The transferred funding in

<sup>22</sup> OMB, “Discretionary Funding Changes,” p. 21.

<sup>23</sup> The amount of the unobligated balances has not been reported by OMB.

<sup>24</sup> Unobligated balances for this program have not been reported by OMB.

Section 313, totaling \$5.1 billion, would be used by DOE for advanced nuclear reactor demonstration.

The Senate-introduced E&W bill would transfer \$1.060 billion in unobligated IJA appropriations to EERE, \$92 million to Nuclear Energy, \$92 million to Fossil Energy, \$250 million to Science, \$2.400 billion for advanced reactors and fuel, and \$75 million for Grid Deployment. The Senate-introduced bill also proposes to transfer \$200 million of aging infrastructure funding from the IJA to fund FY2026 discretionary Water and Related Resources activities.

## Funding Levels and Policies for Water Resources Agencies

The FY2026 budget request for USACE is \$2.040 billion lower (-23%) than the enacted FY2025 regular appropriations of \$8.703 billion.<sup>25</sup> In contrast, the House bill would increase USACE funding by \$1.188 billion and the Senate-introduced bill by \$1.088 billion over FY2025 enacted regular appropriations. As with previous requests and annual appropriations, a large portion of the request and the House bill and Senate-introduced bill would fund maintenance of existing infrastructure through the O&M account. The House bill would fund the Construction account at \$712 million above FY2025 annual appropriations of \$1.845 billion, and the Senate bill would provide an increase of \$627 million. The Senate bill also proposed a new account for Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design (PED) to fund plans and specifications for projects prior to construction;<sup>26</sup> in the House bill, PED activities are funded in the Investigations account.

While the Administration did not request FY2026 funds for any new construction projects, it did request funds for four new studies. The House bill would fund just two new study starts.<sup>27</sup> The Senate-introduced bill would fund new study and construction starts under the Investigations, Construction, and MR&T accounts.

In regard to navigation trust funds, the request would not utilize funding from the Inland Waterway Trust Fund (IWTF) for inland waterway construction projects and would reduce FY2026 funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) by \$1.071 billion from the amount provided for FY2025 (estimated at \$2.771 billion). The Administration testified that the FY2026 requested HMTF funding is focused on “principal federal responsibilities, which [are] the maintenance and dredging of federal channels.”<sup>28</sup> The House bill included funding from the IWTF for inland waterway construction, and \$3.473 billion from the HMTF for eligible activities. The Senate-introduced bill also included \$3.473 billion from the HMTF.<sup>29</sup>

The request did not include funding for USACE loans and loan guarantees for nonfederal water projects under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA; P.L. 113-121,

<sup>25</sup> For further information on the FY2026 request for USACE, see the Budget Information section of USACE, “Civil Works and Budget Performance,” <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/>.

<sup>26</sup> Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations bills for FY2024 (S. 2443) and FY2025 (S. 4927) also proposed a Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design account, but enacted appropriations did not include such an account.

<sup>27</sup> The new study starts recommended by the House committee bill include Lower Big Sioux River, Union County, SD, and Savannah Harbor Deepening, GA. The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, did not allow funding for new studies or new construction projects.

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Congress, Senate Appropriations Committee, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, *A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation*, 119<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> sess., June 11, 2025, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2026-budget-request-for-the-army-corps-of-engineers-and-the-bureau-of-reclamation>.

<sup>29</sup> The Senate-introduced bill text and committee draft report do not specify funding from the IWTF in a similar fashion as the House report.

Title V, Subtitle C), a reduction of \$7 million.<sup>30</sup> In contrast, the introduced Senate bill would provide \$5 million to support loans and \$5 million for the program's administrative costs; the House bill would fund the administrative costs at \$5 million and not provide funds to support new loans. While the FY2026 request did not include funding for environmental infrastructure (EI) assistance or small USACE projects under various continuing authorities programs, the measures from both chambers would fund these activities.<sup>31</sup>

For Reclamation, President Trump's FY2026 request is the lowest in nominal dollars since the FY2021 budget request. The FY2026 budget proposes \$1.273 billion in current budget authority for Reclamation, or \$593 million less (-32%) than the \$1.866 billion Congress provided in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025. The House bill would provide \$1.872 billion to Reclamation and the Senate-introduced bill would provide \$1.577 billion.

The budget request would eliminate funding for certain Reclamation activities that the request says are unrelated to the agency's core missions.<sup>32</sup> As such, the FY2026 budget does not request funding for Reclamation's WaterSMART program, which provides funding, mostly in the form of grants, for water conservation and ecosystem restoration, among other purposes.<sup>33</sup> The House committee report recommends \$90 million for the WaterSMART program and the Senate draft report recommends \$145 million. The FY2026 request also does not include funding for constructing new federal and nonfederal water storage projects, otherwise known as Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act; P.L. 114-322) Section 4007 funding. The Senate-introduced bill also would not provide this funding. In contrast, the House committee report recommends \$201 million for WIIN Act Section 4007 funding.

In addition to regular annual appropriations, Congress has provided Reclamation with supplemental and mandatory appropriations to augment annual discretionary funding. The FY2025 budget reconciliation measure (P.L. 119-21) appropriated \$1.000 billion for surface water storage and conveyance projects that restore or increase the capacity of existing Reclamation facilities. (For more information on such projects, see CRS Report R47987, *Bureau of Reclamation Support for Water Storage Projects*, by Charles V. Stern.) The agency also received \$4.590 billion from the IRA mostly for drought mitigation.<sup>34</sup> The IJA included \$8.300 billion total for various Reclamation activities and projects, to be made available in equal installments from FY2022 to FY2026 (i.e., \$1.660 billion for FY2026).<sup>35</sup> As previously mentioned, the Senate FY2026 introduced bill proposes transferring \$200 million of Reclamation's aging infrastructure funding from the IJA to fund FY2026 discretionary Water and Related Resources activities.

<sup>30</sup> For more information on USACE's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, see CRS Insight IN12021, *Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP)*, by Nicole T. Carter.

<sup>31</sup> CPFs constituted all EI assistance funding and a portion of continuing authorities program project funding. For more information on these USACE activities, see CRS Report R47162, *Overview of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Infrastructure (EI) Assistance*, by Anna E. Normand, and CRS In Focus IF12635, *Continuing Authorities Programs (CAPs) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, by Nicole T. Carter and Anna E. Normand.

<sup>32</sup> OMB, "Discretionary Funding Changes," p. 28.

<sup>33</sup> For further information on the FY2026 request for Reclamation, see Department of the Interior (DOI), *FY2026, The Interior Budget in Brief*, May 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2026/highlights>. For more information on Reclamation WaterSMART, see CRS In Focus IF12414, *Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Program*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand.

<sup>34</sup> For more information, see CRS In Focus IF12437, *Bureau of Reclamation Funding in the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169)*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand.

<sup>35</sup> For more information, see CRS Report R47032, *Bureau of Reclamation Provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand.

For more details on these agencies' funding, see the following CRS publications:

- CRS In Focus IF13039, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: FY2026 Appropriations*, by Anna E. Normand and Nicole T. Carter.
- CRS In Focus IF13066, *Bureau of Reclamation: FY2026 Budget and Appropriations*, by Charles V. Stern.

## Proposed Reductions for EERE

The Administration is requesting \$888 million for EERE in FY2026, a reduction of \$2.572 billion (-74%) from FY2025. The budget would focus on early-stage research and development to “support technologies that promote firm baseload power and other priorities established in relevant Executive Orders, such as bioenergy,” according to the request.<sup>36</sup>

Within EERE, no appropriations are requested in FY2026 for Wind Energy Technologies, Solar Energy Technologies, and Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies, which received a total of \$108 million in FY2025. Zero funding was also requested for two other elements of the EERE appropriations account: the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) and the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP), which provides low-income weatherization and state planning grants. In FY2025, FEMP received \$43 million and SCEP \$432 million.

The Administration is requesting steep reductions from FY2025 levels for Vehicle Technologies (from \$240 million to \$25 million, -90%), Bioenergy Technologies (from \$305 million to \$70 million, -77%), and Building Technologies (from \$148 million to \$20 million, -87%). Geothermal Technologies, aimed at producing steady baseload power, would be decreased from \$488 million in FY2025 to \$150 million (-69%).

The House E&W bill, H.R. 4553, would fund EERE at \$1.830 billion, a decrease of \$1.630 billion (-47%) from FY2025 enacted. H.R. 4553 would reduce Vehicle Technologies from \$240 million to \$215 million (-10%), Bioenergy Technologies from \$305 million to \$146 million (-52%), and Building Technologies from \$148 million to \$100 million (-32%), according to the Appropriations Committee report. Geothermal Technologies would be decreased from \$488 million enacted for FY2025 to \$125 million (-74%) in FY2026. Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Technologies would increase from \$37 million enacted for FY2025 to \$50 million.

Under the Senate-introduced bill and draft report, EERE would receive \$2.277 billion, a reduction of \$1.233 billion (-36%) from the FY2025 amount. That total does not include \$1.060 billion in transfers previously appropriated to other DOE programs by IIJA. Hydrogen, wind, and solar R&D would receive \$439 million, including IIJA transfers. That compares with \$220 million in the House bill, zero in the request, and \$108 million in FY2025. Up to \$75 million of EERE funding, including \$40 million for demonstrations, could be spent on geothermal technologies.

## Provision to Block Funding for Clean Energy Rule in Federal Buildings

The House bill (Section 312) would prohibit E&W funding from being “used to finalize, administer, implement, or enforce” DOE’s May 2024 rule on “clean energy” in federal buildings.

<sup>36</sup> OMB, “Discretionary Funding Changes,” p. 21.

The May 2024 rule requires “certain new Federal buildings and Federal buildings undergoing major renovations to be designed to reduce their fossil fuel-generated energy consumption.”<sup>37</sup>

## **Proposed IIJA Transfers for Nuclear Energy**

The House-passed bill and Senate-introduced bill would transfer several billion dollars of unobligated IIJA appropriations to advanced nuclear reactor demonstrations. For that purpose, the House bill (Section 313) would transfer \$673 million in IIJA funding previously appropriated to EERE, \$981 million from DOE credits for existing reactors, \$1.000 billion from Fossil Energy, \$1.500 billion from the Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account, and \$950 million from OCED, for a total of \$5.104 billion.

The Senate-introduced bill (Section 309) would transfer \$2.4 billion of unobligated IIJA appropriations to advanced reactor demonstrations and advanced nuclear fuel. The transfers would come from \$900 million in DOE credits for existing reactors and \$1.500 billion from carbon dioxide transportation.

## **Consolidated Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Prohibition and Authorization**

The House bill (Section 504) would prohibit any federal funds from being used for privately owned facilities for consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel without the formal consent of state and local governments and any affected Indian tribes. Two privately owned consolidated interim storage facilities, one in New Mexico and one in Texas, have received NRC licenses over the objections of the two state governments.<sup>38</sup> Citing strong state opposition, the sponsor of the New Mexico project canceled its plans for the waste storage project in October 2025.<sup>39</sup>

The Senate-introduced bill (Section 310), as in previous years, would authorize DOE to build and operate one or more consolidated interim storage facilities through a consent-based siting process. Such facilities would require an agreement with the governor of the host state, each unit of local government with jurisdiction over the site, each affected Indian tribe, and other entities identified by DOE.

## **Title XVII Loan Guarantees: Proposed Nuclear Funding and Cancellation of Other Lending Authority**

For the Title 17 loan guarantee program, the request includes \$750 million to pay the credit subsidy cost (to cover potential losses to the federal government) for loan guarantees for small

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<sup>37</sup> DOE Federal Energy Management Program, “Clean Energy for New Federal Buildings and Major Renovations of Federal Buildings,” 89 *Federal Register* 35384, May 1, 2024.

<sup>38</sup> NRC, “Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF),” <https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis.html>; New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, letter to President Trump, July 28, 2020, <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2100/ML21008A321.pdf>; and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, “Attorney General Ken Paxton Works to Stop Unaccountable Federal Plan to Illegally Build a Nuclear Waste Facility on World’s Most Productive Oil Field,” news release, March 6, 2025, <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/attorney-general-ken-paxton-works-stop-unaccountable-federal-plan-illegally-build-nuclear-waste>.

<sup>39</sup> World Nuclear News, “Holtec Cancels Plans for New Mexico Interim Storage Facility,” October 10, 2025, <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/holtec-cancels-plans-for-new-mexico-interim-storage-facility>.



modular nuclear reactors, which DOE describes as “an immediate priority.”<sup>40</sup> The budget request would provide an additional \$30 billion in lending authority for geothermal, hydropower, or bioenergy projects, transmission and distribution projects, advanced fossil energy projects, advanced nuclear energy facilities, refineries, and critical minerals supply projects. It would permanently cancel unobligated balances made available for credit subsidy costs in P.L. 112-10 (estimated at \$11 million) and cancel loan authority provided under P.L. 111-8, P.L. 117-328, P.L. 109-289, and P.L. 112-10.<sup>41</sup> The House bill includes \$150 million for small modular reactor subsidy costs (\$600 million below the request) and would not cancel existing subsidy cost budget authority and unobligated balances, as requested by the President.

