



Information Alert

State-Federal Relations Division

Congress Approves FY 2019 Energy-Water Appropriations

Sept. 14, 2018

On Sept. 13, Congress approved a \$147.5 billion fiscal year (FY) 2019 “minibus” appropriations bill that included three of the 12 annual appropriations bills: energy-water, military construction and veterans affairs, and the legislative branch. The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 contains funding for several federal agencies, departments and programs falling under the jurisdiction of NCSL’s Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee, including the Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Overall, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 totaled \$44.64 billion, \$1.44 billion above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$8.1 billion above the president’s budget request. Some of the primary highlights for states include receiving \$55 million in funding for the State Energy Program, which is the same as FY 2018, and \$257 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, \$6 million more than 2018. Additionally, the bill does not include any funding for the department related to activities at Yucca Mountain, a highly contentious issue among members of Congress. One “policy rider” that was included in the bill, was a provision that restricts the application of the Clean Water Act in certain agricultural areas, including farm ponds and irrigation ditches. Read the [latest NCSL news](#) on the Clean Water Rule and Waters of the United States.

Department of Energy

The bill provides \$35.6 billion in funding for the department in FY 2019, \$1.17 billion more than FY 2018. Funding for energy programs within the department would receive \$13.5 billion, an increase of \$554 million over current spending. The Office of Science would see an increase of \$325 million from FY 2018 levels to \$6.6 billion and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would see an increase to \$2.4 billion despite the president’s request to reduce the budget by over 60 percent. The bill funds the Office of Fossil Energy at \$740 million, an increase of \$14 million above FY 2018, and the Office of Nuclear Energy at \$1.2 billion, \$108 million above the FY 2018 enacted level. The bill increases funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, which the president’s budget zeroed out, to \$366 million, a \$13 million increase. Funding for the departments environmental management program was set at \$7.2

billion, \$53 million above FY 2018 and \$578 million above the president's budget request. This includes \$6 billion for defense environmental cleanup to safely cleanup sites contaminated by previous nuclear weapons production at Hanford, Savannah River, Oak Ridge, Idaho, and other DOE sites.

Army Corps of Engineers

USACE is funded at \$7 billion, an increase of \$172 million above FY 2018. This includes \$3.2 billion for navigation projects and studies, including \$1.55 billion in funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, an increase of \$150 million above FY 2018, although still below the full amount of revenue collected via the Harbor Maintenance Tax. The bill would also make full use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and provides \$2 billion in funding for flood and storm damage reduction activities.

Bureau of Reclamation

Although the Bureau of Reclamation is housed in the Department of Interior, the bill did include \$1.57 billion in funding, \$85 million above the FY 2018 for the bureau to help manage, develop, and protect the water resources of Western states. The bill includes \$134 million for water storage projects authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.

For more information on the bill or the overall status of the FY 2019 federal appropriations process, please contact NCSL staff [Kristen Hildreth](#) or [Ben Husch](#).