



Contractors get pay freeze at Energy Department

75,000 workers affected

- By [Alyah Khan](#)
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EDITOR'S NOTE: For an update on the Energy Department's unique authority to freeze contractor pay, [click here](#).

Contractors at the Energy Department can forget about raises and bonuses as the agency has frozen salary increases for contractors who manage day-to-day operations at certain agency sites, including national laboratories.

The contractor employee pay freeze follows the Obama administration's recent proposal of a two-year pay freeze for all civilian federal employees.

“As our nation continues to recover from these challenging economic times, households and small businesses across the country are making sacrifices,” Energy Secretary Steven Chu said Dec. 17. “In this spirit, we are asking our contractor employees, who are doing important research, operations and environmental cleanup work, to join the federal workforce in playing a part.”

Senate leaders withdrew an omnibus spending package Dec. 16 that included the administration's federal employee pay freeze proposal, and it is unclear how and when the governmentwide freeze would be implemented.

DOE's freeze will affect 75,000 workers at 28 agency sites and will go into effect Jan. 1. For salary increases that have already been approved and implemented, the freeze will begin at the start of the next salary increase cycle and also last two years, according to the department.