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MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2000, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

The conference agreement appropriates \$4,484,349,000 for Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management instead of \$4,157,758,000 as proposed by the House and \$4,551,676,000 as proposed by the Senate. Additional funding of \$1,064,492,000 is contained in the Defense Facilities Closure Projects account and \$189,000,000 in the Defense Environmental Management Privatization account for a total of \$5,737,841,000 provided for all defense environmental management activities.

In the event that the conference agreement requires a general reduction of available funding, such reductions shall be applied to the lowest priority projects and activities at each site in order to preserve critical program activities.

The conference agreement does not include statutory language proposed by the Senate earmarking funds for a project in Idaho.

Site/Project Completion.--The conference agreement provides an additional \$10,000,000 to address funding shortfalls at the Hanford site in Richland, Washington.

Post 2006 Completion.--The conference agreement includes an additional \$10,000,000 for spent fuel activities related to the Idaho Settlement Agreement; \$13,000,000 to maintain schedules required by revised compliance agreements with the State of Washington; and \$10,000,000 to support high level waste removal activities at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).--The conferees have included statutory language that would enable the Department to use funds otherwise available to the State of New Mexico to meet any bonding requirements that the State may impose on the operations of WIPP. The inclusion of such a provision should not be taken as a precedent. To the contrary, should such a requirement be imposed on the operation of WIPP, the conferees will recommend a statutory prohibition on such requirements.

The Department of Energy should review the role of the Environmental Evaluation Group to determine whether it is necessary to continue this oversight group now that WIPP has opened.

Health effects studies.--No funds are provided for health effects studies in the Environmental Management program. All funding for health effects studies is included in the Environment, Safety and Health (Defense) program.

Science and Technology Development.--The conference agreement provides \$230,500,000 for the technology development program, the same as the budget request. The Department is directed to provide



H.R.2605

Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2000 (Enrolled Bill (Sent to President))

Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental restoration and waste management activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion; and the purchase of 35 passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, \$4,484,349,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any amounts appropriated under this heading that are used to provide economic assistance under section 15 of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act (Public Law 102-579) shall be utilized to the extent necessary to reimburse costs of financial assurances required of a contractor by any permit or license of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant issued by the State of New Mexico.