DOE Section 1703 loan guarantee commitments funded by the IRA total approximately \$17.7 billion for 15 projects, and Section 1706 loan guarantee commitments funded by the IRA total approximately \$48.8 billion for 17 projects. As of publication of this report, DOE has not announced further loan guarantee commitments since January 17, 2025.<sup>42</sup> P.L. 119-21, the FY2025 budget reconciliation measure, rescinds unobligated appropriations for Title XVII programs, but appropriates \$1 billion for the Section 1706 program and expands its scope (see the section “Cancellation of IIJA and IRA Appropriations”).

For the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) financing program, the request would cancel unobligated balances from credit subsidy appropriations originally provided in P.L. 110-329, as amended. The remaining balance is estimated at \$2.29 billion. The House-passed bill would not rescind unobligated balances. Increases in ATVM lending authority provided by the IRA were repealed by P.L. 119-21.

For the Tribal Energy financing program, the request would cancel nearly \$11 million of credit subsidy appropriations from prior acts, and nearly \$3 million of unobligated balances for administrative expenses made available in P.L. 119-4. The House bill would not cancel unobligated balances for administrative and subsidy costs, as requested by the President. Unobligated appropriations for this program were repealed by P.L. 119-21.

For projects under DOE’s Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (CIFIA), enacted as part of the IIJA, the request proposes to cancel \$2.09 billion in unobligated balances. The House bill would transfer \$1.500 billion from the CIFIA program account to DOE’s nuclear energy account to fund nuclear demonstration programs.

## Proposals for Petroleum Reserves

The Administration is requesting \$206 million in FY2026 for operation and management of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), a reduction of 3% from the FY2025 enacted amount. The House bill would provide \$295 million for SPR operation and maintenance, an increase of \$88 million (43%) over the President’s request. The Senate-introduced bill would provide \$214 million. SPR funding is supplemented by the FY2025 budget reconciliation measure (P.L. 119-21), which appropriates \$171 million for purchasing crude oil for the SPR and \$218 million for maintenance through FY2029. It also repeals a previously mandated sale of 7 million barrels of SPR oil that was to occur during 2026 and 2027.

<sup>40</sup> Department of Energy (DOE), *FY 2026 Congressional Justification: Budget in Brief*, May 2025, p. 53, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-bib-v6.pdf>.

<sup>41</sup> OMB, *Technical Supplement to the 2026 Budget: Appendix*, May 30, 2025, p. 304, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/appendix\\_fy2026.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/appendix_fy2026.pdf).

<sup>42</sup> CRS estimates based on announced project commitments since IRA enactment; and DOE, Loan Programs Office, “LPO Portfolio Projects,” <https://www.energy.gov/lpo/lpo-portfolio-projects>.

The Administration proposes to close the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve (NEHHOR) in FY2026. The 1 million barrels of low-sulfur heating oil in NEHHOR would be sold and leases for storage facilities closed out. The bill passed by the House and the Senate-introduced bill would not close NEHHOR; instead, they would continue funding NEHHOR at the FY2025 level for operation and maintenance. For background, see CRS In Focus IF12205, *Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve*, by Phillip Brown.

## Proposed Reductions in Office of Science and ARPA-E

The Administration proposes to reduce funding for the Office of Science to \$7.092 billion (-14%) and Biological and Environmental Research (BER) in the DOE Office of Science from \$900 million in FY2024 to \$395 million (-56%) in FY2026. The BER program would be realigned to focus on “transformative science and scientific user facilities to harness the genomic potential found in nature, achieve a predictive understanding of complex systems, and provide the fundamental research leading to solutions for the Nation’s energy and national security challenges.”<sup>43</sup> Previously funded research in environmental system sciences, atmospheric system research, earth system modeling, data management, and the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement User Facility would be eliminated.

The Office of Science would receive \$8.400 billion under the House bill, an increase of \$160 million (2%) over the FY2025 enacted amount and \$1.308 billion (18%) over the Administration’s FY2026 request. BER would receive \$800 million (-8%) under the House bill, and the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement User Facility would receive \$95 million, according to the committee report. The Senate-introduced bill would provide \$8.000 billion for Science, plus \$250 million transferred from previously appropriated funding for OCED.

Under the FY2026 budget request, ARPA-E would see a 57% reduction in its budget from the FY2025 enacted amount. The request calls for ARPA-E to release up to four new solicitations focused on the discovery of outlier energy technologies that ensure the production of reliable, American-made energy—projects aligned with the Administration’s “goal of restoring U.S. energy dominance” through firm, baseload power. It also would support research related to “increasing the energy available to power modern life and unleash American energy innovation to maintain America’s global competitiveness.”<sup>44</sup> The House bill would provide ARPA-E with \$350 million, a decrease of \$110 million (-24%) from FY2025 but an increase of \$150 million (75%) over the request. The Senate-introduced bill would provide \$414 million for ARPA-E, a decrease of \$46 million (-10%) from FY2025.

One major difference between the House report and the draft Senate appropriations report for fusion energy is the U.S. contribution to ITER, an international nuclear fusion research and development facility located in France.<sup>45</sup> The House bill would provide \$225 million, while the Senate draft report recommends \$75 million, which is closer to the DOE FY2026 request of \$77 million.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>43</sup> DOE, *FY 2026 Congressional Justification: Budget in Brief*, May 2025, pp. 20-21, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-bib-v6.pdf>.

<sup>44</sup> DOE, *Detailed Budget Justification, Energy and Water Development Appropriations, Volume 2*, Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy, 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-vol-2-arpa-e.pdf>.

<sup>45</sup> CRS Report R48362, *ITER—An International Nuclear Fusion Research and Development Facility*, coordinated by Todd Kuiken.

<sup>46</sup> DOE, *FY 2026 Congressional Justification: Science*, May 2025, p. 9, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/doe-fy-2026-vol-5.pdf>.



## Zero Funding Request for the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

The Administration is requesting no appropriations in FY2026 for the DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), which funds clean energy and industrial decarbonization demonstration projects for potential commercialization. The office received \$50 million in annual appropriations in FY2025, but that amount is overshadowed by \$21.456 billion appropriated for OCED by IIJA through FY2026 (see **Table 2**). In addition, the IRA appropriated \$5.812 billion for an OCED program on Advanced Industrial Facilities Deployment available from FY2022 through FY2026. As of January 2025, OCED reported that it had awarded support totaling up to \$26.8 billion for clean energy demonstration projects.<sup>47</sup> The Administration proposes to rescind all unobligated OCED appropriations.

The House E&W bill includes transfers of appropriations made by IIJA Division J for three OCED programs. Section 313 of H.R. 4553 would transfer \$950 million in unobligated balances of the Carbon Capture Demonstration and Pilot Programs, authorized in IIJA Sections 41004(a) and 41004(b). Section 313 of H.R. 4553 also includes a transfer of \$673 million affecting several other programs authorized in IIJA, including the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (IIJA Section 40314), and appropriated to OCED in Division J. The transferred appropriations are to be used by DOE for nuclear reactor demonstrations.

The Senate-introduced bill also would not provide any new Clean Energy Demonstration funding, and it would transfer \$4.170 billion of DOE's IIJA appropriations to other DOE programs.

As discussed above, P.L. 119-21 rescinded unobligated IRA appropriations for Advanced Industrial Facilities Deployment.<sup>48</sup> On October 2, 2025, DOE announced the termination of \$7.56 billion in energy grants by OCED, EERE, the Grid Deployment Office, MESC, ARPA-E, and FE.<sup>49</sup>

**Table 2. Additional Appropriations for Clean Energy Demonstrations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)**

(budget authority in millions of current dollars)

Program	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	Total
Energy Storage Demonstration Pilot Grants Program	88.8	88.8	88.8	88.8	—	355.0
Long-Duration Demonstration Initiative and Joint Program	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	—	150.0
Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program	677.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	—	2,477.0
Carbon Capture Large-Scale Pilot Projects	387.0	200.0	200.0	150.0	—	937.0
Carbon Capture Demonstration Projects	937.0	500.0	500.0	600.0	—	2,537.0

<sup>47</sup> DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, "Portfolio," January 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/oced/portfolio>.

<sup>48</sup> Unobligated balances for this program have not been reported by OMB.

<sup>49</sup> DOE, "Energy Department Announces Termination of 223 Projects, Saving over \$7.5 Billion," news release, October 2, 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-termination-223-projects-saving-over-75-billion>.

Program	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	Total
Industrial Emission Demonstration Projects	100.0	100.0	150.0	150.0	—	500.0
Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	500.0
Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs	1,600.0	1,600.0	1,600.0	1,600.0	1,600.0	8,000.0
Program Upgrading Our Electric Grid and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	5,000.0
Energy Improvement in Rural and Remote Areas	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	1,000.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,127.3</b>	<b>4,426.3</b>	<b>4,476.3</b>	<b>4,526.3</b>	<b>2,900.0</b>	<b>21,456.0</b>
3% Set-Aside for Program Administration	153.8	132.8	134.3	135.8	87.0	643.7

**Source:** P.L. 117-58, Division J.

**Note:** Not including transfers proposed by FY2026 E&W bills. Appropriations are in addition to other amounts made available for these purposes, such as from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

## Proposed Increase for NNSA Weapons Activities

The Administration is requesting \$30.042 billion for NNSA in FY2026. This includes \$25.26 billion in discretionary appropriations in the E&W bill and \$4.782 billion in mandatory funding to be provided through the congressional budget reconciliation process (see below). The requested total of \$30.042 billion would be an increase of \$5.907 billion (24%) over the FY2025 enacted discretionary amount of \$24.135 billion. The \$25.260 billion discretionary funding request would be an increase of \$1.125 billion (5%) above the FY2025 enacted amount. NNSA funding included in the House bill for FY2026 totals \$25.317 billion, an increase of \$1.182 billion (5%) over the FY2025 level and \$57 million (less than 1%) over the request. The Senate-introduced bill includes \$25.013 billion, an increase of \$878 million (4%) from the FY2025 level and \$247 million (less than 1%) below the request.

The requested \$4.782 billion in mandatory spending would be applied entirely to the Weapons Activities account, for a total of \$24.856 billion, an increase of \$5.563 billion (29%) over the FY2025 enacted level.<sup>50</sup> The FY2026 discretionary appropriations request for Weapons Activities totals \$20.074 billion, an increase of \$781 million (4%) over the FY2025 enacted amount of \$19.293 billion. The House-passed bill included \$20.662 billion for Weapons Activities, and the Senate-introduced bill included \$20.074 billion. As noted above, P.L. 119-21 appropriated \$3.885 billion for NNSA for FY2025, to remain available through FY2029.

For Weapons Activities, the requested FY2026 amounts for nuclear warhead modernization programs, which include proposed reconciliation funding, include the following:<sup>51</sup>

- \$16 million for the B61-12 Life Extension Program (LEP), a decrease of \$12 million (-42%) from the FY2025 enacted amount. NNSA intends to complete and

<sup>50</sup> DOE, *FY2026 Congressional Justification: Budget in Brief*, May 2025, p. 24, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-bib-v6.pdf>; and OMB, *Technical Supplement to the FY2026 Budget: Appendix*, May 30, 2025, p. 275, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/appendix\\_fy2026.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/appendix_fy2026.pdf).

<sup>51</sup> DOE, *FY2026 Detailed Budget Justification—Energy and Water Development Appropriations, Volume 1, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities*, pp. 16 and 20, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-vol-1-wa.pdf>.

- close out modernization of the B61-12 LEP, which combines four existing variants of the B61 gravity bomb, in FY2026. The House committee report and Senate draft committee report recommended the same amount.
- \$49 million for the B61-13 variant of the B61 gravity bomb, a 209% increase from the \$16 million enacted in FY2025. This B61 variant, intended for strikes on harder and larger-area military targets, is transitioning to full-scale production.<sup>52</sup> The House committee report and Senate draft committee report recommended the same amount.
  - The Administration did not request funding for the W88 Alteration 370 program, for which \$64 million was enacted in FY2025. NNSA stated that it will complete and close out this program with carryover funding. The W88 warhead is carried on a portion of the D-5 (Trident) submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). The House committee report did not itemize the program, and the Senate draft committee report agreed with the request and did not recommend funding for the program.
  - \$1.259 billion for production engineering activities of the W80-4 LEP, an increase of \$64 million (5%) over the FY2025 enacted amount, intended for the warhead that will be mounted on the Long-Range Standoff (LRSO) cruise missile.<sup>53</sup> The House committee report and Senate draft committee report recommended the same amount.
  - \$649 million for development engineering activities in the W87-1 warhead modification program, a decrease of \$367 million (-36%) from FY2025. The Air Force plans to deploy the W87-1 on the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).<sup>54</sup> The House committee report and Senate draft committee report recommended the same amount.
  - \$807 million for the design definition and cost study of the W93 warhead, an increase of \$351 million (77%) from the FY2025 enacted amount. The W93 is a warhead intended for deployment on SLBMs. The House committee report recommended the same amount. The Senate draft committee report recommended \$782 million.
  - \$272 million for development engineering of the warhead for the nuclear sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM-N), a \$172 million (172%) increase from the FY2025 enacted amount.<sup>55</sup> This amount appears to include mandatory funding in the FY2025 budget reconciliation measure (P.L. 119-21), as noted below. The House committee report stated that the committee recommended more funding than requested for SLCM-N, but the report did not include an amount for the program in the funding table.<sup>56</sup> The Senate draft committee report recommended \$186 million.

