

!!Your Handy-Dandy Guide to Tracking the DOE Nuclear Weapons Budget!!

*This Year the Nuclear Weapons Budget was the Second Highest Ever!
Watch it Break All Records in Fiscal Year 2005.*

Tools required:

Computer, broad-band hookup (highly desirable), printer, 3-ring binders, 3-hole paper, simple calculator, highlighter, and small stickies (for tabs).

Skills required:

If you can track your checking account, you can track the DOE budget.

Practical tips:

Use key word searches, create quick reference crib sheet by page number. Use the "Lab Tables" (see below) as the handy-dandy official reference for both overall numbers and site-specific numbers for all DOE programs (environmental management, weapons, nonproliferation, etc.).



Where does it go...?

Background:

To date, the U.S. govt. has spent more than \$6 trillion on nuclear weapons (mostly DoD). The FY 2004 (FY04) DOE request for core nuclear weapons programs (\$6.38 billion) is the second highest ever (exceeded by only \$50 million in the peak Reagan year), and is 54% higher the Cold War Average!

How to:

On the big day, the DOE budget rollout day, the budget will typically be online the second Tuesday of February. Go to www.energy.gov, which will have a link to the budget page. Click and download on the programs budget that you want. All docs will be in PDF (portable document format), for which you must have Adobe Acrobat installed (available for free at www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html and simply follow the instructions).

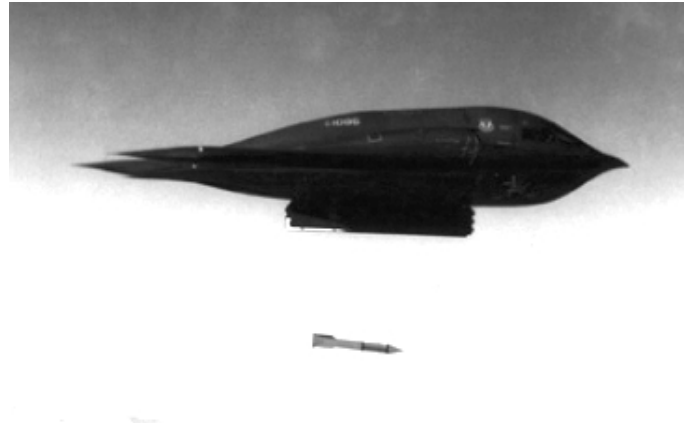
On the DOE budget web page you should look at "Budget Highlights," but generally that document is propaganda that the DOE is trying to sell to Congress. Definitely download the "Summary Table," which will give overall figures for DOE programs. For example, for the FY04 request it immediately gave you the right to tell reporters that the nuclear weapons program had increased nationally by 9.1%. It also gave you two previous years of actual appropriations (versus requests), which was very handy for making annual comparisons. The "Laboratory Tables" were also essential, as they were the best single reference for site-specific information. They will be the best single quick reference for site-specific information. The Tables gave you the previous two years of actual appropriations for your site, which enabled you to say, for example, that weapons increased at LANL in FY04 by 13.6%.

A brief digression on simple math: The Tables won't give you percentages like the Summary Table does, but it is still a simple math function to figure that out. Let's say that some program went from \$10 to \$11. To find the % of increase, subtract 10 from 11, which = 1. Then divide 1 by 10 which = 0.10, or 10%. In the case of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) weapons activities, the FY03 appropriations for "Total Weapons Activities" was \$1.156 billion. The FY04 request is \$1.313 billion. The difference between the two is \$.157 billion. Divide that by \$1.156 billion and you have 13.6%. Not bad for one year at LANL. Reporters seem to love percentages.

Let's get down to the nuclear weapons budget: At the DOE budget web page you will find the budget for the "National Nuclear Security Administration" (NNSA) (see web page handout). What you want to download is National Nuclear Security Administration, and under that Weapons Activities, Directed Stockpile Work, Campaigns, Readiness in Technical base and Facilities, and Other Weapons Activities. Please note that there are other NNSA categories that are very important, such as Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (in which are embedded the Mixed Oxide Fuels programs), but are not the subject of this handy-dandy guide.

Having said that you want to download National Nuclear Security Administration, it is not really that important (it is mostly NNSA administrative stuff), but it will provide you with a "Weapons Accounts Summary." Additionally, Other Weapons Activities is also not that crucial (relatively speaking), as it pertains to security and secure transportation. But we are now getting down to the meat of nuclear weapons programs.

Directed Stockpile Work (DSW): This is where the rubber hit the road. This is the budget category under which the current refurbishments, advanced modifications and possible new-designs are occurring. This is where you will find such things as the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator and "Advanced Concepts." There are four subcategories under DSW: Stockpile Research and Development, Stockpile Maintenance, Stockpile Evaluation, and Dismantlement. The DOE FY04 request asks for 433.1, 405.7, 202.8, and 37.7 million dollars respectively (emphasis on the low figure for dismantlement), for a total of \$1.365 billion. You want to mine the DSW category through careful reading and/or word searches for all that it is worth.



Where did they get the money to do that?

A B2 "Stealth" bomber drops B61-11 nuclear earth penetrator during tests

Campaigns: Campaigns are difficult to succinctly describe, but as the NNSA puts it they "are multi-year, multi-functional efforts involving, to varying degrees, every site in the nuclear weapons complex." There are 18 campaigns that are unequally divided into six categories: Science Campaigns (such as Primary Certification and Advanced Radiography), Engineering Campaigns (e.g., advanced design and production), Inertial Confinement Fusion Ignition (ICF), the Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative Campaign, Pit Manufacturing and Certification, and Readiness Campaigns (e.g., high explosives manufacturing and tritium "readiness"). Obviously, different campaigns will affect different sites to different degrees, but they are very important to look at and understand. For example, the National Ignition Facility falls under the ICF Campaign and the Modern Pit Facility falls under the Pit Manufacturing Campaign. The FY04 request for all campaigns was \$2.395 billion, so it is by far the single biggest category. Also, go here for some construction projects (generally the bigger ticket items), but the majority of construction projects will still be in the category below.

Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities (RTBF): As the NNSA puts it, RTBF "provides the physical and operational infrastructure at the eight NNSA sites, the three national weapons laboratories, four production sites, and the Nevada Test Site... Within Weapons Activities, the RTBF direct funding accounts for over twenty five percent of the total annual budget." The FY04 request for RTBF is \$1.38 billion. Look here for the cost of testing readiness at the Nevada Test Site, the operational costs of facilities across the complex and the rest of new construction projects.

"We hope that you have enjoyed your tour of the NNSA Total Weapons Activities Budget as much as we have. Please join us again." Better yet, now that you know how to do it, be prepared to battle with the DOE on budget rollout day. Remind the Nation that money talks, B.S. walks, when it comes to this country's future directions. Note that under "Future-Years Nuclear Security Program" the NNSA plans on having its total weapons budget further rise to \$7.5 billion by FY08 (almost double the Cold War average).

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