

CHAPTER 128—HYDROGEN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

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§ 12401. Finding, purposes, and definitions

(a) Finding

Congress finds that it is in the national interest to accelerate efforts to develop a domestic capability to economically produce hydrogen in quantities that will make a significant contribution toward reducing the Nation's dependence on conventional fuels.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a research, development, and demonstration program leading to the production, storage, transport, and use of hydrogen for industrial, residential, transportation, and utility applications;

(2) to direct the Secretary to develop a technology assessment and information transfer program among the Federal agencies and aerospace, transportation, energy, and other entities; and

(3) to develop renewable energy resources as a primary source of energy for the production of hydrogen.

(c) Definitions

As used in this chapter, the term:

(1) "critical technology" (or "critical technical issue") means a technology (or issue) that, in the opinion of the Secretary, requires understanding and development in order to take the next needed step in the development of hydrogen as an economic fuel or storage medium;

(2) "Department" means the Department of Energy; and

(3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(Pub. L. 101-566, § 102, Nov. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 2797; Pub. L. 104-271, title I, § 101, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3304.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 104-271, § 101(a), amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) read as follows: "to direct the Secretary to prepare a comprehensive 5-year comprehensive program management plan that will identify and resolve critical technical issues necessary for the realization of a domestic capability to produce, distribute, and use hydrogen economically within the shortest time practicable;"

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-271, § 101(b), added par. (2) and redesignated former par. (2) as (3).

SHORT TITLE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-271, § 1, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3304, provided that: "This Act [enacting section 7238 of this title, amending this section and sections 12402 to 12405, 12407,

12408, and 13436 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 7238, 12403, and 13436 of this title] may be cited as the 'Hydrogen Future Act of 1996'."

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 101-566, title I, § 101, Nov. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 2797, provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter] may be referred to as the 'Spark M. Matsunaga Hydrogen Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1990'."

§ 12402. Report to Congress

(a) Not later than January 1, 1999, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a detailed report on the status and progress of the programs authorized under this chapter.

(b) A report under subsection (a) shall include, in addition to any views and recommendations of the Secretary—

(1) an analysis of the effectiveness of the programs authorized under this chapter, to be prepared and submitted to the Secretary by the Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel established under section 12407 of this title; and

(2) recommendations of the Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel for any improvements in the program that are needed, including recommendations for additional legislation.

(Pub. L. 101-566, § 103, Nov. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 2797; Pub. L. 104-271, title I, § 102(a), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3304.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-271 amended section generally, substituting provisions requiring report to Congress on chapter programs by Jan. 1, 1999, for provisions regarding preparation and contents of comprehensive 5-year program management plan for research and development activities and comprehensive large-scale hydrogen demonstration plan with respect to section 12404 demonstrations.

§ 12403. Hydrogen research and development

(a) Program

The Secretary shall conduct a hydrogen research and development program relating to production, storage, transportation, and use of hydrogen, with the goal of enabling the private sector to demonstrate the technical feasibility of using hydrogen for industrial, residential, transportation, and utility applications.

(b) Research

In conducting the program authorized by this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) give particular attention to developing an understanding and resolution of critical technical issues preventing the introduction of hydrogen into the marketplace;

(2) initiate or accelerate existing research in critical technical issues that will contribute to the development of more economic hydrogen production and use, including, but not limited to, critical technical issues with respect to production (giving priority to those production techniques that use renewable energy resources as their primary source of energy for hydrogen production), liquefaction, transmission, distribution, storage, and use (including use of hydrogen in surface transportation); and

(3) survey private sector hydrogen activities and take steps to ensure that research and development activities under this section do not displace or compete with the privately funded hydrogen research and development activities of United States industry.

(c) Innovative energy technologies

The Secretary is authorized to evaluate any reasonable new or improved technology, including basic research on highly innovative energy technologies, that could lead or contribute to the development of economic hydrogen production, storage, and utilization.

