

laws: “It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to provide for the creation of a Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the storage of up to 1 billion barrels of petroleum products, but not less than 150 million barrels of petroleum products by the end of the 3-year period which begins on December 22, 1975, for the purpose of reducing the impact of disruptions in supplies of petroleum products or to carry out obligations of the United States under the international energy program. It is further declared to be the policy of the United States to provide for the creation of an Early Storage Reserve, as part of the Reserve, for the purpose of providing limited protection from the impact of near-term disruptions in supplies of petroleum products or to carry out obligations of the United States under the international energy program.”

STUDY OF A STRATEGIC ETHANOL RESERVE

Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, §1778, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1659, provided that:

“(a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study of the cost effectiveness, the economic benefits, and the feasibility of establishing, maintaining, and utilizing a Strategic Ethanol Reserve relative to the existing Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

“(b) The study shall be completed within one year after the enactment of this section [Dec. 23, 1985] and shall include, among other considerations—

“(1) the benefits and losses related to the U.S. economy, farm income, employment, government commodity programs, and the trade deficit of utilizing a Strategic Ethanol Reserve, as opposed to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; and

“(2) the savings from storing ethanol as opposed to storing the amount of CCC-held grain necessary to produce the ethanol.

“(c) If the study shows that the Strategic Ethanol Reserve is cost effective, beneficial to the U.S. economy, and feasible in comparison with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the Secretary of Agriculture may establish, maintain, and utilize a Strategic Ethanol Reserve.”

ADDITIONAL CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS

Pub. L. 97-35, title X, §1032, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 618, provided that: “The Congress finds that—

“(1) the Strategic Petroleum Reserve should be considered a national security asset; and

“(2) enlarging the capacity and filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve should be accelerated (to the extent technically and economically practicable) to take advantage of any increased availability of crude oil in the world market from time to time.”

§ 6232. Definitions

As used in this part and part C of this subchapter:

(1) Repealed. Pub. L. 106-469, title I, §103(5)(A), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2029.

(2) The term “importer” means any person who owns, at the first place of storage, any petroleum product imported into the United States.

(3) Repealed. Pub. L. 106-469, title I, §103(5)(A), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2029.

(4) The term “interest in land” means any ownership or possessory right with respect to real property, including ownership in fee, an easement, a leasehold, and any subsurface or mineral rights.

(5) The term “readily available inventories” means stocks and supplies of petroleum products which can be distributed or used without affecting the ability of the importer or refiner to operate at normal capacity; such term does not include minimum working inventories or other unavailable stocks.

(6) The term “refiner” means any person who owns, operates, or controls the operation of any refinery.

(7) Repealed. Pub. L. 106-469, title I, §103(5)(A), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2029.

(8) The term “related facility” means any necessary appurtenance to a storage facility, including pipelines, roadways, reservoirs, and salt brine lines.

(9) The term “Reserve” means the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

(10) The term “storage facility” means any facility or geological formation which is capable of storing significant quantities of petroleum products.

(11) The term “Strategic Petroleum Reserve” means petroleum products stored in storage facilities pursuant to this part.

(Pub. L. 94-163, title I, §152, Dec. 22, 1975, 89 Stat. 882; Pub. L. 101-383, §6(a)(1), Sept. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 729; Pub. L. 106-469, title I, §103(5), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2029.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Par. (1). Pub. L. 106-469, §103(5)(A), struck out par. (1) which read as follows: “The term ‘Early Storage Reserve’ means that portion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which consists of petroleum products stored pursuant to section 6235 of this title.”

Par. (3). Pub. L. 106-469, §103(5)(A), struck out par. (3) which read as follows: “The term ‘Industrial Petroleum Reserve’ means that portion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which consists of petroleum products owned by importers or refiners and acquired, stored, or maintained pursuant to section 6236 of this title.”

Par. (7). Pub. L. 106-469, §103(5)(A), struck out par. (7) which read as follows: “The term ‘Regional Petroleum Reserve’ means that portion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which consists of petroleum products stored pursuant to section 6237 of this title.”

Par. (11). Pub. L. 106-469, §103(5)(B), struck out “; such term includes the Industrial Petroleum Reserve, the Early Storage Reserve, and the Regional Petroleum Reserve” before period at end.

1990—Pub. L. 101-383 inserted “and part C of this subchapter” after “this part”.

§ 6233. Repealed. Pub. L. 106-469, title I, § 103(6), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2030

Section, Pub. L. 94-163, title I, §153, Dec. 22, 1975, 89 Stat. 882; Pub. L. 95-619, title VI, §691(b)(2), Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3288, related to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Office.

§ 6234. Strategic Petroleum Reserve

(a) Establishment

A Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the storage of up to 1 billion barrels of petroleum products shall be created pursuant to this part.

(b) Authority of Secretary

The Secretary, in accordance with this part, shall exercise authority over the development, operation, and maintenance of the Reserve.

(c) to (e) Repealed. Pub. L. 106-469, title I, § 103(7)(C), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2030

(f) Purpose of drawdown and distribution; requests for funds for storage

(1) The drawdown and distribution of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is authorized only under section 6241 of

this title, and drawdown and distribution of petroleum products for purposes other than those described in section 6241 of this title shall be prohibited.

