

**Basic Energy Sciences (BES) Response to the Report of the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee
Committee of Visitors (COV) Review of the BES Energy Frontier Research Center
and Energy Innovation Hubs Programs**

Date of COV: October 13 – 16, 2020 (virtual)

Date of Response: February 11, 2021

Program Point of Contact: Linda Horton (BES)

	The COV recommends that DOE-BES:	BES Responses
1	Document the processes leading to a reduction in the scope of work when the requested budget is reduced. Such documentation will provide an archival record of the process, which will provide continuity should a change in program manager occur and will enable future COVs to assess the entire award process.	For future Funding Opportunity Announcements, BES will develop a structure and process for documenting the negotiations related to a reduction of scope and will ensure that such documentation is archived in the PAMS system along with other award documentation.
2	Continue to communicate about future funding directions and opportunities, proposal submission, etc., extensively with the community at large and to use the communication strategies learned from the COVID19 pandemic to further broaden their reach and impact.	BES recognizes the benefits of broad outreach to a diverse group of potential applicants. BES will explore and implement mechanisms to enhance outreach and broaden the engagement of the scientific community in mission-driven BES research, including the use of strategies and tools developed during the recent pandemic.
3	Streamline - where and when they can - the management and oversight reporting requirements for EFRCs and HUBs. In this regard, the reports should be informative rather than cumulative, duplication of reported material should be minimized, and strict, specified page limits should be introduced. It is recognized that the project scopes vary between EFRCs and HUBs and even across HUBs, and the management and oversight requirements should be balanced to reflect the funding level and scope of the project.	BES will evaluate the reporting requirements for both EFRCs and Hubs; appropriate modifications will be implemented to ensure that necessary and relevant information is collected in a concise and informative format.
4	Continue to have a diverse and balanced representation of reviewers from academia, industry, Federal Funding Agencies, and Federal Laboratories. In addition, the number of reviewers selected should correlate with the scope and complexity of the project and the level of funding. The use of virtual panel reviews presents an opportunity to enhance the overall diversity of the panel.	BES appreciates the importance of recruiting diverse and balanced reviewers and will strive to achieve this for future reviews of EFRCs and Hubs, making use of virtual panel reviews when appropriate. BES will also work to ensure that the number of reviewers is aligned with the scope and complexity of each project.
5	Should have the flexibility to determine the best practices for conducting panel reviews both for in-person and virtual panels.	Within established guidelines, BES will work with the Office of Science to ensure that science programs fully control the format and function of merit reviews conducted using in-person or virtual panels.

**Basic Energy Sciences (BES) Response to the Report of the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee
Committee of Visitors (COV) Review of the BES Energy Frontier Research Center
and Energy Innovation Hubs Programs**

6	Continue to ensure the EFRCs and HUBs, and all other DOE-BES activities, are inclusive in the broadest sense, welcoming manifestations of diversity including scientific expertise (discipline, research expertise, career stage), institutional (academia, industry, government laboratories), and people (gender, race, ethnicity, etc.).	BES recognizes and appreciates the importance of diversity and inclusion across all program and will continue to work to broaden participation in the EFRCs and Hubs.
---	---	---

NOTE: This COV also included a recommendation to reconsider the aim, purpose, and usefulness of the portion of the COV charge that asks for an evaluation of how the award process has affected the national and international standing of the programs. This recommendation was referred to the Office of Science for consideration and evaluation.