

**§ 1473. Revenue and customs or tariff treatment of deep seabed mining unaffected**

Except as otherwise provided in sections 4495 to 4498<sup>1</sup> of title 26, nothing in this chapter shall affect the application of title 26. Nothing in this chapter shall affect the application of the customs or tariff laws of the United States.

(Pub. L. 96-283, title IV, §404, June 28, 1980, 94 Stat. 586; Pub. L. 99-514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 4495 to 4498 of title 26, referred to in text, were in the original "section 402", meaning section 402 of Pub. L. 96-283, title IV, June 28, 1980, 94 Stat. 582, which enacted sections 4495 to 4498 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code, and enacted a provision set out as a note under section 4495 of Title 26. Sections 4495 to 4498 of title 26 were repealed by Pub. L. 105-34, title XIV, §1432(b)(1), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 1050.

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 96-283, June 28, 1980, 94 Stat. 553, as amended, known as the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act, which is classified principally to this chapter (§1401 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1401 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of title IV of Pub. L. 96-283, and not as part of title III of Pub. L. 96-283 which comprises this subchapter.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-514 substituted "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" for "Internal Revenue Code of 1954", which for purposes of codification was translated as "title 26" thus requiring no change in text.

**CHAPTER 27—GEOTHERMAL ENERGY**

Sec.

1501. Congressional statement of findings.  
SUBCHAPTER I—PROJECT LOANS

1511. Loans for geothermal reservoir confirmation.  
1512. Loan size limitation.  
1513. Loan interest rates; repayment periods.  
1514. Program termination.  
1515. Regulations.  
1516. Authorizations.

SUBCHAPTER II—STUDY, ESTABLISHMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INSURANCE PROGRAM

1521. Reservoir insurance program study.  
1522. Establishment of program.

SUBCHAPTER III—ESTABLISHMENT OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1531. Feasibility study loan program.

SUBCHAPTER IV—FEDERAL FACILITIES

1541. Use of geothermal energy in Federal facilities.  
1542. Regulations.

**§ 1501. Congressional statement of findings**

The Congress finds that—

(1) domestic geothermal reserves can be developed into regionally significant energy sources promoting the economic health and national security of the Nation;

(2) there are institutional and economic barriers to the commercialization of geothermal technology; and

(3) Federal agencies should consider the use of geothermal energy in the Government's buildings.

(Pub. L. 96-294, title VI, §602, June 30, 1980, 94 Stat. 763.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 96-294, title VI, §601, June 30, 1980, 94 Stat. 763, provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter and sections 1146 and 1147 of this title and amending sections 1141 and 1143 of this title and sections 796, 824a-3, 824i, and 824j of Title 16, Conservation] may be cited as the 'Geothermal Energy Act of 1980'."

SUBCHAPTER I—PROJECT LOANS

**§ 1511. Loans for geothermal reservoir confirmation**

**(a) Authorization; purposes**

The Secretary of Energy (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to make a loan to any person, from funds appropriated (pursuant to this subchapter) to the Geothermal Resources Development Fund established under section 1144 of this title, to assist such person in undertaking and carrying out a project which (1) is designed to explore for or determine the economic viability of a geothermal reservoir and (2) consists of surface exploration and the drilling of one or more exploratory wells.

**(b) Repayment rates**

Subject to subsection (c) and to section 1513(b) of this title, any loan under subsection (a) shall be repayable out of revenue from production of the geothermal energy reservoir with respect to which the loan was made, at a rate, in any year, not to exceed 20 per centum of the gross revenue from the reservoir in that year; except that if any disposition of the geothermal rights to the reservoir is made to one or more other persons by the borrower, the full amount of the loan balance outstanding, or so much of the loan balance outstanding as is equal to the full amount of the compensation realized by the borrower upon such disposition, whichever is less, shall be repaid immediately. In any case where the reservoir is confirmed (as determined by the Secretary), the Secretary may impute a reasonable revenue for purposes of determining repayment if—

(1) reasonable efforts are not made to put such reservoir in commercial operation,

(2) the borrower (or any such other person) utilizes the resources of the reservoir without a sale of the energy or geothermal energy resources therefrom, or

(3) a sale of energy or geothermal energy resources from the reservoir is made for an unreasonably low price;

except that no such imputation of revenue shall be made during the three-year period immediately following such reservoir confirmation. In the event of failure to begin production of revenue (or, where no sale of energy or geothermal energy resources is made, to begin production of energy for commercial use) within five years after the date of such reservoir confirmation, the Secretary may take action to recover the value, not to exceed the amount of the unpaid

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.