NNSA is implementing seven warhead programs while also engaging in intensive efforts to recapitalize its production infrastructure. Congress has raised concerns about NNSA's schedule

<sup>52</sup> For more information, see CRS In Focus IF10519, *Defense Primer: Strategic Nuclear Forces*, by Anya L. Fink.

<sup>53</sup> For more information, see CRS In Focus IF12945, *U.S. Strategic Bombers*, by Jennifer DiMascio and Anya L. Fink.

<sup>54</sup> For more information, see CRS In Focus IF11681, *Defense Primer: LGM-35A Sentinel Intercontinental Ballistic Missile*, by Anya L. Fink.

<sup>55</sup> For more information, see CRS In Focus IF12084, *Nuclear-Armed Sea-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM-N)*, by Anya L. Fink.

<sup>56</sup> See pp. 158 and 4 in the report.

for developing production capacity for plutonium pits (warhead cores), central components of nuclear warheads. NNSA plans to develop pit production capacity at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina. Pit production is included in NNSA's FY2026 budget under Plutonium Modernization, for which NNSA requested \$3.795 billion for FY2026, an increase of \$1.303 billion (52%) from the FY2025 enacted level.<sup>57</sup> The House committee report recommended \$2.833 billion. The Senate draft committee report recommended \$2.520 billion.

The FY2025 budget reconciliation measure (P.L. 119-21) appropriated \$3.885 billion for NNSA for FY2025, to remain available through FY2029:

- \$200 million for Phase 1 studies;
- \$540 million for deferred maintenance and repair;
- \$1 billion for construction;
- \$400 million for the sea-launched cruise missile nuclear warhead;
- \$750 million for modernization of facilities for nuclear warhead primary stages;
- \$750 million for modernization of facilities for nuclear warhead secondary stages;
- \$120 million for uranium enrichment centrifuge deployment;
- \$10 million for spent nuclear fuel reprocessing evaluation; and
- \$115 million for artificial intelligence.

Appropriations for NNSA nuclear weapons activities and other defense programs typically align with the amounts authorized in annual National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAAAs). See Division C of H.R. 3838 (H.Rept. 119-231), S. 2296 (S.Rept. 119-39), and compromise bill (S. 1071) and accompanying explanatory statement.<sup>58</sup> For more information, see CRS Report R47657, *Energy and Water Development Appropriations for Nuclear Weapons Activities: In Brief*, by Anya L. Fink.

## Cleanup of Former Nuclear Sites: Adequacy of Proposed Funding

DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) is responsible for environmental cleanup and waste management at the department's nuclear facilities. The Administration is requesting \$8.093 billion for Environmental Management (EM) in FY2026, a reduction of \$389 million (-5%) from the program's FY2025 enacted amount of \$8.482 billion. EM funding in the House bill totals \$7.703 billion, a decrease of \$779 million (-9%) from FY2025 and \$389 million (-5%) below the request. The Senate-introduced bill would provide \$8.841 billion for EM, increases of \$1.137 billion over the House (15%), \$748 million (9%) over the request, and \$359 million (4%) above FY2025.

The House bill includes no funding for the USACE Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), which cleans up radioactive sites dating to the early years of the U.S. nuclear weapons program. The committee report says that USACE "will carry over into fiscal year 2026 significant unobligated funds sufficient to make appropriate progress on all active

<sup>57</sup> DOE, *FY2026 Detailed Budget Justification—Energy and Water Development Appropriations, Volume 1, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities*, p. 16, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-vol-1-wa.pdf>.

<sup>58</sup> House Armed Services Committee, *FY26 NDAA Resources, FY26 NDAA Joint Explanatory Statement*, [https://armedservices.house.gov/uploadedfiles/fy26\\_ndaa\\_joint\\_explanatory\\_statement.pdf](https://armedservices.house.gov/uploadedfiles/fy26_ndaa_joint_explanatory_statement.pdf).

FUSRAP sites.”<sup>59</sup> The House bill also includes no FUSRAP funding, but the Senate-introduced bill would provide \$100 million, a reduction of \$200 million (-67%) from the enacted FY2025 amount.

The EM budget consists of three appropriations accounts. The largest is the Defense Environmental Cleanup account, which finances the cleanup of former nuclear weapons production sites, for which the FY2026 request is \$6.956 billion. The Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup account, which funds the cleanup of federal nuclear energy research sites, would receive \$322 million. The third component is the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund (UED&D), for which the FY2026 request is \$814 million.

The adequacy of funding for the Office of Environmental Management to attain cleanup milestones across the entire site inventory has been a recurring issue. Cleanup milestones are enforceable measures incorporated into compliance agreements negotiated among DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the states. These milestones establish time frames for the completion of specific actions to satisfy applicable requirements at individual sites.

## **Department of Energy Reorganization**

DOE reorganized several major offices and management responsibilities within the department on November 20, 2025.<sup>60</sup> The reorganization did not change the names of the appropriations accounts in the FY2026 bills passed by the House or introduced in the Senate. The DOE changes include the following:

- changing the name of EERE to the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, and adding critical minerals and supply chains to its portfolio;
- changing the name and portfolio of FECM to the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office;
- establishing a new Office of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum;
- establishing a new Office of Fusion;
- eliminating OCED and dividing its responsibilities among other offices; and
- renaming LPO the Office of Energy Dominance Financing.

## **Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Amending or Expanding Uses of Funding, Funding for New Commission**

Funding for six federal regional commissions and authorities (FRCAs) would be eliminated under the President’s FY2026 request. FRCAs use appropriations for economic development and energy reliability and security grants in their respective regions.

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, provided funding for seven of the 10 authorized FRCAs: (1) Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), (2) Delta Regional Authority (DRA), (3) Denali Commission, (4) Great Lakes Authority (GLA), (5) Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), (6) Southwest Border Regional Commission (SBRC), and (7)

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<sup>59</sup> H.Rept. 119-213, p. 66.

<sup>60</sup> DOE, “Energy Department Announces Organizational Realignment to Strengthen Efficiency and Unleash American Energy,” November 20, 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-organizational-realignment-strengthen-efficiency-and-unleash>.

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC).<sup>61</sup> Six of the seven FRCAs that received FY2025 appropriations are considered active.<sup>62</sup> The act also provided \$5 million for the GLA, which was not active as of November 2025.<sup>63</sup>

The FY2026 budget request would eliminate the DRA, Denali Commission, GLA, NBRC, SBRC, and SCRC. According to the request, “States and local governments are better positioned to fund and address unique regional and geographic economic development challenges.”<sup>64</sup> The DRA, Denali Commission, NBRC, and SCRC released summary documents for their FY2026 congressional budget justifications in May 2025 that include additional details for how they plan to use unobligated balances to conduct orderly closeouts of the agencies.<sup>65</sup> The request would reduce appropriations for the largest regional authority in the E&W bill, ARC, from \$200 million in FY2025 to \$14 million in FY2026 (-93%), while continuing to use remaining funding, including advance appropriations provided by the IJIA, for grantmaking.<sup>66</sup> ARC also released summary documents for its FY2026 congressional budget justification in May 2025 that include additional details for ARC programs and expenses.<sup>67</sup>

FRCAs have been previously proposed for elimination in presidential budgets, but have continued to receive appropriations from Congress. For instance, in May 2017, during the first Trump Administration, the President’s FY2018 budget request proposed closeout budgets (i.e., funding amounts that would be provided only for the purpose of closing down the agencies) for most of the FRCAs and proposed “statutory authority to transfer outstanding grant obligations and associated administrative and oversight responsibilities to the Department of Agriculture.”<sup>68</sup>

<sup>61</sup> The other three federal regional commissions and authorities (FRCAs) are the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission (MARC), Northern Great Plains Regional Authority (NGPRA), and Southern New England Regional Commission (SNERC). As of the date of publication, MARC, NGPRA, SNERC, and the Great Lakes Authority (GLA) are not active, and none of these have a confirmed federal co-chair. For additional information, see CRS Report R45997, *Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Structural Features and Function*.

<sup>62</sup> Each of the six functioning regional commissions and authorities engage in economic development to varying extents, and they address multiple programmatic activities in their respective service areas. These activities may include, but are not limited to, basic infrastructure, energy, ecology/environment and natural resources, workforce, and business development/entrepreneurship. For more information, see CRS In Focus IF11140, *Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Overview of Structure and Activities*.

<sup>63</sup> The presidential nomination and Senate confirmation of a federal co-chair is an essential step for the GLA to start operations; as of the date of publication, the Senate has not confirmed a federal co-chair for the GLA (a nominee by President Biden was not confirmed, and President Trump has not submitted a nominee). For more information, see CRS In Focus IF11744, *Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Authorization*.

<sup>64</sup> OMB, “Discretionary Funding Changes,” p. 40.

<sup>65</sup> See Delta Regional Authority, *FY 2026 Budget Justification*, May 21, 2025, [https://dra.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/DRA-FY-2026-Budget-Justification\\_FinalV4.pdf](https://dra.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/DRA-FY-2026-Budget-Justification_FinalV4.pdf); Denali Commission, *FY 2026 Budget Justification*, May 2025, [https://denali.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Denali-Commission-Congressional-Budget-Justification-Fiscal-Year-2026\\_Final.pdf](https://denali.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Denali-Commission-Congressional-Budget-Justification-Fiscal-Year-2026_Final.pdf); Northern Border Regional Commission, *FY 2026 Budget Justification*, May 2025, <https://www.nbrc.gov/userfiles/files/FY%202026%20Budget%20Justification.pdf>; and Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), *FY 2026 Budget Justification*, May 2025, [https://scrc.gov/sites/default/files/Reports-2025/fy\\_2026\\_scmc\\_cbj.pdf](https://scrc.gov/sites/default/files/Reports-2025/fy_2026_scmc_cbj.pdf). As of the date of this report’s publication, a FY2026 congressional budget justification was not available on the SBRC’s website (<https://sbrc.gov/>).

<sup>66</sup> OMB, “Discretionary Funding Changes,” p. 40.

<sup>67</sup> Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), *FY 2026 Budget Justification*, May 2025, <https://www.arc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ARC-FY-2026-Congressional-Justification.pdf>.

<sup>68</sup> OMB, *Appendix: Budget of The U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2018*, May 23, 2017, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2018-APP/pdf/BUDGET-2018-APP.pdf>.



In contrast, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141) provided a total of \$225 million to five of the FRCAs, and the entities continued to operate.<sup>69</sup>

The House rejected the Administration's proposed shutdowns of regional commissions and authorities. The House bill would continue funding for the regional commissions and authorities with a reduction of 19% from their FY2025 enacted levels. The Committee report directed ARC to allocate \$12 million of total appropriations to fund basic infrastructure in distressed counties in Central Appalachia that have been impacted by the decline in the coal industry and \$8 million to fund broadband in distressed counties in Central Appalachia.

The Senate-introduced bill would provide funding for a new regional commission (the Northwest Regional Commission), which—once established—would cover distressed areas of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. As of the date of this report, the commission has not been authorized.

## General Policy Proposals

The House bill includes a number of general policy provisions that raised controversy during the markup process, including the following:

- limiting restrictions on firearms on USACE public lands (Section 108);
- prohibiting E&W funds from being used to replace USACE names related to the Confederate States of America (Section 109);
- prohibiting E&W funding for activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion and critical race theory (Section 505);
- prohibiting discriminatory actions against persons with religious objections to same-sex marriage (Section 506);
- limiting the use of E&W funds for displaying nongovernmental flags (Section 508); and
- prohibiting funds for finalizing any rule with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more (Section 509).

## Bill Status and Recent Funding History

**Table 3** indicates major congressional actions taken during consideration of FY2026 Energy and Water Development appropriations. (For more details, congressional staff may see the CRS Appropriations Status Table at <http://www.crs.gov/AppropriationsStatusTable/Index.>)

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<sup>69</sup> The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141) provided appropriations for these five FRCAs: the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Commission, the Northern Border Regional Commission, and the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC). Amounts provided by P.L. 115-141 for the FRCAs ranged from \$250,000 (for the SCRC) to \$155 million (for the ARC). P.L. 115-141 did not provide appropriations for the GLA, which had not been established in FY2018, and did not provide appropriations to the Southwest Border Regional Commission, which received inaugural appropriations in FY2021. The President's Budgets for FY2019-FY2021 also proposed closeout budgets (i.e., funding amounts that would be provided only for the purposes of closing down the agencies) for the existing FRCAs except the ARC.



