

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: U.S. Senate DUE: 05/31/00 EDO CONTROL: G20000255  
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FINAL REPLY:

TO: NRC

FOR SIGNATURE OF : \*\* PRI \*\* CRC NO:  
Chairman

DESC: S. 2549 -- National Defense Authorization Act for  
Fiscal Year 2001 ROUTING:  
Travers  
Paperiello  
Miraglia  
Norry  
Blaha  
Burns  
Cyr, OGC  
Rathbun, OCA

DATE: 05/22/00  
ASSIGNED TO: NMSS CONTACT: Kane

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Calendar No. 543

106TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
106-292 }

H.R.  
4205

**NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001**

**REPORT**

[TO ACCOMPANY S. 2549]

ON

(AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001 FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AND FOR DEFENSE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, TO PRESCRIBE PERSONNEL STRENGTHS FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR FOR THE ARMED FORCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES )

TOGETHER WITH

ADDITIONAL AND MINORITY VIEWS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
UNITED STATES SENATE



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The committee remains concerned that the Department is moving too slowly in re-establishing pit manufacturing and tritium production capabilities. The committee further notes that the Department has not established any long-term requirements or plans for modernization of its aging weapon production plants.

In the area of environmental management, the DOE continues to make progress in focusing its resources on closure of a limited number of sites and facilities. However, the committee remains concerned that the request for science and technology development continues to decline, despite the Department's increased reliance on the application of innovative technologies at cleanup sites. The committee notes that the fiscal year 2001 request for technology development is the lowest in over eight years. The committee believes that a vigorous research and development program must be maintained if the Department is to meet its accelerated cleanup and closure goals.

The committee remains deeply concerned with proposals to establish a new, external regulation regime for DOE defense nuclear facilities. The committee does not support such efforts. The committee notes that the only DOE defense facility to be placed under regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) required almost \$500.0 million and three years to establish a new licencing process. The committee believes that placing additional DOE facilities under NRC regulation would not be beneficial or cost-effective. Such moves would waste scarce cleanup funds and jeopardize the pace of cleanup at DOE facilities. The committee believes that the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) continues to provide comparable, independent safety oversight for all DOE defense nuclear facilities with an annual budget of less than \$20.0 million a year.

#### **Explanation of funding summary**

The administration's budget request for the national defense function of the federal budget for fiscal year 2001 was \$305.3 billion, of which \$305.3 billion was for programs that require specific funding authorization.

The following table summarizes both the direct authorizations and equivalent budget authority levels for fiscal year 2001 defense programs. The columns relating to the authorization request do not include funding for the following items: military personnel funding; military construction authorizations provided in prior years; and other small portions of the defense budget that are not within the jurisdiction of this committee or that do not require an annual authorization. As explained above, funding for military personnel is included in the amounts authorized by the committee, but not in the total funding requested for authorization.

Funding for all programs in the national defense function is reflected in the columns related to the budget authority request and the total budget authority implication of the authorizations in this bill. The committee recommends funding for national defense programs totaling \$309.8 billion in budget authority, which is consistent with the fiscal year 2001 budget resolution.