

EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
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2133 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2836

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2100A JOHN F. KENNEDY BUILDING
BOSTON, MA 02203
(617) 223-2781

464B SALEM STREET
MEDFORD, MA 02155
(617) 396-4800

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City of Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

Knowing of your interest in nuclear energy issues, I would like to inform you about some rather disturbing actions taken by the Department of Energy.

The Gramm-Rudman balanced-budget law is the lever that will be pushing all of our government programs in the coming year. This legislation, which I opposed, mandates across-the-board spending cuts in federal programs. For 1986, the executive branch was given some discretion in applying these cuts.

The reductions ordered by the Department of Energy, however, are unacceptable. These cuts shelter nuclear weapons programs while slashing funds for environmental protection, radiation safety, nuclear material safeguards, and physical security. This acceleration and expansion of nuclear warhead production and testing at a time of overall budget stringency represents a gross mismanagement of the Department of Energy's resources.

While I support reducing the deficit, I will not sacrifice programs that serve the needs of the people to Reagan's arms buildup. The enclosed article from the Boston Globe further elaborates my concerns about the Administration's Energy priorities. If you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ed Markey

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Enclosure

Boston Sunday Globe

Sunday, January 26, 1986

Nuclear safety programs victims of budget cuts

By Fred Kaplan
Globe Staff

WASHINGTON — The Department of Energy, carrying out the budget cuts ordered this year by the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction act, has sheltered many of its nuclear-weapons programs and slashed programs to improve safety, security and environmental standards at nuclear facilities.

Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.), chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees the Energy Department's nuclear division, said the Reagan administration's decisions on what to cut and what to preserve represent "a gross mismanagement" of resources, and said, "A repetition of this pattern of cuts in [next year's budget] will be completely unacceptable to the Congress."

The Gramm-Rudman legislation required a 4.9 percent spending cut in fiscal year 1986 for all military programs. But it allowed the administration to exempt some military projects from cuts as long as other projects in the same category were cut by a greater percentage.

The Pentagon announced last week that President Reagan had exempted spending on military personnel, the Strategic Defense Initiative, and 20 other conventional weapons from Gramm-Rud-

man cuts. At a press conference, Pentagon comptroller Bob Helm said budgets for all offensive nuclear missiles would take the 4.9 percent cut.

But it now appears this is not true for the warheads and bombs to be carried by these missiles. These are contained in the Energy Department's budget, and Reagan has ordered nearly all of them to be exempt from budget cuts.

According to the federal document on the effects of Gramm-Rudman, released by the Office of Management and Budget, the following Energy Department items are among those left untouched this year by Gramm-Rudman cuts:

- Facilities to build more warheads for the MX and Trident II strategic nuclear missiles, the Ground-Launched Cruise Missile and Pershing II missiles to be based in Europe, the Navy's SM-2 nuclear antiaircraft missile, various nuclear antisubmarine missiles, the Army's 155mm and 8-inch nuclear artillery shells, the Air-Launched Cruise missile and new strategic and tactical bombs.

- Facilities at weapons labs to house research projects on the Strategic Defense Initiative.

- Projects to expand underground testing of nuclear warheads.

- Programs to manufacture more plutonium, enriched uranium and tritium, elements crucial to the building of H-bombs.

At the same time, the Energy Department has chosen to cut the

following programs, among others:

- "Safeguards and security upgrades" at several weapons labs and government owned nuclear plants (cut by 6 to almost 10 percent).

- "Environmental hazards elimination" and "Air and water pollution control facilities" at various locations (by 6 percent).

- "Nonradioactive hazardous waste management" programs at the Savannah River nuclear facility in South Carolina (cut by 9.8 percent).

According to Rep. Markey, these sorts of cuts could have been "completely avoided" if the new nuclear weapons projects at the Energy Department had been cut by a 2.8 percent.

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Comm. from Rep. Edward J. Markey re: Reagan
Administration's energy priorities.

In City Council,

February 24, 1986

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