**Table 3. Status of Energy and Water Development Appropriations, FY2026**

Subcommittee Markup		Final Approval							Public Law
House	Senate	House Comm.	House Passed	Senate Comm.	Senate Passed	Conf. Report	House	Senate	
7/14/25	—	7/17/25	9/4/25	—*	—	—	—	—	—

**Source:** CRS Appropriations Status Table.

**Note:** \*An FY2026 E&W bill (S. 3293) was introduced in the Senate December 1, 2025.

**Table 4** includes budget totals for regular (excluding supplementals) energy and water development appropriations enacted for FY2020 through FY2025 and the FY2026 request.

**Table 4. Energy and Water Development Appropriations, FY2020-FY2026 Action**  
(budget authority in billions of current dollars)

FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026 Request	FY2026 House	S. 3293
48.4	49.5	55.6	59.2	61.4	61.3	54.4	60.8	61.5

**Source:** Compiled by CRS from totals provided by congressional budget documents and the FY2026 President's Budget Request.

**Notes:** Figures exclude permanent budget authorities, scorekeeping adjustments, rescissions, and emergency funding. See **Table I** for emergency funding for these fiscal years. Figures are not adjusted for inflation.

## Description of Major Energy and Water Programs

The annual Energy and Water Development appropriations bill includes four titles: Title I—Corps of Engineers—Civil; Title II—Department of the Interior (Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project); Title III—Department of Energy; and Title IV—Independent Agencies. These are shown in **Table 5**. Major programs in the bill are described in this section in the approximate order they appear in the bill. Previous appropriations and recent budget requests are shown in the accompanying tables, and additional details about many of these programs are provided in separate CRS reports as indicated. For a discussion of current funding issues related to these programs, see “Key Funding Issues and Initiatives,” above. Congressional clients may obtain more detailed information by contacting CRS analysts listed in CRS Report R42638, *Appropriations: CRS Experts*, by James M. Specht and Justin Murray.

**Table 5. Energy and Water Development Appropriations Summary**

(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

Title	FY2021 Approp	FY2022 Approp	FY2023 Approp	FY2024 Approp	FY2025 Approp	FY2026 Request	FY2026 House	S. 3293
Title I: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	7,795	8,343	8,310	8,703	8,703	6,663	9,891	9,791
Title II: CUP and Reclamation	1,691	1,924	1,954	1,923	1,889	1,290	1,895	1,600
Title III: Department of Energy	39,625	44,856	48,445	50,247	50,176	46,772	48,510	49,574
Title IV: Independent Agencies	414	454	494	502	502	231	460	531
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>49,525</b>	<b>55,576</b>	<b>59,204</b>	<b>61,375</b>	<b>61,271</b>	<b>54,956</b>	<b>60,756</b>	<b>61,496</b>
Rescissions, Transfers, and Scorekeeping Adjustments	-73	-2,704	-2,202	-22	-22	-518	-3,562	4,131
<b>E&amp;W Total with Adjustments</b>	<b>49,452</b>	<b>52,872</b>	<b>57,002</b>	<b>61,353</b>	<b>61,248</b>	<b>54,438</b>	<b>57,194</b>	<b>65,627</b>

**Sources:** S. 3293 and draft report; H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213; FY2026 Administration budget request; P.L. 119-4; S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-580; FY2025 Administration budget request; explanatory statement for Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024; P.L. 117-328 and explanatory statement. Excludes emergency appropriations. Subtotals may include other adjustments. Columns may not sum to totals because of rounding and adjustments. CUP = Central Utah Project.

**Notes:** FY2026 House scorekeeping offsets are the sum of the appropriations accounts minus the officially scored (adjusted) total. The S. 3293 adjusted total includes \$4.170 billion in transfers minus \$39 million in rescissions. FY2026 House transfers of \$5.104 billion are not included. Budget “scorekeeping” refers to determinations of spending amounts for congressional budget enforcement purposes. These scorekeeping adjustments may include rescissions and offsetting revenues from various sources.

## Agency Budget Justifications

Selected FY2026 budget justifications for the largest agencies funded by the annual Energy and Water Development appropriations bill can be found through the links below. The justifications provide detailed descriptions and funding breakouts for programs, projects, and activities under the agencies’ jurisdiction.

**Title I:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works, <https://www.usace.army.mil/missions/civil-works/budget> (see **Table 6**)

**Title II:** (see **Table 7**)

- Bureau of Reclamation, <https://www.usbr.gov/budget>
- Central Utah Project, <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06/cupca-2026-greenbook508.pdf>

**Title III:** Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/cfo/articles/fy-2026-budget-justification> (see **Table 8**)

**Title IV:** Independent Agencies (see **Table 12**)

- Appalachian Regional Commission, <https://www.arc.gov/budget-performance-and-policy>
- Delta Regional Authority, <https://dra.gov/accountability/congressional-budget-justification>
- Denali Commission, <https://www.denali.gov/finance/congressional-budget-justifications>
- Northern Border Regional Commission, <https://www.nbrc.gov/content/CJ>
- Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, <https://scrc.gov/Accountability/congressional-justification>
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission, <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1100>
- Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, <https://www.dnfsb.gov/about/congressional-budget-requests>
- Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, <http://www.nwtrb.gov/about-us/plans>

## Army Corps of Engineers

USACE is an agency in the Department of Defense with both military and civilian responsibilities. Under its civil works program, which is funded by the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, USACE plans, builds, operates, and in some cases maintains water resource facilities for coastal and inland navigation, riverine and coastal flood risk reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.<sup>70</sup>

In recent decades, Congress has generally authorized USACE studies, construction projects, and other activities in omnibus water authorization bills, typically titled as Water Resources Development Acts (WRDAs), prior to funding them through appropriations legislation. Recent Congresses enacted omnibus water resources authorization acts in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024. The latest WRDA was Title I of the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (P.L. 118-272). These acts consisted largely of authorizations for new USACE studies and projects, and they altered numerous USACE policies and procedures.<sup>71</sup>

Unlike for highways and in municipal water infrastructure programs, federal funds for USACE are not distributed to states or projects based on formulas or delivered via competitive grants. Instead, USACE generally is directly involved in planning, designing, and managing the construction of projects that are cost-shared with nonfederal project sponsors.

Policies in the 112<sup>th</sup> through the 116<sup>th</sup> Congresses limited congressionally directed funding of site-specific projects (i.e., *earmarks*). Prior to the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, Congress would direct funds to specific projects not in the budget request or increase funds for certain projects. For FY2011–FY2021, Congress appropriated additional funding for categories of USACE work without identifying specific projects. During that period, after congressional enactment of the appropriations legislation and accompanying report language on priorities and other guidance for use of the additional funding, the Administration developed a work plan that reported on (1) the

<sup>70</sup> Military responsibilities are funded through the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

<sup>71</sup> For more information on USACE authorization legislation, see CRS In Focus IF11322, *Water Resources Development Acts: Primer and Action in the 118th Congress*, by Nicole T. Carter and Anna E. Normand, and CRS Report R47946, *Process for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Projects*, by Nicole T. Carter and Anna E. Normand.

studies and construction projects selected to receive funding for the first time (new starts) and (2) the specific studies and projects receiving additional funds. For FY2022 through FY2024, Congress approved earmarks in specified categories, in addition to providing additional funding for specific categories for USACE to allocate in work plans.<sup>72</sup> House and Senate rules again allow Members to submit USACE earmark requests in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress (i.e., for FY2025 and FY2026). In FY2025, however, Section 1111 of P.L. 119-4 established that the act did not provide for earmarks. For more information, see CRS Report R46320, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Annual Appropriations Process*, by Anna E. Normand and Nicole T. Carter.

**Table 6** shows USACE appropriations accounts from FY2021 through FY2025, as well as the FY2026 Administration request and House-passed levels.

**Table 6. Army Corps of Engineers**  
(budget authority in millions of current dollars)

Program	FY2021 Approp	FY2022 Approp	FY2023 Approp	FY2024 Approp	FY2025 Approp	FY2026 Request	FY2026 House	S. 3293
Investigations	153.0	143.0	172.5	143.0	143.0	130.0	200.0	97.5
Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	151.3
Construction	2,692.6	2,492.8	1,808.8	1,854.7	1,854.7	1,558.2	2,557.0	2,481.8
Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T)	380.0	370.0	370.0	368.0	368.0	256.5	490.0	468.2
Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	3,849.7	4,570.0	5,078.5	5,552.8	5,552.8	2,330.3	6,143.0	5,990.2
Regulatory	210.0	212.0	218.0	221.0	221.0	221.0	221.0	225.0
General Expenses	206.0	208.0	215.0	216.0	216.0	220.0	226.0	220.0
FUSRAP	250.0	300.0	400.0	300.0	300.0	200.0	0	100.0
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE)	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	40.0	42.5	40.0
Office of the Asst. Secretary of the Army	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	7.0	6.0	7.0
WIFIA Program	14.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	0	5.0	10.0

<sup>72</sup> USACE work plans are available at USACE, “Civil Works Budget and Performance,” <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/#Work-Plans>.

Program	FY2021 Approp	FY2022 Approp	FY2023 Approp	FY2024 Approp	FY2025 Approp	FY2026 Request	FY2026 House	S. 3293
Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund <sup>a</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	1,700.0	—	—
<b>Total approp</b>	<b>7,795.5</b>	<b>8,343.0</b>	<b>8,310.0</b>	<b>8,702.7</b>	<b>8,702.7</b>	<b>6,663.0</b>	<b>9,890.5</b>	<b>9,790.9</b>
Rescissions	-0.5	—	—	-22.2	-22.2	—	—	—
<b>Total Title I</b>	<b>7,795.0</b>	<b>8,343.0</b>	<b>8,310.0</b>	<b>8,680.5</b>	<b>8,680.5</b>	<b>6,663.0</b>	<b>9,890.5</b>	<b>9,790.9</b>

**Sources:** S. 3293 and draft report; H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213; FY2026 Administration budget request; P.L. 119-4; S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-580; FY2025 Administration budget request; explanatory statement for Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024; USACE Civil Works FY2024 Budget and USACE Civil Works FY2022 Budget at <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/>; FY2024 Budget Appendix for Corps of Engineers—Civil Works at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/BUDGET-2024-APP/BUDGET-2024-APP-I-20>; Division D of P.L. 117-328; Division D of P.L. 117-103; Division D of P.L. 116-260.

**Notes:** FUSRAP = Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program; WIFIA = Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. Columns may not sum to totals because of rounding.

- a. P.L. 113-121. In the Administration's FY2026 request, as with previous requests, some activities that are funded in the O&M, Construction, and MR&T accounts were proposed to be funded directly from a Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) account. That is, the Administration proposed funding eligible USACE activities directly from the trust fund. This would replace the current practice of having USACE's O&M, Construction, and MR&T accounts incur expenses for HMTF-eligible activities, and for these expenses to be reimbursed from the HMTF accounts. For example, HMTF-eligible maintenance dredging would no longer be funded by the O&M account and reimbursed by the HMTF; instead, the dredging would be funded directly from the HMTF account. Such proposals were not enacted in previous fiscal years since first proposed for FY2019.

In addition to the regular appropriations for FY2022 through FY2025, USACE received the following supplemental appropriations:

- \$5.711 billion in Division B of P.L. 117-43;
- \$14.969 billion for FY2022, \$1.080 billion for FY2023, and \$1.050 billion for FY2024 in the IJA (P.L. 117-58);
- \$1.480 billion in Division N of P.L. 117-328;<sup>73</sup>
- \$20 million in the FY2023 continuing resolution (P.L. 117-180); and
- \$1.515 billion in the American Relief Act, FY2025 (P.L. 118-158).

For more information on USACE supplemental funding, see CRS Report R48572, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Supplemental Appropriations*, by Anna E. Normand and Nicole T. Carter.

## Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project

Most of the large dams and water diversion structures in the West were built by, or with the assistance of, the Bureau of Reclamation. While USACE built hundreds of flood control and navigation projects, Reclamation's original mission was to develop water supplies, primarily for

<sup>73</sup> Of the \$1.480 billion in emergency supplemental funds provided by the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (Division N of P.L. 117-328), \$350 million was made available for USACE to allocate in a work plan for construction and operation and maintenance (O&M) of certain categories of projects (i.e., similar to additional funding provided through annual appropriations). USACE allocated the \$350 million from Division N along with additional funding provided by Division D in its FY2023 work plan.

irrigation to reclaim arid lands in the West for farming and ranching. Reclamation has evolved into an agency that assists in meeting the water demands in the West while working to protect the environment and the public's investment in Reclamation infrastructure. The agency's municipal and industrial water deliveries have more than doubled since 1970.

Today, Reclamation manages hundreds of dams and diversion projects, including more than 300 storage reservoirs, in 17 western states. These projects provide water to approximately 10 million acres of farmland and 31 million people. Reclamation is the largest wholesale supplier of water in the 17 western states and the second-largest hydroelectric power producer in the nation.

Reclamation facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and other benefits. Reclamation facility operations are often controversial, particularly for their effect on fish and wildlife species and because of conflicts among competing water users during drought conditions.

