

E-MAIL REQUEST FROM RAY ORBACH TO LAB DIRECTORS
December 15, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Below is the text of a press release from the incoming chairmen of the House and Senate appropriations committees, announcing a year-long joint funding resolution for FY 2007. Also, below is a press release from the incoming House and Senate majority leaders supporting this plan .

I am writing to ask for the impacts of such a joint funding resolution in the worst-case scenario, i.e., the case in which you are held to the FY 2006 level of funding for facilities, construction projects, MIEs, and programs. While it is possible that this worst-case scenario will be mitigated in some way (yet to be determined), I need to understand the impacts if it is not. More specific assumptions may be received soon from OMB , and we will advise you as necessary when we receive them.

Please send me (with copies to ralph.delorenzo@science.doe.gov, who will further distribute your input to the ADs) impacts to the following by program (where an overhead type impact affects all programs please indicate that):

1. Operating scientific user facilities
2. On-going construction projects (including Other Project Costs)
3. On-going Major Items of Equipment
4. New construction projects that had no funding in FY 2006 (including Other Project Costs)
5. New Major Items of Equipment that had no funding in FY 2006
6. Research programs AT THE LABORATORY DIVISION LEVEL

If you anticipate layoffs, please let me know if you can fund the layoffs from within the existing FY 2006 level of funding. For any major negative impacts you identify, please state what incremental resources you estimate would be needed above an FY 2006 rate to mitigate those impacts, i.e., if you anticipate layoffs or furloughs, what resources do you estimate may be needed to preclude them? If facility running time is reduced, state how much running time may be lost and what incremental funding above an FY 2006 rate would be needed to run at planned levels

Please send me this information by COB Wednesday, December 20th.

Sincerely,
Raymond L. Orbach
Under Secretary for Science
U.S. Department of Energy

