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§ 1801. Congressional findings

The Congress finds and declares that—

- (1) the demand for energy in the United States is increasing and will continue to increase for the foreseeable future;
- (2) domestic production of oil and gas has declined in recent years;
- (3) the United States has become increasingly dependent upon imports of oil from foreign nations to meet domestic energy demand;
- (4) increasing reliance on imported oil is not inevitable, but is rather subject to significant reduction by increasing the development of domestic sources of energy supply;
- (5) consumption of natural gas in the United States has greatly exceeded additions to domestic reserves in recent years;
- (6) technology is or can be made available which will allow significantly increased domestic production of oil and gas without undue harm or damage to the environment;
- (7) the Outer Continental Shelf contains significant quantities of oil and natural gas and is a vital national resource reserve which must be carefully managed so as to realize fair value, to preserve and maintain competition, and to reflect the public interest;
- (8) there presently exists a variety of technological, economic, environmental, administrative, and legal problems which tend to retard the development of the oil and natural gas reserves of the Outer Continental Shelf;
- (9) environmental and safety regulations relating to activities on the Outer Continental Shelf should be reviewed in light of current technology and information;
- (10) the development, processing, and distribution of the oil and gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf, and the siting of related energy facilities, may cause adverse impacts on various States and local governments;
- (11) policies, plans, and programs developed by States and local governments in response to activities on the Outer Continental Shelf cannot anticipate and ameliorate such adverse impacts unless such States, working in close

cooperation with affected local governments, are provided with timely access to information regarding activities on the Outer Continental Shelf and an opportunity to review and comment on decisions relating to such activities;

(12) funds must be made available to pay for the prompt removal of any oil spilled or discharged as a result of activities on the Outer Continental Shelf and for any damages to public or private interests caused by such spills or discharges;

(13) because of the possible conflicts between exploitation of the oil and gas resources in the Outer Continental Shelf and other uses of the marine environment, including fish and shellfish growth and recovery, and recreational activity, the Federal Government must assume responsibility for the minimization or elimination of any conflict associated with such exploitation;

(14) the oil and gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf are limited, nonrenewable resources which must be developed in a manner which takes into consideration the Nation's long-range energy needs and also assures adequate protection of the renewable resources of the Outer Continental Shelf which are a continuing and increasingly important source of food and protein to the Nation and the world; and

(15) funds must be made available to pay for damage to commercial fishing vessels and gear resulting from activities involving oil and gas exploration, development, and production on the Outer Continental Shelf.

(Pub. L. 95-372, title I, §101, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 630.)

SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-610, title I, §1, Nov. 5, 1988, 102 Stat. 3176, provided that: "This Act [probably should be 'This title', which amended section 1815 of this title] may be cited as the 'Outer Continental Shelf Operations Indemnification Clarification Act of 1988'."

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 95-372, §1, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 629, provided: "That this Act [enacting this chapter, sections 1344 to 1356 of this title, and section 237 of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining, amending sections 1331 to 1334, 1337, 1340, and 1343 of this title, sections 1456, 1456a, and 1464 of Title 16, Conservation, and section 6213 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1348 and 1811 of this title] may be cited as the 'Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978'."

§ 1802. Congressional declaration of purposes

The purposes of this chapter are to—

- (1) establish policies and procedures for managing the oil and natural gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf which are intended to result in expedited exploration and development of the Outer Continental Shelf in order to achieve national economic and energy policy goals, assure national security, reduce dependence on foreign sources, and maintain a favorable balance of payments in world trade;
- (2) preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in the Outer Continental Shelf in a manner which is consistent with the

need (A) to make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible, (B) to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments, (C) to insure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the Outer Continental Shelf, and (D) to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition;

(3) encourage development of new and improved technology for energy resource production which will eliminate or minimize risk of damage to the human, marine, and coastal environments;