(2) In the Secretary's annual budget submission, the Secretary shall request funds for acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products for storage in the Reserve. If no requests for funds are made, the Secretary shall provide a written explanation of the reason therefore.

(Pub. L. 94-163, title I, §154, Dec. 22, 1975, 89 Stat. 882; Pub. L. 95-619, title VI, §691(b)(2), Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3288; Pub. L. 102-486, title XIV, §1402, Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2994; Pub. L. 105-177, §1(6), June 1, 1998, 112 Stat. 106; Pub. L. 106-469, title I, §103(7), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2030.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-469, §103(7)(A), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) provided for the creation of a Strategic Petroleum Reserve of up to 1 billion barrels of petroleum products and required that the Reserve contain not less than 150 million barrels of petroleum products by the end of the 3-year period beginning on Dec. 22, 1975, and that the President take actions to enlarge the Reserve to 1,000,000,000 barrels as rapidly as possible beginning Oct. 24, 1992.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-469, §103(7)(B), amended subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (b) read as follows: "The Secretary, not later than December 15, 1976, shall prepare and transmit to the Congress, in accordance with section 6421 of this title, a Strategic Petroleum Reserve Plan. Such Plan shall comply with the provisions of this section and shall detail the Secretary's proposals for designing, constructing, and filling the storage and related facilities of the Reserve."

Subsecs. (c) to (e). Pub. L. 106-469, §103(7)(C), struck out subsecs. (c) to (e) which related to the levels of crude oil to be stored, plan objectives, and plan provisions.

1998—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 105-177 added subsec. (f).

1992—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-486 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1978—Subsecs. (b), (d). Pub. L. 95-619 substituted "Secretary" and "Secretary's" for "Administrator" and "Administrator's", respectively, meaning Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration, wherever appearing.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE DRAWDOWN PLAN

Pub. L. 97-229, §4(c), Aug. 3, 1982, 96 Stat. 252, provided that: "On or before December 1, 1982, the President shall transmit to the Congress a drawdown plan for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve consistent with the requirements of section 154 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act [this section]. Such plan shall be transmitted to the Congress as an amendment to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Plan. Such amendment shall take effect on the date it is transmitted to the Congress and shall not be subject to section 159(e) of such Act [section 6239(e) of this title] relating to Congressional review. Subsequent amendments to such plan shall be in accordance with subsections (d) and (e) of such section 159."

§§ 6235 to 6238. Repealed. Pub. L. 106-469, title I, § 103(8)-(11), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2030

Section 6235, Pub. L. 94-163, title I, §155, Dec. 22, 1975, 89 Stat. 884; Pub. L. 95-619, title VI, §691(b)(2), Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3288, related to the Early Storage Reserve.

Section 6236, Pub. L. 94-163, title I, §156, Dec. 22, 1975, 89 Stat. 885; Pub. L. 95-619, title VI, §691(b)(2), Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3288, related to the Industrial Petroleum Reserve.

Section 6237, Pub. L. 94-163, title I, §157, Dec. 22, 1975, 89 Stat. 885; Pub. L. 95-619, title VI, §691(b)(2), Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3288; Pub. L. 102-486, title XIV, §1405, Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2995, related to the Regional Petroleum Reserve.

Section 6238, Pub. L. 94-163, title I, §158, Dec. 22, 1975, 89 Stat. 886; Pub. L. 95-619, title VI, §691(b)(2), Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3288, related to a report on the establishment of Utility Reserves, Coal Reserves, Remote Crude Oil and Natural Gas Reserves.

§ 6239. Development, operation, and maintenance of the Reserve

(a) to (e) Repealed. Pub. L. 106-469, title I, § 103(13)(A), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2030

(f) Powers of Secretary to develop and operate the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

In order to develop, operate, or maintain the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the Secretary may—

- (1) issue rules, regulations, or orders;
- (2) acquire by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, land or interests in land for the location of storage and related facilities;
- (3) construct, purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire storage and related facilities;
- (4) use, lease, maintain, sell or otherwise dispose of land or interests in land, or of storage and related facilities acquired under this part, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers necessary or appropriate;
- (5) acquire, subject to the provisions of section 6240 of this title, by purchase, exchange, or otherwise, petroleum products for storage in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve;
- (6) store petroleum products in storage facilities owned and controlled by the United States or in storage facilities owned by others if those facilities are subject to audit by the United States;

(7) execute any contracts necessary to develop, operate, or maintain the Strategic Petroleum Reserve;

(8) bring an action, when the Secretary considers it necessary, in any court having jurisdiction over the proceedings, to acquire by condemnation any real or personal property, including facilities, temporary use of facilities, or other interests in land, together with any personal property located on or used with the land.

(g) Acquisition of property by negotiation as prerequisite to condemnation

Before any condemnation proceedings are instituted, an effort shall be made to acquire the property involved by negotiation, unless, the effort to acquire such property by negotiation would, in the judgement of the Secretary be futile or so time-consuming as to unreasonably delay the development of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, because of (1) reasonable doubt as to the identity of the owners, (2) the large number of persons with whom it would be necessary to negotiate, or (3) other reasons.

(h), (i) Repealed. Pub. L. 106-469, title I, § 103(13)(D), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2031

(j) Expansion beyond 700,000,000 barrels

If the Secretary determines expansion beyond 700,000,000 barrels of petroleum product inven-