

(2) Each grant, agreement or contract under this section shall be governed by the provisions of section 9 of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5908] and shall contain effective provisions under which the Secretary shall receive a full written report of activities supported in whole or in part by funds made available by the Secretary; and

(3) In determining the allocation of funds among applicants for support under this section the Secretary may take into consideration:

(A) the potential for energy savings or energy production;

(B) the type of fuel saved or produced;

(C) the potential impact on local or regional energy or environmental problems; and

(D) such other criteria as the Secretary finds necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act or the purposes of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5901 et seq.].

Guidelines implementing this section shall be promulgated with full opportunity for public comment.

(e) Reports to Congress

The Secretary shall—

(1) prepare and submit no later than October 1, 1977, a detailed report on plans for implementation, including the timing of implementation, of the provisions of this section to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and shall keep such committees fully and currently informed concerning the development of such plans; and

(2) include as a part of the annual report required by section 15(a)(1)¹ of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 beginning in 1977, a full and complete report on the program under this section.

(Pub. L. 95-39, title I, § 112, June 3, 1977, 91 Stat. 186; Pub. L. 95-91, title III, § 301(a), title VII, §§ 703, 707, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 577, 606, 607.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(3)(D), means Pub. L. 95-39, June 3, 1977, 91 Stat. 180, which to the extent classified to the Code enacted sections 5816a, 5817a, 5903c, 5907a, 5915a, 5918, and 7001 to 7011 of this title, amended sections 5813, 5818, and 5912 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 5906, 5907, 5914, and 7001 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

The Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (d)(3)(D), is Pub. L. 93-577, Dec. 31, 1974, 88 Stat. 1878, as amended, which is classified generally to this chapter (§ 5901 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5901 of this title and Tables.

Section 15 of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (e)(2), was classified to section 5914 of this title and was omitted from the Code.

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 which comprises this chapter.

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Science and Technology of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, Jan. 5, 2011.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

“Secretary”, meaning Secretary of Energy, substituted for “Administrator”, “Administration”, and “Assistant Administrator for Conservation and Development”, meaning Energy Research and Development Administration and Administrator thereof, in subsecs. (a), (d), and (e) and “Department of Energy” substituted for “Administration” in subsec. (a) pursuant to sections 301(a), 703, and 707 of Pub. L. 95-91, which are classified to sections 7151(a), 7293, and 7297 of this title and which terminated Energy Research and Development Administration and transferred its functions and functions of Administrator thereof (with certain exceptions) to Secretary of Energy.

§ 5908. Patents and inventions

(a) Vesting of title to invention and issuance of patents to United States; prerequisites

Whenever any invention is made or conceived in the course of or under any contract of the Department, other than nuclear energy research, development, and demonstration pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) and the Secretary determines that—

(1) the person who made the invention was employed or assigned to perform research, development, or demonstration work and the invention is related to the work he was employed or assigned to perform, or that it was within the scope of his employment duties, whether or not it was made during working hours, or with a contribution by the Government of the use of Government facilities, equipment, materials, allocated funds, information proprietary to the Government, or services of Government employees during working hours; or

(2) the person who made the invention was not employed or assigned to perform research, development, or demonstration work, but the invention is nevertheless related to the contract or to the work or duties he was employed or assigned to perform, and was made during working hours, or with a contribution from the Government of the sort referred to in clause (1).¹

title to such invention shall vest in the United States, and if patents on such invention are issued they shall be issued to the United States, unless in particular circumstances the Secretary waives all or any part of the rights of the United States to such invention in conformity with the provisions of this section.

(b) Contract as requiring report to Department of invention, etc., made in course of contract

Each contract entered into by the Department with any person shall contain effective provisions under which such person shall furnish promptly to the Department a written report containing full and complete technical information concerning any invention, discovery, improvement, or innovation which may be made in the course of or under such contract.

¹ See References in Text note below.

¹ So in original. Probably should be a comma.

