

# *House Appropriations Committee*

*Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen*

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

## **Minibus #1 Summary: The Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report – Division A**

*Bill prioritizes safeguarding national security and the U.S. nuclear arsenal, and improving critical infrastructure*

The Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill portion of the first minibus totals \$44.64 billion – \$1.44 billion above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$8.1 billion above the President’s budget request. Funding is targeted toward national security efforts – including nuclear weapons activities – and energy and water resources infrastructure investments. This level is in line with the overall discretionary caps put in place through the two-year budget cap agreement.

This legislation will provide the resources to ensure America has the strongest possible nuclear deterrence strategy, which is critically important during this time of rapidly changing global dynamics and emerging threats. It also makes important investments in our water and energy infrastructure that will help our economy continue to grow and provide a platform on which our businesses, industries, and communities can thrive.

### **Bill Highlights:**

**Nuclear Security** – To address our national security needs and meet emerging threats from around the globe, the bill provides a total of \$15.23 billion for the Department of Energy’s (DOE) nuclear weapons security programs, including Weapons Activities, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, and Naval Reactors – a \$560 million increase above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$138 million above the President’s budget request. This funding will maintain the safety and readiness of our weapons stockpile and allow the U.S. to meet any nuclear threat. This includes:

- \$11.1 billion for Weapons Activities – \$458 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. This amount includes \$1.07 billion, \$168 million above the request, to address the backlog of deferred maintenance at aging nuclear weapons facilities and \$65 million for a low-yield variant of the W76 warhead to enhance the credibility of our nuclear deterrent, as outlined in the Administration’s Nuclear Posture Review.
- \$1.79 billion for Naval Nuclear Reactors – \$169 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level – including funds for the Columbia-Class Ballistic Missile Submarine and for the nuclear spent fuel infrastructure needed to defuel the Navy’s aircraft carriers and submarines.

**Energy Infrastructure Security** – The bill makes targeted investments to protect our nation’s energy infrastructure against cyber and other attacks. Within this funding, \$120 million – \$24 million above the fiscal year 2018 level – is directed to research and development activities to strengthen the security of our electric grid. To support these activities further, the bill adopts the Administration’s budget proposal to create a new account, “Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response.”

**Army Corps of Engineers** – The Army Corps of Engineers is funded at \$7 billion, an increase of \$172 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level, which will provide a much needed influx of funds into the nation’s water resources infrastructure. The bill focuses funding on activities that will have an immediate impact on public safety, job creation, and economic growth, including those that help increase the functionality of our ports and waterways. For example, the bill provides:

- \$3.2 billion for navigation projects and studies, including \$1.55 billion in funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, an increase of \$150 million above fiscal year 2018, and full use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, to help advance American competitiveness and export ability; and
- \$2 billion to support public health and safety by funding flood and storm damage reduction activities.

**Environmental Cleanup** – Included in the legislation is \$7.2 billion for environmental management activities, \$53 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$578 million above the President’s budget request. This includes \$6 billion for Defense Environmental Cleanup to safely cleanup sites contaminated by previous nuclear weapons production at Hanford, Savannah River, Oak Ridge, Idaho, and other DOE sites.

**Energy Programs** – Funding for energy programs within DOE is \$13.5 billion – an increase of \$554 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. This funding is targeted to encourage U.S. economic competitiveness and help advance the nation’s goal of an “all-of-the-above” solution to energy independence.

Research and development to advance coal, natural gas, oil, and other fossil energy technologies, which will help the country make greater use of our rich natural energy resources and help keep down energy costs, are funded at \$740 million – an increase of \$13 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

In addition, to promote innovation and growth in nuclear energy, research, development, and demonstration activities are funded at \$1.2 billion – \$108 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

**Science Research** – The bill includes \$6.6 billion for science research – an increase of \$325 million above the 2018 enacted level. This funding supports basic energy research, the development of high-performance computing systems, and research into the next generation of energy sources. These investments lay the groundwork for a more secure energy future, helping to reduce the nation’s dependence on foreign oil and ensuring continued economic growth.

**Bureau of Reclamation** – The legislation contains \$1.57 billion – \$85 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level – for the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation to help manage, develop, and protect the water resources of Western states. The bill includes \$134 million for water storage projects authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.

**Other policy items:**

- The bill restricts the application of the Clean Water Act in certain agricultural areas, including farm ponds and irrigation ditches.

- The bill includes language prohibiting new nuclear nonproliferation projects in Russia without certain notifications from the Secretary of Energy.
- The conference report includes language expressing Congressional concerns with judicial interference in the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System hydroelectric dams.

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