

ernment, shall be paid at the rate not to exceed the rate of basic pay provided for level II of the Executive Schedule. The other members of the Council, if not otherwise paid officers or employees of the Federal Government, shall be paid at a per diem rate comparable to the rate not to exceed the rate of basic pay provided for level III of the Executive Schedule.

(b) Reimbursement of travel expenses for attendance at meetings

Subject to existing law and regulations governing conflicts of interest, the Council may accept reimbursement from any private nonprofit organization or from any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government, or from any State or local government, for reasonable travel expenses incurred by any member or employee of the Council in connection with such member's or employee's attendance at any conference, seminar, or similar meeting.

(Pub. L. 98-373, title II, §207, July 31, 1984, 98 Stat. 1252.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Levels II and III of the Executive Schedule, referred to in subsec. (a), are set out in sections 5313 and 5314, respectively, of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 1807. Executive Director

(a) Function, appointment, and compensation

There shall be an Executive Director (hereinafter referred to as the "Director"), who shall be chief administrator of the Council. The Director shall be appointed by the Council full time and shall be paid at the rate not to exceed the rate of basic pay provided for level III of the Executive Schedule.

(b) Personnel and services of experts and consultants; rules and regulations

The Director is authorized—

- (1) to employ such personnel as may be necessary for the Council to carry out its duties and functions under this chapter, but not to exceed twelve compensated employees;
- (2) to obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with the provisions of section 3109 of title 5; and
- (3) to develop, subject to approval by the Council, rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(c) Consultation with other groups; utilization of public and private services, facilities, and information

In exercising his responsibilities and duties under this chapter, the Director—

- (1) may consult with representatives of academia, industry, labor, State and local governments, and other groups; and
- (2) shall utilize to the fullest extent possible the services, facilities, and information (including statistical information) of public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

(d) Utilization of voluntary and uncompensated labor and services

Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, the Council may utilize voluntary and uncompen-

sated labor and services in carrying out its duties and functions.

(Pub. L. 98-373, title II, §208, July 31, 1984, 98 Stat. 1253.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Level III of the Executive Schedule, referred to in subsec. (a), is set out in section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (d), "section 1342 of title 31" substituted for "section 367(b) of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 665(b))" on authority of Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1067, the first section of which enacted Title 31, Money and Finance.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Pub. L. 100-418, title V, §5182, Aug. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 1454, provided that:

"(a) REQUIREMENT TO INCREASE STAFF.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 23, 1988], the Executive Director of the National Critical Materials Council shall increase the number of employees of the Council by the equivalent of 5 full-time employees over the number of employees of the Council on the date of the enactment of this Act.

"(b) QUALIFICATIONS OF STAFF.—Not less than the equivalent of 4 full-time employees appointed pursuant to subsection (a) shall be permanent professional employees who have expertise in technical fields that are relevant to the responsibilities of the National Critical Materials Council, such as materials science and engineering, environmental matters, minerals and natural resources, ceramic or composite engineering, metallurgy, and geology."

§ 1808. Responsibilities and duties of Director

In carrying out his functions the Director shall assist and advise the Council on policies and programs of the Federal Government affecting critical and advanced materials by—

- (1) providing the professional and administrative staff and support for the Council;
- (2) assisting the Federal agencies and departments in appraising the effectiveness of existing and proposed facilities, programs, policies, and activities of the Federal Government, including research and development, which affect critical materials availability and needs;
- (3) cataloging, as fully as possible, research and development activities of the Government, private industry, and public and private institutions; and
- (4) initiating Government and private studies and analyses, including those to be conducted by or under the auspices of the Council, designed to advance knowledge of critical or advanced materials issues and develop alternative proposals, including research and development, to resolve national critical materials problems.

(Pub. L. 98-373, title II, §209, July 31, 1984, 98 Stat. 1253.)

