DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
FY 1996 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET REQUEST
GENERAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

OVERVIEW

SUPERCONDUCTING SUPER COLLIDER (SSC)

The Superconducting Super Collider (SSC), a large proton-proton collider for basic scientific research was under construction near Waxahachie, Texas. The SSC was designed to become the world's preeminent particle accelerator facility for high energy physics research. Research at the SSC was expected to answer questions about the ultimate constituents of matter and energy.

The project was terminated by Congress in 1993 when it passed the FY 1994 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill (P.L. 103-126). Included in this bill was $640 million for the orderly termination of the SSC.

Following termination of the project, the SSC Project Office was assigned to the Oak Ridge Operations Office by the Secretary of Energy. Termination plans are being implemented under the direction of the SSC Project Director. The DOE termination plan is consistent with the FY 1994 appropriations legislation that terminated the SSC project. Consistent with the provisions of this legislation, DOE is: 1) terminating the SSC project in an orderly, cost-effective, environmentally sound, and safe manner; 2) developing a plan to maximize the value of the investment made in the project, including recommendations as to the feasibility of other uses of project assets; and 3) has worked closely with the employees and other interested parties to mitigate the impact of the termination. Key issues considered during the termination include: personnel impact; environmental, safety, and health risks; total cost control; terms of contract termination settlement; documentation and records management; disposition of personal and real property; site assessment; permit management; and alternate uses of site and facilities.

A Settlement Agreement was signed by the Department and the State of Texas in November 1994. This was an important step in the termination process, a necessary ingredient for the swift, efficient, and environmentally sound termination of the project. The agreement resolves claims made by the State, thereby avoiding litigation, and provides the basis on which the use and value of existing Super Collider assets can be maximized. It provides for an equitable distribution of property between the Department and the State, taking into account the respective Federal and State investment in the project.

Considerable effort has been made by the Department, in coordination with the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission (TNRLC), to consider how best to use the SSC assets in an effort to maximize the value of the investment made in the project. The Department and the State have coordinated their parallel investigations of potential on-site uses of major SSC assets and facilities. These studies have been peer-reviewed and the proposed uses generally found to be beneficial and feasible. Many of these projects, especially those related to education and the support of industry, are of primary interest to the State. The Department has reserved (until April) certain of the DOE-owned equipment and assets remaining after the Settlement which are critically needed for potential on-site activities, pending identification of funds by the potential users. Most of these assets are being made available to other DOE programs in order to maximize their value and usefulness.

The complex negotiations and detailed studies have necessarily taken time. The Department has, and will, move with all deliberate speed to arrive at a reasoned and thoughtful set of recommendations. A report on maximizing the value of the investment made in the SSC is being prepared and will be sent to the Congress and the President in May 1995.

It presently appears that implementation of the Settlement and the project termination process can be accomplished within existing SSC appropriations. The SSC termination activities continue to be on schedule and within the budget estimate. The amount of contingency available is relatively small, however, and there are still substantial uncertainties, especially regarding the close-out of large subcontracts and restoration of the site. The Department is making every effort to keep the termination costs within existing SSC appropriations. The Department does not anticipate making any special requests for additional appropriations to support future potential uses of assets at the SSC site.

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OFFICE OF ENERGY RESEARCH
(Tabular dollars in thousands, narrative in whole dollars)

LEAD TABLE

Superconducting Super Collider (SSC)

Activity	FY 1994 Adjusted	FY 1995 Appropriation	FY 1995 Adjustment	FY 1995 Adjusted	FY 1996 Request
SSC Project					
Operating Expenses	$640,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL	$640,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Summary					
Operating Expenses	$640,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Program	$640,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Staffing (FTEs)	73	56	0	56	19

Authorization: P.L. 95-91, "Department of Energy Organization Act" (1977)