

program—it has twice rejected Trump’s recommendation—but its funding could be reduced.

Nevada and other states in the intermountain West are deep into energy research and development. And those efforts have had an impact. EcoWatch recently reported, “Power purchase agreements for wind and solar projects in states like Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas have reportedly ranged between \$20 to \$30 per megawatt-hour, well below the cost of natural gas generation—and the technologies are positioned for further cost reductions to continue to be low-cost options even as federal tax incentives change.”

Nearly all nuclear plants are in the east, and the West has been carving out a major renewables effort, which is dependent on federal funding. The Trump recommendations cut \$3.7 billion from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In addition, there were sweeping cuts to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Trump called for eliminating the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy entirely.

Trump’s \$4.7 trillion recommendation for the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency—key in climate issues—would cut its budget 31 percent. Trump also recommends a four percent cut for the Interior Department and an 11 percent cut for the Energy Department.

Fortunately for Democrats, some of the Trump recommendations are so outlandish that even congressional Republicans, like Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, have been dissing the Trump energy proposals, with some lawmakers in the GOP treating them less than seriously. Nothing hurts more in legislative politics than irrelevance.

But the existence of those recommendations makes it difficult for state legislatures to plan and to appropriate funding. In Nevada, where the legislature meets for only a hundred days every other year, it complicates things enormously.

This week, the National Security Forum of Northern Nevada will bring retired vice admiral Lee Gunn to speak at a breakfast in Reno on national security and “assured” electrical power, specifically the benefits of clean energy in closing vulnerabilities in the nation’s electrical grid. Even with climate skeptic Trump in the White House, the Pentagon is seen as one agency that is moving aggressively to deal with climate issues. □

**Nevada
energy
programs could
be hurt by
Trump cuts.**

If everybody had an ocean



This is not Hawaii or Southern California, or even Lake Tahoe. This surfer is trying to surf the artificial rapids installed in the Truckee River in downtown Reno.

PHOTO/MICHAEL GRAHAM

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