

ordination with directors of the National Laboratories, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

- (A) assesses the overall effectiveness of the pilot program referred to in subsection (a);
- (B) identifies opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the pilot program;
- (C) assesses the potential for program activities to interfere with the responsibilities of the National Laboratories to the Department; and
- (D) provides a recommendation regarding the future of the pilot program.

(2) Transparency

The Secretary, in coordination with directors of the National Laboratories, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report that accounts for all incidences of, and provides a justification for, non-Federal entities using funds derived from a Federal contract or award to carry out agreements pursuant to this section.

(Pub. L. 115-246, title I, §107, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3132.)

SUBCHAPTER II—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESEARCH COORDINATION

§ 18631. Crosscutting research and development

(a) In general

The Secretary shall use the capabilities of the Department to identify strategic opportunities for collaborative research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of innovative science and technologies.

(b) Existing programs; coordination of activities

To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall seek—

- (1) to leverage existing programs of the Department; and
- (2) to consolidate and coordinate activities throughout the Department to promote collaboration and crosscutting approaches within programs of the Department.

(c) Additional actions

The Secretary shall—

- (1) prioritize activities that use all affordable domestic resources;
- (2) develop a planning, evaluation, and technical assessment framework for setting objective long-term strategic goals and evaluating progress that—
 - (A) ensures integrity and independence; and
 - (B) provides the flexibility to adapt to market dynamics;
- (3) ensure that activities shall be undertaken in a manner that does not duplicate other activities within the Department or other Federal Government activities; and
- (4) identify programs that may be more effectively left to the States, industry, nongovernmental organizations, institutions of higher education, or other stakeholders.

(Pub. L. 115-246, title II, §203, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3135.)

§ 18632. Energy Innovation Hubs

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Advanced energy technology

The term “advanced energy technology” means—

- (A) an innovative technology—
 - (i) that produces energy from solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, tidal, wave, ocean, or other renewable energy resources;
 - (ii) that produces nuclear energy;
 - (iii) for carbon capture and sequestration;
 - (iv) that enables advanced vehicles, vehicle components, and related technologies that result in significant energy savings;
 - (v) that generates, transmits, distributes, uses, or stores energy more efficiently than conventional technologies, including through Smart Grid technologies; or
 - (vi) that enhances the energy independence and security of the United States by enabling improved or expanded supply and production of domestic energy resources, including coal, oil, and natural gas;
- (B) a research, development, demonstration, or commercial application activity necessary to ensure the long-term, secure, and sustainable supply of an energy-critical element; or
- (C) any other innovative energy technology area identified by the Secretary.

(2) Hub

(A) In general

The term “Hub” means an Energy Innovation Hub established under this section.

(B) Inclusion

The term “Hub” includes any Energy Innovation Hub in existence on September 28, 2018.

(3) Qualifying entity

The term “qualifying entity” means—

- (A) an institution of higher education;
- (B) an appropriate State or Federal entity, including a federally funded research and development center of the Department;
- (C) a nongovernmental organization with expertise in advanced energy technology research, development, demonstration, or commercial application; or
- (D) any other relevant entity the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) Authorization of program

(1) In general

The Secretary shall carry out a program to enhance the economic, environmental, and energy security of the United States by making awards to consortia for establishing and operating hubs, to be known as “Energy Innovation Hubs”, to conduct and support, at, if practicable, one centralized location, multidisciplinary, collaborative research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of advanced energy technologies.

(2) Technology development focus

The Secretary shall designate for each Hub a unique advanced energy technology or basic research focus.