

**§ 16515. Limitation on commitments to guarantee loans**

(a) Notwithstanding section 101,<sup>1</sup> subject to the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, as amended [2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.], commitments to guarantee loans under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 [42 U.S.C. 16501 et seq.] shall not exceed a total principal amount, any part of which is to be guaranteed, of \$4,000,000,000: *Provided*, That there are appropriated for the cost of the guaranteed loans such sums as are hereafter derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 16512(b)(2) of this title, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the source of payments received from borrowers for the subsidy cost shall not be a loan or other debt obligation that is made or guaranteed by the Federal government.<sup>2</sup> In addition, fees collected pursuant to section 16512(h) of this title in fiscal year 2007 shall be credited as offsetting collections to the Departmental Administration account for administrative expenses of the Loan Guarantee Program: *Provided further*, That the sum appropriated for administrative expenses for the Loan Guarantee Program shall be reduced by the amount of fees received during fiscal year 2007: *Provided further*, That any fees collected under section 16512(h) of this title in excess of the amount appropriated for administrative expenses shall not be available until appropriated.

(b) No loan guarantees may be awarded under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 [42 U.S.C. 16501 et seq.] until final regulations are issued that include—

- (1) programmatic, technical, and financial factors the Secretary will use to select projects for loan guarantees;
- (2) policies and procedures for selecting and monitoring lenders and loan performance; and
- (3) any other policies, procedures, or information necessary to implement title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

(c) The Secretary of Energy shall enter into an arrangement with an independent auditor for annual evaluations of the program under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 [42 U.S.C. 16501 et seq.]. In addition to the independent audit, the Comptroller General shall conduct an annual review of the Department's execution of the program under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The results of the independent audit and the Comptroller General's review shall be provided directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(d) The Secretary of Energy shall promulgate final regulations for loan guarantees under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 [42 U.S.C. 16501 et seq.] within 6 months of February 15, 2007.

(e) Not later than 120 days after February 15, 2007, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall transmit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing a summary of all activities under title XVII of the Energy Policy

Act of 2005 [42 U.S.C. 16501 et seq.], beginning in fiscal year 2007, with a listing of responses to loan guarantee solicitations under this subchapter, describing the technologies, amount of loan guarantee sought, and the applicants' assessment of risk.

(Pub. L. 109-289, div. B, title II, §20320, as added Pub. L. 110-5, §2, Feb. 15, 2007, 121 Stat. 21.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 101, referred to in subsec. (a), is section 101 of title I of div. B of Pub. L. 109-289, as added by Pub. L. 110-5, §2, Feb. 15, 2007, 121 Stat. 8. Subsec. (b) of section 101 is classified as a note under section 12651i of this title. Subsecs. (a) and (c) of section 101 are not classified to the Code.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, referred to in subsec. (a), is title V of Pub. L. 93-344, as added by Pub. L. 101-508, title XIII, §13201(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-609, which is classified generally to subchapter III (§661 et seq.) of chapter 17A of Title 2, The Congress. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 621 of Title 2 and Tables.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 109-58, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 594. Title XVII of the Act is classified generally to this subchapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 15801 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, and not as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 16516. Temporary program for rapid deployment of renewable energy and electric power transmission projects**

**(a) In general**

Notwithstanding section 16513 of this title, the Secretary may make guarantees under this section only for the following categories of projects that commence construction not later than September 30, 2011:

(1) Renewable energy systems, including incremental hydropower, that generate electricity or thermal energy, and facilities that manufacture related components.

(2) Electric power transmission systems, including upgrading and reconditioning projects.

(3) Leading edge biofuel projects that will use technologies performing at the pilot or demonstration scale that the Secretary determines are likely to become commercial technologies and will produce transportation fuels that substantially reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to other transportation fuels.

**(b) Factors relating to electric power transmission systems**

In determining to make guarantees to projects described in subsection (a)(2), the Secretary may consider the following factors:

(1) The viability of the project without guarantees.

