

the President's decision, shall be transferred to the Federal Coordinator.

**(g) Temporary authority**

The functions, authorities, duties, and responsibilities of the Federal Coordinator shall be vested in the Secretary until the earlier of the appointment of the Federal Coordinator by the President, or 18 months after October 13, 2004.

**(h) Administration**

**(1) Personnel appointments**

**(A) In general**

The Federal Coordinator may appoint and terminate such personnel as the Federal Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

**(B) Authority of Federal Coordinator**

Personnel appointed by the Federal Coordinator under subparagraph (A) shall be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service.

**(2) Compensation**

**(A) In general**

Subject to subparagraph (B), personnel appointed by the Federal Coordinator under paragraph (1)(A) shall be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5 (relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates).

**(B) Maximum level of compensation**

The rate of pay for personnel appointed by the Federal Coordinator under paragraph (1)(A) shall not exceed the maximum level of rate payable for level III of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5314).

**(C) Allowances**

Section 5941 of title 5 shall apply to personnel appointed by the Federal Coordinator under paragraph (1)(A).

**(3) Temporary services**

**(A) In general**

The Federal Coordinator may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5.

**(B) Maximum level of compensation**

The level of compensation of an individual employed on a temporary or intermittent basis under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed the maximum level of rate payable for level III of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5314).

**(4) Fees, charges, and commissions**

**(A) In general**

With respect to the duties of the Federal Coordinator, as described in this chapter, the Federal Coordinator shall have similar authority to establish, change, and abolish reasonable filing and service fees, charges, and commissions, require deposits of payments, and provide refunds as provided to the Secretary of the Interior in section 1734 of title 43.

**(B) Authority of Secretary of the Interior**

Subparagraph (A) shall not affect the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to

establish, change, and abolish reasonable filing and service fees, charges, and commissions, require deposits of payments, and provide refunds under section 1734 of title 43.

**(C) Use of funds**

The Federal Coordinator is authorized to use, without further appropriation, amounts collected under subparagraph (A) to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 108-324, div. C, §106, Oct. 13, 2004, 118 Stat. 1259; Pub. L. 109-148, div. A, title VIII, §8128, Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2731; Pub. L. 110-140, title VIII, §802, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1717.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (c)(2) and (d)(1), was in the original "this division", meaning division C of Pub. L. 108-324, Oct. 13, 2004, 118 Stat. 1255, which is classified principally to this chapter. This chapter, referred to in subsec. (h)(4)(A), was in the original "this Act", also meaning division C of Pub. L. 108-324 as provided in section 2 of Pub. L. 108-324, 118 Stat. 1220. For complete classification of division C to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 720 of this title and Tables.

Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1979, referred to in subsec. (f), is set out as a note under section 719e of this title.

Executive Order No. 12142, referred to in subsec. (f), is set out as a note under section 719e of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 110-140 added subsec. (h).

2005—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 109-148 substituted "earlier" for "later".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2007 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-140 effective on the date that is 1 day after Dec. 19, 2007, see section 1601 of Pub. L. 110-140, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1824 of Title 2, The Congress.

**§ 720e. Judicial review**

**(a) Exclusive jurisdiction**

Except for review by the Supreme Court on writ of certiorari, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction to determine—

(1) the validity of any final order or action (including a failure to act) of any Federal agency or officer under this chapter;

(2) the constitutionality of any provision of this chapter, or any decision made or action taken under this chapter; or

(3) the validity of any determination, permit, approval, authorization, review, or other related action taken under any provision of law relating to a gas transportation project constructed and operated in accordance with section 720a of this title, including—

(A) subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5 (commonly known as the "Administrative Procedure Act");

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(C) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(D) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.); and

(E) the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.).

**(b) Deadline for filing claim**

A claim arising under this chapter may be brought not later than 60 days after the date of the decision or action giving rise to the claim.

**(c) Expedited consideration**

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall set any action brought under subsection (a) for expedited consideration, taking into account the national interest of enhancing national energy security by providing access to the significant gas reserves in Alaska needed to meet the anticipated demand for natural gas.

(Pub. L. 108-324, div. C, §107, Oct. 13, 2004, 118 Stat. 1261; Pub. L. 111-11, title XIII, §13003, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1448.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b), was in the original “this division”, meaning division C of Pub. L. 108-324, Oct. 13, 2004, 118 Stat. 1255, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of division C to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 720 of this title and Tables.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in subsec. (a)(3)(B), is Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§1531 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of Title 16 and Tables.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, referred to in subsec. (a)(3)(C), is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, which is classified generally to chapter 55 (§4321 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of Title 42 and Tables.

The National Historic Preservation Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(3)(D), is Pub. L. 89-665, Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 915, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§470 et seq.) of chapter 1A of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 470(a) of Title 16 and Tables.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(3)(E), is Pub. L. 96-487, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2371. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3101 of Title 16, Conservation, and Tables.

## CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 107 of Pub. L. 108-324. Subsec. (d) of section 107 of Pub. L. 108-324 amended section 719h of this title.

## AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 111-11 added par. (3) and struck out former par. (3) which read as follows: “the adequacy of any environmental impact statement prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to any action under this chapter.”

**§ 720f. State jurisdiction over in-State delivery of natural gas****(a) Local distribution**

Any facility receiving natural gas from an Alaska natural gas transportation project for delivery to consumers within the State—

(1) shall be deemed to be a local distribution facility within the meaning of section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717(b)); and

(2) shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

**(b) Additional pipelines**

Except as provided in section 720a(d) of this title, nothing in this chapter shall preclude or otherwise affect a future natural gas pipeline that may be constructed to deliver natural gas to Fairbanks, Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, or the Kenai peninsula or Valdez or any other site in the State for consumption within or distribution outside the State.

**(c) Rate coordination****(1) In general**

In accordance with the Natural Gas Act [15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.], the Commission shall establish rates for the transportation of natural gas on any Alaska natural gas transportation project.

**(2) Consultation**

In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission, in accordance with section 17(b) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717p(b)), shall consult with the State regarding rates (including rate settlements) applicable to natural gas transported on and delivered from the Alaska natural gas transportation project for use within the State.

(Pub. L. 108-324, div. C, §108, Oct. 13, 2004, 118 Stat. 1261.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this division”, meaning division C of Pub. L. 108-324, Oct. 13, 2004, 118 Stat. 1255, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of division C to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 720 of this title and Tables.

The Natural Gas Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), is act June 21, 1938, ch. 556, 52 Stat. 821, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 15B (§717 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 717w of this title and Tables.

**§ 720g. Study of alternative means of construction****(a) Requirement of study**

If no application for the issuance of a certificate or amended certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of an Alaska natural gas transportation project has been filed with the Commission by the date that is 18 months after October 13, 2004, the Secretary shall conduct a study of alternative approaches to the construction and operation of such an Alaska natural gas transportation project.

**(b) Scope of study**

The study under subsection (a) shall take into consideration the feasibility of—

(1) establishing a Federal Government corporation to construct an Alaska natural gas transportation project; and

(2) securing alternative means of providing Federal financing and ownership (including alternative combinations of Government and private corporate ownership) of the Alaska natural gas transportation project.

**(c) Consultation**

In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary