Washington Update
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Update.

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House and Senate Appropriations Committees Approve DOE Funding Bill

Last week, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved their respective versions
of the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY 2013). The
bills would provide funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) and other agencies for the
Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2012. This marks the completion of committee action for the
FY 2013 Energy and Water Development and Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations
legislation, in an earlier than usual start to the annual Congressional appropriations process for
the sciences. The next step for Congress is to consider the bills respectively on the floors of the
full House and Senate. Debate and votes are not yet scheduled in either chamber.

For the DOE Office of Science, the House bill would provide $4.825 billion, a reduction of $48.7
million (1 percent) below the current level. The House recommendation is $167.1 million (3
percent) below the President's request of $4.992 billion. The Senate bill would provide
$4.909 billion for the DOE Office of Science, an increase of $35.4 million (1 percent) above FY
2012 and $84.1 million (2 percent) above the House bill. The recommendations for specific
programs within the Office of Science where available are displayed in the chart below (also in
the attached PDF).

The House bill would reduce funding for the Administration's clean energy programs, including
the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and the Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy (EERE) programs. The House bill would reduce funding for EERE programs to $1.451 billion, a reduction of $358.7 million (20 percent) below the current level and $816.4 million (36 percent) below the President's request. The Senate bill recommends $1.98 billion for EERE, an increase of $170.4 million (9 percent) above FY 2012, but $287.3 million (13 percent) below the budget request of about $2.3 billion. For more budget info, go here: http://www.ucar.edu/oga/html/budget/index.html

New Director of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Announced

In February, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden announced that Associate Administrator Chris Scolese was named Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Robert Lightfoot, the Director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., is serving as acting Associate Administrator. Both assumed their new responsibilities in March.

As acting Associate Administrator, Lightfoot is the agency's highest-ranking civil servant, responsible for oversight and integration of NASA's broad efforts in human space flight, science, and aeronautics. At Goddard, Scolese is leading a major U.S. laboratory for developing and operating unmanned scientific spacecraft, including many of NASA's Earth observation, astronomy and space physics missions.


New EPA Assistant Administrator Announced

In February, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson announced Lek Kadeli will serve as Acting Assistant Administrator and Ramona Trovta will serve as Kadeli's principal deputy. Kadeli replaces former EPA Assistant Administrator and Science Adviser Paul Anastas, who is leaving EPA to return to Yale University. Kadeli has a long history at EPA's Office of Research and Development.

EPA's press release is available here: http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/ordaa.html.

DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Leaving for White House

Henry Kelly, a Harvard-trained Physicist and the Department of Energy's (DOE) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and, until recently, Acting Assistant Secretary of the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), will leave DOE for a position as a senior advisor to the President's Science Advisor, John Holdren, at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Prior to his arrival at DOE, Dr. Kelly served as the President of the Federation of American Scientists where he led a team that conducted analysis and advocacy...
on science, technology, and public policy, including global security issues, energy policy, and education technology.

**White House Announces Near Completion of Scientific Integrity Policies**

On April 6, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy John Holdren announced that all departments and agencies with science and technology as core parts of their mission had either completed or were very close to completing their policies. The departments and agencies that have released their scientific integrity policies include the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Interior, Justice, State, and Transportation, as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Mammal Commission, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, Intelligence Community, and Veterans Affairs.

The White House announcement, with links to the scientific integrity policies developed by the various departments and agencies, is here: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/04/06/scientific-integrity-policies-released](http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/04/06/scientific-integrity-policies-released).

**USGCRP Releases 10-Year Global Change Strategic Plan**

On April 27, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) released its ten-year strategic plan for research related to global change, identifying priorities that will help state and local governments, businesses, and communities prepare for anticipated changes in the global environment, including climate change, in the decades ahead. The Plan was developed collaboratively by more than 100 federal scientists and reflects extensive inputs from stakeholders and the general public, as well as a detailed review by the National Research Council. The Plan will be implemented through the USGCRP and the thirteen federal departments and agencies it represents.

