

Energy and Water Appropriations Fiscal Year 2021 Highlights

(Note: Numbers are nationwide program funding levels.)

Arctic Opportunities

- **Arctic Energy:** Report language directs the Department of Energy to support a renewed focus on the Arctic region and to reestablish the Arctic Energy Office. Once reconstituted, the office will serve as a centralized area to support the integration of research and development and innovative activities of the Department, including microgrids and integrated energy systems. Provides over \$5 million for program direction.
- **Methane Hydrates:** The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that Alaska's North Slope contains 54 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas resources within gas hydrate formations. These resources could add to the viability of Alaska's efforts to commercialize its natural gas and provide a secure supply of energy for decades to come. The bill includes \$25 million for methane hydrates, as well as report language encouraging the Department of Energy to perform a long-term methane hydrate production test in the Arctic.
- **Arctic Climate Data:** Includes report language encouraging the Department of Energy's Office of Science to establish a new Earth System Grid Federation node in Alaska to improve Arctic climate modeling data.
- **Strategic Arctic Port** – Includes report language urging the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to move expeditiously to decrease risks to life and safety from the increased traffic in the Arctic, and to provide a port to military assets.

Clean Energy, Energy Efficiency and Affordability

- **Nuclear Energy:** Provides \$250 million in continued funding for the advanced nuclear reactor demonstration program. This funding closely tracks the provisions within the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act, which is included in Division Z of the same bill.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program:** Increases funding to \$315 million to improve the energy efficiency of low-income families' homes.
- **State Energy Program:** Provides funding of \$62.5 million to invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and emergency preparedness.
- **Office of Indian Energy (OIE):** Funding of \$22 million, for a key program that assists tribes with energy needs and projects on their lands. Also includes report language tasking DOE to prioritize state entities in Alaska for technical assistance and directing OIE to design funding opportunity announcements that do not exclude tribes based on land ownership structures. This program recently awarded grants for projects in Iguigig, Kwethluk, and Togiak.

- **Hydropower Development:** Provides \$5 million in new funding to conduct environmental analyses and engineering for new run-of-river marine hydrokinetic facilities at two sites with high electricity costs and diesel use.
- **Isolated Electric Grids Support:** Provides \$3 million in continued funding for the Energy Transitions Initiative, which provides resources and access to on-the-ground support for remote and islanded communities in the United States seeking to transform their energy systems and lower their vulnerability to energy disruptions. The Energy Transitions Initiative is currently working with the Alaska Center for Energy and Power and the Renewable Energy Alaska Project.
- **Cold Climate Energy Efficiency:** Includes \$10 million for a competitive solicitation focused on the development and integration of energy efficient building techniques and technologies suitable for environments with extremely high or low temperatures, with priority for applicants with prior experience serving low-income residents living in extreme environments.

Infrastructure Protection

- **Denali Commission:** Includes \$15 million for the Commission tasked with coordination of construction and infrastructure efforts in rural Alaska. The Denali Commission also assists communities facing coastal erosion, such as the village relocation of Newtok to Mertarvik.
- **Coastal Mapping:** Includes \$3.8 million for the National Coastal Mapping Program to support Arctic coastal mapping needs currently not met by existing mapping programs. Directs the Corps to work closely with the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee, the State of Alaska, and relevant federal agencies to ensure that mapping efforts are coordinated and adhere to the priorities identified in the Alaska Coastal Mapping Strategy produced as a result of the President's 2019 Memorandum on Ocean Mapping.
- **Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response:** Provides \$156 million for the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) at the Department of Energy, which addresses emerging threats to our nation's energy supply by improving energy infrastructure security.

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