

for services relating to natural resources conservation or recreation management.

(b) Rural community assistance

In carrying out studies and projects under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with multi-state regional private nonprofit rural community assistance entities for services, including water resource assessment, community participation, planning, development, and management activities.

(c) Cooperative agreements

A cooperative agreement entered into under this section shall not be considered to be, or treated as being, a cooperative agreement to which chapter 63 of title 31 applies.

(Pub. L. 106-541, title II, §213, Dec. 11, 2000, 114 Stat. 2593.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, and not as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 106-541, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 2340. Revision of project partnership agreement; cost sharing

(a) Federal allocation

Upon authorization by law of an increase in the maximum amount of Federal funds that may be allocated for a water resources project or an increase in the total cost of a water resources project authorized to be carried out by the Secretary, the Secretary shall enter into a revised partnership agreement for the project to take into account the change in Federal participation in the project.

(b) Cost sharing

An increase in the maximum amount of Federal funds that may be allocated for a water resources project, or an increase in the total cost of a water resources project, authorized to be carried out by the Secretary shall not affect any cost-sharing requirement applicable to the project.

(c) Cost estimates

The estimated Federal and non-Federal costs of water resources projects authorized to be carried out by the Secretary before, on, or after November 8, 2007, are for informational purposes only and shall not be interpreted as affecting the cost-sharing responsibilities established by law.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title II, §2008, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1073.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and not as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

REFERENCE TO PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT DEEMED
REFERENCE TO COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Reference to partnership agreement deemed to be reference to cooperation agreement, see section 2003(f)(3)

of Pub. L. 110-114, set out as a note under section 1962d-5b of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110-114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 2341. Expedited actions for emergency flood damage reduction

The Secretary shall expedite any authorized planning, design, and construction of any project for flood damage reduction for an area that, within the preceding 5 years, has been subject to flooding that resulted in the loss of life and caused damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a declaration of a major disaster by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(Pub. L. 110-114, title II, §2009, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1074.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143, which is classified principally to chapter 68 (§5121 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 5121 of Title 42 and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and not as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110-114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 2342. Access to water resource data

(a) In general

The Secretary shall carry out a program to provide public access to water resources and related water quality data in the custody of the Corps of Engineers.

(b) Data

Public access under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include, at a minimum, access to data generated in water resources project development and regulation under section 1344 of this title; and

(2) appropriately employ geographic information system technology and linkages to water resource models and analytical techniques.

(c) Partnerships

To the maximum extent practicable, in carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary shall develop partnerships, including cooperative agreements, with State, tribal, and local governments and other Federal agencies.

(d) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title II, §2017, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1077.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and not as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 which comprises this chapter.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110-114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 2343. Independent peer review**(a) Project studies subject to independent peer review****(1) In general**

Project studies shall be subject to a peer review by an independent panel of experts as determined under this section.

(2) Scope

The peer review may include a review of the economic and environmental assumptions and projections, project evaluation data, economic analyses, environmental analyses, engineering analyses, formulation of alternative plans, methods for integrating risk and uncertainty, models used in evaluation of economic or environmental impacts of proposed projects, and any biological opinions of the project study.

(3) Project studies subject to peer review**(A) Mandatory**

A project study shall be subject to peer review under paragraph (1) if—

- (i) the project has an estimated total cost of more than \$45,000,000, including mitigation costs, and is not determined by the Chief of Engineers to be exempt from peer review under paragraph (6);
- (ii) the Governor of an affected State requests a peer review by an independent panel of experts; or
- (iii) the Chief of Engineers determines that the project study is controversial considering the factors set forth in paragraph (4).

(B) Discretionary**(i) Agency request**

A project study shall be considered by the Chief of Engineers for peer review under this section if the head of a Federal or State agency charged with reviewing the project study determines that the project is likely to have a significant adverse impact on environmental, cultural, or other resources under the jurisdiction of the agency after implementation of proposed mitigation plans and requests a peer review by an independent panel of experts.

(ii) Deadline for decision

A decision of the Chief of Engineers under this subparagraph whether to conduct a peer review shall be made within 21 days of the date of receipt of the request by the head of the Federal or State agency under clause (i).

(iii) Reasons for not conducting peer review

If the Chief of Engineers decides not to conduct a peer review following a request

under clause (i), the Chief shall make publicly available, including on the Internet, the reasons for not conducting the peer review.

(iv) Appeal to Chairman of Council on Environmental Quality

A decision by the Chief of Engineers not to conduct a peer review following a request under clause (i) shall be subject to appeal by a person referred to in clause (i) to the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality if such appeal is made within the 30-day period following the date of the decision being made available under clause (iii). A decision of the Chairman on an appeal under this clause shall be made within 30 days of the date of the appeal.

(4) Factors to consider

In determining whether a project study is controversial under paragraph (3)(A)(iii), the Chief of Engineers shall consider if—

- (A) there is a significant public dispute as to the size, nature, or effects of the project; or
- (B) there is a significant public dispute as to the economic or environmental costs or benefits of the project.

(5) Project studies excluded from peer review

The Chief of Engineers may exclude a project study from peer review under paragraph (1)—

- (A) if the project study does not include an environmental impact statement and is a project study subject to peer review under paragraph (3)(A)(i) that the Chief of Engineers determines—

- (i) is not controversial;
 - (ii) has no more than negligible adverse impacts on scarce or unique cultural, historic, or tribal resources;
 - (iii) has no substantial adverse impacts on fish and wildlife species and their habitat prior to the implementation of mitigation measures; and
 - (iv) has, before implementation of mitigation measures, no more than a negligible adverse impact on a species listed as endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or the critical habitat of such species designated under such Act;
- (B) if the project study—

- (i) involves only the rehabilitation or replacement of existing hydropower turbines, lock structures, or flood control gates within the same footprint and for the same purpose as an existing water resources project;
- (ii) is for an activity for which there is ample experience within the Corps of Engineers and industry to treat the activity as being routine; and
- (iii) has minimal life safety risk; or

- (C) if the project study does not include an environmental impact statement and is a project study pursued under section 701s of this title, section 701g of this title, section 701r of this title, section 577(a) of this title,