Calendar No. 418

115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

S. 1457

[Report No. 115-251]

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out demonstration projects relating to advanced nuclear reactor technologies to support domestic energy needs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 28, 2017

Mr. Flake (for himself, Mr. Booker, Mr. Risch, and Mr. Crapo) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

May 21, 2018

Reported by Ms. Murkowski, with an amendment [Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out demonstration projects relating to advanced nuclear reactor technologies to support domestic energy needs.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.			
2	This Act may be cited as the "Advanced Nuclear En-			
3	ergy Technologies Act''.			
4	SEC. 2. ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR RESEARCH AND DE-			
5	VELOPMENT GOALS.			
6	(a) In General.—Subtitle B of title VI of the En-			
7	ergy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58; 119 Stat.			
8	782) is amended by adding at the end the following:			
9	"SEC. 640. ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR RESEARCH AND			
10	DEVELOPMENT GOALS.			
11	"(a) Definitions.—In this section:			
12	"(1) ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR.—The			
13	term 'advanced nuclear reactor' means a nuclear fis-			
14	sion or fusion reactor, including a prototype plant			
15	(as defined in sections 50.2 and 52.1 of title 10,			
16	Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-			
17	tions)), with significant improvements compared to			
18	commercial nuclear reactors under construction as of			
19	the date of enactment of this section, including im-			
20	provements such as—			
21	"(A) additional inherent safety features;			
22	"(B) a significantly lower levelized cost of			
23	electricity;			
24	"(C) lower waste yields;			
25	"(D) improved fuel performance;			

1	"(E) increased tolerance to loss of fuel					
2	cooling;					
3	"(F) enhanced reliability;					
4	"(G) increased proliferation resistance;					
5	"(H) increased thermal efficiency;					
6	"(I) reduced consumption of cooling water					
7	"(J) the ability to integrate into electri					
8	applications and nonelectric applications;					
9	"(K) modular sizes to allow for deployment					
10	that corresponds with the demand for elec-					
11	tricity; or					
12	"(L) operational flexibility to respond to					
13	changes in demand for electricity and to com-					
14	plement integration with intermittent renewable					
15	energy.					
16	"(2) Demonstration project.—The term					
17	'demonstration project' means an advanced nuclear					
18	reactor operated—					
19	"(A) as part of the power generation facili-					
20	ties of an electric utility system; or					
21	"(B) in any other manner for the purpose					
22	of demonstrating the suitability for commercial					
23	application of the advanced nuclear reactor.					
24	"(b) Purpose.—The purpose of this section is to di-					
25	rect the Secretary, as soon as practicable after the date					

1	of enactment of this section, to advance the research and				
2	development of domestic advanced, affordable, and clean				
3	nuclear energy by—				
4	"(1) demonstrating different advanced nuclear				
5	reactor technologies that could be used by the pri-				
6	vate sector to produce—				
7	"(A) emission-free power at a cost of \$65-				
8	\$70 per mWh or less;				
9	"(1) Advanced nuclear reactor.—The term				
10	'advanced nuclear reactor' means a nuclear fission o				
11	fusion reactor, including a prototype plant (as de-				
12	fined in sections 50.2 and 52.1 of title 10, Code of				
13	Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)), with				
14	significant improvements compared to the most recent				
15	generation of fission reactors, including improvements				
16	such as—				
17	"(A) additional inherent safety features;				
18	"(B) a significantly lower levelized cost of				
19	electricity;				
20	"(C) lower waste yields;				
21	"(D) improved fuel performance;				
22	"(E) increased tolerance to loss of fuel cool-				
23	ing;				
24	$``(F)\ enhanced\ reliability;$				
25	"(G) increased proliferation resistance:				

1	"(H) increased thermal efficiency;				
2	"(I) reduced consumption of cooling water;				
3	"(I) the ability to integrate into electric ap-				
4	plications and nonelectric applications;				
5	"(K) modular sizes to allow for deployment				
6	that corresponds with the demand for electricity;				
7	or				
8	"(L) operational flexibility to respond to				
9	changes in demand for electricity and to com-				
10	plement integration with intermittent renewable				
11	energy.				
12	"(2) Demonstration project.—The term				
13	'demonstration project' means an advanced nuclear				
14	reactor operated—				
15	"(A) as part of the power generation facili-				
16	ties of an electric utility system; or				
17	"(B) in any other manner for the purpose				
18	of demonstrating the suitability for commercial				
19	application of the advanced nuclear reactor.				
20	"(b) Purpose.—The purpose of this section is to direct				
21	the Secretary, as soon as practicable after the date of enact-				
22	ment of this section, to advance the research and develop-				
23	ment of domestic advanced, affordable, and clean nuclear				
24	energy by—				

