

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §616, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1681.)

§ 17196. Cost sharing and proposal evaluation

(a) Federal share

The Federal share of costs of projects funded under this part shall be in accordance with section 16352 of this title.

(b) Organization and administration of programs

Programs under this part shall incorporate the following elements:

(1) The Secretary shall coordinate with, and where appropriate may provide funds in furtherance of the purposes of this part to, other Department of Energy research and development programs focused on drilling, subsurface characterization, and other related technologies.

(2) In evaluating proposals, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals that demonstrate clear evidence of employing a systems approach.

(3) The Secretary shall coordinate and consult with the appropriate Federal land management agencies in selecting proposals for funding under this part.

(4) Nothing in this part shall be construed to alter or affect any law relating to the management or protection of Federal lands.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §617, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1682.)

§ 17197. Center for Geothermal Technology Transfer

(a) In general

The Secretary shall award to an institution of higher education (or consortium thereof) a grant to establish a Center for Geothermal Technology Transfer (referred to in this section as the “Center”).

(b) Duties

The Center shall—

(1) serve as an information clearinghouse for the geothermal industry by collecting and disseminating information on best practices in all areas relating to developing and utilizing geothermal resources;

(2) make data collected by the Center available to the public; and

(3) seek opportunities to coordinate efforts and share information with domestic and international partners engaged in research and development of geothermal systems and related technology.

(c) Selection criteria

In awarding the grant under subsection (a) the Secretary shall select an institution of higher education (or consortium thereof) best suited to provide national leadership on geothermal related issues and perform the duties enumerated under subsection (b).

(d) Duration of grant

A grant made under subsection (a)—

(1) shall be for an initial period of 5 years; and

(2) may be renewed for additional 5-year periods on the basis of—

(A) satisfactory performance in meeting the duties outlined in subsection (b); and

(B) any other requirements specified by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §618, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1683.)

§ 17198. GeoPowering America

The Secretary shall expand the Department of Energy’s GeoPowering the West program to extend its geothermal technology transfer activities throughout the entire United States. The program shall be renamed “GeoPowering America”. The program shall continue to be based in the Department of Energy office in Golden, Colorado.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §619, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1683.)

§ 17199. Educational pilot program

The Secretary shall seek to award grant funding, on a competitive basis, to an institution of higher education for a geothermal-powered energy generation facility on the institution’s campus. The purpose of the facility shall be to provide electricity and space heating. The facility shall also serve as an educational resource to students in relevant fields of study, and the data generated by the facility shall be available to students and the general public. The total funding award shall not exceed \$2,000,000.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §620, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1683.)

§ 17200. Reports

(a) Reports on advanced uses of geothermal energy

Not later than 3 years and 5 years after December 19, 2007, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on advanced concepts and technologies to maximize the geothermal resource potential of the United States. The reports shall include—

(1) the use of carbon dioxide as an alternative geofluid with potential carbon sequestration benefits;

(2) mineral recovery from geofluids;

(3) use of geothermal energy to produce hydrogen;

(4) use of geothermal energy to produce biofuels;

(5) use of geothermal heat for oil recovery from oil shales and tar sands; and

(6) other advanced geothermal technologies, including advanced drilling technologies and advanced power conversion technologies.

(b) Progress reports

(1) Not later than 36 months after December 19, 2007, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an interim report describing the progress made under this part. At the end of 60 months, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the results of projects undertaken under this part and other

such information the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) As necessary, the Secretary shall report to the Congress on any legal, regulatory, or other barriers encountered that hinder economic development of these resources, and provide recommendations on legislative or other actions needed to address such impediments.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §621, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1684.)

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.

§ 17201. Applicability of other laws

Nothing in this part shall be construed as waiving, modifying, or superseding the applicability of any requirement under any environmental or other Federal or State law. To the extent that activities authorized in this part take place in coastal and ocean areas, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, regarding the potential marine environmental impacts and measures to address such impacts.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §622, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1684.)

§ 17202. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this part \$90,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012, of which \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year shall be for carrying out section 17195 of this title. There are also authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the Intermountain West Geothermal Consortium \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §623, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1684.)

§ 17203. International geothermal energy development

(a) In general

The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with other appropriate Federal and multilateral agencies (including the United States Agency for International Development) shall support international collaborative efforts to promote the research, development, and deployment of geothermal technologies used to develop hydrothermal and enhanced geothermal system resources, including as partners (as appropriate) the African Rift Geothermal Development Facility, Australia, China, France, the Republic of Iceland, India, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

(b) United States Trade and Development Agency

The Director of the United States Trade and Development Agency may—

- (1) encourage participation by United States firms in actions taken to carry out subsection (a); and

- (2) provide grants and other financial support for feasibility and resource assessment studies conducted in, or intended to benefit, less developed countries.

(c) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §624, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1684.)

§ 17204. High cost region geothermal energy grant program

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Eligible entity

The term “eligible entity” means—

- (A) a utility;
- (B) an electric cooperative;
- (C) a State;
- (D) a political subdivision of a State;
- (E) an Indian tribe; or
- (F) a Native corporation.

(2) High-cost region

The term “high-cost region” means a region in which the average cost of electrical power exceeds 150 percent of the national average retail cost, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) Program

The Secretary shall use amounts made available to carry out this section to make grants to eligible entities for activities described in subsection (c).

(c) Eligible activities

An eligible entity may use grant funds under this section, with respect to a geothermal energy project in a high-cost region, only—

- (1) to conduct a feasibility study, including a study of exploration, geochemical testing, geomagnetic surveys, geologic information gathering, baseline environmental studies, well drilling, resource characterization, permitting, and economic analysis;
- (2) for design and engineering costs, relating to the project; and
- (3) to demonstrate and promote commercial application of technologies related to geothermal energy as part of the project.

(d) Cost sharing

The cost-sharing requirements of section 16352 of this title shall apply to any project carried out under this section.

(e) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title VI, §625, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1685.)

PART C—MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

§ 17211. Definition

For purposes of this part, the term “marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy” means electrical energy from—