(c) Waiver by Secretary of rights of United States; regulations prescribing procedures; record of waiver determinations; objectives

Under such regulations in conformity with the provisions of this section as the Secretary shall prescribe, the Secretary may waive all or any part of the rights of the United States under this section with respect to any invention or class of inventions made or which may be made by any person or class of persons in the course of or under any contract of the Department if he determines that the interests of the United States and the general public will be best served by such waiver. The Department shall maintain a publicly available, periodically updated record of waiver determinations. In making such determinations, the Secretary shall have the following objectives:

- (1) Making the benefits of the energy research, development, and demonstration program widely available to the public in the shortest practicable time.
- (2) Promoting the commercial utilization of such inventions.
- (3) Encouraging participation by private persons in the Department's energy research, development, and demonstration program.
- (4) Fostering competition and preventing undue market concentration or the creation or maintenance of other situations inconsistent with the antitrust laws.

(d) Considerations applicable at time of contracting for waiver determination by Secretary

In determining whether a waiver to the contractor at the time of contracting will best serve the interests of the United States and the general public, the Secretary shall specifically include as considerations—

- (1) the extent to which the participation of the contractor will expedite the attainment of the purposes of the program;
- (2) the extent to which a waiver of all or any part of such rights in any or all fields of technology is needed to secure the participation of the particular contractor;
- (3) the extent to which the contractor's commercial position may expedite utilization of the research, development, and demonstration program results;
- (4) the extent to which the Government has contributed to the field of technology to be funded under the contract;
- (5) the purpose and nature of the contract, including the intended use of the results developed thereunder;
- (6) the extent to which the contractor has made or will make substantial investment of financial resources or technology developed at the contractor's private expense which will directly benefit the work to be performed under the contract;
- (7) the extent to which the field of technology to be funded under the contract has been developed at the contractor's private expense;
- (8) the extent to which the Government intends to further develop to the point of commercial utilization the results of the contract effort;
- (9) the extent to which the contract objectives are concerned with the public health, public safety, or public welfare;

(10) the likely effect of the waiver on competition and market concentration; and

(11) in the case of a nonprofit educational institution, the extent to which such institution has a technology transfer capability and program, approved by the Secretary as being consistent with the applicable policies of this section.

(e) Considerations applicable to identified invention for waiver determination by Secretary

In determining whether a waiver to the contractor or inventor or rights to an identified invention will best serve the interests of the United States and the general public, the Secretary shall specifically include as considerations paragraphs (4) through (11) of subsection (d) of this section as applied to the invention and—

- (1) the extent to which such waiver is a reasonable and necessary incentive to call forth private risk capital for the development and commercialization of the invention; and
- (2) the extent to which the plans, intentions, and ability of the contractor or inventor will obtain expeditious commercialization of such invention.

(f) Rights subject to reservation where title to invention vested in United States

Whenever title to an invention is vested in the United States, there may be reserved to the contractor or inventor—

- (1) a revocable or irrevocable nonexclusive, paid-up license for the practice of the invention throughout the world; and
- (2) the rights to such invention in any foreign country where the United States has elected not to secure patent rights and the contractor elects to do so, subject to the rights set forth in paragraphs (2), (3), (6), and (7) of subsection (h) of this section: *Provided*, That when specifically requested by the Department and three years after issuance of such a patent, the contractor shall submit the report specified in subsection (h)(1) of this section.

(g) to (i) Repealed. Pub. L. 96-517, § 7(c), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 3027

(j) Small business status of applicant for waiver or licenses

The Secretary shall, in granting waivers or licenses, consider the small business status of the applicant.

(k) Protection of invention, etc., rights by Secretary

The Secretary is authorized to take all suitable and necessary steps to protect any invention or discovery to which the United States holds title, and to require that contractors or persons who acquire rights to inventions under this section protect such inventions.

(l) Department as defense agency of United States for purpose of maintaining secrecy of inventions

The Department shall be considered a defense agency of the United States for the purpose of chapter 17 of title 35.

