

ral gas can also reduce our dependence on oil. And with appropriate safeguards, natural gas can provide a cleaner source of energy than other fossil fuels.

For these reasons, it is vital that we take full advantage of our natural gas resources, while giving American families and communities confidence that natural and cultural resources, air and water quality, and public health and safety will not be compromised.

While natural gas production is carried out by private firms, and States are the primary regulators of on-shore oil and gas activities, the Federal Government has an important role to play by regulating oil and gas activities on public and Indian trust lands, encouraging greater use of natural gas in transportation, supporting research and development aimed at improving the safety of natural gas development and transportation activities, and setting sensible, cost-effective public health and environmental standards to implement Federal law and augment State safeguards.

Because efforts to promote safe, responsible, and efficient development of unconventional domestic natural gas resources are underway at a number of executive departments and agencies (agencies), close interagency coordination is important for effective implementation of these programs and activities. To formalize and promote ongoing interagency coordination, this order establishes a high-level, interagency working group that will facilitate coordinated Administration policy efforts to support safe and responsible unconventional domestic natural gas development.

SEC. 2. *Interagency Working Group to Support Safe and Responsible Development of Unconventional Domestic Natural Gas Resources.* There is established an Interagency Working Group to Support Safe and Responsible Development of Unconventional Domestic Natural Gas Resources (Working Group), to be chaired by the Director of the Domestic Policy Council, or a designated representative.

(a) *Membership.* In addition to the Chair, the Working Group shall include deputy-level representatives or equivalent officials, designated by the head of the respective agency or office, from:

- (i) the Department of Defense;
- (ii) the Department of the Interior;
- (iii) the Department of Agriculture;
- (iv) the Department of Commerce;
- (v) the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (vi) the Department of Transportation;
- (vii) the Department of Energy;
- (viii) the Department of Homeland Security;
- (ix) the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (x) the Council on Environmental Quality;
- (xi) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
- (xii) the Office of Management and Budget;
- (xiii) the National Economic Council; and
- (xiv) such other agencies or offices as the Chair may invite to participate.

(b) *Functions.* Consistent with the authorities and responsibilities of participating agencies and offices, the Working Group shall support the safe and responsible production of domestic unconventional natural gas by performing the following functions:

- (i) coordinate agency policy activities, ensuring their efficient and effective operation and facilitating cooperation among agencies, as appropriate;
- (ii) coordinate among agencies the sharing of scientific, environmental, and related technical and economic information;
- (iii) engage in long-term planning and ensure coordination among the appropriate Federal entities with respect to such issues as research, natural resource assessment, and the development of infrastructure;
- (iv) promote interagency communication with stakeholders; and
- (v) consult with other agencies and offices as appropriate.

SEC. 3. *General Provisions.* (a) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

BARACK OBAMA.

SUBCHAPTER X—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT

§ 16391. Improved technology transfer of energy technologies

(a) Technology Transfer Coordinator

The Secretary shall appoint a Technology Transfer Coordinator to be the principal advisor to the Secretary on all matters relating to technology transfer and commercialization.

(b) Qualifications

The Coordinator shall be an individual who, by reason of professional background and experience, is specially qualified to advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to technology transfer at the Department.

(c) Duties of the Coordinator

The Coordinator shall oversee—

(1) the activities of the Technology Transfer Working Group established under subsection (d);

(2) the expenditure of funds allocated for technology transfer within the Department;

(3) the activities of each technology partnership ombudsman appointed under section 7261c of this title; and

(4) efforts to engage private sector entities, including venture capital companies.

(d) Technology Transfer Working Group

The Secretary shall establish a Technology Transfer Working Group, which shall consist of representatives of the National Laboratories and single-purpose research facilities, to—

(1) coordinate technology transfer activities occurring at National Laboratories and single-purpose research facilities;

(2) exchange information about technology transfer practices, including alternative approaches to resolution of disputes involving intellectual property rights and other technology transfer matters; and

(3) develop and disseminate to the public and prospective technology partners information about opportunities and procedures for technology transfer with the Department, including opportunities and procedures related to alternative approaches to resolution of disputes involving intellectual property rights and other technology transfer matters.

