

Future Liabilities

Future Liabilities

Energy Supply Office of Future Liabilities

Overview

Appropriation Summary by Program

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2003 Comparable Appropriation	FY 2004 Original Appropriation	FY 2004 Adjustments	FY 2004 Comparable Appropriation	FY 2005 Request
Energy Supply (Future Liabilities)					
Future Liabilities	0	0	0	0	3,000
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Total, Energy Supply (Future Liabilities).....	0	0	0	0	3,000
Other Defense Activities (Future Liabilities)					
Future Liabilities	0	0	0	0	5,000
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Total, Other Defense Activities (Future Liabilities).....	0	0	0	0	5,000
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Total, Energy Supply and Other Defense Activities (Future Liabilities).....	0	0	0	0	8,000
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Preface

The Department of Energy will establish a new organizational element, the Office of Future Liabilities, to fund and manage environmental liabilities not assigned to the Office of Environmental Management or other organizations within the Department. These needs are expected to grow substantially due to the backlog of environmental liabilities at active DOE sites. It will also assume responsibility for long-term disposal of civilian-used radioactive sealed sources, or “Greater-Than-Class-C” wastes.

Within the Energy Supply appropriation, the Future Liabilities program has one program: the Greater-Than-Class-C Waste Disposal program. The other portion of the Office is proposed for funding from the Other Defense Activities appropriation.

This Overview will describe Strategic Context, Mission, Benefits, and Significant Program Shifts. These items together put this appropriation in perspective.

Strategic Context

Following publication of the Administration's National Energy Policy, the Department developed a Strategic Plan that defines its mission, four strategic goals for accomplishing that mission, and seven general goals to support the strategic goals. As stated in the Departmental Strategic Plan, DOE's Strategic and General Goals will be accomplished not only through the efforts of the major program offices in the Department but with additional effort from offices which support the programs in carrying out the mission. The Office of Future Liabilities will perform critical functions which directly support the mission of the Department. These functions include planning and providing for disposition of civilian-used radioactive sealed sources, or "Greater-Than-Class-C" materials, and the cleanup of facilities and materials which are excess to the current program missions at active sites, enabling the Environmental Management program to complete its current cleanup scope and other Departmental programs to focus on their primary missions.

In FY 2005, the National Nuclear Security Administration's Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program will assume responsibility for the collection and storage of "Greater-Than-Class-C" wastes. Management of this activity will be transferred from the Environmental Management program and expanded to aggressively address the potential domestic proliferation threat these radioactive sources could pose. However, no organization is currently responsible for disposal of the wastes, including identifying and selecting a disposal pathway, and managing disposal. The new Office of Future Liabilities will assume responsibility for the long-term disposal of this excess material. This is consistent with its other activities, which are focused on addressing excess facilities and nuclear materials and other environmental issues that are outside of the Environmental Management program's responsibility.

Mission

The mission of the Office of Future Liabilities is to address environmental liabilities at sites with continuing missions, which may include: the decontamination and decommissioning of facilities, cleanup of contaminated media, disposition of excess nuclear and hazardous materials and management of waste treatment and disposal facilities.

The mission includes policy management and funding responsibility for the Department "Greater-Than-Class-C" program to address civilian-used radioactive sealed sources currently stored by the Department and other wastes that have radioactive properties for which there is currently not a facility to dispose of them or other disposition pathway.

As stated in the Departmental Strategic Plan, DOE's Strategic and General Goals will be accomplished not only through the efforts of the major program offices in the Department but with additional effort from offices which support the programs in carrying out the mission. Future Liabilities performs critical functions which directly support the mission of the Department. These functions include the cleanup at active sites of facilities and materials which are excess to the current missions, enabling the Environmental Management program to complete its current cleanup scope and other Departmental programs to focus on their primary missions; and planning and providing for disposition of civilian-used radioactive sealed sources.

Benefits

With the establishment of the new Future Liabilities organization, the Environmental Management program will remain focused on completing their current scope. In addition, with this new organization completing the cleanup of future environmental liabilities, the sites with current programs will retain a strong focus on their missions of national nuclear security and science and energy technology.

The Office of Future Liabilities will also provide an organizational focus to establish a disposition pathway for civilian-used radioactive sealed sources. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2003, there have been significant concerns raised about control and management of these sealed radioactive sources, which are used in medicine, agriculture, research and industry throughout the United States, because of the potential for their misuse, including their use in making a “dirty bomb.” The Office of Future Liabilities will manage the Greater-than-Class-C program and develop a disposal pathway for this radioactive waste that will ensure the waste is managed safely and securely. Assignment of responsibility to the new organization will focus resources on the identification and development of safe and secure disposal for the materials.

Significant Program Shifts

The activities proposed for the Office of Future Liabilities in FY 2005 will address liabilities that were previously unassigned or are not being addressed because they are not aligned with the core mission of other Department programs and, as such, represent new Departmental activities.

Energy Supply Office of Future Liabilities

Funding by Site

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	\$ Change	% Change
Washington Headquarters.....	0	0	3,000	+3,000	0.0%
Total, Energy Supply (Future Liabilities).....	0	0	3,000	+3,000	0.0%

Site Description

Washington Headquarters

Activities include program planning and completion of the Environmental Impact Statement that is currently being conducted by the Office of Environment, Safety and Health. These initial organizational and planning activities will be managed through Headquarters.