1	"(1) demonstrating different advanced nuclear
2	reactor technologies that could be used by the private
3	sector to produce—
4	"(A) emission-free power at a levelized cost
5	of electricity of \$60 per mWh or less;
6	"(B) heat for industrial purposes or syn-
7	thetic fuel production;
8	"(C) remote or off-grid energy supply; or
9	"(D) backup or mission-critical power sup-
10	plies;
11	"(2) developing goals for nuclear energy re-
12	search programs that would accomplish the goals of
13	the demonstration projects carried out under sub-
14	section (e);
15	"(3) identifying research areas that the private
16	sector is unable or unwilling to undertake due to the
17	cost of, or risks associated with, the research; and
18	"(4) facilitating the access of the private sec-
19	tor—
20	"(A) to Federal research facilities; and
21	"(B) to the results of research funded by
22	the Federal Government.
23	"(c) Demonstration Projects.—
24	"(1) In general.—During the period begin-
25	ning on the date of enactment of this section and

1	ending on September 30, 2028, the Secretary shall,
2	to the maximum extent practicable, enter into one or
3	more agreements to carry out not fewer than 4 ad-
4	vanced nuclear reactor demonstration projects.
5	"(2) Requirements.—In carrying out dem-
6	onstration projects under paragraph (1), the Sec-
7	retary shall—
8	"(A) seek to include diversity in designs
9	for the advanced nuclear reactors demonstrated
10	under this section, including designs using var-
11	ious primary coolants;
12	"(B) seek to ensure that—
13	"(i) the long-term cost of electricity or
14	heat for each design to be demonstrated
15	under this subsection is cost-competitive in
16	the applicable market; and
17	"(ii) the cost-competitiveness of each
18	design to be demonstrated under this sub-
19	section is verified by an external review of
20	the proposed design;
21	"(C) enter into cost-sharing agreements
22	with partners in accordance with section 988
23	for the conduct of activities relating to the re-
24	search, development, and demonstration of pri-

1	vate-sector advanced nuclear reactor designs
2	under the program;
3	"(D) work with private sector partners to
4	identify potential sites, including Department-
5	owned sites, for demonstrations, as appropriate;
6	and
7	"(E) align specific activities carried out
8	under demonstration projects carried out under
9	this subsection with priorities identified through
10	direct consultations between—
11	"(i) the Department;
12	"(ii) National Laboratories;
13	"(iii) traditional end-users (such as
14	electric utilities);
15	"(iv) potential end-users of new tech-
16	nologies (such as petrochemical compa-
17	nies); and
18	"(v) developers of advanced nuclear
19	reactor technology.
20	"(d) Goals.—
21	"(1) In General.—The Secretary shall estab-
22	lish goals for research relating to advanced nuclear
23	reactors facilitated by the Department that support
24	the objectives of the program for demonstration
25	projects established under subsection (c).

1	"(2) COORDINATION.—In developing the goals
2	under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate,
3	on an ongoing basis, with members of private indus-
4	try to advance the demonstration of various designs
5	of advanced nuclear reactors.
6	"(3) Requirements.—In developing the goals
7	under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure
8	that—
9	"(A) research activities facilitated by the
10	Department to meet the goals developed under
11	this subsection are focused on key areas of nu-
12	clear research and deployment ranging from
13	basic energy to full-design development, safety
14	evaluation, and licensing;
15	"(B) research programs designed to meet
16	the goals emphasize—
17	"(i) resolving materials challenges re-
18	lating to radiation damage or corrosive
19	coolants; and
20	"(ii) qualification of advanced fuels;
21	"(C) activities are carried out that address
22	near-term challenges in modeling and simula-
23	tion to enable accelerated design and licensing;
24	"(D) related technologies, such as electro-
25	chemical processing or fuel recycling that could

1	reduce nuclear waste volumes or half lives, are					
2	developed;					
3	"(E) infrastructure, such as a versatile					
4	fast neutron source or molten salt testing facil-					
5	ity, to aid in research are constructed;					
6	"(F) basic knowledge of non-light water					
7	coolant physics and chemistry is improved; and					
8	"(G) advanced manufacturing and con-					
9	struction techniques and materials are inves-					
10	tigated to reduce the commercialization cost of					
11	advanced nuclear reactors.".					
12	(b) Table of Contents Amendment.—The table					
13	of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law					
14	109–58; 119 Stat. 594) is amended by inserting after the					
15	item relating to section 639 the following:					

"Sec. 640. Advanced nuclear reactor research and development goals.".

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