110TH CONGRESS

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT 110-185

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008

JUNE 11, 2007.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. VISCLOSKY, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

REPORT

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 2641]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

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ditional funding to restore the baseline Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) PED funding that was reprogrammed in fiscal year 2007 to fund other purposes by the NNSA. The Committee supports the facility and material consolidation activities at the Y-12 Plant.

Project 04-D-125, Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Facility Replacement (CMRR), LANL.—The recommendation provides no funds for the CMRR project, a decrease of \$95,586,000 from the budget request. The Committee direction halts the construction activity at the CMRR facility. Proceeding with the CMRR project as currently designed will strongly prejudice any nuclear complex transformation plan. The CMRR facility has no coherent mission to justify it unless the decision is made to begin an aggressive new nuclear warhead design and pit production mission at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The NNSA is directed to develop a long-term plan to maintain the nation's nuclear stockpile requirements that does not assume an a priori case for the current program. Production capabilities proposed in the CMRR should be located at the future production sites identified in a detailed complex transformation plan that supports the long-term stockpile requirements. The Committee is concerned the NNSA is proceeding with large expenditures for this project while there are significant unresolved issues, and recommends the fiscal year 2007 funding be held in reserve. Although the NNSA claims the Nuclear Facility Phase 3 of the project is under review, the Committee notes the Laboratory excavated 90,000 cubic yards of soil at the construction site where the CMRR Phase 3 Nuclear Facility is proposed to be built. The Committee also notes the Department's CMRR acquisition strategy combines Critical Decision 2 (approval of performance baseline) and Critical Decision 3 (approval to start construction) under DOE Order 413.3A on project management. The Committee does not support construction projects that fail to strictly adhere to DOE Order 413.3 requirements by abbreviating the process.

Project 04–D–128, TA–18 mission relocation project, Los Alamos

National Laboratory.—The Committee recommends \$14,455,000, a decrease of \$15,000,000 from the budget request. The Department of Energy's Inspector General conducted an audit on the NNSA's ability to maintain capability of the TA-18 mission to conduct nuclear criticality experiments during the transfer of the special nuclear materials from the TA-18 facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory to the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) at the Nevada Test Site. Although the NNSA goal was to restore interim criticality operations as early as 2005, the current NNSA plan delays transfer and reestablishment of capability at DAF until 2010 at the earliest. The Department recognized the security requirement to remove the SNM from TA-18 in 1999; however, according to the DOE IG, it will now take over a decade for the NNSA to complete the relocation of the criticality experiments mission. While the Committee is disappointed at the failure of the NNSA and Los Alamos National Laboratory to complete the SNM consolidation activity, the funding reduction reflects the schedule slip and reallocation of funding for higher priorities.