

**(c) Options of Secretary; final agency action**

Following publication of the Commission's recommendations the Secretary shall have the option of—

- (1) issuing a final rule or statement in the form initially proposed by the Secretary if the Commission has concurred in such rule pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of this section;
- (2) issuing a final rule or statement in amended form so that the rule conforms in all respects with the changes proposed by the Commission if the Commission has concurred in such rule or statement pursuant to subsection (b)(2) of this section; or
- (3) ordering that the rule shall not be issued.

The action taken by the Secretary pursuant to this subsection shall constitute a final agency action for purposes of section 704 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 95-91, title IV, § 404, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 586.)

## CODIFICATION

In subsec. (a), "section 60501 of title 49" substituted for reference to section 306 of this Act, meaning section 306 of Pub. L. 95-91 [42 U.S.C. 7155], and "section 60502 of title 49" substituted for reference to section 402(b), meaning section 402(b) of Pub. L. 95-91 [42 U.S.C. 7172(b)] on authority of Pub. L. 103-272, § 6(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1378, the first section of which enacted subtitles II, III, and V to X of Title 49, Transportation.

**§ 7175. Right of Secretary to intervene in Commission proceedings**

The Secretary may as a matter of right intervene or otherwise participate in any proceeding before the Commission. The Secretary shall comply with rules of procedure of general applicability governing the timing of intervention or participation in such proceeding or activity and, upon intervening or participating therein, shall comply with rules of procedure of general applicability governing the conduct thereof. The intervention or participation of the Secretary in any proceeding or activity shall not affect the obligation of the Commission to assure procedure fairness to all participants.

(Pub. L. 95-91, title IV, § 405, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 586.)

**§ 7176. Reorganization**

For the purposes of chapter 9 of title 5 the Commission shall be deemed to be an independent regulatory agency.

(Pub. L. 95-91, title IV, § 406, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 586.)

**§ 7177. Access to information**

(a) The Secretary, each officer of the Department, and each Federal agency shall provide to the Commission, upon request, such existing information in the possession of the Department or other Federal agency as the Commission determines is necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter.

(b) The Secretary, in formulating the information to be requested in the reports or investigations under section 825c and section 825j of title 16 and section 717i and section 717j of title 15 shall include in such reports and investigations

such specific information as requested by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and copies of all reports, information, results of investigations and data under said sections shall be furnished by the Secretary to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(Pub. L. 95-91, title IV, § 407, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 587.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 95-91, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 565, as amended, known as the Department of Energy Organization Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7101 of this title and Tables.

**§ 7178. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission fees and annual charges****(a) In general**

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and beginning in fiscal year 1987 and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall, using the provisions of this section and authority provided by other laws, assess and collect fees and annual charges in any fiscal year in amounts equal to all of the costs incurred by the Commission in that fiscal year.

(2) The provisions of this section shall not affect the authority, requirements, exceptions, or limitations in sections 803(e) and 823a(e) of title 16.

**(b) Basis for assessments**

The fees or annual charges assessed shall be computed on the basis of methods that the Commission determines, by rule, to be fair and equitable.

**(c) Estimates**

The Commission may assess fees and charges under this section by making estimates based on data available to the Commission at the time of assessment.

**(d) Time of payment**

The Commission shall provide that the fees and charges assessed under this section shall be paid by the end of the fiscal year for which they were assessed.

**(e) Adjustments**

The Commission shall, after the completion of a fiscal year, make such adjustments in the assessments for such fiscal year as may be necessary to eliminate any overrecovery or underrecovery of its total costs, and any overcharging or undercharging of any person.

**(f) Use of funds**

All moneys received under this section shall be credited to the general fund of the Treasury.

**(g) Waiver**

The Commission may waive all or part of any fee or annual charge assessed under this section for good cause shown.

(Pub. L. 99-509, title III, § 3401, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1890.)

## CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, and not as part of the De-