

Focus the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration Spending on Weapons Programs

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016-2020	2016-2025
\$529	\$655	\$908	\$909	\$1,039	\$1,172	\$1,307	\$1,445	\$1,585	\$1,729	\$4,040	\$11,278

Heritage Recommendation:

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration should halt growth in its programs that do not directly contribute to the country's nuclear weapons programs. This proposal saves \$529 million in 2016, and \$11.3 billion over 10 years.

Rationale:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for the nuclear reactors and weapons that are operated by the Defense Department. Each year, the DOE is allotted about \$16 billion to \$17 billion to fund defense-related activities. The recent negative review of U.S. nuclear forces has now driven the Administration to increase spending in the coming years. While this increase is entirely necessary, it is important that the resources are going to weapons programs, or those directly supporting weapons activities. Heritage recommends returning the following programs to their FY 2014 budget levels:

- Material Recycle and Recovery
- Storage
- Containers
- Secure Transportation Asset
- Environmental Projects and Operations
- Minority Serving Institution Partnership Program
- Information Technology and Cyber Security
- Warhead Dismantlement and Fissile Materials Transparency
- International Nonproliferation Export Control
- Nuclear Safeguards and Security Programs
- Defense Environmental Clean-Up

Additional Reading:

- Michaela Dodge and Baker Spring, "Bait and Switch on Nuclear Modernization Must Stop," Heritage Foundation *Backgrounder* No. 2755, January 4, 2013, <http://www.Heritage.org/research/reports/2013/01/bait-and-switch-on-nuclear-modernization-must-stop>.

Calculations:

Savings are expressed as budget authority and were calculated based on estimated spending levels from the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration's "FY 2015 Congressional Budget Request," <http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/04/f14/Volume%201%20NNSA.pdf>. Estimated spending is provided through FY 2019. Heritage analysts applied the average growth in baseline defense spending from FY 2015-2024 to FY 2020-2025 spending levels. Savings equal the combined total of placing a hard cap on FY 2014 funding levels for 10 budget components, plus cancelling the Minority Serving Institution Partnership Program.