(4) provide States, and through States, local governments, which are impacted by Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas exploration, development, and production with comprehensive assistance in order to anticipate and plan for such impact, and thereby to assure adequate protection of the human environment;

(5) assure that States, and through States, local governments, have timely access to information regarding activities on the Outer Continental Shelf, and opportunity to review and comment on decisions relating to such activities, in order to anticipate, ameliorate, and plan for the impacts of such activities;

(6) assure that States, and through States, local governments, which are directly affected by exploration, development, and production of oil and natural gas are provided an opportunity to participate in policy and planning decisions relating to management of the resources of the Outer Continental Shelf;

(7) minimize or eliminate conflicts between the exploration, development, and production of oil and natural gas, and the recovery of other resources such as fish and shellfish;

(8) establish an oilspill liability fund to pay for the prompt removal of any oil spilled or discharged as a result of activities on the Outer Continental Shelf and for any damages to public or private interests caused by such spills or discharges;

(9) insure that the extent of oil and natural gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf is assessed at the earliest practicable time; and

(10) establish a fishermen's contingency fund to pay for damages to commercial fishing vessels and gear due to Outer Continental Shelf activities.

(Pub. L. 95-372, title I, §102, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 631.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in opening provision, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 95-372, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 629, known as the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, which enacted this chapter, sections 1344 to 1356 of this title, and section 237 of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining, amended sections 1331 to 1334, 1337, 1340, and 1343 of this title, sections 1456, 1456a, and 1464 of Title 16, Conservation, and section 6213 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 1348 and 1811 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of this title and Tables.

SUBCHAPTER I—OFFSHORE OIL SPILL POLLUTION FUND

§§ 1811 to 1824. Repealed. Pub. L. 101-380, title II, § 2004, Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 507

Section 1811, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §301, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 670, defined terms used in this subchapter.

Section 1812, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §302, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 672; Pub. L. 101-239, title IX, §9001(a), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2470, established Offshore Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.

Section 1813, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §303, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 674, provided for asserting claims for economic loss from oil pollution.

Section 1814, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §304, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 675, set scope of liability of owners and operators of vessels and offshore facilities.

Section 1815, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §305, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 677; Pub. L. 100-610, title I, §§2, 3, Nov. 5, 1988, 102 Stat. 3176, required owners and operators of offshore facilities and vessels using offshore facilities to provide evidence of financial responsibility to cover liability for oil pollution.

Section 1816, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §306, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 678, provided for notification, designation, and advertisement of incidents involving vessels or offshore facilities.

Section 1817, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §307, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 679, related to presentment of claims to owners, operators, guarantors, or Offshore Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.

Section 1818, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §308, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 682, provided for subrogation of any person or governmental entity which paid compensation for an economic loss to all rights, claims, and causes of action which claimant had under this subchapter.

Section 1819, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §309, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 683, provided for jurisdiction and venue of controversies arising under this subchapter.

Section 1820, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §310, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 684, outlined relationship of this subchapter to other State or Federal laws.

Section 1821, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §311, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 684, prohibited harmful discharge of oil from any offshore facility or vessel.

Section 1822, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §312, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 684, set civil and criminal penalties for violations of provisions of this subchapter.

Section 1823, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §313, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 685, authorized appropriations for administration of this subchapter.

Section 1824, Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §314, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 685, directed Secretary of Transportation to submit report annually to Congress on operation of this subchapter.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 95-372, title III, §315, Sept. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 685, which provided that such section, section 1814(e) of this title, section 1815(d) of this title, and all provisions of this subchapter authorizing the delegation of authority or the promulgation of regulations were to be effective Sept. 18, 1978, and that all other provisions of this subchapter, and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to such provisions, were to be effective on the one hundred and eightieth day after Sept. 18, 1978, was repealed by Pub. L. 101-380, title II, §2004, Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 507.

OFFSHORE OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUND

Amounts remaining in the Offshore Oil Pollution Compensation Fund established under former section