

**§ 5159. Protection of environment**

An action which is taken or assistance which is provided pursuant to section 5170a, 5170b, 5172, 5173, or 5192 of this title, including such assistance provided pursuant to the procedures provided for in section 5189 of this title, which has the effect of restoring a facility substantially to its condition prior to the disaster or emergency, shall not be deemed a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852) [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.]. Nothing in this section shall alter or affect the applicability of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to other Federal actions taken under this chapter or under any other provisions of law.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title III, §316, as added Pub. L. 100-707, title I, §105(m)(1), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4694.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, which is classified generally to chapter 55 (§4321 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of this title and Tables.

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of this title and Tables.

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 316 of Pub. L. 93-288 was classified to section 5156 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-707.

**§ 5160. Recovery of assistance****(a) Party liable**

Any person who intentionally causes a condition for which Federal assistance is provided under this chapter or under any other Federal law as a result of a declaration of a major disaster or emergency under this chapter shall be liable to the United States for the reasonable costs incurred by the United States in responding to such disaster or emergency to the extent that such costs are attributable to the intentional act or omission of such person which caused such condition. Such action for reasonable costs shall be brought in an appropriate United States district court.

**(b) Rendering of care**

A person shall not be liable under this section for costs incurred by the United States as a result of actions taken or omitted by such person in the course of rendering care or assistance in response to a major disaster or emergency.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title III, §317, as added Pub. L. 100-707, title I, §105(m)(1), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4695.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of this title and Tables.

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 317 of Pub. L. 93-288 was classified to section 5157 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-707.

**§ 5161. Audits and investigations****(a) In general**

Subject to the provisions of chapter 75 of title 31, relating to requirements for single audits, the President shall conduct audits and investigations as necessary to assure compliance with this chapter, and in connection therewith may question such persons as may be necessary to carry out such audits and investigations.

**(b) Access to records**

For purposes of audits and investigations under this section, the President and Comptroller General may inspect any books, documents, papers, and records of any person relating to any activity undertaken or funded under this chapter.

**(c) State and local audits**

The President may require audits by State and local governments in connection with assistance under this chapter when necessary to assure compliance with this chapter or related regulations.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title III, §318, as added Pub. L. 100-707, title I, §105(m)(1), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4695.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of this title and Tables.

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 318 of Pub. L. 93-288 was renumbered section 315 by Pub. L. 100-707 and is classified to section 5158 of this title.

**§ 5162. Advance of non-Federal share****(a) In general**

The President may lend or advance to an eligible applicant or a State the portion of assistance for which the State is responsible under the cost-sharing provisions of this chapter in any case in which—

(1) the State is unable to assume its financial responsibility under such cost-sharing provisions—

(A) with respect to concurrent, multiple major disasters in a jurisdiction, or

(B) after incurring extraordinary costs as a result of a particular disaster; and

(2) the damages caused by such disasters or disaster are so overwhelming and severe that it is not possible for the applicant or the State to assume immediately their financial responsibility under this chapter.

**(b) Terms of loans and advances****(1) In general**

Any loan or advance under this section shall be repaid to the United States.

**(2) Interest**

Loans and advances under this section shall bear interest at a rate determined by the Sec-