

The Fossil Report

Oak Ridge National Laboratory Fossil Energy Program

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President Signs FY 2000 Funding Bill Into Law

The FY 2000 budget negotiations came to an end on November 29—nearly two months into the new fiscal year—when the President signed into law [Public Law 106-113] the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The House and Senate had each passed the initial Conference Report on the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill on October 21.

The Conference Report was approved by the House on November 19 and by the Senate on the following day.

But, a threatened veto by the President caused the bill to be tabled on November 19, and it was never sent to the President.

Instead, a replacement bill for H.R. 2466 [H.R. 3423] was passed by the House on November 18 and included by reference in H.R. 3194—a consolidated appropriations act.



The Senate approved the bill on November 19, and the enrolled measure was

signed by both the House and Senate on November 22.

The measure was sent the President on November 22, and the President signed the bill into law [P.L. 106-113] on November 29.

The final appropriation for Fossil Energy R&D in FY 2000 is \$330-million, up \$41-million from the Administration's request and up \$35-million from FY 1999 funding levels.

This level of funding includes the across-the-board 0.38 percent cut to support discretionary programs.



SPR Office Recognized for Excellence

The [Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#) Program Office was one of seven DOE organizations recognized on December 2 for demonstrating a commitment to excellence by receiving the Fifth Annual Secretary of Energy Performance Excellence Award.

The SPR Program Office and the other six recipients were presented their Awards by Deputy Secretary of Energy T. J. Glauthier. Each of the organizations was cited for finding "ways to improve and build more effective partnerships and find highly-cost effective solutions for the American public."

The Award emphasizes efficiency and an attitude of customer focus, and is open to all federal and performance-based contractor organizations.

Rudins Wins Achievement Award

On December 1, George Rudins, DOE's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Coal and Power Systems was awarded the prestigious Washington Coal Club's Coal Achievement Award for 1999.

The Washington Coal Club, comprised of coal technology leaders from industry and government, cited Rudins' leadership in advancing clean coal technologies, innovative pollution control concepts, and climate change activities as the reason for his being chosen as the 20th winner of the coveted award.

Rudins is considered to be the father of the [Vision 21](#) concept—a vision for a non-polluting fossil energy power plant of the future.

Rudins was also recognized for his support and innovative leadership in carbon sequestration activities, now one of DOE's most important research areas.



Kentucky to Host Clean Coal Project

With the approval of \$79-million in Federal funding, the \$432-million Kentucky Pioneer Energy Project, planned for near Trapp, Kentucky, will be the latest demonstration project of the [DOE Clean Coal Technology Program](#). The project promises to be one of the largest power plant projects in the Program, with an anticipated output of 400 mega-



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watts.

Federal funding became available for the project as a result of siting difficulties in southern Illinois. The original plant was to have been constructed with Duke Energy

exhaust heat will be used to drive a steam turbine—thus, the concept of a combined cycle.

As part of the project, municipal waste will be collected and combined with coal to form fuel briquettes, which will be used in the gasification process.



Corporation of North Carolina as the industrial partner. As part of agreements reached with the DOE, Global Energy Inc., the parent company of Pioneer Energy, will replace Duke Energy.

Global Energy will incorporate in the Kentucky project many of the features of the Illinois design, including testing of an advanced fuel cell.

The plant, operating with an integrated gasification combined cycle process, will convert coal to synthesis gas. The synthesis gas will be cleaned and burned in a combustion turbine to produce electricity, and the

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Also, a fuel cell will be used in the plant's power generating section. A portion of the plant's synthesis gas will be directed to a 1.25-mega-watt molten carbonate fuel cell, to be supplied by [FuelCell Energy, Inc.](#)

The project has received a considerable head start as far as siting is concerned. In the early 1980s, construction at a conventional coal-fired power plant on the 300-acre site was suspended when demand for electricity dropped to levels insufficient to justify the construction of the plant.

At the time construction ceased, the plant foundations, an administration building, a railroad spur, and connections to the electrical grid had already been completed.



Web Site Provides Information on Global Climate Change Research

The Web site for the [U.S. Global Climate Change Research Information Office](#) [GCRIO] is a valuable resource for information on global climate change research, mitigation strategies, and various agencies

Bechtel National to Convert Carbon Dioxide to Hydrates

DOE has recently awarded a contract to [Bechtel National](#) to study a process which converts carbon dioxide from power plant exhaust gas streams to hydrates.

It is well known that methane hydrates exist in natural formations in the Arctic and in deep ocean regions.

Now, in this research, it will be determined if the same hydrate-type formation can be created to trap carbon dioxide effluents from coal gasifiers.

Bechtel National is receiving \$9-million for the project, which will research this approach to carbon dioxide sequestration over a 64-month period.

Bechtel will team with the Los Alamos National Laboratory, IPI LLC, and SIMTECHE, the latter organization having first developed the process.

If successful, the process will be integrated with future coal gasification systems to form the basis for the power producing technology of the next century.



and organizations involved in the [Global Climate Change Research Program](#).

The GCRIO generates abstracts of key climate change documents and places them in a searchable bibliographic information database.

Links to other key sources of information on global climate change activities are also provided.

In addition to providing copies of reports to interested parties, the GCRIO Web site has a number of documents in their entirety.

The GCRIO was established as part of [The Global Climate Change Research Act of 1990](#).