As with USACE, the Reclamation budget is made up largely of individual project funding lines, rather than general programs that would not be covered by congressional earmark requirements. Therefore, as with USACE, these Reclamation projects have often been subject to earmark disclosure rules. The moratorium on earmarks through FY2021 restricted congressional steering of money directly toward specific Reclamation projects. For FY2022 through FY2026, the House and Senate rules allowed congressionally directed funding for specific Reclamation projects. For FY2025, Section 1111 of P.L. 119-4 established that the act does not provide for earmarks.

Water and Related Resources, Reclamation's single largest account, encompasses the agency's traditional programs and projects, including construction, operations and maintenance, dam safety, and ecosystem restoration, among others.<sup>74</sup> Reclamation also typically requests funds in a number of smaller accounts, and has proposed additional accounts in recent years.

Implementation and oversight of CUP, also funded by Title II, is conducted by a separate office within the Department of the Interior.<sup>75</sup>

For more information, see CRS In Focus IF12661, *Bureau of Reclamation: FY2025 Budget and Appropriations*, by Charles V. Stern; CRS In Focus IF12369, *Bureau of Reclamation: FY2024 Budget and Appropriations*, by Charles V. Stern; and CRS In Focus IF12127, *Bureau of Reclamation: FY2023 Budget and Appropriations*, by Charles V. Stern.

**Table 7** shows Reclamation and CUP appropriations accounts from FY2021 through FY2025, as well as the FY2026 request and House-passed levels.

<sup>74</sup> The Water and Related Resources Account is largely funded by the Reclamation Fund, which receives and distributes receipts related to a number of federal activities (including royalties received from oil and gas leasing on federal lands). For more on this fund and financing of selected Reclamation Projects, see CRS Report R41844, *The Reclamation Fund: A Primer*, by Charles V. Stern.

<sup>75</sup> The Central Utah Project (CUP) moves water from the Colorado River basin in eastern Utah to the western slopes of the Wasatch Mountain range. It was authorized in 1956 under the Colorado River Storage Project Act (P.L. 84-485). For more information, see the CUP website at <https://www.usbr.gov/projects/index.php?id=498>.

**Table 7. Bureau of Reclamation and CUP**

(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

Program	FY2021 Approp	FY2022 Approp	FY2023 Approp	FY2024 Approp	FY2025 Approp	FY2026 Request	FY2026 House	S. 3293
Water and Related Resources	1,521.1	1,747.1	1,787.2	1,751.7	1,710.7	1,112.0	1,710.6	1,415.6
Policy and Administration	60.0	64.4	65.1	66.8	66.8	64.0	64.0	65.4
CVP Restoration Fund (CVPRF)	55.9	56.5	45.8	48.5	55.7	65.4	65.4	32.0
Calif. Bay-Delta (CALFED)	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	32.0	32.0	64.0
<b>Gross Current Reclamation Authority</b>	<b>1,670.0</b>	<b>1,901.0</b>	<b>1,931.0</b>	<b>1,900.0</b>	<b>1,866.3</b>	<b>1,273.4</b>	<b>1,872.0</b>	1,577.0
Central Utah Project (CUP) Completion	21.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	17.0	23.0	23.0
<b>Reclamation and CUP</b>	<b>1,691.0</b>	<b>1,924.0</b>	<b>1,954.0</b>	<b>1,923.0</b>	<b>1,889.3</b>	<b>1,290.4</b>	<b>1,895.0</b>	<b>1,600.0</b>
Offsets, Transfers, and Adjustments	—	—	-45.8	—	—	-65.4	—	200.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,691.0</b>	<b>1,924.0</b>	<b>1,908.2</b>	<b>1,923.0</b>	<b>1,889.3</b>	<b>1,225.0</b>	<b>1,895.0</b>	<b>1,800.0</b>

**Sources:** S. 3293 and draft report; H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213; FY2026 Administration budget request; P.L. 119-4; S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-580; FY2025 Administration budget request; explanatory statement for Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024; Reclamation and CUP FY2024 congressional budget justifications; Division D of P.L. 117-328; Division D of P.L. 117-103; Division D of P.L. 116-260.

**Notes:** Total for S. 3293 includes \$200 million in transfers from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; P.L. 117-58). Columns may not sum to totals because of rounding. CVP = Central Valley Project.

Reclamation has also received supplemental and mandatory appropriations in recent fiscal years that the agency is still allocating, obligating, and expending. The IIJA provided \$1.660 billion in additional funding for each of FY2022 through FY2026 for Reclamation's Water and Related Resources account. (For more information, see CRS Report R47032, *Bureau of Reclamation Provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand.) The IRA also appropriated additional funds in FY2022 for Reclamation:

- \$4.000 billion for drought mitigation, available through FY2026;
- \$550 million for disadvantaged communities, available through FY2031;
- \$25 million for projects to cover water conveyance facilities with solar panels, available through FY2031; and
- \$13 million for drought relief actions to mitigate drought impacts for tribes affected by the operation of a Reclamation water project, available through FY2031.

For more information, see CRS In Focus IF12437, *Bureau of Reclamation Funding in the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169)*, by Charles V. Stern and Anna E. Normand.



In FY2025, the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158) included \$74 million for Reclamation, to remain available until expended. Additionally, the FY2025 budget reconciliation measure (P.L. 119-21) appropriated \$1 billion in funding for surface water storage and conveyance projects that restore or increase the capacity of existing Reclamation facilities, available through FY2034.

## Department of Energy

The Energy and Water Development appropriations bill has funded nearly all DOE programs since FY2005.<sup>76</sup> Major DOE activities are authorized under multiple energy statutes and include the following:

- R&D on renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear power, fossil energy, and electricity;
- nuclear weapons and nonproliferation;
- general science;
- environmental cleanup;
- energy statistics, projections, and analysis;
- loan programs;
- the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; and
- power marketing administrations.

**Table 8** provides recent DOE funding history, including the FY2026 Administration request and House-passed levels. Most DOE programs funded by these appropriations accounts are briefly described further below.

**Table 8. Department of Energy**  
(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

	<b>FY2022 Approp</b>	<b>FY2023 Approp</b>	<b>FY2024 Approp</b>	<b>FY2025 Approp</b>	<b>FY2026 Request</b>	<b>FY2026 House</b>	<b>S. 3293</b>
<b>Energy Programs</b>							
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	3,200.0	3,460.0	3,460.0	3,460.0	888.0	1,830.0	2,227.2
Electricity Delivery	277.0	350.0	280.0	280.0	193.0	225.0	265.0
Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response	185.8	200.0	200.0	200.0	150.0	200.0	190.0
Nuclear Energy <sup>b</sup>	1,654.8	1,473.0	1,685.0	1,685.0	1,370.0	1,795.0	1,592.7
Fossil Energy	825.0	890.0	865.0	865.0	595.0	694.4	782.7
Energy Projects	—	222.0	83.7	—	—	—	98.1
Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves	13.7	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) <sup>c</sup>	226.4	207.3	213.4	213.5	206.4	294.7	214.4

<sup>76</sup> The DOE Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence is funded as part of the National Intelligence Program in the Defense Appropriations bill.

	FY2022 Approp	FY2023 Approp	FY2024 Approp	FY2025 Approp	FY2026 Request	FY2026 House	S. 3293
Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.2	3.6	7.2	7.2
Energy Information Administration	129.1	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.0
Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup	333.9	358.6	342.0	342.0	322.4	337.7	337.9
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund	860.0	879.1	855.0	855.0	814.4	844.4	875.0
Science	7,475.0	8,100.0	8,240.0	8,240.0	7,092.0	8,400.0	8,000.0
Office of Technology Transitions	19.5	22.1	20.0	20.0	—	—	20.0
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations	20.0	89.0	50.0	50.0	—	—	—
Grid Deployment Office	—	—	60.0	60.0	15.0	25.0	45.0
Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains	—	—	—	—	15.0	—	19.0
Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E)	450.0	470.0	460.0	460.0	200.0	350.0	414.0
Nuclear Waste Disposal	27.5	10.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Departmental Admin. (net)	240.0	283.0	286.5	286.5	174.9	189.7	194.3
Office of Inspector General	78.0	86.0	86.0	86.0	90.0	90.0	90.0
Office of Indian Energy	58.0	75.0	70.0	70.0	50.0	75.0	65.0
Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) Loans	5.0	9.8	13.0	13.0	9.5	13.0	9.5
Title 17 Loan Guarantee	29.0	181.2	—	-115.0	682.6	-121.0	-205.0
Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee	2.0	4.0	6.3	12.6	-12.0	6.3	6.3
Critical and Emerging Technologies	—	—	—	—	2.0	—	—
<b>Total, Energy Programs</b>	<b>16,116.0</b>	<b>17,525.2</b>	<b>17,443.2</b>	<b>17,250.8</b>	<b>12,861.8</b>	<b>15,416.4</b>	<b>15,408.1</b>
<b>National Nuclear Security Admin.</b>							
Weapons Activities	15,920.0	17,116.1	19,108.0	19,293.0	20,074.4	20,662.0	20,074.4
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	2,354.0	2,490.0	2,581.0	2,396.0	2,284.6	1,983.6 <sup>d</sup>	2,431.0

	FY2022 Approp	FY2023 Approp	FY2024 Approp	FY2025 Approp	FY2026 Request	FY2026 House	S. 3293
Naval Reactors	1,918.0	2,081.5	1,946.0	1,946.0	2,346.0	2,171.0	1,966.0
Office of Admin./Salaries and Expenses	464.0	475.0	500.0	500.0	555.0	500.0	542.0
<b>Total, NNSA</b>	<b>20,656.0</b>	<b>22,162.6</b>	<b>24,135.0</b>	<b>24,135.0</b>	<b>25,260.0</b>	<b>25,316.7</b>	<b>25,013.4</b>
Defense Environmental Cleanup	6,710.0	7,025.0	7,285.0	7,285.0	6,956.0	6,521.4	7,627.8
Defense Uranium Enrichment D&D	573.3	586.0	285.0	285.0	278.0	—	279.7
Other Defense Activities	985.0	1,035.0	1,080.0	1,107.0	1,182.0	1,180.0	1,169.2
<b>Power Marketing Administrations</b>							
Southwestern	10.4	10.6	11.4	11.4	10.4	10.4	10.4
Western	90.8	98.7	99.9	99.9	63.4	63.4	63.4
Falcon and Amistad O&M	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Colorado River Basins Power Marketing Fund	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	—
<b>Total, PMAs</b>	<b>101.4</b>	<b>109.6</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>74.0</b>
General Provisions	-286.1	2.0	-93.0	2.0	—	—	2.0
<b>DOE Total Appropriations</b>	<b>44,855.6</b>	<b>48,445.4</b>	<b>50,246.8</b>	<b>50,176.33</b>	<b>46,771.8</b>	<b>48,510.4</b>	<b>49,574.1</b>
Offsets, Transfers, and Adjustments	—	-2,202.0	—	—	-452.8	—	3,930.7
<b>Total, DOE</b>	<b>44,855.6</b>	<b>46,243.4</b>	<b>50,246.8</b>	<b>50,176.33</b>	<b>46,319.0</b>	<b>48,510.4</b>	<b>53,504.9</b>

**Sources:** S. 3293 and draft report; H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213; FY2026 Administration budget request; P.L. 119-4; S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-580; FY2025 Administration budget request; explanatory statement for Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024; Department of Energy FY2024 budget justification; P.L. 117-328 and explanatory statement.

**Notes:** S. 3269 total includes \$3.970 billion in IIJA transfers. Columns may not sum to totals because of rounding. Table includes some category adjustments for comparability. Excludes rescissions and supplementals in subsequent acts.

- Excludes requests for the Federal Energy Management Program, Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, and State and Community Energy Programs accounts.
- Includes amounts in defense budget function. Defense amount of \$160 million excluded from Energy Programs total and included in Defense Activities total in FY2026 request column.
- Includes SPR Petroleum Account and rescissions.
- Includes \$9.4 million rescission.

In addition to the regular annual appropriations shown in **Table 8**, DOE received appropriations from IIJA; these additional amounts for FY2023, FY2024, FY2025, and FY2026 are shown in **Table 9**. Additional appropriations also became available to DOE from the IRA beginning in FY2022, as shown in **Table 10**. Unobligated balances for certain programs were rescinded by P.L.

119-21. Additional amounts for FY2023 were appropriated by Divisions M and N of P.L. 117-328, as shown in **Table 11**.

