



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

HQDP010034284



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The Honorable Strom Thurmond  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is to inform you of the Department of Energy's intent to reprogram funds in fiscal year 1995 within the Weapons Activities appropriation to initiate efforts to replace the B53 Strategic Bomb

that the Department of Energy begin work this fiscal year. The Nuclear Weapons Council has also reviewed and approved the replacement of the B53 Strategic Bomb.

*Exemption 1  
National Security  
Auth*

The Department of Energy supports this effort, especially because the B53 Strategic Bomb is the oldest weapon in the stockpile. Although it is currently safe and was manufactured according to then-existing safety standards, the B53 Strategic Bomb does not meet modern safety criteria. To avoid new warhead production, a joint Department of Defense/Department of Energy study team will finalize the military requirements and the Department of Energy will then develop an appropriate modification to the B51 bomb and modify a sufficient quantity to meet those requirements.

The reprogramming does not involve funds transfer between congressional base table controls. However, the B53 Strategic Bomb replacement requirement was not part of the work scope presented or requested in the Fiscal Year 1995 President's Budget Request. The Department has identified \$3.3 million in operating expenses appropriated for the Fiscal Year 1995 Weapons Activities (Research and Development and Stockpile Support Decision Units), which can be reallocated to commence necessary development work.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))	
1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED	
2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:	
3. CONTAINS NO FDE CLASSIFIED INFO	
4. COORDINATE WITH:	
5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED	
6. CLASSIFIED INFO ON OTHERS:	
7. OTHER (SPECIFY):	
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NAME: [Handwritten]	2ND REVIEW DATE: 1-6-97
AUTHORITY: [Handwritten]	NAME: [Handwritten]

Obtained Under the  
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by Hans M. Kristensen

HQDP010014287



DERIVATIVE CLASSIFIER: *Jeff Underwood*

*Project [Handwritten]  
Jan 31, 1996*

DERIVATIVE CLASSIFIER: *Ed House, chief staff, DDO*  
(NAME AND TITLE)

Classified by: Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy)  
Declassify on: Originating Agency Determination Required

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Section 144.b, Atomic Energy Act, 1954.

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*Attachment 7*

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Exemption 3  
Statutes

The Department intends to use the \$3.3 million in fiscal year 1995 to work with the Department of Defense to define the military characteristics and requirements, the design, schedule, and costs for the modification of the B61 bomb. Funding of \$15.1 million will be required in fiscal year 1996 to begin modifications. The Department will submit revised budget justification pages to reflect this work within funding levels currently requested for fiscal year 1996. Funding requirements for fiscal year 1995 for this effort are summarized in the enclosure.

Sincerely,

*Joseph F. Vivona*  
Joseph F. Vivona  
Chief Financial Officer

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Sam Nunn  
Ranking Minority Member

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Section 1.44.b., Atomic Energy Act, 1954

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Enclosure

**B53 Strategic Bomb Replacement Costs  
Preliminary Estimates  
(\$ in Millions)**

<u>Decision Unit</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>
Research and Development - Development Activities	\$ 3.0
Stockpile Support - Modification Activities	<u>0.3</u>
Total	\$ 3.3

The fiscal year 1995 funding requirements are estimated based on a preliminary total program estimate. Until the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy fully define the military characteristics and requirements, the design, schedule, and costs for the modification of the B61 bomb cannot be finalized.

The reallocation and prioritization of funds to support the B53 Strategic Bomb replacement activities will occur within: (1) the Core Research and Development's Laboratory Stewardship Category, which supports those activities necessary to evaluate, maintain and improve the current stockpile, and (2) the Stockpile Support's Stockpile Maintenance and the Production Capability Assurance categories, which provide for the repair, modification, or modernization of weapons in the enduring stockpile and for the maintenance of competence in key manufacturing technologies and the demonstration of manufacturing capabilities for improved surety components.

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