

C. Examples of Review Questions

These questions were pulled from a number of EERE evaluations by the Peer Review Task Force and organized to show how questions for assessing a “program” differ from questions for assessing projects that make up that program. Most of the examples provided are for R&D programs. The suggestion in this guide is that project reviews also ask questions about the relevant program, so this expert judgment information

Review Criterion	Level of Review	
	Project-level Reviews	Program-level Reviews
Quality, Productivity, Accomplishments	What is the quality of research so far?	Portfolio balance:
	Are the methods used/proposed based on sound science?	Is the overall program portfolio appropriately balanced to achieve program goals?
	Are the experimental and analytical methods used appropriate?	Is the research effort across the portfolio adequate?
	What is the level of insight and innovation demonstrated in relation to requirements of the project?	Is the portfolio sufficiently balanced and focused on the most fruitful avenues to reach the program’s goals?
	Are technological risk factors effectively assessed?	Are key research areas in the program’s portfolio receiving sufficient emphasis?
	Are key research areas in the project receiving sufficient emphasis?	Are the program’s technical approaches appropriate for achieving the goals, research direction and/or market timing and needs?
	Are papers, reports & other publications, awards and patents resulted from the project of high quality?	Quality of team:
	Are technical goals and milestones realistic?	What is the overall quality of the research and teams, and the adequacy of facilities?
	Are the project’s goals and milestones being adequately pursued?	Progress:
	Is adequate progress made with achieving planned targets?	Do [collective] results indicate significant progress toward achieving The program’s mission & goals?
	Will project meet its objectives as currently budgeted and scheduled?	What is the rate of progress in meeting planned objectives & schedule? Is it sufficient?
	Value of project relative to programmatic costs?	

Review Criterion	Level of Review	
	Project-level Reviews	Program-level Reviews
Relevance	Is the importance of the project to the energy area, problem or need sufficiently high to justify the work?	Is the program's work appropriately relevant to EERE & DOE mission and other national goals?
	Does the project adequately address industry [partner] goals?	Are the program's goals appropriate for its mission?
	Is the project relevant to programmatic goals?	Did scientific & technical advances from the program's research translate into real energy savings?
	Does the project adequately address a specific identified technical or market problem or need?	

Review Criterion	Level of Review	
	Project-level Reviews	Program-level Reviews
Management	Resources:	Resources:
	Is the project appropriately funded to meet its goals?	What is the value of program relative to its costs?
		Is the program appropriately funded to meet its goals?
	Planning and Implementation:	Planning and Implementation:
	Is the project integrated with other projects in the program?	How would you assess the quality of the program's multi-year planning (MYPP) so far?
	How would you assess the quality of R&D planning so far?	How well was last year's plan implemented?
	Is project planning coordinated with industry or other stakeholders?	What is quality of proposed future plans?
	How well is the project being implemented?	Are changes in program direction or emphasis based on clear, robust and documented decision processes?
	Are there unintended (+/-) consequences (e.g., health, safety, & environmental issues) of the technology that are not being addressed?	
	Teaming:	Teaming:
	How well has the project team leveraged resources (funds, capabilities) by teaming with private companies & other organizations?	How effective is R&D integration among organizations to leverage resources?

Review Criterion	Level of Review		
	Project-level Reviews		Program-level Reviews
			<p>Is technology transfer effectively managed?</p> <p>Do adequate teaming arrangements to facilitate technology transfer exist?</p> <p>Research Integration: How well does the program address the structural relationship between projects?</p> <p>How effective is R&D integration across projects?</p>