

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1218

To establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2015

Ms. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, 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 “Nexus of Energy and
5 Water for Sustainability Act of 2015” or the “NEWS Act
6 of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) COMMITTEE OR SUBCOMMITTEE.—The term
4 “Committee or Subcommittee” means the Com-
5 mittee on the Nexus of Energy and Water for Sus-
6 tainability (or the “NEWS Committee”) or the Sub-
7 committee on the Nexus of Energy and Water for
8 Sustainability (or the “NEWS Subcommittee”),
9 whichever is established by section 3(a).

10 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
11 the Director of the Office of Science and Technology
12 Policy.

13 (3) ENERGY-WATER NEXUS.—The term “en-
14 ergy-water nexus” means the links between—

15 (A) the water needed to produce fuels,
16 electricity, and other forms of energy; and

17 (B) the energy needed to transport, re-
18 claim, and treat water and wastewater.

19 (4) GRAND CHALLENGES.—The term “Grand
20 Challenges” means the 21st Century Grand Chal-
21 lenges program coordinated by the Office of Science
22 and Technology Policy.

23 (5) NSTC.—The term “NSTC” means the Na-
24 tional Science and Technology Council.

1 (6) RD&D ACTIVITIES.—The term “RD&D ac-
 2 tivities” means research, development, and dem-
 3 onstration activities.

4 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish
 6 either a committee or a subcommittee under the NSTC,
 7 to be known as either the Committee on the Nexus of En-
 8 ergy and Water for Sustainability (or the “NEWS Com-
 9 mittee”) or the Subcommittee on the Nexus of Energy and
 10 Water for Sustainability (or the “NEWS Subcommittee”),
 11 to carry out the duties described in subsection (c).

12 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—

13 (1) CHAIRS.—The Secretary of Energy and
 14 Secretary of the Interior shall serve as co-chairs of
 15 the Committee or Subcommittee.

16 (2) MEMBERSHIP; STAFFING.—Membership and
 17 staffing shall be determined by the NSTC.

18 (c) DUTIES.—The Committee or Subcommittee
 19 shall—

20 (1) serve as a forum for developing common
 21 Federal goals and plans on energy-water nexus
 22 RD&D activities;

23 (2) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
 24 actment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, issue

1 a strategic plan on energy-water nexus RD&D activi-
2 ties priorities and objectives;

3 (3) promote coordination of the activities of
4 Federal departments and agencies on energy-water
5 nexus RD&D activities, including the activities of—

6 (A) the Department of Energy;

7 (B) the Department of the Interior;

8 (C) the Corps of Engineers;

9 (D) the Department of Agriculture;

10 (E) the Department of Defense;

11 (F) the Department of State;

12 (G) the Environmental Protection Agency;

13 (H) the Council on Environmental Quality;

14 (I) the National Institute of Standards and
15 Technology;

16 (J) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
17 Administration;

18 (K) the National Science Foundation;

19 (L) the Office of Management and Budget;

20 (M) the Office of Science and Technology
21 Policy; and

22 (N) such other Federal departments and
23 agencies as the Director or the Committee or
24 Subcommittee consider appropriate; and

1 (4)(A) coordinate and develop capabilities and
2 methodologies for data collection, management, and
3 dissemination of information related to energy-water
4 nexus RD&D activities from and to other Federal
5 departments and agencies; and

6 (B) promote information exchange between
7 Federal departments and agencies—

8 (i) to identify and document Federal and
9 non-Federal programs and funding opportuni-
10 ties that support basic and applied research, de-
11 velopment, and demonstration proposals to ad-
12 vance energy-water nexus related science and
13 technologies;

14 (ii) if practicable, to leverage existing pro-
15 grams by encouraging joint solicitations, block
16 grants, and matching programs with non-Fed-
17 eral entities; and

18 (iii) to identify opportunities for domestic
19 and international public-private partnerships,
20 innovative financing mechanisms, information
21 and data exchange, and Grand Challenges.

22 (d) NO REGULATION.—Nothing in this section grants
23 to the Committee or Subcommittee (including the mem-
24 bers of the Committee or Subcommittee) the authority to
25 promulgate regulations or set standards.

1 (e) REVIEW; REPORT.—At the end of the 10-year pe-
2 riod beginning on the date on which the Committee or
3 Subcommittee is established, the Director—

4 (1) shall review the activities, relevance, and ef-
5 fectiveness of the Committee or Subcommittee; and

6 (2) submit to the Committee on Energy and
7 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Commit-
8 tees on Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and
9 Commerce, and Natural Resources of the House of
10 Representatives, a report describing the results of
11 the review conducted under paragraph (1) and a rec-
12 ommendation on whether the Committee or Sub-
13 committee should continue.

14 **SEC. 4. CROSSCUT BUDGET.**

15 Not later than 30 days after the President submits
16 the budget of the United States Government under section
17 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the
18 Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the
19 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-
20 ate and the Committees on Science, Space, and Tech-
21 nology, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources of
22 the House of Representatives, an interagency budget
23 crosscut report that displays at the program-, project-,
24 and activity-level for each of the Federal agencies that
25 carry out or support (including through grants, contracts,

1 interagency and intraagency transfers, multiyear and no-
2 year funds) basic and applied RD&D activities to advance
3 the energy-water nexus related science and technologies—
4 (1) the budget proposed in the budget request
5 of the President for the upcoming fiscal year;
6 (2) expenditures and obligations for the prior
7 fiscal year; and
8 (3) estimated expenditures and obligations for
9 the current fiscal year.

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