

(d) Submission to Secretary

Each affected director of a National Laboratory shall submit to the Secretary, with respect to each agreement entered into under this section—

- (1) a summary of information relating to the relevant project;
- (2) the total estimated costs of the project;
- (3) estimated commencement and completion dates of the project; and
- (4) other documentation determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) Certification

The Secretary shall require the contractor of the affected National Laboratory to certify that each activity carried out under a project for which an agreement is entered into under this section—

- (1) is not in direct competition with the private sector; and
- (2) does not present, or minimizes, any apparent conflict of interest, and avoids or neutralizes any actual conflict of interest, as a result of the agreement under this section.

(f) Extension

The pilot program referred to in subsection (a) shall be extended until September 30, 2019.

(g) Reports**(1) Overall assessment**

Not later than 60 days after the date described in subsection (f), the Secretary, in coordination 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, non-governmental 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.