§ 1809. General authority of Council

The Council is authorized—

- (1) to establish such internal rules and regulations as may be necessary for its operation;
- (2) to enter into contracts and acquire materials and supplies necessary for its operation

to such extent or in such amounts as are provided for in appropriation Acts;

(3) to publish, consistent with title 44, or arrange to publish critical materials information that it deems to be useful to the public and private industry to the extent that such publication is consistent with the national defense and economic interest;

(4) to utilize such services or personnel as may be provided to the Council on a nonreimbursable basis by any agency of the United States; and

(5) to exercise such authorities as may be necessary and incidental to carrying out its responsibilities and duties under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 98-373, title II, §210, July 31, 1984, 98 Stat. 1253; Pub. L. 100-418, title V, §5183, Aug. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 1454.)

AMENDMENTS

1988—Par. (4). Pub. L. 100-418 substituted “nonreimbursable” for “reimbursable”.

§ 1810. Authorization of appropriations

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this chapter a sum not to exceed \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1985, and such sums as may be necessary thereafter: *Provided*, That the authority provided for in this chapter shall expire on September 30, 1992, unless otherwise authorized by Congress.

(Pub. L. 98-373, title II, §211, July 31, 1984, 98 Stat. 1254; Pub. L. 100-418, title V, §5184, Aug. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 1454.)

AMENDMENTS

1988—Pub. L. 100-418 substituted “1992” for “1990”.

§ 1811. “Materials” defined

As used in this chapter, the term “materials” has the meaning given it by section 1601(b) of this title.

(Pub. L. 98-373, title II, §212, July 31, 1984, 98 Stat. 1254.)

CHAPTER 31—MARINE MINERAL RESOURCES RESEARCH

Sec.	
1901.	Definitions.
1902.	Research program.
1903.	Grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.
1904.	Marine mineral research centers.
1905.	Authorization of appropriations.

§ 1901. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) The term “contract” has the same meaning as “procurement contract” in section 6303 of title 31.

(2) The term “cooperative agreement” has the same meaning as in section 6305 of title 31.

(3) The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a research or educational entity chartered or incorporated under Federal or State law;

(B) an individual who is a United States citizen; or

(C) a State or regional agency.

(4) The term “grant” has the same meaning as “grant agreement” in section 6304 of title 31.

(5) The term “in-kind contribution” means a noncash contribution provided by a non-Federal entity that directly benefits and is related to a specific project or program. An in-kind contribution may include real property, equipment, supplies, other expendable property, goods, and services.

(6) The term “marine mineral resource” means—

(A) sand and aggregates;

(B) placers;

(C) phosphates;

(D) manganese nodules;

(E) cobalt crusts;

(F) metal sulfides;

(G) for purposes of this section and sections 1902 through 1905 of this title only, methane hydrate; and

(H) other marine resources that are not—

(i) oil and gas;

(ii) fisheries; or

(iii) marine mammals.

(7) The term “methane hydrate” means—

(A) a methane clathrate that is in the form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material and is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas; and

(B) other natural gas hydrates found in association with deep-ocean and permafrost deposits of methane hydrate.

(8) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(Pub. L. 91-631, title II, §201, as added Pub. L. 104-325, §2(3), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3994; amended Pub. L. 106-193, §4, May 2, 2000, 114 Stat. 236.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Par. (6)(G), (H). Pub. L. 106-193, §4(1), added subpar. (G) and redesignated former subpar. (G) as (H).

Pars. (7), (8). Pub. L. 106-193, §4(2), (3), added par. (7) and redesignated former par. (7) as (8).

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 104-325, §1, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3994, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Marine Mineral Resources Research Act of 1996.’”

§ 1902. Research program

(a) In general

The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of research on marine mineral resources.

(b) Program goal

The goal of the program shall be to—

(1) promote research, identification, assessment, and exploration of marine mineral resources in an environmentally responsible manner;

(2) assist in developing domestic technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of marine mineral resources;

(3) coordinate and promote the use of technologies developed with Federal assistance,