**Table 9. Additional FY2023-FY2026 Department of Energy Funding Under IIJA**  
(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

Program	IIJA FY2023	IIJA FY2024	IIJA FY2025	IIJA FY2026
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	2,221.8	1,945.0	1,945.0	1,945.0
Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Electricity	1,610.0	1,610.0	1,610.0	1,610.0
Nuclear Energy	1,200.0	1,200.0	1,200.0	1,200.0
Fossil Energy and Carbon Management	1,444.5	1,447.0	1,449.5	1,317.0
Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account	2,097.0	—	—	—
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations	4,426.3	4,476.3	4,526.3	2,900.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,099.6</b>	<b>10,778.3</b>	<b>10,830.8</b>	<b>9,072.0</b>

**Sources:** H.Rept. 117-394; Department of Energy FY2024 and FY2025 congressional budget justifications; IIJA.

**Note:** Does not include proposed transfers in FY2026 E&W bills.

**Table 10. Additional Department of Energy Funding Under the IRA**  
(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

Program	IRA Section	Approp	Fiscal Years
Home Energy Efficiency Rebates	50121	4,300	FY2022-FY2031
Home Electric Efficiency Rebates, States	50122	4,275	FY2022-FY2031
Home Electric Efficiency Rebates, Tribes	50122	225	FY2022-FY2031
Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants	50123	200	FY2022-FY2031
Building Energy Code Adoption	50131(b)	330	FY2022-FY2029
Building Energy Code Adoption	50131(c)	670	FY2022-FY2029
Title 17 Loan Guarantees	50141	3,600	FY2022-FY2026
ATVM Loans	50142	3,000	FY2022-FY2028
Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grants	50143	2,000	FY2022-FY2031
Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment	50144	5,000	FY2022-FY2026
Tribal Energy Loan Guarantees	50145	75	FY2022-FY2028
Electric Transmission Facility Financing	50151	2,000	FY2022-FY2030
Transmission Line Siting Grants	50152	760	FY2022-FY2029
Offshore Wind Planning	50153	100	FY2022-FY2031
Advanced Industrial Facilities Deployment	50161	5,812	FY2022-FY2026
Inspector General	50171	20	FY2022-FY2031
National Laboratory Infrastructure	50172		FY2022-FY2027
Office of Science	50172(a)		

Program	IRA Section	Approp	Fiscal Years
Science Laboratory Infrastructure Projects		133	
High Energy Physics Construction and Equipment		304	
Fusion Energy Construction and Equipment		280	
Nuclear Physics Construction and Equipment		217	
Advanced Scientific Computing Facilities		164	
Basic Energy Sciences Projects		295	
Isotope Research and Development Facilities		158	
Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management	50172(b)	150	
Office of Nuclear Energy	50172(c)	150	
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	50172(d)	150	
Availability of High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium	50173	700	FY2022-FY2026
<b>DOE Total</b>		<b>35,068</b>	

**Source:** Inflation Reduction Act (IRA; P.L. 117-169). Appropriations for items in Section 50172 are for the same fiscal year period.

**Note:** The FY2025 reconciliation measure (P.L. 119-21) rescinds unobligated appropriations for some programs.

**Table 11. Additional FY2023 Department of Energy Funding in Divisions M and N of P.L. 117-328**

(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

Program	Division M	Division N	Total
Nuclear Energy			
Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability	100.0	—	100.0
Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program	60.0	—	60.0
National Reactor Innovation Center	20.0	—	20.0
Risk Reduction for Future Demonstrations	120.0	—	120.0
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (Ukraine-related activities)	125.3	—	125.3
Electricity (Puerto Rico electricity grid resilience)	—	1,000.0	1,000.0
Western Area Power Administration	—	520.0	520.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>425.3</b>	<b>1,520.0</b>	<b>1,945.3</b>

**Source:** P.L. 117-328, Divisions M and N.

## Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy conducts R&D on transportation energy technology, energy efficiency in buildings and manufacturing processes, and the production of solar, wind, geothermal, and other renewable energy.

The Sustainable Transportation program area includes electric vehicles (EVs), vehicle efficiency, hydrogen and fuel cells, and alternative fuels. Goals of the electric vehicle program include “to reduce EV battery cell cost to achieve EV cost parity with internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles through expanded R&D focused on lithium metal, solid state, and next generation

lithium-ion battery technologies” and to “reduce or eliminate dependence on critical materials such as cobalt, nickel, and graphite.”<sup>77</sup>

Renewable power programs focus on electricity generation from solar, wind, water, and geothermal sources. They are also developing concentrated solar technologies to produce high-temperature heat that could replace fossil fuels in steel manufacturing and other industrial processes.

In the energy efficiency program area, the advanced manufacturing program focuses on improving the energy efficiency of manufacturing processes and on the manufacturing of energy-related products. The building technologies program includes R&D on lighting, space conditioning, windows, and control technologies to reduce building energy-use intensity.

The Biden Administration split several EERE programs into separate offices, listed below, and requested separate appropriations accounts for them.

- *State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)*, which provides two types of formula grants to states: weatherization grants for improving the energy efficiency of low-income housing units and state energy planning grants.
- *Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC)*, which provides support for increasing U.S. manufacturing capacity for critical energy technologies and for increasing industrial energy efficiency.
- *Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)*, which provides guidance and expertise to federal agencies to meet federal goals on energy use and emissions.

The Trump Administration is not requesting funding for SCEP and FEMP as separate offices in FY2026; it is, however, requesting \$15 million for MESC as a separate office. The House-passed bill does not include separate accounts for SCEP, FEMP, or MESC. A DOE reorganization on November 20, 2025, changed the name of EERE to the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation.

For more information, see CRS In Focus IF13118, *DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Appropriations, FY2026*, by Martin C. Offutt and Lexie Ryan.

## Electricity Delivery, Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Energy Reliability

The Office of Electricity (OE) “leads the Department of Energy’s research, development, and demonstration programs to strengthen and modernize our nation’s power grid so that our nation maintains a reliable, resilient, and secure electricity delivery infrastructure,” according to the OE website.<sup>78</sup>

OE uses a model of North American energy vulnerabilities for analyzing transmission and other energy infrastructure needs. Other activities include pursuing megawatt-scale electricity storage, integrating electric power system sensing technology, and analyzing electricity-related policy issues. A separate DOE Grid Deployment Office supports modernization of the nation’s electricity transmission system and critical generating facilities through planning and financial assistance.

The Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) is the federal government’s lead entity for energy sector-specific responses to energy security emergencies—

<sup>77</sup> DOE, *FY 2025 Congressional Justification*, vol. 4, March 2024, p. 15, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/doe-fy-2025-budget-vol-4-v5.pdf>.

<sup>78</sup> DOE Office of Electricity, “Mission,” <https://www.energy.gov/oe/office-electricity>.



whether caused by physical infrastructure problems or by cybersecurity issues. The office conducts R&D on energy infrastructure security technology; provides energy sector security guidelines, training, and technical assistance; and enhances energy sector emergency preparedness and response.

## **Nuclear Energy**

DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) supports R&D on technologies to improve the efficiency and economic viability of existing U.S. nuclear power plants, development and demonstration of advanced reactor technologies, and R&D on nuclear fuel cycle technologies. NE also supports growth of the U.S. nuclear fuel supply chain, including uranium mining, conversion to uranium hexafluoride, and enrichment.

The Reactor Concepts program area comprises research on advanced reactors, including advanced small modular reactors, and research to enhance the "sustainability" of existing commercial light water reactors. Advanced reactor research focuses on "Generation IV" reactors, as opposed to the existing fleet of commercial light water reactors, which are generally classified as Generations II and III.

The Fuel Cycle Research and Development program includes generic research on nuclear waste management and disposal. One of the program's primary activities is the development of technologies to separate the radioactive constituents of spent fuel for reuse or solidifying into stable waste forms. Other major research areas in the Fuel Cycle R&D program include the development of accident-tolerant fuels for existing commercial reactors, evaluation of fuel cycle options, and development of improved technologies to prevent diversion of nuclear materials for weapons. The program is also developing sources of high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU), in which uranium is enriched to between 5% and 20% in the fissile isotope U-235, for potential use in advanced reactors. HALEU would be required for several designs currently receiving cost-shared support by DOE's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program.

## **Fossil Energy**

The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) has historically supported research related to coal, natural gas, and petroleum,<sup>79</sup> including a major focus area on the development of carbon capture and storage technologies for use with coal-fired power plants. The office also supports operations at the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The Biden Administration changed the office's name to Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, reflecting a focus on development of carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies; hydrogen technologies; and options to reduce methane emissions from fossil fuel infrastructure. The Trump Administration's FY2026 request "restores the name and function of the Office of Fossil Energy to its original purpose, which is funding for the research of technologies that could produce an abundance of domestic fossil energy and critical minerals."<sup>80</sup> The House-passed bill would change the name of the account to Fossil Energy. A DOE reorganization on November 20, 2025, changed the name of FECM to the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office.

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<sup>79</sup> The Biden Administration renamed the Office of Fossil Energy as the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management in 2021. This name change was also adopted in recent E&W appropriations bills. See DOE, "Our New Name Is Also a New Vision," July 8, 2021, <https://www.energy.gov/fe/articles/our-new-name-also-new-vision>.

<sup>80</sup> DOE, *FY 2026 Congressional Justification, Vol. 4, Fossil Energy*, May 30, 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-vol-4-fe.pdf>.

Additionally, FE is involved in a number of programs funded by IIJA, either managing the programs directly or consulting with other DOE offices that have the lead management role. These programs include Regional Direct Air Capture Hubs; Carbon Storage Validation and Testing; Critical Materials Innovation, Efficiency, and Alternatives; and the Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (CIFIA).

FE's carbon capture research focuses on natural gas-fired power plants and applications outside the power sector, in line with congressional direction provided in the Energy Act of 2020 (Division Z of P.L. 116-260) and other recent laws. FE also conducts research on producing hydrogen from fossil fuels and using hydrogen in the power sector.

For more information, see CRS In Focus IF11861, *DOE's Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Removal Programs*, by Ashley J. Lawson.

## Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Authorized in 1975 by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163, as amended; 42 U.S.C. §§6201 et seq.), the SPR fulfills two statutory policy objectives: (1) reduce the economic impact of oil supply disruptions, and (2) carry out U.S. obligations under the Agreement on an International Energy Program (IEP)—a multilateral, voluntary agreement subject to international law. Currently, the SPR consists of a government-owned crude oil reserve in Texas and Louisiana.<sup>81</sup>

Since the SPR was established, various administrations have directed crude oil drawdowns and sales on four occasions in response to emergency oil supply disruptions. During FY2022 and FY2023, emergency SPR authorities addressed anticipated oil supply disruptions following Russia's military invasion of Ukraine. The Biden Administration sold approximately 180 million barrels between March 2022 and January 2023, the largest-ever emergency SPR release.<sup>82</sup> More frequently, DOE uses SPR authorities to exchange crude oil with refiners and traders following natural disasters (i.e., hurricanes) and other regional supply disruption events. From time to time, DOE also activates exchange authorities to temporarily store crude oil during low-price periods and provide additional supply during high-price periods.<sup>83</sup>

Because of limited utilization in response to emergency oil supply disruptions prior to the 2022 Ukraine war, growing U.S. crude oil production, and rapidly declining net petroleum imports—the basis for determining IEP emergency oil stock obligations—Congress began mandating SPR crude oil sales to pay for other legislative priorities. Between 2015 and 2021, Congress enacted eight laws mandating the sale of 358.6 million barrels of crude oil. Congress cancelled 140 million barrels of these mandated sales in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, by rescinding some proceeds from emergency sales in FY2022 and FY2023. Additionally, Congress required DOE to sell approximately \$1.4 billion of SPR crude oil to pay for an SPR

<sup>81</sup> Congress directed DOE to sell and close the 1-million-barrel Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve (NGSR) during FY2024 (P.L. 118-42, Section 308). DOE issued an NGSR notice of sale in May 2024 and awarded contracts to complete the sale in July 2024. DOE, "DOE Awards Contracts for the Sale of Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve as Americans Hit the Road for Summer Driving Season," July 2, 2024, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-awards-contracts-sale-northeast-gasoline-supply-reserve-americans-hit-road-summer>.

<sup>82</sup> CRS Insight IN11916, *Strategic Petroleum Reserve Oil Releases: October 2021 Through October 2022*, by Phillip Brown; DOE, "SPR Quick Facts," <https://www.energy.gov/ceser/spr-quick-facts>.

<sup>83</sup> For additional information about SPR releases, see DOE, *History of SPR Releases*, <https://www.energy.gov/fe/services/petroleum-reserves/strategic-petroleum-reserve/releasing-oil-spr>, accessed February 27, 2023.

modernization program.<sup>84</sup> A February 2025 DOE Secretarial Order includes “Refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve” as a department-level priority.

For additional information, see CRS Insight IN12542, *Strategic Petroleum Reserve: Inventory Outlook and Policy Considerations*, by Phillip Brown.

## Science

The DOE Office of Science conducts basic research in six program areas: advanced scientific computing research, basic energy sciences, biological and environmental research, fusion energy sciences, high-energy physics, and nuclear physics. According to DOE’s FY2026 budget justification, the Office of Science “is the nation’s largest Federal supporter of basic research in the physical sciences.”<sup>85</sup> DOE has a system of 17 national laboratories, mostly operated by contractors, around the country. Ten of these labs are overseen by the Office of Science.<sup>86</sup>

On November 20, 2025, DOE announced an organizational realignment that made several changes to the offices overseen by the Undersecretary for Science, which includes the Office of Science.<sup>87</sup> New offices within the responsibilities of the Undersecretary for Science include the Office of Fusion, the Office of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum, and the Office of Technology Commercialization (previously the Office of Technology Transfer under the Energy Secretary); other offices were eliminated.

