



President Bush speaks at Rose Garden signing of joint agreement by the Department of Energy and the Big Three automakers to develop a light-weight battery system for electric vehicles.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

program area in the Department. The 1993 budget proposal of \$5.3 billion was more than three times the amount spent in 1989 and represented 27 percent of the Department's total budget. As one commentator put it, the Department's defense activities were "giving way to green."²²¹

In other areas, the Bush Administration continued strong support for two of its predecessor's initiatives: the superconducting super collider and the clean coal program. The 1993 budget request for the superconducting super collider was \$650 million, up from \$250 million requested for 1990. Total project costs had risen to an estimated \$8.2 billion, with completion now scheduled for 1999. Trying to defray costs, the Department solicited funding from various foreign governments. The State of Texas also agreed to contribute the land and \$1 billion. The Department projected that one-third of the general funding would come from non-federal sources.²²²

Watkins in early 1989 had declared that clean coal was one of his "greatest personal interests." Within months, he accelerated departmental review of additional clean coal projects, and the clean coal program became the Federal Government's largest energy initiative. The 1993 budget request for the

program was \$500 million, as compared with \$325 million for 1990.²²³

Energy research and development, in general, received greater emphasis during the Bush/Watkins era. Although funding for nuclear fission and fusion remained relatively constant, the 1993 budget request of \$325 million for fossil energy research and development, excluding the clean coal program, was nearly twice that of the 1990 budget. Research in the basic energy sciences, such as materials research involving superconductivity, increased by over a third, from \$590 million to \$814 million. Renewables, too, received increased attention. The 1993 budget request for renewables—solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydroelectric—was \$210 million, up from \$114 million in 1990. Most significant, however, was the rekindled interest in conservation. When Representative Sidney Yates (D-IL), chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, in early April 1989 charged that the Department had all but abandoned conservation programs in favor of defense and civilian nuclear projects, Watkins promised to give conservation "more attention" in the budget. As a result, budget requests for conservation increased every year during the Bush Administration. The 1993 budget request for conservation of \$351 million was four times that for 1990. One exciting conservation project was the Department's support, with a 1993 request of \$41 million, for the U.S. Advanced Battery Consortium developing batteries for electric cars.²²⁴

Similarly, the Department under Bush and Watkins placed increased emphasis on researching global climate change. Agreeing with its predecessor, the Bush Administration opposed drastic action until the relationship between the greenhouse effect and global warming had been scientifically proven. The administration, nonetheless, realized the potential seriousness of global warming, and the Department's activities were part of a larger, ongoing effort within the Federal Government. In 1992 the Federal Government spent \$1.11 billion to support global climate change research. The Department's share of this was \$77 million, with a 1993 budget request of \$113 million. As C. Boyden Gray,