

Section 3117—Consolidation of Counterintelligence Programs of
Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Adminis-
tration

This section would consolidate the counterintelligence programs of the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration under the Department of Energy.

**TITLE XXXII—DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

OVERVIEW

The budget request contained \$22.3 million for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for fiscal year 2007. The committee recommends \$22.3 million, the amount of the budget request.

ITEM OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Role of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

The committee relies heavily on the technical expertise of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (the Board) to ensure that appropriate nuclear safety features are incorporated in the design and construction of defense nuclear facilities. Consistent with their oversight role, recent recommendations made by the Board have had significant impacts on fundamental engineering design aspects of two nuclear waste treatment facilities, the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant at the Hanford Site and the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site. The committee is also aware of the Board's recently expressed concern with aspects of the design of the proposed Bulk Vitrification Demonstration System at the Hanford Site.

According to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1989 (PL 100-456), the Board is authorized to make recommendations but the Board has no authority to direct action by the Department of Energy. Furthermore, an action of the Board or a failure to act may not delay or prevent the Secretary of Energy from carrying out the construction of a defense nuclear facility. The committee encourages the Board's involvement in the earliest possible stages of project conception, including identification of design requirements, to enable early identification of potential safety issues and to avoid incurring unnecessary costs and schedule slips. The committee expects full cooperation with the Board from the Secretary, the Department of Energy, contractors, and any other involved parties to ensure that the Board is able to serve in its advisory capacity. The committee also encourages the Board, in addition to identification of problems, to take a constructive role in the problem-solving process by quickly evaluating proposed corrective actions by the Department or project contractors.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 3201—Authorization

This section would authorize funds for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for fiscal year 2007.