

(3) The following 14 members appointed by the Secretary:

(A) Eight representatives of State levee safety agencies, one from each of the eight civil works divisions of the Corps of Engineers.

(B) Two representatives of the private sector who have expertise in levee safety.

(C) Two representatives of local and regional governmental agencies who have expertise in levee safety.

(D) Two representatives of Indian tribes who have expertise in levee safety.

(c) Duties

(1) Development of recommendations for national levee safety program

The committee shall develop recommendations² for a national levee safety program, including a strategic plan for implementation of the program.

(2) Report

Not later than 180 days after November 8, 2007, the committee shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing the recommendations developed under paragraph (1).

(d) Purposes

In developing recommendations under subsection (c)(1), the committee shall ensure that the national levee safety program meets the following goals:

(1) Ensuring the protection of human life and property by levees through the development of technologically, economically, socially, and environmentally feasible programs and procedures for hazard reduction and mitigation relating to levees.

(2) Encouraging use of the best available engineering policies and procedures for levee site investigation, design, construction, operation and maintenance, and emergency preparedness.

(3) Encouraging the establishment and implementation of an effective national levee safety program that may be delegated to qualified States for implementation, including identification of incentives and disincentives for State levee safety programs.

(4) Ensuring that levees are operated and maintained in accordance with appropriate and protective standards by conducting an inventory and inspection of levees.

(5) Developing and supporting public education and awareness projects to increase public acceptance and support of State and national levee safety programs.

(6) Building public awareness of the residual risks associated with living in levee protected areas.

(7) Developing technical assistance materials for State and national levee safety programs.

(8) Developing methods to provide technical assistance relating to levee safety to non-Federal entities.

(9) Developing technical assistance materials, seminars, and guidelines relating to the physical integrity of levees in the United States.

(e) Compensation of members

A member of the committee shall serve without compensation.

(f) Travel expenses

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall reimburse a member of the committee for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of a Federal agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in performance of services for the committee.

(g) Applicability of Federal Advisory Committee Act

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the committee.

(Pub. L. 110–114, title IX, §9003, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1288; Pub. L. 110–274, §1, July 15, 2008, 122 Stat. 2493.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (g), is Pub. L. 92–463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 110–274 substituted “Subject to the availability of appropriations,” for “To the extent amounts are made available in advance in appropriations Acts,”.

“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.

§ 3303. Inventory and inspection of levees

(a) Levee database

(1) In general

Not later than one year after November 8, 2007, the Secretary shall establish and maintain a database with an inventory of the Nation’s levees.

(2) Contents

The database shall include—

(A) location information of all Federal levees in the Nation (including global information system information) and, for non-Federal levees, such information on levee location as is provided to the Secretary by State and local governmental agencies;

(B) utilizing such information as is available, the general condition of each levee; and

(C) an estimate of the number of structures and population at risk and protected by each levee that would be adversely impacted if the levee fails or water levels exceed the height of the levee.

(3) Availability of information

(A) Availability to Federal, State, and local governmental agencies

The Secretary shall make all of the information in the database available to appro-

²So in original.

appropriate Federal, State, and local governmental agencies.

(B) Availability to the public

The Secretary shall make the information in the database described in paragraph (2)(A), and such other information in the database as the Secretary determines appropriate, available to the public.

(b) Inventory and inspection of levees

(1) Federal levees

The Secretary, at Federal expense, shall establish an inventory and conduct an inspection of all federally owned and operated levees.

(2) Federally constructed, nonfederally operated and maintained levees

The Secretary shall establish an inventory and conduct an inspection of all federally constructed, non-federally operated and maintained levees, at the original cost share for the project.

(3) Participating levees

For non-Federal levees the owners of which are participating in the emergency response to natural disasters program established under section 701n of this title, the Secretary shall establish an inventory and conduct an inspection of each such levee if the owner of the levee requests such inspection. The Federal share of the cost of an inspection under this paragraph shall be 65 percent.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title IX, §9004, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1290.)

“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.

§ 3304. Limitations on statutory construction

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as—

(1) creating any liability of the United States or its officers or employees for the recovery of damages caused by an action or failure to act; or

(2) relieving an owner or operator of a levee of a legal duty, obligation, or liability incident to the ownership or operation of a levee.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title IX, §9005, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1290.)

§ 3305. Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this chapter \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title IX, §9006, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1291.)

“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.

CHAPTER 47—OCEAN EXPLORATION

SUBCHAPTER I—EXPLORATION

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SUBCHAPTER I—EXPLORATION

§ 3401. Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to establish the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(Pub. L. 111-11, title XII, §12001, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1417.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 111-11, title XII, §12101, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419, provided that: “This part [part II (§§12101-12107) of subtitle A of title XII of Pub. L. 111-11, enacting subchapter II of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘NOAA Undersea Research Program Act of 2009’.”

§ 3402. Program established

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall, in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies, establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promotes collaboration with other Federal ocean and undersea research and exploration programs. To the extent appropriate, the Administrator shall seek to facilitate coordination of data and information management systems, outreach and education programs to improve public understanding of ocean and coastal resources, and development and transfer of technologies to facilitate ocean and undersea research and exploration.

(Pub. L. 111-11, title XII, §12002, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1417.)

§ 3403. Powers and duties of the Administrator

(a) In general

In carrying out the program authorized by section 3402 of this title, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—

(1) conduct interdisciplinary voyages or other scientific activities in conjunction with other Federal agencies or academic or educational institutions, to explore and survey little known areas of the marine environment, inventory, observe, and assess living and non-living marine resources, and report such findings;

(2) give priority attention to deep ocean regions, with a focus on deep water marine sys-