

Matthew McKenna, mmckenna@nemw.org
Director, Great Lakes Washington Program

Joe Vuckovich, <u>jvukovich@nemw.org</u> Senior Policy Analyst, Mississippi River Basin Program

House Energy and Water Appropriations Bill and Report

Program (funding levels in millions of dollars)	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18 POTUS Request	FY18 House
Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability	147.3	206	230	120	218.5
Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy	1,924	2,073	2,090	636	1,104
Weatherization Assistance Program	193	215	225	0	225
State Energy Program	50	50	50	0	50
Energy Information Administration	117	122	122	118	118
Advanced Manufacturing Office	200	228.5	257.5	82	102
Building Technologies Program	172	200.5	67.5	289	143
Environmental Management Program Upper Mississippi River	33.2	19.8	20	33.17	33.17
Mississippi River and Tributaries	302	345	362	253	301
Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund	1,107	1,254	1,300	965	1,340
Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study	0.5	1	2.6	1.85	1.85

Other notable funding and provisions:

Army Corps of Engineers

Operations and Maintenance

This appropriation funds operation, maintenance, and related activities at water resource projects the Corps operates and maintains. Work to be accomplished consists of dredging, repair, and operation of structures and other facilities as authorized in various River and Harbor, Flood Control, and Water Resources Development Acts. Related activities include aquatic plant control, monitoring of completed projects, removal of sunken vessels, and the collection of domestic, waterborne commerce statistics. Portions of this account are financed through the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The report recommends \$3,519,000,000 for USACE operations and maintenance.

Asian Carp

The House Report funds the request for the existing electric barriers in the Chicago Area Waterway System. The USACE is directed to analyze the most recent information regarding the presence of Asian Carp in close proximity to Lake Michigan and any other Great Lake to determine if any emergency or additional actions are warranted, including increasing the existing barriers' efficiency and efficacy. The USACE shall complete this analysis not later than 45 days after the enactment of this Act. Upon completion of this analysis, the USACE shall report to the Appropriations Committee on the conclusions,

including whether any additional authorization is required. Additionally, the USACE is encouraged to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Illinois, and other members of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) to evaluate whether navigation protocols would be beneficial or effective in reducing the risk of vessels inadvertently transporting aquatic nuisance species, including Asian Carp, through the Electric Dispersal Barrier near Romeoville, Illinois, and locks and dams in the Illinois River.

The USACE is expected to release the draft Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Brandon Road Study consistent with the urgency of its previous actions. The USACE shall adhere to a public and agency review process that is open and transparent. The USACE is directed to provide to the Appropriations Committee semi-annual updates on the progress and status of efforts to prevent the further spread of the carp as well as the location and density of Asian Carp populations. The USACE is further directed to work with other appropriate federal entities to develop and submit to the Committee as soon as practicable a concise report with graphics and maps detailing the geographic migration of Asian Carp up the Mississippi River from 2000 to the present.

Navigation Maintenance on Great Lakes Navigation System

The House Report includes funding for individual projects within this System that exceeds the funding level envisioned in section 210(d)(1)(B)(ii) of WRDA 1986.

Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier

The House Report includes \$16.7 million for the operation and maintenance of the electric fish barrier at the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal for FY2018, level with the President's request.

Disposal of Dredged Sediment

The House Report prohibits the use of funds for open lake placement of dredged materials in Lake Erie.

Mississippi River and Tributaries

This House Report funds planning, construction, and operation and maintenance activities associated with projects to reduce flood damage in the lower Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The report recommends \$301,000,000 for this account.

New Starts

The House Report recommends six new study starts and up to two new construction starts to be distributed across the three main mission areas of the USACE. Of the new study starts, one shall be for a navigation project, one shall be for a flood and storm damage reduction project, three shall be for additional navigation or flood and storm damage reduction studies, and one shall be for an environmental restoration study. The USACE is directed to propose a single group of new starts as a part of the work plan, which cannot be changed or substituted once the work plan has been provided to the Appropriations Committee..

Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)

The House Report provides for eight CAP sections at a total of \$27,000,000, for an increase of \$18,000,000 above the budget request, which proposed funding for only four sections. This program provides a useful tool for the USACE to undertake small localized projects without the lengthy study and authorization process typical of larger USACE projects. The management of the Continuing Authorities Program should continue consistent with direction provided in previous fiscal years.

Department of Energy

Clean Cities

The House Report directs DOE to continue to support the Clean Cities program, including providing competitive grants to support alternative fuel, infrastructure, and vehicle deployment activities. When issuing competitive grants in support of these activities, the Department is encouraged to focus on awards that range from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 each and include at least one Clean Cities coalition partner. The recommendation provides \$2,500,000 for Advance Vehicle Competitions to execute the fourth year of the four-year collegiate engineering competitions, EcoCar3. The Committee encourages the Department to support continued funding for research that allows the U.S. to continue its leadership role in advancing state-of-the-art transportation infrastructure, which is vital to economic development.

ARPA-E

The House Report does not include funds for ARPA-E and directs that prior-year balances be used to conduct an orderly shutdown.

Crude Oil by Rail Transport

The House Report calls for DOE to continue this research in partnership with the Department of Transportation to improve the safety of crude oil transported by rail in this country.

Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve

The House Report includes \$6,500,000 for the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve, which is the same amount that was requested by the President and appropriated in FY17. The reserve contains one million barrels of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD), which is the equivalent of three to four days of emergency stocks in the Northeast.