(d) Renewable energy systems; hybrid systems

The Secretary is authorized to evaluate any reasonable new or improved technology that could lead or contribute to, or demonstrate the use of, advanced renewable energy systems or hybrid systems for use in isolated communities that currently import diesel fuel as the primary fuel for electric power production.

(e) Information

The Secretary is authorized to arrange for tests and demonstrations and to disseminate to researchers and developers information, data, and other materials necessary to support the research and development activities authorized under this section and other efforts authorized under this chapter, consistent with section 12405 of this title.

(f) Federal funding

The Secretary shall carry out the research and development activities authorized under this section only through the funding of research and development proposals submitted by interested persons according to such procedures as the Secretary may require and evaluate on a competitive basis using peer review. Such funding shall be in the form of a grant agreement, procurement contract, or cooperative agreement (as those terms are used in chapter 63 of title 31).

(g) Non-Federal funding

The Secretary shall not consider a proposal submitted by a person from industry unless the proposal contains a certification that reasonable efforts to obtain non-Federal funding for the entire cost of the project have been made, and that such non-Federal funding could not be reasonably obtained. As appropriate, the Secretary shall require a commitment from non-Federal sources of at least 50 percent of the cost of the development portion of such a proposal.

(h) Prohibition on duplicative efforts

The Secretary shall not carry out any activities under this section that unnecessarily duplicate activities carried out elsewhere by the Federal Government or industry.

(i) Federal funding consistent with the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

The Secretary shall establish, after consultation with other Federal agencies, terms and conditions under which Federal funding will be provided under this chapter that are consistent with the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures referred to in section 3511(d)(12) of title 19.

(Pub. L. 101-566, § 104, Nov. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 2798; Pub. L. 104-271, title I, § 103(a), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3305.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-271 amended section generally, substituting present provisions for provisions which stated in subsec. (a) the Secretary was to conduct a research and development program for development of a domestic hydrogen fuel production capability; subsec. (b) attention was to be given to research of critical technical issues; subsec. (c) renewable energy priority; subsec. (d) new technologies; and subsec. (e) gathering and dissemination of information to support research and development efforts.

FUEL CELLS

Pub. L. 104-271, title II, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3307, provided that:

“SEC. 201. INTEGRATION OF FUEL CELLS WITH HYDROGEN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.

“(a) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section [Oct. 9, 1996], and subject to the availability of appropriations made specifically for this section, the Secretary of Energy shall solicit proposals for projects to prove the feasibility of integrating fuel cells with—

“(1) photovoltaic systems for hydrogen production; or

“(2) systems for hydrogen production from solid waste via gasification or steam reforming.

“(b) Each proposal submitted in response to the solicitation under this section shall be evaluated on a competitive basis [basis] using peer review. The Secretary is not required to make an award under this section in the absence of a meritorious proposals. [sic]

“(c) The Secretary shall give preference, in making an award under this section, to proposals that—

“(1) are submitted jointly from consortia including academic institutions, industry, State or local governments, and Federal laboratories; and

“(2) reflect proven experience and capability with technologies relevant to the systems described in subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2).

“(d) In the case of a proposal involving development or demonstration, the Secretary shall require a commitment from non-Federal sources of at least 50 percent of the cost of the development or demonstration portion of the proposal.

“(e) The Secretary shall establish, after consultation with other Federal agencies, terms and conditions under which Federal funding will be provided under this title that are consistent with the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures referred to in section 101(d)(12) of the Uruguay Round Agreement Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(12)).

“SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated, for activities under this section [title], a total of \$50,000,000 for fiscal years 1997 and 1998, to remain available until September 30, 1999.”

§ 12404. Demonstrations

(a) Requirement

The Secretary shall conduct demonstrations of critical technologies, preferably in self-contained locations, so that technical and non-technical parameters can be evaluated to best determine commercial applicability of the technology.

(b) Small-scale demonstrations

Concurrently with activities conducted pursuant to section 12403 of this title, the Secretary shall conduct small-scale demonstrations of hydrogen technology at self-contained sites.