

ship agreement provides that the non-Federal interest is not required to perform future measures to restore the project to the authorized level of protection of the project to account for subsidence and sea-level rise as part of the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation responsibilities.

“(c) COST SHARE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share of the cost of construction of a project carried out under this section shall be determined as provided in subsections (a) through (d) of section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213).

“(2) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—The non-Federal share of the cost of operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation for a project carried out under this section shall be 100 percent.

“(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall include in the annual report developed under section 7001 [33 U.S.C. 2282d]—

“(1) any recommendations relating to the continued need for the authority provided under this section;

“(2) a description of the measures carried out under this section;

“(3) any lessons learned relating to the measures implemented under this section; and

“(4) best practices for carrying out measures to restore hurricane and storm damage reduction projects.

“(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary under this subsection [probably should be “section”] terminates on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.”

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110–114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

### § 3303b. Reports

#### (a) State of levees

##### (1) In general

Not later than 1 year after December 16, 2016, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary in coordination with the committee, shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report describing the state of levees in the United States and the effectiveness of the levee safety initiative, including—

(A) progress achieved in implementing the levee safety initiative;

(B) State, regional, and tribal participation in the levee safety initiative;

(C) recommendations to improve coordination of levee safety, floodplain management, and environmental protection concerns, including—

(i) identifying and evaluating opportunities to coordinate public safety, floodplain management, and environmental protection activities relating to levees; and

(ii) evaluating opportunities to coordinate environmental permitting processes for operation and maintenance activities at existing levee projects in compliance with all applicable laws; and

(D) any recommendations for legislation and other congressional actions necessary to ensure national levee safety.

##### (2) Inclusion

Each report under paragraph (1) shall include a report of the committee that describes the independent recommendations of the com-

mittee for the implementation of the levee safety initiative.

#### (b) National dam and levee safety program

Not later than 3 years after June 10, 2014, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the committee, shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that includes recommendations regarding the advisability and feasibility of, and potential approaches for, establishing a joint national dam and levee safety program.

#### (c) Alignment of Federal programs relating to levees

Not later than 2 years after December 16, 2016, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on opportunities for alignment of Federal programs to provide incentives to State, regional, tribal, and local governments and individuals and entities—

(1) to promote shared responsibility for levee safety;

(2) to encourage the development of strong State, regional, and tribal levee safety programs;

(3) to better align the levee safety initiative with other Federal flood risk management programs; and

(4) to promote increased levee safety through other Federal programs providing assistance to State, regional, tribal, and local governments.

#### (d) Liability for certain levee engineering projects

Not later than 1 year after December 16, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that includes recommendations that identify and address any legal liability associated with levee engineering projects that prevent—

(1) levee owners from obtaining needed levee engineering services; or

(2) development and implementation of a State, regional, or tribal levee safety program.

(Pub. L. 110–114, title IX, §9006, as added Pub. L. 113–121, title III, §3016(e)(2), June 10, 2014, 128 Stat. 1299; amended Pub. L. 114–322, title I, §1130(d), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1652.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 9006 of Pub. L. 110–114 was renumbered section 9008, and is classified to section 3305 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 114–322, §1130(d)(1)(A), substituted “1 year after December 16, 2016” for “1 year after June 10, 2014” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 114–322, §1130(d)(1)(B), substituted “State, regional, and tribal” for “State and tribal”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114–322, §1130(d)(2)(A), in introductory provisions, substituted “2 years after December 16, 2016” for “2 years after June 10, 2014” and “State, regional, tribal, and local” for “State, tribal, and local”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 114–322, §1130(d)(2)(B), substituted “State, regional, and tribal” for “State and tribal”.

Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 114–322, §1130(d)(2)(C), substituted “State, regional, tribal, and local” for “State and local”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 114-322, § 1130(d)(3)(A), substituted “1 year after December 16, 2016” for “1 year after June 10, 2014” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 114-322, § 1130(d)(3)(B), substituted “State, regional, or tribal” for “State or tribal”.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110-114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

**§ 3304. Limitations on statutory construction**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as—

- (1) creating any liability of the United States or its officers or employees for the recovery of damages caused by an action or failure to act; or
- (2) relieving an owner or operator of a levee of a legal duty, obligation, or liability incident to the ownership or operation of a levee.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title IX, § 9007, formerly § 9005, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1290; renumbered § 9007, Pub. L. 113-121, title III, § 3016(e)(1), June 10, 2014, 128 Stat. 1293.)

**§ 3305. Authorization of appropriations**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary—

- (1) to carry out sections 3302, 3303a(c), 3303a(d), 3303a(e), and 3303a(f) of this title, \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019;
- (2) to carry out section 3303 of this title, \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019; and
- (3) to carry out section 3303a(h) of this title, \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

(Pub. L. 110-114, title IX, § 9008, formerly § 9006, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1291; renumbered § 9008 and amended Pub. L. 113-121, title III, § 3016(e)(1), (f), June 10, 2014, 128 Stat. 1293, 1300.)

AMENDMENTS

2014—Pub. L. 113-121, § 3016(f)(2), substituted “Secretary—” for “Secretary to carry out this chapter \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013.” and added pars. (1) to (3).

Pub. L. 113-121, § 3016(f)(1), which directed the substitution of “is” for “are”, could not be executed because “are” does not appear in text.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110-114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

**CHAPTER 47—OCEAN EXPLORATION**

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SUBCHAPTER I—EXPLORATION

**§ 3401. Purpose**

The purpose of this subchapter is to establish the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(Pub. L. 111-11, title XII, § 12001, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1417.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 111-11, title XII, § 12101, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419, provided that: “This part [part II (§§ 12101–12107) of subtitle A of title XII of Pub. L. 111-11, enacting subchapter II of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘NOAA Undersea Research Program Act of 2009’.”

**§ 3402. Program established**

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall, in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies, establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promotes collaboration with other Federal ocean and undersea research and exploration programs. To the extent appropriate, the Administrator shall seek to facilitate coordination of data and information management systems, outreach and education programs to improve public understanding of ocean and coastal resources, and development and transfer of technologies to facilitate ocean and undersea research and exploration.

(Pub. L. 111-11, title XII, § 12002, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1417.)

**§ 3403. Powers and duties of the Administrator**

**(a) In general**

In carrying out the program authorized by section 3402 of this title, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—

- (1) conduct interdisciplinary voyages or other scientific activities in conjunction with other Federal agencies or academic or educational institutions, to explore and survey little known areas of the marine environment, inventory, observe, and assess living and non-living marine resources, and report such findings;
- (2) give priority attention to deep ocean regions, with a focus on deep water marine systems that hold potential for important scientific discoveries, such as hydrothermal vent communities and seamounts;
- (3) conduct scientific voyages to locate, define, and document historic shipwrecks, submerged sites, and other ocean exploration activities that combine archaeology and oceanographic sciences;