DOE’s Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) program focuses on developing and maintaining computing and networking capabilities for science and research in computational science, applied mathematics, computer science, networking, and software research, as well as development and operation of multiple large, high-performance computing and networking user facilities. The program plays a key role in the DOE-wide effort to advance the development of artificial intelligence and quantum computing. Under the DOE reorganization discussed above, CRS is unable to determine whether the new Office of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum is to be responsible for future funding and programmatic activities related to AI and quantum currently undertaken by ASCR.

Basic Energy Sciences (BES), the largest program area in the Office of Science, focuses on fundamental research to understand, predict, and ultimately control matter and energy at the electronic, atomic, and molecular levels to provide the foundations for novel technologies critical to the DOE missions in energy, economic, and national security.<sup>88</sup> The program supports research in disciplines such as condensed matter and materials physics, chemistry, geosciences, and aspects of biosciences that establish the foundation of knowledge required to advance artificial intelligence, critical materials, microelectronics, and quantum information science. BES also provides funding for scientific user facilities (e.g., the National Synchrotron Light Source II, and the Linac Coherent Light Source-II) and certain DOE research centers and hubs (e.g., National

<sup>84</sup> For additional information about congressionally required SPR oil sales, see *Strategic Petroleum Reserve: Mandated and Modernization Sales*, by Phillip Brown, a congressional distribution memorandum available to congressional clients by request from the author.

<sup>85</sup> DOE, *FY2026 Congressional Justification: Budget in Brief*, p. 19, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-bib-v6.pdf>.

<sup>86</sup> CRS In Focus IF12692, *Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science*, by Todd Kuiken.

<sup>87</sup> DOE, “Energy Department Announces Organizational Realignment to Strengthen Efficiency and Unleash American Energy,” press release, November 20, 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-organizational-realignment-strengthen-efficiency-and-unleash>.

<sup>88</sup> DOE, *FY 2026 Congressional Justification: Budget in Brief*, May 2025, p. 20, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/doe-fy-2026-bib-v5.pdf>.

Quantum Information Science Research Centers and Energy Frontier Research Centers, as well as the Batteries and Energy Storage and Fuels from Sunlight Energy Innovation Hubs).

Biological and Environmental Research (BER) includes genomic science, biotechnology, imaging of biological systems, and related subjects. BER user facilities and centers include four Bioenergy Research Centers, the Environmental Molecular Science Laboratory at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and (proposed for termination in FY2026 as noted above) the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement User Facility.<sup>89</sup>

Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) seeks to increase understanding of the behavior of matter at very high temperatures and to establish the science needed to develop a fusion energy source. FES also provides funding for the ITER project, a multinational effort to design and build an experimental fusion reactor.<sup>90</sup> As part of its organizational realignment, DOE established a new Office of Fusion under the responsibilities of the Undersecretary for Science. CRS is unable to determine whether the new Office of Fusion is to be responsible for future funding and programmatic activities currently undertaken by FES.<sup>91</sup>

The High Energy Physics (HEP) program conducts research on the fundamental constituents of matter and energy, including studies of dark energy and the search for dark matter. Nuclear Physics supports research on the nature of matter, including its basic constituents and their interactions. A major project in the Nuclear Physics program is the construction of the Electron-Ion Collider at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY.

Two significant research efforts in the Office of Science cut across multiple program areas: quantum information science, which aims to use quantum physics to process information, and artificial intelligence and machine learning, which use computerized systems that work and react in ways commonly thought to require intelligence. As part of its organizational realignment, DOE established a new Office of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum under the Undersecretary for Science.<sup>92</sup> CRS is unable to determine whether the new Office of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum is to be responsible for future funding and programmatic activities previously held under other program areas in the Office of Science.

For more details, see CRS Report R48694, *Federal Research and Development (R&D) Funding: FY2026*, coordinated by Emily G. Blevins.

## Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E)

ARPA-E is a DOE office authorized by the America COMPETES Act (P.L. 110-69) to support transformational energy technology research projects “in areas where industry by itself is not likely to invest due to technical and financial uncertainty.”<sup>93</sup> According to DOE, since 2009

<sup>89</sup> For more information, see DOE Genomic Science Program, “Bioenergy Research Centers,” <https://www.genomicscience.energy.gov/bioenergy-research-centers>.

<sup>90</sup> The name “ITER” was derived from “international thermonuclear experimental reactor” but is referred to as the ITER Project by the international organization that is building it. See “What Is ITER?,” <https://www.iter.org/proj/inafewlines>. Also see CRS Report R48362, *ITER—An International Nuclear Fusion Research and Development Facility*, coordinated by Todd Kuiken.

<sup>91</sup> DOE, “Energy Department Announces Organizational Realignment to Strengthen Efficiency and Unleash American Energy,” press release, November 20, 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-organizational-realignment-strengthen-efficiency-and-unleash>.

<sup>92</sup> DOE, “Energy Department Announces Organizational Realignment to Strengthen Efficiency and Unleash American Energy,” press release, November 20, 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-organizational-realignment-strengthen-efficiency-and-unleash>.

<sup>93</sup> DOE, *FY 2026 Congressional Justification: Budget in Brief*, p. 41.

ARPA-E has provided \$4.21 billion in R&D funding to more than 1,700 projects, and 258 projects have attracted more than \$14.6 billion in follow-on funding from the private sector.<sup>94</sup>

## Clean Energy Demonstrations

DOE's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) funds cost-shared demonstrations of clean energy technologies, including "clean hydrogen, carbon management, industrial decarbonization, advanced nuclear reactors, long-duration energy storage, demonstration projects in rural or remote areas and on current and former mine land, and more."<sup>95</sup> OCED's portfolio includes the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (transferred from the Office of Nuclear Energy), which is funding two 50% cost-shared advanced reactor demonstrations in Wyoming and Texas. OCED also supports the regional Hydrogen Hubs established by IIJA to establish hydrogen supply chains for industrial, transportation, and other decarbonization uses. DOE's November 2025 reorganization eliminated OCED and divided its responsibilities among other offices.

## Loan Programs Office

DOE's Loan Programs Office (LPO) administers several authorized programs that provide loan guarantees and direct loans to eligible projects, including the following:

- Title 17 Incentives for Innovative Technologies (clean energy loan guarantees);
- Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (direct loans);
- Tribal Energy Financing (loan guarantees and direct loans); and
- Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (CIFIA) financing (loan guarantees and direct loans).

As with all federal credit programs, estimated costs to the federal government must be calculated for each approved project and paid for prior to financial closing. Commonly referred to as "credit subsidy costs," estimated costs are typically paid using congressionally appropriated funds, but in some cases can be wholly or partially paid by the project applicant. Most LPO programs have available appropriations for credit subsidy costs from previously enacted legislation. DOE's November 2025 reorganization renamed LPO the Office of Energy Dominance Financing.

## *Title 17 Incentives for Innovative Technologies*

Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) established the clean energy loan guarantee program by authorizing DOE to guarantee loans for projects located in the United States that (1) generally avoid or reduce air pollutants or greenhouse gas emissions, and (2) incorporate new or significantly improved technology. As amended at 42 U.S.C. §§16511 et seq., the original Title 17 program (Section 1703) includes an expanded list of eligible project categories as well as opportunities to guarantee loans for projects that employ commercially available technologies.

The IRA provided \$40 billion of new lending authority for Section 1703 and appropriated \$3.6 billion for credit subsidy and other program-related costs. The IRA also established a new loan guarantee authority (Section 1706) for "Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Financing" aimed at reducing emissions from operating energy infrastructure and through investments in energy

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<sup>94</sup> ARPA-E, "Impact," web page viewed November 3, 2025, <https://arpa-e.energy.gov/about/our-impact>.

<sup>95</sup> DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, "About Us," <https://www.energy.gov/oced/about-us>.



infrastructure that has ceased operations. Section 1706 lending authority is currently \$250.0 billion, and the IRA appropriated \$5 billion to pay for credit subsidy and related program costs. The FY2025 budget reconciliation measure expanded eligibility under Section 1706 to include financing “for enabling the identification, leasing, development, production, processing, transportation, transmission, refining, and generation needed for energy and critical minerals.”

The reconciliation measure extended lending authorities for Sections 1703 and 1706 to the end of FY2028. It also rescinded remaining unobligated appropriations and appropriated an additional \$1.000 billion to remain available through FY2028. For additional background about Title 17 and IRA amendments to the program, see CRS Insight IN11984, *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA): Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Programs*, by Phillip Brown.

### ***Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing***

Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140) established an incentive program for manufacturing advanced technology light-duty vehicles, including direct loans for qualified facilities in the United States that manufacture advanced technology vehicles, components for those vehicles, and engineering integration of qualifying vehicles and components. As amended at 42 U.S.C. §17013, advanced technology vehicles currently include medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, trains and locomotives, maritime vessels, aircraft, and hyperloop technology. The IRA appropriated \$3.000 billion to pay for the costs of providing ATVM direct loans. The IRA made the funds available until the end of FY2028. The FY2025 budget reconciliation measure repealed the ATVM changes made by the IRA and rescinded unobligated appropriations for the program.

### ***Tribal Energy Financing***

Section 2602 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-46), as amended by EPACT05 (P.L. 109-58), authorized DOE to provide loan guarantees for tribal energy development, including conventional and clean energy projects. As further amended at 25 U.S.C. §3502(d), borrowers are permitted to receive loan guarantees directly from the U.S. Treasury’s Federal Financing Bank. The IRA permanently increased lending authority for this program to \$20 billion and appropriated \$75 million to carry out the program. However, unobligated balances for the program were rescinded by the FY2025 budget reconciliation measure, P.L. 119-21. For more information, see CRS In Focus IF11793, *Indian Energy Programs at the Department of Energy*, by Corrie E. Clark, Mark Holt, and Lexie Ryan.

### ***Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (CIFIA) Financing***

Section 40304 of the IIJA (P.L. 117-58; as amended at 42 U.S.C. §16371) established the CIFIA program to provide grants and federal credit (i.e., direct loans or loan guarantees) for common carrier infrastructure projects or associated equipment that will transport carbon dioxide captured from anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions sources or from ambient air. LPO coordinates with FE to execute the CIFIA program. The IIJA appropriated \$2.1 billion for the CIFIA program.

### ***Energy Information Administration***

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) was established within DOE as the lead federal agency for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on U.S. and world energy supply and consumption. EIA data collection spans the energy system from supply and transport to



consumption. All energy sources are included in EIA's data and analysis products, though some (e.g., petroleum) are more detailed than others (e.g., renewables). Recent areas of congressional interest include improvements to EIA's computer models used to project U.S. energy supply and demand over time, and EIA's data collection related to energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings and by data centers.

## Nuclear Weapons Activities

In the absence of explosive testing of nuclear weapons, the United States has adopted a science-based program to maintain and sustain confidence in the reliability of the U.S. nuclear stockpile. Congress established the Stockpile Stewardship Program in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (P.L. 103-160). The goal of the program, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (P.L. 111-84, §3111), is to ensure “that the nuclear weapons stockpile is safe, secure, and reliable without the use of underground nuclear weapons testing.” The program is operated by NNSA, a semiautonomous agency within DOE established by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (P.L. 106-65, Title XXXII). NNSA implements the Stockpile Stewardship Program through the activities funded by the Weapons Activities account in the NNSA budget.

Most of NNSA's weapons activities take place at the nuclear weapons complex, which consists of three laboratories (Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, CA; and Sandia National Laboratories, NM and CA); four production sites (Kansas City National Security Campus, MO; Pantex Plant, TX; Savannah River Site, SC; and Y-12 National Security Complex, TN); and the Nevada National Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site). NNSA manages and sets policy for the weapons complex; contractors to NNSA operate the facilities. Radiological activities at these sites are subject to oversight and recommendations by the independent Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, funded by Title IV of the annual Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

NNSA's budget has four major Weapons Activities program areas:

- *Stockpile Management* supports work directly on nuclear weapons. These include life extension programs, warhead surveillance, maintenance, and other activities.
- *Production Modernization* programs focus on maintaining and expanding the production capabilities for the components of nuclear weapons that are critical to weapons performance. According to NNSA, these include primaries, canned subassemblies, radiation cases, and nonnuclear components.
- *Stockpile Research, Technology, and Engineering* provides the scientific and technical foundation for science-based stockpile decisions.
- *Infrastructure and Operations* maintains, operates, and modernizes the NNSA infrastructure. It supports construction of new facilities and funds deferred maintenance in older facilities.

Nuclear Weapons Activities also has several smaller programs, including the following:

- *Secure Transportation Asset*, providing for safe and secure transport of nuclear weapons, components, and materials;
- *Defense Nuclear Security*, providing operations, maintenance, and construction funds for protective forces, physical security systems, personnel security, and related activities; and

- *Information Technology and Cybersecurity*, whose elements include cybersecurity, secure enterprise computing, and Federal Unclassified Information Technology.

For more information, see CRS Report R48194, *The U.S. Nuclear Security Enterprise: Background and Possible Issues for Congress*, by Anya L. Fink.

## Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

DOE's nonproliferation and national security programs provide technical capabilities to support U.S. efforts to prevent, detect, and counter the spread of nuclear weapons worldwide. These programs are administered by NNSA's Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN).