Federal research under the USGCRP has for two decades focused largely on detailed documentation of specific environmental changes by satellite and other Earth-observing technologies and the development of sophisticated computer models of the Earth's climate system to predict how such changes will manifest in the near-term. In the ten years going forward that emphasis will expand to incorporate the complex dynamics of ecosystems and human social-economic activities and how those factors influence global change. By including these added dimensions, USGCRP research will generate information of unprecedented practical use to decision makers in a wide range of sectors including agriculture, municipal planning, and public works.

The Strategic Plan describes four key goals for the USGCRP for 2012 through 2021:
1. Advance Science: Advance scientific knowledge of the integrated natural and human components of the Earth system, drawing upon physical, chemical, biological, ecological, and behavioral sciences.
2. Inform Decisions: Provide the scientific basis to inform and enable timely decisions on adaptation to and mitigation of global change.
3. Conduct Sustained Assessments: Build a sustained assessment capacity that improves the Nation's ability to understand, anticipate, and respond to global change impacts and vulnerabilities.
4. Communicate and Educate: Broaden public understanding of global change and support the development of a scientific workforce skilled in Earth-system sciences.

Work towards these goals will help the USGCRP fulfill its Congressional mandate to "assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change," as called for in the Global Change Research Act of 1990.

To learn more about the Strategic Plan, please visit:

To learn more about USGCRP please visit:
http://library.globalchange.gov/us-global-change-research-program-factsheet*.

USGCRP Seeking Partners for National Climate Assessment Network

In April, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) announced the formal establishment of NCAnet, a network of partners who will engage in long term, continuous activities around the development of the National Climate Assessment (NCA). Instead of simply appointing a committee assigned with drafting a report every four years (as has been the practice up until this point), USGCRP is working to make the national assessment activity more of an ongoing process. NCAnet aims to achieve broad engagement in this process by those who produce and use NCA information.

While the NCA process is primarily a function of the federal government, with advisement from the scientific community, USGCRP is looking to bring stakeholders more fully into the process, including state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, scientific and professional societies, industry, and other communities.

Due Dates: Comments and expressions of interest (EOI) about NCAnet participation can be submitted at any time using the online submission tool at http://ncanet.usgcrp.gov/home/sign-up. Additionally, meetings / webinars are scheduled monthly to provide interested groups with additional information about the network.

Eligibility and Limitations: USGCRP is seeking broad participation in NCAnet, including individuals, organizations, and existing networks. A list of current NCAnet partners is available at http://ncanet.usgcrp.gov/partners.
NSF Announces Solicitation for New Arctic Sustainability Program - Proposals Due September 14

On April 17, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released a solicitation for a new program within the cross-foundation Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES) initiative. Arctic SEES (ArcSEES) will fund fundamental pilot research projects as well as larger projects that will yield "community-relevant sustainability pathways and engineering solutions." Its purpose is to evaluate the sustainability of the Arctic region as well as to explore specific ways in which to address sustainability challenges for Arctic communities.

SEES is a cross-NSF initiative involving the agency's 11 directorates and offices to address interdisciplinary research and education needs as they relate to understanding the interactions between human and environmental systems. The initiative was launched in FY 2010 and has funded projects relating to: water sustainability and climate, ocean acidification, biodiversity, climate change education, Earth system modeling, sustainable energy pathways, and sustainability fellowships for early career scientists, among other activities. SEES is envisioned as a 10 year activity, and has seen increasing interest from and engagement by other federal agencies, especially in the last year.

Due Dates: Pre-proposals are not applicable. Full proposals are due September 14, 2012.

Total Funding and Award Size: NSF estimates making between 5 and 15 awards in FY 2013, contingent on appropriations and the size of projects submitted (i.e. pilot vs. community-relevant projects). Total funding is estimated at $12 million in FY 2013, with a maximum grant size of $2 million over a 3 to 5 year award period (smaller projects on the pilot scale will also be considered). Projects of interest to a single partner agency may be funded solely out of that agency's funding contributions; that decision will be made by the participating agencies, not the principal investigator.

Eligibility and Limitations: Eligible organizations include institutions of higher education, other non-profit/non-academic organizations, for-profit organizations, foreign organizations, and NSF-sponsored and other agency-sponsored Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs).

Sources and Additional Background: The solicitation can be accessed on the NSF websites at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503604.