Future Liabilities

Funding Profile by Subprogram

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2003 Comparable Appropriation	FY 2004 Original Appropriation	FY 2004 Adjustments	FY 2004 Comparable Appropriation	FY 2005 Request
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Future Liabilities

Greater-Than-Class-C waste disposition.....	0	0	0	0	3,000
Total, Future Liabilities.....	0	0	0	0	3,000

Public Law Authorizations:

Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-240)

Mission

The mission of the Office of Future Liabilities is to address environmental liabilities at sites with continuing missions, which may include: the decontamination and decommissioning of facilities, cleanup of contaminated media, disposition of excess nuclear and hazardous materials and management of waste treatment and disposal facilities.

The mission includes policy management and funding responsibility for the Department “Greater-Than-Class-C” program to address civilian-used radioactive sealed sources currently stored by the Department and other wastes that have radioactive properties for which there is currently not a facility to dispose of them.

Requirement/Activity Description

In FY 2005, the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program will assume responsibility for the collection and storage of these sealed source wastes. Management of this activity will be transferred from the Environmental Management program and expanded to aggressively address the potential domestic proliferation threat these radioactive sources could pose. The new Office of Future Liabilities will assume responsibility for the long-term disposal of this material, which is currently not being addressed elsewhere in the Department.

The Department is requesting appropriations for this new program activity to be managed by Future Liabilities, which will assume policy management and funding responsibility for the Department’s “Greater than Class C” (GTCC) program. The GTCC program is being established to address civilian-used radioactive sealed sources currently stored by the Department and other wastes that have radioactive properties for which there is not currently a facility to dispose of them. The new program activity will take over the management of the completion of the ongoing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) effort currently being managed by Office of Environment, Safety and Health. Future Liabilities will develop in FY 2005 a program plan and begin to initiate GTCC activities. These

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Greater-Than-Class-C Waste Disposal

FY 2005 Congressional Budget

activities will include implementation of the EIS results, including selection and development, if not already existing, of a suitable disposal facility. This will entail preparation for certification or licensing for a new facility, and/or modification of certification and licensing of an existing facility. Future Liabilities will be responsible for all program aspects, including acceptance criteria, characterization plans and procedures, performance assessment processes, transportation planning and stakeholder interactions.

Benefits

The Department of Energy will establish a new organizational element, the Office of Future Liabilities, to fund and manage environmental liabilities that are not assigned to any Departmental organizations. These include responsibility for long-term disposal of civilian-used radioactive sealed sources, or “Greater-Than-Class-C” wastes.

The creation of a new Office of Future Liabilities to manage the Greater-than-Class-C program will facilitate the development of a disposal pathway for this radioactive waste that will allow the waste to be managed safely and securely. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2003, there have been significant concerns raised about control and management of these sealed sources containing radioactive materials, which are used in medicine, agriculture, research and industry throughout the United States, because of the potential for their misuse. The National Nuclear Security Administration is responsible for the collection and safe storage of these materials. Assignment of responsibility to the new organization will to identify and develop safe and secure disposal for the materials.

Greater-Than-Class-C Waste Disposal Program

Funding Schedule by Activity

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	\$ Change	% Change
Greater-Than-Class-C Waste Disposal					
Greater-Than-Class-C Waste Disposal.....	0	0	3,000	+ 3,000	+ 0.0%
Total, Greater-Than-Class-C Waste Disposal	0	0	3,000	+ 3,000	+ 0.0%

Description

The mission of the Office of Futures Liabilities includes policy management and funding responsibility for the Department “Greater-Than-Class-C” program to address the civilian-used radioactive sealed sources currently stored by the Department and other wastes that have radioactive properties for which there is currently not a facility to dispose of them.

In FY 2005, the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program will assume responsibility for the collection and storage of these sealed source wastes. Management of this activity will be transferred from the Environmental Management program and expanded to aggressively address the potential domestic proliferation threat these radioactive sources could pose. The new Office of Future Liabilities will assume responsibility for the long-term disposal of this material, which is currently not being addressed elsewhere in the Department.

Activities include program planning and completion of the Environmental Impact Statement that is currently being conducted by the Office of Environment, Safety and Health.

Benefits

The creation of a new Office of Future Liabilities to manage the Greater-than-Class-C program will facilitate the development of long-term disposal of civilian-used radioactive sealed sources, or “Greater-Than-Class-C” wastes that will allow the waste to be managed safely and securely.

Detailed Program Justification

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Greater-than-Class-C Waste Disposition	0	0	3,000

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess a pathway for disposal of GTCC waste will be completed.

A program plan to initiate GTCC activities will be developed. These activities will include initiating implementation of the EIS results, namely preparation for certification or licensing, if necessary, e.g., acceptance criteria development, characterization plans and procedures, performance assessment processes, transportation planning, stakeholder interactions, etc.

Explanation of Funding Changes

	FY 2005 vs. FY 2004 (\$000)
Greater-Than-Class-C Waste Disposal	
In FY 2005, the Department is requesting funds to establish a new office to take on responsibilities for which no other Departmental element is responsible. This office will assume responsibility for disposal of Greater-Than-Class-C waste.	+3,000
Total Funding Change, Greater-Than-Class-C Waste Disposal	+3,000