

**The original documents are located in Box C35, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 2/27/1976” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

---

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1976

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached is the report ~~and chart~~  
on Solar Energy that you requested  
of Jim Lynn.

Jim Connor

*I have kept a copy.*

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

ERDA Solar Energy Program

(Millions of dollars)

	<u>FY 1975</u>	<u>FY 1976</u>	<u>FY 1977</u>	<u>% Increase over 1976</u>
Budget Authority	42	115	160	39%
Budget Outlays	15	86	116	35%

Fiscal Year 1976 Ongoing Programs Include:

- Solar Heating and Cooling Program:

- . ERDA--in cooperation with HUD and DOD--will conduct 150-170 demonstration projects, including 110-130 residential projects and 40 commercial projects.
- . These demonstrations will take place throughout the country in a variety of residential buildings, offices, factories, and other public and non-residential buildings.
- . This program will also continue an R&D program to reduce costs and improve the reliability of solar systems.

- Solar Electric Applications:

- . ERDA will continue to develop technologies to convert solar energy to electrical energy.
- . Construction will begin on a 5 MW solar test facility to test components for use in large central plants to convert solar energy to electricity.
- . A test facility is being initiated for smaller, distributed solar plants that may ultimately provide electricity and heat to small communities or large users such as shopping centers.
- . A 100 KW wind energy machine at Plum Brook, Ohio will be completed as a test facility for new wind system technology.

- Fuels from Biomass:

- . Research will be conducted on methods to produce, collect, and convert organic matter in clean usable fuels.

- Agricultural and Industrial Process Heat:

- . R&D will be conducted on methods permitting the use of solar energy for grain drying, crop curing, animal shelters, greenhouses and food processing operations.
- . Three industrial process heat surveys will be undertaken and designs will be developed for systems to provide industrial process heat from solar energy.

Additional Funds in FY 1977 will Provide:

- Solar Heating and Cooling:

- . Approximately 200 more residential and 28 more commercial demonstrations.
- . Increased R&D effort on methods to substantially improve the economic performance of solar systems through new technology, new manufacturing techniques and improved thermodynamic performance.

- Solar Electric Applications:

- . Reach major construction stage of a 5 MW solar thermal test facility.
- . Initiate primary design of a 10 MW solar thermal pilot plant.
- . Accelerate a multi-year project to produce a large array of photovoltaic devices that will convert solar energy directly to electricity.
- . Initiate construction of a commercial-scale 1.5 MW Wind Energy Conversion System.
- . Develop key component technology for Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Concepts.

- Fuels from Biomass:

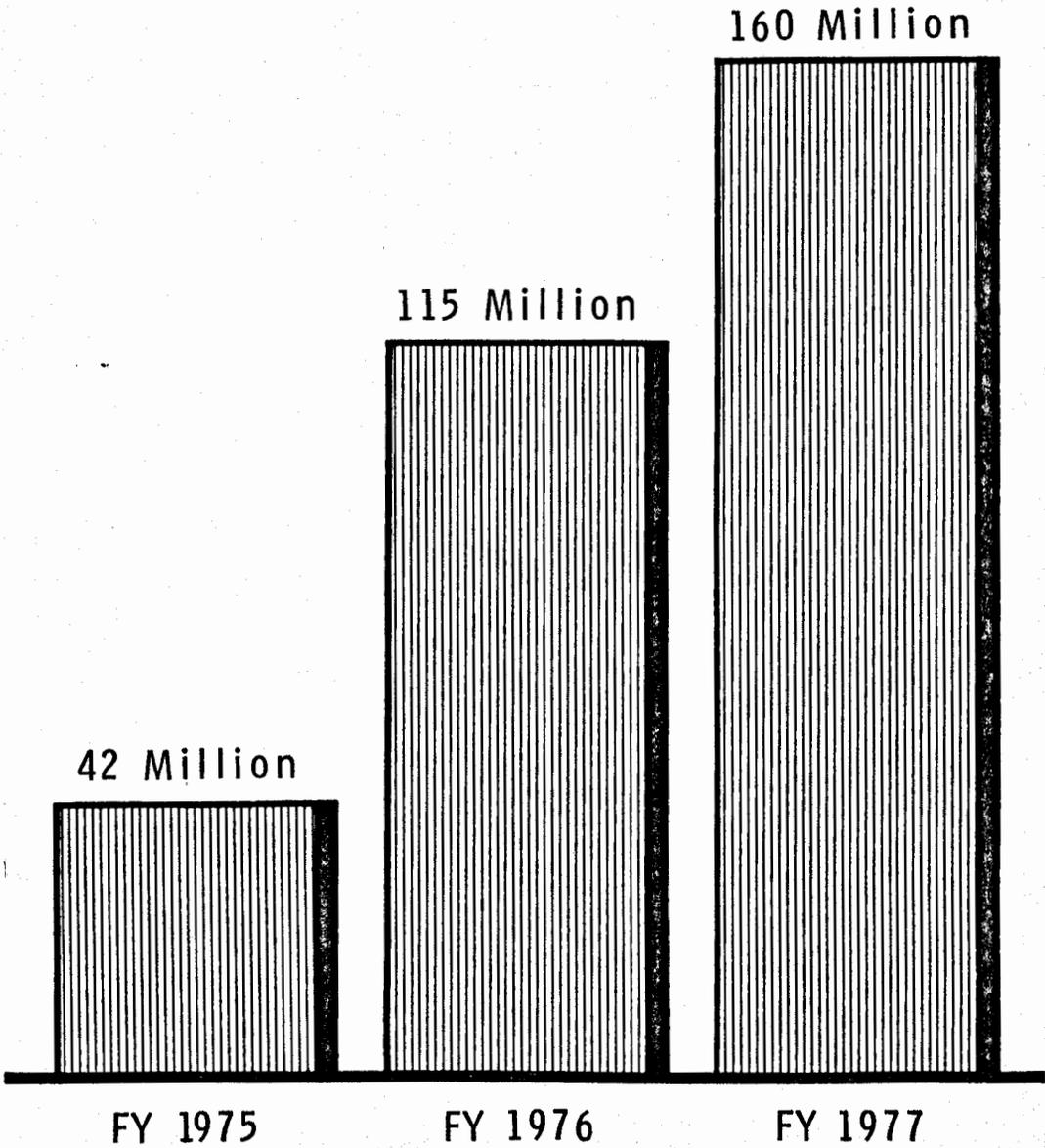
- . Conduct two proof-of-concept farming experiments and projects to evaluate new processes to convert plant biomass material to useful fuels.