(m) Definitions

As used in this section—

(1) the term “person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, institution, or other entity;

(2) the term “contract” means any contract, grant, agreement, understanding, or other arrangement, which includes research, development, or demonstration work, and includes any assignment, substitution of parties, or subcontract executed or entered into thereunder;

(3) the term “made”, when used in relation to any invention, means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention;

(4) the term “invention” means inventions or discoveries, whether patented or unpatented; and

(5) the term “contractor” means any person having a contract with or on behalf of the Department.

(n) Report concerning applicability of existing patent policies to energy programs; time for submission to President and appropriate congressional committees

Within twelve months after December 31, 1974, the Secretary with the participation of the Attorney General, the Secretary of Commerce, and other officials as the President may designate, shall submit to the President and the appropriate congressional committees a report concerning the applicability of existing patent policies affecting the programs under this chapter, along with his recommendations for amendments or additions to the statutory patent policy, including his recommendations on mandatory licensing, which he deems advisable for carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 93-577, § 9, Dec. 31, 1974, 88 Stat. 1887; Pub. L. 96-517, § 7(c), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 3027; Pub. L. 109-58, title X, § 1009(b)(7), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 935.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, referred to in subsec. (a), is act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, as added by act Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, § 1, 68 Stat. 919, which is classified principally to chapter 23 (§ 2011 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2011 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(B), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in introductory and concluding provisions.

Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(A), substituted “Department” for “Administration” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(A), substituted “Department” for “Administration” in two places.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(B), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing in introductory provisions.

Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(A), substituted “Department” for “Administration” in two places in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(C), substituted “Department’s” for “Administration’s”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(B), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in introductory provisions and par. (11).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(B), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (f)(2). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(A), substituted “Department” for “Administration”.

Subsecs. (j), (k). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(B), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(A), substituted “Department” for “Administration”.

Subsec. (m)(5). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(A), substituted “Department” for “Administration”.

Subsec. (n). Pub. L. 109-58, § 1009(b)(7)(B), substituted “Secretary with” for “Administrator with”.

1980—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 96-517 struck out subsec. (g) which related to licenses for inventions, promulgation of regulations specifying terms and conditions, criteria and procedures for grant of exclusive or partially exclusive licenses, and record of determinations.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 96-517 struck out subsec. (h) which related to required terms and conditions in waiver of rights or grant of exclusive or partially exclusive license.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 96-517 struck out subsec. (i) which related to publication in the Federal Register by the Administrator of waiver or license termination hearing requirements and availability of records.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-517 effective July 1, 1981, but implementing regulations authorized to be issued earlier, see section 8(f) of Pub. L. 96-517, set out as a note under section 41 of Title 35, Patents.

§ 5909. Relationship to antitrust laws

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to convey to any individual, corporation, or other business organization immunity from civil or criminal liability, or to create defenses to actions, under the antitrust laws.

(b) As used in this section, the term “antitrust law” means—

(1) the Act entitled “An Act to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies”, approved July 2, 1890 (15 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), as amended;

(2) the Act entitled “An Act to supplement existing laws against unlawful restraints and monopolies, and for other purposes”, approved October 15, 1914 (15 U.S.C. 12 et seq.) as amended;

(3) the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.), as amended;

(4) sections 73 and 74 of the Act entitled “An Act to reduce taxation, to provide revenue for the Government, and for other purposes”, approved August 27, 1894 (15 U.S.C. 8 and 9), as amended; and

(5) the Act of June 19, 1936, chapter 592 (15 U.S.C. 13, 13a, 13b, and 21a).

(Pub. L. 93-577, § 10, Dec. 31, 1974, 88 Stat. 1891.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of July 2, 1890, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is act July 2, 1890, ch. 647, 26 Stat. 209, as amended, known as the Sherman Act, which is classified to sections 1 to 7 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1 of Title 15 and Tables.

Act of October 15, 1914, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is act Oct. 15, 1914, ch. 323, 38 Stat. 730, as amended, known as the Clayton Act, which is classified generally to sections 12, 13, 14 to 19, 21, and 22 to 27 of Title 15, and sections 52 and 53 of Title 29, Labor. For further details and complete classification of this Act to the Code, see References in Text note set out under section 12 of Title 15 and Tables.

The Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.), as amended, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), is act