

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: House bill would eliminate ARPA-E, bar future DOE loan guarantees

By Nick Juliano

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House appropriators are calling to eliminate a popular late-stage research program and bar the Energy Department from issuing new loan guarantees while proposing to cut spending on energy efficiency and renewables nearly in half.

The cuts reflect House Republicans' preference for DOE's nuclear and fossil energy programs, which would receive much smaller reductions. The House plan would not cut most programs as steeply as President Donald Trump called for in his budget — but lawmakers made exceptions for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy and the loan-guarantee program.

The [energy and water spending bill](#) House appropriators released today does not include any funding for ARPA-E, which the Trump administration also proposed zeroing-out in its budget request.

For the loan-guarantee program, the spending bill would rescind nearly \$161 million in money available to underwrite loan guarantees as well as DOE's authority to issue any new loans after Oct. 1. The bill would provide \$2 million for administrative costs to be drawn from fees DOE has collected, a 95 percent reduction from the equivalent sum this year.

DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy office would receive about \$1.1 billion in the House bill. That's down from nearly \$2.1 billion the office received this year.

But the fossil and nuclear energy offices would not see anything close to that magnitude of cuts. The fossil office would receive about \$635 million, down \$33 million from this year, while nuclear would see \$969 million, a \$48 million reduction.

WHAT'S NEXT: The House Appropriations energy and water subcommittee will mark up its bill on Wednesday. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are likely to resist the call to cut ARPA-E as the appropriations bill moves through Congress in the coming months.

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