- Agricultural & Industrial Process Heat:
  - . Initiate 24 demonstration projects to demonstrate the use of solar energy for agricultural applications.
  - . Four projects to demonstrate the use of solar energy for industrial applications such as hot water and dehydration.
- Technology Support and Utilization:
  - . Conduct technology environmental impact assessments to maximize the advantage of solar system designs.
  - . Conduct more workshops, seminars, and conferences, and develop special materials to meet the needs of small business, innovators, and the public.

#### Solar Energy Research Institute:(SERI)

- The Solar Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1974 provided that there be established a Solar Energy Research Institute.
- In mid-1975, the National Academy of Sciences, at the request of ERDA, studied the mission, role and management of a prospective SERI and made recommendations to ERDA.
- ERDA itself has continued to consider alternative roles for SERI as a basis for developing a solicitation for proposals for public release.
- The fact sheet on the President's February 26, 1976 Energy Message stated that ERDA will soon be issuing the solicitation for proposals to initiate SERI.
- SERI will lend important analytical and research support to ERDA in carrying forward the solar energy technology program.
- . \$2.2 million appropriated in the fiscal year 1976 plus \$1.5 million in the 1977 budget will provide needed funds for planning and conceptual design of SERI and initial leasing expenses. Program funding for SERI will come from the overall funds appropriated for the ERDA solar R&D program.

**BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS---**



O'Neill's office is working on this and will call with a status report.

2:45

Mitchell working  
on it — they  
know urgency  
2:50  
6:00  
6:30

---

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO: *Jim Connor*  
FROM: TERRY O'DONNELL

*I called this request  
to Paul's office  
because of short  
prep. time availability*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Jim Lynne Paul O'

Please get me paper  
on solar so I can have  
facts for Florida.

Chart showing what  
we did in "76" & "77"  
plus anything else

## Solar-Energy Planning Is Being Slighted By Ford, Former Chief of Program Says

By LES GAPAY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — The Ford administration isn't giving solar-energy development the priority it deserves, charged the recently resigned head of the government's solar program.

The official, John M. Teem, former assistant administrator for solar, geothermal and advanced energy systems at the Energy Research and Development Administration, said in an interview that he had significant differences with the White House on the extent and speed with which the government should develop solar energy.

Mr. Teem said that President Ford's budget request to Congress last month for solar programs was far less than the ERDA wanted, and that he also disagreed with the scope and pace assigned by the White House to some of the agency's key solar programs.

### "Personal Reasons"

The White House on Jan. 30 routinely announced Mr. Teem's resignation for "personal reasons," and the disagreements on solar policy weren't disclosed.

Mr. Teem said in the interview his resignation wasn't directly because of the disagreements, and that he had several reasons. He added, however, that he differed with officials in the White House and the Office of Management and Budget. "My sense of job satisfaction decreased in view of the

detailed management viewpoints being brought into the solar programs by OMB," he said. The management office's heavy involvement in solar energy policy decisions "affected the timing of my resignation," Mr. Teem added.

Mr. Teem said he favored accelerating ERDA programs to demonstrate solar energy in the heating and cooling of buildings; in agricultural areas, such as crop drying, and in various industrial processes.

He also said he was unsuccessful in efforts to increase the ERDA's role in disseminating information on solar technology to industry and the public to speed "bringing solar to the marketplace." Also, Mr. Teem said he favored a wider role for, and faster organization of, a planned solar-energy research institute within ERDA than was ac-

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Jim Lyman Paul O'

Please get me paper  
on solar so I can have  
facts for Florida.

Chart showing what  
we did in "76" & "77"  
plus anything else