

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2052

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research and development and demonstration program to reduce manufacturing and construction costs relating to nuclear reactors, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2009

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

## A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research and development and demonstration program to reduce manufacturing and construction costs relating to nuclear reactors, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Nuclear Energy Re-  
5       search Initiative Improvement Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

2 Section 952(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42  
3 U.S.C. 16272(a)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting  
5 the following:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary;” and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(2) AUTHORIZED RESEARCH INITIATIVES.—In  
9 carrying out the program under this subsection, the  
10 Secretary shall conduct research to lower the cost of  
11 nuclear reactor systems, including research regard-  
12 ing—

13 “(A) modular and small-scale reactors;

14 “(B) balance-of-plant issues;

15 “(C) cost-efficient manufacturing and con-  
16 struction;

17 “(D) licensing issues; and

18 “(E) enhanced proliferation controls.

19 “(3) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In car-  
20 rying out initiatives under paragraph (2), the Sec-  
21 retary shall consult with—

22 “(A) the Secretary of Commerce;

23 “(B) the Secretary of the Treasury;

24 “(C) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

25 and

1           “(D) any other individual who the Sec-  
2           retary determines to be necessary.

3           “(4) SCHEDULE.—

4           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
5           days after the date of enactment of this para-  
6           graph, the Secretary shall develop and publish  
7           on the website of the Department of Energy a  
8           schedule that contains an outline of a 5-year  
9           strategy to lower effectively the costs of nuclear  
10          reactors.

11          “(B) PUBLIC WORKSHOPS.—In developing  
12          the schedule under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
13          retary shall conduct public workshops to pro-  
14          vide an opportunity for public comment.

15          “(C) REVIEW.—Before the date on which  
16          the Secretary publishes the schedule under sub-  
17          paragraph (A), the Nuclear Energy Advisory  
18          Committee shall conduct a review of the sched-  
19          ule.

20          “(D) ANNUAL UPDATES.—

21                 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than  
22                 180 days after the date on which the Sec-  
23                 retary publishes the schedule under sub-  
24                 paragraph (A) and annually thereafter, the  
25                 Secretary shall update the schedule.

1                   “(ii) PUBLIC WORKSHOPS.—In updat-  
2                   ing the schedule under clause (i), the Sec-  
3                   retary shall conduct public workshops in  
4                   accordance with subparagraph (B).

5                   “(5) COST SHARING.—Section 988 shall apply  
6                   to initiatives carried out under this section.

7                   “(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
8                   There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
9                   this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
10                  2011 through 2015.”.

○