(e) Technology Commercialization Fund

The Secretary shall establish an Energy Technology Commercialization Fund, using 0.9 percent of the amount made available to the Department for applied energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application for each fiscal year based on future planned activities and the amount of the appropriations

for the fiscal year, to be used to provide matching funds with private partners to promote promising energy technologies for commercial purposes.

(f) Technology transfer responsibility

Nothing in this section affects the technology transfer responsibilities of Federal employees under the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

(g) Early stage technology demonstration

The Secretary shall permit the directors of the National Laboratories to use funds authorized to support technology transfer within the Department to carry out early stage and precommercial technology demonstration activities to remove technology barriers that limit private sector interest and demonstrate potential commercial applications of any research and technologies arising from National Laboratory activities.

(h) Planning and reporting

(1) In general

Not later than 180 days after August 8, 2005, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a technology transfer execution plan.

(2) Updates

Each year after the submission of the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress an updated execution plan and reports that describe progress toward meeting goals set forth in the execution plan and the funds expended under subsection (e).

(Pub. L. 109–58, title X, §1001, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 926; Pub. L. 113–291, div. C, title XXXI, §3144, Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3902; Pub. L. 115–246, title I, §102, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3131.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980, referred to in subsec. (f), is Pub. L. 96–480, Oct. 21, 1980, 94 Stat. 2311, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 63 (§3701 et seq.) of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3701 of Title 15 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsecs. (g), (h). Pub. L. 115–246 added subsec. (g) and redesignated former subsec. (g) as (h).

2014—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 113–291 inserted “based on future planned activities and the amount of the appropriations for the fiscal year” after “each fiscal year”.

§ 16392. Technology Infrastructure Program

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Program

The term “Program” means the Technology Infrastructure Program established under subsection (b).

(2) Technology cluster

The term “technology cluster” means a concentration of technology-related business concerns, institutions of higher education, or nonprofit institutions, that reinforce each other’s performance in the areas of technology development through formal or informal relationships.

(3) Technology-related business concern

The term “technology-related business concern” means a for-profit corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, or small business concern that—

- (A) conducts scientific or engineering research;
- (B) develops new technologies;
- (C) manufactures products based on new technologies; or
- (D) performs technological services.

(b) Establishment

The Secretary shall establish a Technology Infrastructure Program in accordance with this section.

(c) Purpose

The purpose of the Program shall be to improve the ability of National Laboratories and single-purpose research facilities to support departmental missions by—

- (1) stimulating the development of technology clusters that can support departmental missions at the National Laboratories or single-purpose research facilities;
- (2) improving the ability of National Laboratories and single-purpose research facilities to leverage and benefit from commercial research, technology, products, processes, and services; and
- (3) encouraging the exchange of scientific and technological expertise between—

- (A) National Laboratories or single-purpose research facilities; and
- (B) entities that can support departmental missions at the National Laboratories or single-purpose research facilities, such as—
 - (i) institutions of higher education;
 - (ii) technology-related business concerns;
 - (iii) nonprofit institutions; and
 - (iv) agencies of State, tribal, or local governments.

(d) Projects

The Secretary shall authorize the director of each National Laboratory or single-purpose research facility to implement the Program at the National Laboratory or facility through one or more projects that meet the requirements of subsections (e) and (f).

(e) Program requirements

(1) In general

Each project funded under this section shall meet the requirements of this subsection.

(2) Entities

Each project shall include at least one of each of the following entities:

- (A) A business.
- (B) An institution of higher education.
- (C) A nonprofit institution.
- (D) An agency of a State, local, or tribal government.

(3) Cost-sharing

(A) In general

The costs of carrying out projects under this section shall be shared in accordance with section 16352 of this title.