(2) The availability of other Federal and State incentives.

(3) The importance of the project in meeting reliability needs.

(4) The effect of the project in meeting a State or region's environment (including climate change) and energy goals.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

<sup>2</sup> So in original. Probably should be capitalized.

**(c) Wage rate requirements**

The Secretary shall require that each recipient of support under this section provide reasonable assurance that all laborers and mechanics employed in the performance of the project for which the assistance is provided, including those employed by contractors or subcontractors, will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar work in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of part A of subtitle II of title 40 (commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

**(d) Limitation**

Funding under this section for projects described in subsection (a)(3) shall not exceed \$500,000,000.

**(e) Sunset**

The authority to enter into guarantees under this section shall expire on September 30, 2011.

(Pub. L. 109–58, title XVII, §1705, as added Pub. L. 111–5, div. A, title IV, §406(a), Feb. 17, 2009, 123 Stat. 145.)

## SUBCHAPTER XVI—STUDIES

**§ 16521. Report on energy integration with Latin America**

The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate concerning the status of energy export development in Latin America and efforts by the Secretary and other departments and agencies of the United States to promote energy integration with Latin America. The report shall contain a detailed analysis of the status of energy export development in Mexico and a description of all significant efforts by the Secretary and other departments and agencies to promote a constructive relationship with Mexico regarding the development of that nation’s energy capacity. In particular this report shall outline efforts the Secretary and other departments and agencies have made to ensure that regulatory approval and oversight of United States/Mexico border projects that result in the expansion of Mexican energy capacity are effectively coordinated across departments and with the Mexican government.

(Pub. L. 109–58, title XVIII, §1807, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 1124.)

**§ 16522. Low-volume gas reservoir study****(a) Study**

The Secretary shall make a grant to an organization of oil and gas producing States, specifically those containing significant numbers of marginal oil and natural gas wells, for conducting an annual study of low-volume natural gas reservoirs. Such organization shall work with the State geologist of each State being studied.

**(b) Contents**

The studies under this section shall—

- (1) determine the status and location of marginal wells and gas reservoirs;

- (2) gather the production information of these marginal wells and reservoirs;

- (3) estimate the remaining producible reserves based on variable pipeline pressures;

- (4) locate low-pressure gathering facilities and pipelines;

- (5) recommend incentives which will enable the continued production of these resources;

- (6) produce maps and literature to disseminate to States to promote conservation of natural gas reserves; and

- (7) evaluate the amount of natural gas that is being wasted through the practice of venting or flaring of natural gas produced in association with crude oil well production.

**(c) Data analysis**

Data development and analysis under this section shall be performed by an institution of higher education with GIS capabilities. If the organization receiving the grant under subsection (a) does not have GIS capabilities, such organization shall contract with one or more entities with—

- (1) technological capabilities and resources to perform advanced image processing, GIS programming, and data analysis; and

- (2) the ability to—

- (A) process remotely sensed imagery with high spatial resolution;

- (B) deploy global positioning systems;

- (C) process and synthesize existing, variable-format gas well, pipeline, gathering facility, and reservoir data;

- (D) create and query GIS databases with infrastructure location and attribute information;

- (E) write computer programs to customize relevant GIS software;

- (F) generate maps, charts, and graphs which summarize findings from data research for presentation to different audiences; and

- (G) deliver data in a variety of formats, including Internet Map Server for query and display, desktop computer display, and access through handheld personal digital assistants.

**(d) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for carrying out this section—

- (1) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2006; and

- (2) \$450,000 for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

**(e) Definitions**

For purposes of this section, the term “GIS” means geographic information systems technology that facilitates the organization and management of data with a geographic component.

(Pub. L. 109–58, title XVIII, §1808, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 1124.)

**§ 16523. Alaska natural gas pipeline**

Not later than 180 days after August 8, 2005, and every 180 days thereafter until the Alaska natural gas pipeline commences operation, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall submit to Congress a report describing—