Energy Department official during the Clinton administration. The administration says Russia plans to close those two facilities in any event.

The White House also intends to overhaul a hugely expensive effort to enable Russia and the United States to destroy Russia’s estimated stockpile of 23,000 metric tons of stored plutonium by building facilities in Russia and the United States. The program, as currently structured, will cost Russia $8.5 billion and the United States $6.5 billion, at a minimum. The administration has pledged $400 million and has already appropriated $240 million.

In February 2000, the Clinton administration wrested a promise from Russia to stop making plutonium out of fuel from its civilian power reactors as part of a research and aid package. While Russia was supposed to stop adding to its estimated stockpile of 160 tons of military plutonium by shutting down three military reactors last December, Moscow was unable to do so because the reactors, near Tomsk and Krasnoyarsk, provide heat and electricity to those cities.

Critical to the program was also a deferred decision on a commitment to help Russia build facilities to destroy 40,000 tons of chemical weapons, the world’s such stockpile. The first plant has been completed at Gorny, 660 miles southeast of Moscow, but American assistance to build a second plant at Shchuchye, 1,000 miles southeast of Moscow, has been delayed.

Many legislators have complained that the Russians have not fully declared the total and type of chemical weapons they made, and that they have put up too little of their own money for the project.

In February, however, Russia announced that it had increased its annual budget for destroying chemical weapons sixfold, to $306 million, and presented a plan to begin operating the first of three destruction plants. The administration official said this reflected a “significant change” in Russia’s attitude toward commitments that “could have an impact on our thinking” about the program.

The Russians hope to destroy their vast chemical stocks by 2012, a deadline. The Russians hope to destroy their vast chemical stocks by 2012, a deadline.

The Clinton administration, after Congress slashed funds for the project, lined up support from several foreign governments.

Elisa Harris, a research fellow at the University of Maryland and a former specialist on chemical weapons for President Clinton’s National Security Council, said the destruction effort could falter unless the Bush administration persuades Congress to fund the plan and finally support the program.

Commenting on the review, Leon Fuerth, a visiting professor of international affairs at George Washington University and the national security adviser to former Vice President Al Gore, said, “By and large they are going to sustain what they inherited, which is good for the country.”

But the senior Bush administration official said the review did not endorse the Clinton approach. This administration, he said, is determined to “establish better and more cost-efficient ways” of achieving its nonproliferation goals and integrating such programs into a comprehensive strategy toward Russia. He said the White House planned to form a State Department group “to assure that the programs are well managed and better coordinated.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there further amendments?

Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. President, I have no further amendments. I thank the seven members of the staff on both sides who worked diligently on a very complicated bill. On Senator REID’s staff: Drew Willow, Roger Cockrell, Nancy Olkewicz; members of my staff: Tammy Perrin, Jim Crum, Camille Anderson, and Clay Sell.

The Senator’s staff has been a pleasure to work with, and I hope mine has. I thank you for the pleasant experience and the way we have been able to work this bill out.

Mr. REID. Not only the staff has been a pleasure to work with, but you have been a pleasure to work with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the amendments and third reading of the bill?

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read the third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yea’s and nay’s.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) is in the gallery.

Mr. DOMENICI. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I move that the Senate indulge in a discussion of the general subject of the nuclear proliferation containment effort and the programs that are well managed and better coordinated.

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The Senator’s staff has been a pleasure to work with, and I hope mine has. I thank you for the pleasant experience and the way we have been able to work this bill out.
One of the Board of Governors also announced his intention to retire. The President has announced his intention to nominate a couple of members. Those nominations have not yet been sent to us, thus we have not yet received them.

In an effort to keep the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve in sufficient number, I urge my colleagues to approve the Ferguson nomination when it comes before us later tonight.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN D. GRAHAM OF MASSACHUSETTS TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we are still attempting to come to some resolution about the sequencing of other legislative priorities for the balance of the week. Until that time, under a prior agreement, the Senate had the understanding that we would move to the consideration of the John Graham nomination, Calendar No. 104.

Pursuant to that agreement, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now move to executive session to consider Calendar No. 104, the nomination of John Graham to be the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, and that immediately following the consideration of Calendar No. 104, pursuant to the agreement, we consider Calendar No. 223, the nomination of Roger Walton Ferguson to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve for a term of 14 years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John D. Graham of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, for the information of Senators interested in the schedule this evening, it is our intention to complete the debate on the two nominations. I know of no interest in debate on the Ferguson nomination, but there is, of course, debate on the Graham nomination.

Following completion of debate on the nominees, it is my expectation and determination to move to the legislative branch appropriations bill, and that would be the final piece of business to be completed tonight.

Tomorrow, it is my hope—and this matter has yet to be completely resolved—that we move to three judicial nominations and then proceed to the Transportation appropriations bill. We will have more to say about that later in the evening.

For now, I hope we could begin the debate on the Graham nomination.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2299

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Appropriations Committee be discharged from consideration of H.R. 2299 and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration; that once the bill is reported, Senator MURRAY be recognized to offer the text of S. 1178 as a substitute amendment; that no further amendments be in order during today's session; that once the action has been completed, the bill be laid aside until Friday, July 20; the Senate resume consideration of the bill upon returning to legislative session, following any rollover votes with respect to the Executive Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank my colleagues. For the information of our colleagues, Senator MURRAY will now be recognized simply to lay down the Transportation bill, and we will proceed then immediately to the Graham nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2299) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk in the nature of a substitute.

AMENDMENT NO. 1025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] proposes an amendment numbered 1025.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's Record under "Amendments Submitted.")