



S. 1241 - the Enhanced Grid Security Act of 2015

By Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)

Energy sector infrastructure is exposed to new vulnerabilities and threats every day. In an environment where cyberattacks are probable, protection of mission critical systems—like the power grid—becomes more important and more complex.

The Enhanced Grid Security Act of 2015 (the Act) establishes programs at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to ensure that our energy sector is prepared for cyberattacks. The Act also significantly increases funding for DOE to implement these measures.

DOE Designation. Designates DOE as the lead, sector-specific agency for cybersecurity matters for the energy sector.

Cyber Research and Development Program. Creates a program at DOE to develop advanced cyber applications and technologies for the energy sector to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities, to advance security of third-party control systems, to use the grid architecture to assess risks to the energy sector, to perform pilot demonstration projects within the energy sector, and to develop workforce curricula to train energy sector related cyber experts.

Supply Chain. Creates a program at DOE to identify and test vulnerabilities of supply chain products, and to develop procurement guidelines for energy sector supply chain components.

Emergency Capability Testing. Creates a program at DOE to enhance and test emergency response capabilities of DOE, in addition to the coordination of DOE with other agencies, the national labs, and private industry. This program would expand cooperation of DOE with the intelligence community, enhance DOE's tools to monitor the energy sector, expand industry participation in information sharing, and provide technical assistance to small utilities for assessing cyber maturity posture.

Securing Energy Networks. Creates a program at DOE to secure energy networks, including electric, natural gas, and oil exploration, transmission, and delivery.

Study. Directs DOE to perform a study to determine how to expand membership in the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

Funding. Authorizes \$100 million annually from 2017-2022, so that DOE can carry out these directives.
