



Department of Energy

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 5, 2025:** Energy Secretary Chris Wright **granted** DOGE agent Luke Farritor access to the Department of Energy's IT system against the advice of the agency's general counsel, who said Farritor was "not cleared to be in DOE." Farritor previously worked as a SpaceX intern.
- **February 7, 2025:** DOE leadership **appointed** former SpaceX engineer Ryan Riedel as Chief Information Officer.
- **February 13, 2025:** The Department of Energy **initiated** plans to lay off approximately 2,000 probationary employees.
- **February 14, 2025:** Officials at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a sub-agency of DOE responsible for overseeing US nuclear weapons, **rescinded** the terminations of hundreds of employees. Nearly all of the 300 terminated employees had their firings reversed. *NBC News* **reported** that NNSA had difficulty reaching some of the terminated employees, as the agency did not have their personal contact information.
- **March 31, 2025:** Secretary Wright **reopened** the deferred resignation program, giving employees a second opportunity to take the offer after the initial deadline passed. The new deadline was set for April 8, 2025, but Wright later extended the deadline to April 11, 2025.
- **April 4, 2025:** The Energy Department **identified** over 8,500 positions as nonessential workers that could be targeted for another round of reductions in force, representing nearly 50% of DOE staff.
- **April 22, 2025:** Over 3,500 employees **accepted** the deferred resignation offers.

Impacts on Capacity

The NNSA staff cuts led to a severe loss of institutional knowledge. This includes the 27 engineers and five scientists, among others, that were **involved** in nuclear modernization efforts, and an arms control expert.

At the DOE's Loan Programs Office (LPO), which **provides** loans for domestic energy projects often focusing on technological advancements deemed too risky for traditional banks, around 60% of its staff accepted resignation offers. Billions of dollars in loans **originating** from the office were also frozen.

Another casualty, the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), which helps kickstart new energy and decarbonization projects, **lost** 77% of its staff to deferred resignations. OCED's **cancelled** awards included up to \$500 million for a lower-carbon steel production in Ohio and up to \$500 million for an aluminum smelter run by carbon-free electricity. The administration later terminated billions of dollars in awards



originating from the office and, in November 2025, [announced](#) the closure of the entire office.

Material Harms

Former officials with the NNSA said the cuts would [reduce](#) the agency's ability to oversee the contractors working with the agency, opening the door for fraud or wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars.

At LPO, frozen loans forced companies to change their business plans. Planned battery plants in Arizona and Georgia were [scrapped](#) after loans to the respective companies were frozen. In conjunction with the widespread cancellation of other awards from DOE offices, DOGE's cuts will have untold negative impacts on the future of clean energy and decarbonization in this country.

The closure of OCED alone could result in the loss of over 290,000 jobs, \$22.9 billion in wages, and \$65.9 billion in economic output, according to an [economic impact analysis](#) by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

The loss of federal support has and will lead to the cancellation of clean energy projects, [forcing](#) entities to either scrap plans altogether or revert to dirtier forms of energy production. Still, the impact reverberates beyond federally-backed projects. Innovative technologies reliant upon federal research and investment to become commercially viable were a key focus of DOE's efforts. Without federal backing, clean energy efforts that rely on technological advancement and require heavy initial investments will likely flounder as the private sector shies away.

Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- **Luke Farritor**
- **Ryan Riedel**
- **Adam Ramada**