- The Materials Management and Minimization program conducts activities to minimize and, where possible, eliminate stockpiles of weapons-useable material around the world, such as conversion of reactors that use highly enriched uranium (useable for weapons) to low-enriched uranium.
- Global Materials Security works to increase the security of vulnerable stockpiles of nuclear material in other countries; promotes the worldwide removal, reduction, and security of radioactive sources (typically used in medical and industrial devices); and improves the capability of other countries to halt illicit trafficking of nuclear materials.
- The Nonproliferation and Arms Control program conducts reviews of nuclear export applications and technology transfer authorizations, implements treaty obligations, and analyzes nonproliferation policies and proposals.
- Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development (DNN R&D) advances U.S. capabilities to detect and characterize threats such as foreign nuclear material and weapons production, diversion of special nuclear material, and nuclear detonations.
- The Nonproliferation Construction program disposes of excess U.S. weapons plutonium through a "dilute and dispose" strategy.

This account also includes the Nuclear Counterterrorism and Incident Response Program (NCTIR), which evaluates nuclear and radiological threats and develops emergency preparedness plans, including organizing scientific teams to provide rapid response to nuclear or radiological incidents or accidents worldwide.

For more information, see CRS Report R44413, *Energy and Water Development Appropriations for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation: In Brief*, by Mary Beth D. Nikitin.

## Cleanup of Former Nuclear Weapons Production and Research Sites

The development and production of nuclear weapons since the beginning of the Manhattan Project during World War II resulted in a waste and contamination legacy managed by DOE that continues to present substantial challenges.<sup>96</sup> DOE also manages legacy environmental

<sup>96</sup> As described by the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, "The Manhattan Project was a massive, top secret national mobilization of scientists, engineers, technicians, and military personnel charged with producing a deployable atomic weapon during World War II.... Coordinated by the US Army, Manhattan Project activities were located in numerous locations across the United States." The nuclear weapons activities begun by the Manhattan Project are now the responsibility of DOE. See National Park Service, Manhattan Project National Historical Park website, <https://www.nps.gov/mapr/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

contamination at sites used for nondefense nuclear research. In 1989, DOE established the Office of Environmental Management primarily to consolidate its responsibilities for the cleanup of former nuclear weapons production sites that had been administered under multiple offices.<sup>97</sup>

DOE has identified more than 100 separate sites in over 30 states that historically were involved in the production of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy research for civilian purposes.<sup>98</sup>

Responsibility for long-term stewardship at sites where remediation is complete or remedies are in place is transferred from EM to the separate DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) and other offices within DOE.<sup>99</sup> Some of the smaller sites for which DOE initially was responsible were transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers in 1997 under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Once USACE completes the cleanup of a FUSRAP site, it is transferred back to LM, which has its own DOE funding subaccount within Other Defense Activities.

### **Power Marketing Administrations**

DOE's four Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) were established to sell the power generated by various federal dams. The PMAs operate in 34 states; their assets consist primarily of transmission infrastructure in the form of more than 33,000 miles of high voltage transmission lines and 587 substations. PMA customers are responsible for repaying all power program expenses, plus the interest on capital projects. Since FY2011, power revenues associated with the PMAs have been classified as discretionary offsetting receipts (i.e., receipts that are available for spending by the PMAs), thus the agencies are sometimes noted as having a "net-zero" spending authority. Only the capital expenses of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA) are supported by appropriations from Congress.

### **Independent Agencies**

Independent agencies that receive funding in Title IV of the Energy and Water Development bill include NRC, ARC, and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. NRC receives the largest funding of these independent agencies. However, about 85% of NRC's budget is offset by fees, so the agency's net appropriation is less than a third of the total funding in Title IV. NRC and ARC are discussed in more detail below. Recent appropriations history, including action on FY2025 funding, for all the Title IV agencies is shown in **Table 12**. IJJA appropriations for ARC and other regional commissions and authorities are shown in **Table 13**.

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<sup>97</sup> In 1989, DOE created the Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, which later was renamed the Office of Environmental Management.

<sup>98</sup> For a list of active and completed sites, see the Office of Environmental Management "Cleanup Sites" web page and interactive map at <http://energy.gov/em/cleanup-sites>.

<sup>99</sup> The Office of Legacy Management administers the long-term stewardship of DOE sites that do not have a continuing mission once cleanup remedies are in place. Sites that have a continuing mission are transferred to the DOE offices that administer those missions, which are responsible for their long-term stewardship.

**Table 12. Independent Agencies Funded by Energy and Water Development Appropriations**

(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY2023 Approp</b>	<b>FY2024 Approp</b>	<b>FY2025 Request</b>	<b>FY2025 Approp</b>	<b>FY2026 Request</b>	<b>FY2026 House</b>	<b>S. 3293</b>
Appalachian Regional Commission	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	14.0	162.5	200.0
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)	927.2	944.1	974.9	944.1	971.5	971.5	971.5
(Revenues)	-790.2	-807.0	-823.9	-807.0	-819.4	-819.4	-819.4
Net NRC (including Inspector General)	137.0	137.1	151.0	137.1	152.1	152.1	152.1
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board	41.4	42.0	47.2	42.0	45.0	45.0	42.0
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
Denali Commission	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	7.2	13.8	20.0
Delta Regional Authority	30.1	31.1	30.1	31.1	4.0	25.3	31.1
Great Lakes Authority	—	5.0	5.0	5.0	—	4.1	5.0
Northern Border Regional Commission	40.0	41.0	40.0	41.0	3.4	33.3	46.0
Northwest Regional Commission	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.5
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	1.6	16.3	20.0
Southwest Border Regional Commission	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	—	4.1	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>494.4</b>	<b>502.3</b>	<b>519.4</b>	<b>502.3</b>	<b>231.3</b>	<b>460.4</b>	<b>530.7</b>

**Sources:** S. 3293 and draft report; H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213; FY2026 Administration budget request; P.L. 119-4; S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-580; FY2025 Administration budget request; explanatory statement for Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024; President's FY2024 budget; P.L. 117-328 and explanatory statement.

**Notes:** FY2026 requests for regional commissions and authorities are for closeout funds except for the Appalachian Regional Commission. Columns may not sum to totals because of rounding. NRC is required to collect annual fees equal to 100% of its appropriations, minus excluded activities. S. 3293 includes funding for a new regional commission (Northwest Regional Commission). As of the date of this report, the commission has not been authorized.

**Table 13. Additional Appropriations in IIJA for Regional Commissions and Authorities**

(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

<b>Regional Commission or Authority</b>	<b>IIJA FY2022 Approp</b>	<b>IIJA FY2023 Approp</b>	<b>IIJA FY2024 Approp</b>	<b>IIJA FY2025 Approp</b>	<b>IIJA FY2026 Approp</b>
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0
Delta Regional Authority (DRA)	150.0	—	—	—	—

Regional Commission or Authority	IIJA FY2022 Approp	IIJA FY2023 Approp	IIJA FY2024 Approp	IIJA FY2025 Approp	IIJA FY2026 Approp
Denali Commission	75.0	—	—	—	—
Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)	150.0	—	—	—	—
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC)	5.0	—	—	—	—
Southwest Border Regional Commission (SBRC)	1.3	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>581.3</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>

**Sources:** S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-126; S.Rept. 118-72; H.Rept. 117-394.

**Notes:** Funding for the federal regional commissions and authorities in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has varying periods of availability. Appropriations for ARC are available through FY2026, with \$200 million to be allocated each fiscal year starting in FY2022 and continuing through FY2026. Appropriations for the DRA, Denali Commission, NBRC, SCRC, and SBRC are available until expended.

## Appalachian Regional Commission

Established in 1965,<sup>100</sup> ARC is a regional economic development agency. It awards grants and contracts to state and local governments and nonprofit organizations to foster economic opportunities, improve workforce skills, build critical infrastructure, strengthen natural and cultural assets, and improve leadership skills and capacity in the region. ARC's authorizing statute defines the Appalachian Region as including all of West Virginia and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. More than 25 million people currently live in the region as defined.

ARC provides funding to several hundred projects each year, with particular focus on the region's most economically distressed counties. Major areas of infrastructure support include broadband communication systems, transportation, and water and wastewater systems. ARC has supported establishment of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS), a planned 3,000-mile system of highways that connect with the U.S. Interstate Highway System. According to ARC, as of FY2024, 92.1% of ADHS was "under construction or open to traffic."<sup>101</sup>

Since FY2016, Congress has directed ARC to set aside funding for the POWER Initiative (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization), which assists communities impacted by the decline of the coal industry. The House and Senate Appropriations Committee reports in FY2024 and FY2025 directed ARC to allocate \$65 million each year to the POWER Initiative, and the FY2026 House Appropriations Committee report directed an allocation of \$49 million. The FY2026 Senate draft report calls for an allocation of \$65 million for the POWER Initiative. The POWER Initiative funds a variety of economic, workforce, and

<sup>100</sup> Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, P.L. 89-4.

<sup>101</sup> ARC, "Appalachian Development Highway System," <https://www.arc.gov/appalachian-development-highway-system>. Appropriations for the Appalachian Highway Development System are provided separately from the appropriations provided for the programs and expenses of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

community development projects to stabilize and stimulate economic activity in affected communities.<sup>102</sup>

For more background on ARC and other regional commissions and authorities, see CRS Report R45997, *Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Structural Features and Function*, by Julie M. Lawhorn, and CRS In Focus IF11140, *Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Overview of Structure and Activities*, by Julie M. Lawhorn. For more background on the POWER Initiative, see CRS Report R46015, *The POWER Initiative: Energy Transition as Economic Development*, by Julie M. Lawhorn.

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NRC is an independent agency that establishes and enforces safety and security standards for nuclear power plants and users of nuclear materials. Major appropriations and budget request categories for NRC are shown in **Table 14**. Nuclear Reactor Safety is NRC’s largest program and is responsible for licensing and regulating the 94 power reactors in the United States. NRC is also responsible for licensing and regulating nuclear waste facilities, such as the proposed underground nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, NV (which has received no new appropriations since FY2010).

NRC is required by law to offset its total annual appropriation, excluding specified items, through fees charged to nuclear reactor owners and other holders of NRC licenses. NRC does not retain the fee revenue, but instead sends it to the U.S. Treasury. Budget items excluded from fee recovery include prior-year balances, development of advanced reactor regulations, international activities, and non-site-specific homeland security. As a result, NRC’s net appropriation is about 15% of the agency’s total budget.

**Table 14. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Funding Categories**

(budget authority in millions of nominal dollars)

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>FY2022 Approp</b>	<b>FY2023 Approp</b>	<b>FY2024 Approp</b>	<b>FY2025 Approp</b>	<b>FY2026 Request</b>	<b>FY2026 H. Com.</b>	<b>S. 3293 Draft Report</b>
Nuclear Reactor Safety	477.4	490.7	522.0	484.9	502.3	502.3	502.3
Nuclear Materials and Waste Safety	107.3	111.6	124.2	117.2	113.5	113.5	113.5
Decommissioning and Low-Level Waste	22.9	23.9	26.5	24.7	27.9	27.9	27.9
Corporate Support	266.3	285.3	301.6	301.6	309.0	309.0	309.0
Integrated University Program	16.0	16.0	16.0	—	—	—	—
Prior-Year Balances	-16.0	-16.0	—	—	—	—	—
Inspector General	13.8	15.8	15.8	15.8	18.8	18.8	18.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>887.7</b>	<b>927.2</b>	<b>1,006.1</b>	<b>944.1</b>	<b>971.5</b>	<b>971.5</b>	<b>971.5</b>
Carryover	—	—	-62.0	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Minus Carryover</b>	<b>887.7</b>	<b>927.2</b>	<b>944.1</b>	<b>944.1</b>	<b>971.5</b>	<b>971.5</b>	<b>971.5</b>

<sup>102</sup> For more information, see ARC, “Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization,” <https://www.arc.gov/grants-and-opportunities/power/>.



**Sources:** S. 3293 and draft report; H.R. 4553; H.Rept. 119-213; FY2026 Administration budget request; P.L. 119-4; S.Rept. 118-205; H.Rept. 118-580; FY2025 Administration budget request; explanatory statement for Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024; Nuclear Regulatory Commission FY2024 congressional budget justification; P.L. 117-328 and explanatory statement.

**Notes:** Fee offsets and some adjustments are excluded (see **Table 12**). Prior-Year Balances moved to Carryover in FY2024.

## Congressional Hearings

The following hearings were held by the Energy and Water Development subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on the FY2026 budget request. Testimony and opening statements are posted on most of the web pages cited for each hearing, along with webcasts in many cases.

### House

- *Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation*, May 21, 2025, <https://appropriations.house.gov/schedule/hearings/fiscal-year-2026-budget-requests-army-corps-engineers-civil-works-and-bureau>
- *Department of Energy*, May 7, 2025, <https://appropriations.house.gov/schedule/hearings/budget-hearing-us-department-energy>

### Senate

- *Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation*, June 11, 2025, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2026-budget-request-for-the-army-corps-of-engineers-and-the-bureau-of-reclamation>
- *Department of Energy*, May 21, 2025, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2026-budget-request-for-the-department-of-energy>

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