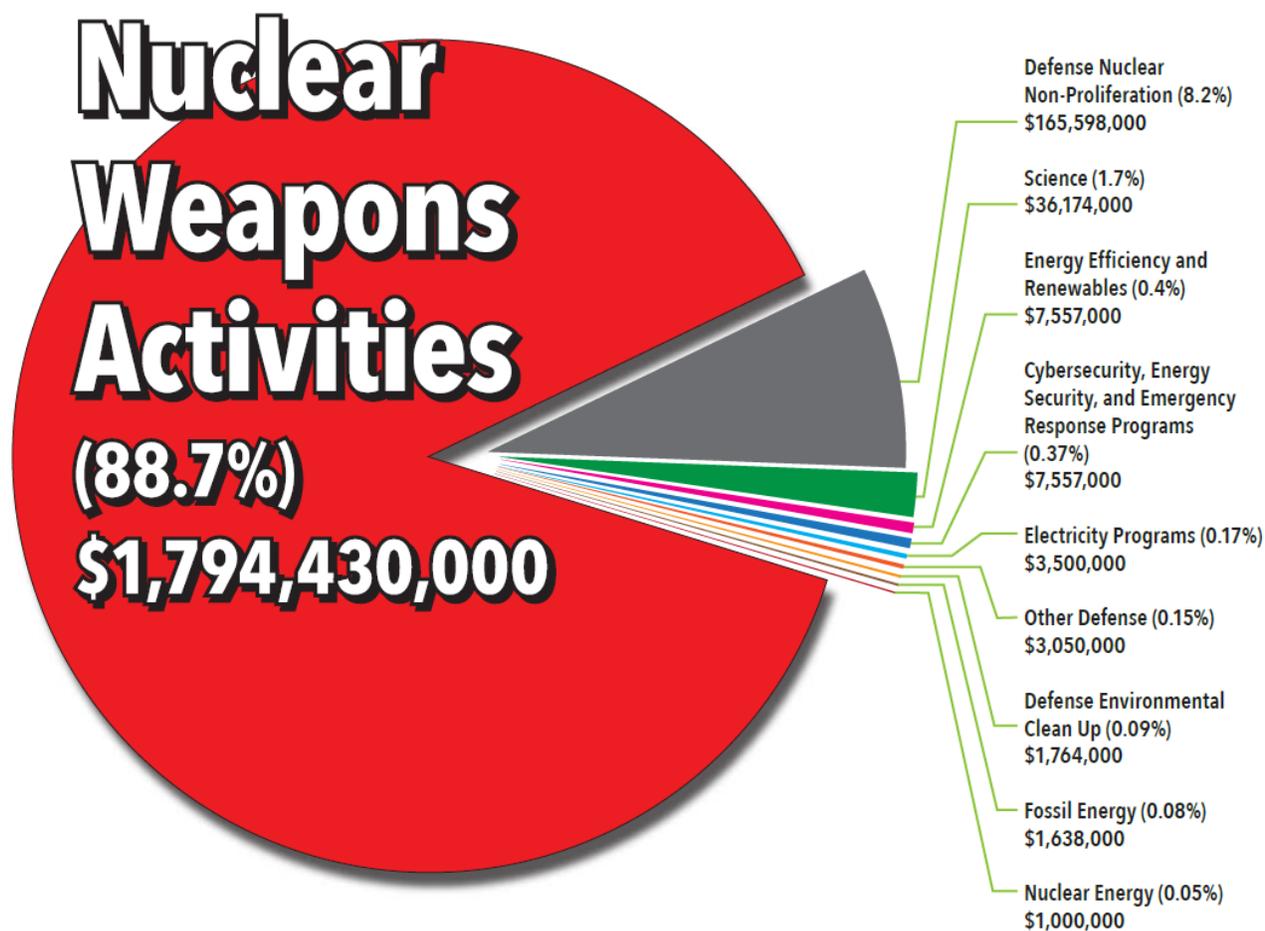


Major Boost in Lab Budget – Why? New Nukes...

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The Administration's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has been released. The numbers illustrate President Trump's priorities in action at the Lab.

The overall FY21 budget for Livermore Lab is now more than **\$2 billion**, up 7% from last year. The increase contains a 13% boost in funding for the budget line called Nuclear Weapons Activities, which includes the development of new and modified nuclear weapons. That increase for nukes comes at the expense of Defense Environmental Cleanup funds needed to Decontaminate & Decommission (D&D) heavily contaminated Lab buildings. This budget request puts workers and the public at risk.

The FY21 budget detail is contained in the Department of Energy (DOE) Laboratory Tables. The deeper one digs into them, the bleaker the truth that emerges.

The request for Livermore Lab in FY21 is \$2,022,522,000, an increase of \$134,713,000 (7%) over what the Lab received for the same programs last year. (Notably, is up 45% since Trump took office.)

Within that top line, here are the big winners and losers:

First, \$200 million of the increase is for Nuclear Weapons Activities. As you can see in the pie chart, the FY21 request for Nuclear Weapons Activities is \$1,794,430,000 (nearly \$1.8 billion). This represents 88.7% of all the money requested for Livermore Lab in FY21.

And, within the Nuclear Weapons Activities budget, the funding for Stockpile Major Modernization - predominantly the development of three major new nuclear weapon designs, the W80-4, W87-1 and W93 - is up 77% over last year. That's right, a 77% increase for three new nukes. **Wow!**

Let's compare the funds for Nuclear Weapons Activities to the Lab's budget request for (non-weapons) Science, which is a mere 1.7% of the total. And, as you can see from the pie chart, research on Energy Efficiency and Renewables doesn't even crack 0.5% of the request. And Defense Nuclear Non-Proliferation is struggling at the 8% mark.

This is a budget request that supports and accelerates a new global nuclear arms race, in line with the Administration's Nuclear Posture Review. While this may not surprise, the lack of consideration given to public safety and the environment, via cleanup and Decontaminating & Decommissioning (D&D) contaminated buildings, is shocking.

Last year the budget included \$128 million to D&D abandoned, heavily contaminated buildings at Livermore Lab (called "High Risk" facilities in a report by the Inspector General). The Lab was in the process of finalizing contracts when this year's budget request was released. Here is what the FY21 budget states: "Provided further, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading for LLNL Excess Facilities D&D, \$109,000,000 is hereby permanently cancelled."

To our dismay, the D&D budget request has been reduced to zero for FY21 despite the fact that much more money is required to finish the job - which has already languished for years.

One of the Livermore Lab "High Risk" buildings requiring priority D&D is the old, contaminated (with radiation and other toxins) nuclear reactor located just within the Lab's fence line off Vasco Road and Westgate Drive. This old reactor has huge cracks in the walls and shielding that can be seen with the naked eye. The Lab is using rebar to try and hold the structure together at present. How long will that hold?

Moreover, there are other "High Risk" buildings on site at Livermore Lab. For some years now, Tri-Valley CAREs members have raised the alarm in Washington, DC and locally about these heavily contaminated, abandoned buildings at Livermore Lab and other sites in the nuclear weapons complex. It's infuriating that the government is letting this worker and public risk persist indefinitely while simultaneously throwing money at the development of new nuclear weapons.

We have a long way to go in transforming Livermore into a "Green Lab" dedicated to a civilian science mission and the moral obligation to clean up the environment from decades of nuclear weapons programs. In fact, the FY21 budget request rapidly moves LLNL in the opposite direction. But we will continue to challenge this momentum. Our work in the coming months and years will seek to change what gets funded at Livermore Lab.

We aim to centrally change Livermore Lab's mission and, in doing do, achieve ours. **Join us!**