

Budget Highlights for Los Alamos National Lab Two-Thirds of Funding Is for Nuclear Weapons

	(appropriated) (Dollars in 1,000s) FY 2005	(requested) ¹ FY 2006	Percentage of FY 2005 Total
Total LANL Budget²	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	100%
Total Department of Energy (DOE) funding	1,803,215	1,832,192	85.9
Nuclear Weapons Programs³	1,415,191	1,351,846	67.4
Directed Stockpile Work ⁴	208,953	241,049	10
Campaigns ⁵	536,179	461,859	25.5
Plutonium Pit Campaign ⁶	191,306	181,419	9.1
Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities ⁷	416,707	416,405	19.8
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	140,325	219,155 ⁸	6.7
Science ⁹	64,874	57,049	3.1
Soil and Water Environmental Restoration	76,104	99,408 ¹⁰	3.6
Renewable Energy Technologies	0	0	0
Global Climate Change Research –no distinct line item in LANL’s budget.			0

Note: The State “Operating Budget” for all of New Mexico is approximately \$4.8 billion, while total DOE spending in New Mexico (includes the Sandia Lab and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant) is \$4.11 billion in FY 2005. Total DOE spending in New Mexico for FY 2005 is 70% for nuclear weapons programs.

Source: FY 2006 DOE Congressional Budget Request.

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¹ These are the amounts that the Department of Energy (DOE) requested Congress to appropriate for FY 2006, which begins October 1, 2005. Congress can meet that request or add or subtract. Another uncertainty is supplemental appropriations, which have been used in the past to boost LANL’s plutonium pit production.

² The May 19, 2005 “Request for Proposals” for the Lab’s management contract by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) states that LANL’s annual budget is “approximately 2.1 billion.” The NNSA is a semi-autonomous nuclear weapons agency within DOE and is LANL’s “landlord.” The Lab’s funding that remains after subtracting all DOE funding from the total LANL budget is for “Work for Others”, such as the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, NASA, and the FBI.

³ Known as “Total Weapons Activities” in the NNSA budget. Divide \$1.4 billion (nuclear weapons) by \$2.1 billion (Lab total) to arrive at the fact that **two-thirds of LANL’s budget is for nuclear weapons.**

⁴ “Directed Stockpile Work” is nuclear weapons maintenance, refurbishments, major modifications (such as the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator) and possible new designs, to be increased 11.2% for FY 2006.

⁵ Campaigns are multi-year, multi-functional programs whose purpose is to provide specialized knowledge and technical support to Directed Stockpile Work. LANL’s decrease in FY 2006 for Campaigns, and hence for its nuclear weapons budget as a whole, is attributable to its advanced computing campaign being reduced after the Lab completed the installation of an expensive supercomputer last year.

⁶ Plutonium pits are the “triggers” for modern thermonuclear weapons, formerly produced at the Rocky Flats Plant. LANL is currently planning to raise future pit production at the Lab from 20 pits per year to 40.

⁷ “Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities” is the budget category for facility operating costs and some major construction costs, such as LANL’s new \$838 million “design-build” advanced plutonium lab.

⁸ Nuclear Watch is encouraged by the dramatic increase in FY 2006 for nonproliferation funding. However, we have two concerns: 1) 30% of the increase is for research into fueling commercial nuclear reactors with weapons plutonium, which could encourage proliferation; and 2) nonproliferation funding is still only 20% that of the Lab’s nuclear weapons programs, which arguably also encourage proliferation.

⁹ “Science” includes High Energy and Nuclear Physics, Basic Energy, Fusion and Biological Sciences and Advanced Computing Research.

¹⁰ Significant increase due to the NM Environment Department’s Corrective Action Order against LANL.