

port detailing the progress accomplished under this subchapter during the previous fiscal year.

**(2) Contents**

The report described in paragraph (1) shall assess the performance of each participating agency and lead agency based on the best practices described in section 4370m-1(c)(2)(B) of this title, including—

(A) agency progress in making improvements consistent with those best practices; and

(B) agency compliance with the performance schedules established under section 4370m-1(c)(1)(C) of this title.

**(3) Opportunity to include comments**

Each councilmember, with input from the respective agency CERPO, shall have the opportunity to include comments concerning the performance of the agency in the report described in paragraph (1).

**(b) Comptroller general report**

Not later than 3 years after December 4, 2015, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(1) agency progress in making improvements consistent with the best practices issued under section 4370m-1(c)(2)(B) of this title; and

(2) agency compliance with the performance schedules established under section 4370m-1(c)(1)(C) of this title.

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41008, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1760.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, and not as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 4370m-8. Funding for governance, oversight, and processing of environmental reviews and permits**

**(a) In general**

The heads of agencies listed in section 4370m-1(b)(2)(B) of this title, with the guidance of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and in consultation with the Executive Director, may, after public notice and opportunity for comment, issue regulations establishing a fee structure for project proponents to reimburse the United States for reasonable costs incurred in conducting environmental reviews and authorizations for covered projects.

**(b) Reasonable costs**

As used in this section, the term “reasonable costs” shall include costs to implement the requirements and authorities required under sections 4370m-1 and 4370m-2 of this title, including the costs to agencies and the costs of operating the Council.

**(c) Fee structure**

The fee structure established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be developed in consultation with affected project proponents, industries, and other stakeholders;

(2) exclude parties for which the fee would impose an undue financial burden or is otherwise determined to be inappropriate; and

(3) be established in a manner that ensures that the aggregate amount of fees collected for a fiscal year is estimated not to exceed 20 percent of the total estimated costs for the fiscal year for the resources allocated for the conduct of the environmental reviews and authorizations covered by this subchapter, as determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

**(d) Environmental Review and Permitting Improvement Fund**

**(1) In general**

All amounts collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into a separate fund in the Treasury of the United States to be known as the “Environmental Review Improvement Fund” (referred to in this section as the “Fund”).

**(2) Availability**

Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Executive Director, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, solely for the purposes of administering, implementing, and enforcing this subchapter, including the expenses of the Council.

**(3) Transfer**

The Executive Director, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may transfer amounts in the Fund to other agencies to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for proposed covered projects.

**(e) Effect on permitting**

The regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) shall ensure that the use of funds accepted under subsection (d) will not impact impartial decision-making with respect to environmental reviews or authorizations, either substantively or procedurally.

**(f) Transfer of appropriated funds**

**(1) In general**

The heads of agencies listed in section 4370m-1(b)(2)(B) of this title shall have the authority to transfer, in accordance with section 1535 of title 31, funds appropriated to those agencies and not otherwise obligated to other affected Federal agencies for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this subchapter.

**(2) Limitation**

Appropriations under title 23 and appropriations for the civil works program of the Army Corps of Engineers shall not be available for transfer under paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41009, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1760.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, and not as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 4370m-9. Application**

This subchapter applies to any covered project for which—

- (1) a notice is filed under section 4370m-2(a)(1) of this title; or
- (2) an application or other request for a Federal authorization is pending before a Federal agency 90 days after December 4, 2015.

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41010, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1761.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, and not as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 4370m-10. GAO report**

Not later than 3 years after December 4, 2015, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes an analysis of whether the provisions of this subchapter could be adapted to streamline the Federal permitting process for smaller projects that are not covered projects.

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41011, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1761.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, and not as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 4370m-11. Savings provision**

Nothing in this subchapter amends the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41012, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1761.)

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 this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, and not as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 4370m-12. Sunset**

This subchapter shall terminate 7 years after December 4, 2015.

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41013, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1761.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, and not as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which comprises this chapter.

**CHAPTER 56—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

- Sec. 4371. Congressional findings, declarations, and purposes.
- 4372. Office of Environmental Quality.
- 4373. Referral of Environmental Quality Reports to standing committees having jurisdiction.

- Sec. 4374. Authorization of appropriations.
- 4375. Office of Environmental Quality Management Fund.

**§ 4371. Congressional findings, declarations, and purposes**

- (a) The Congress finds—
  - (1) that man has caused changes in the environment;
  - (2) that many of these changes may affect the relationship between man and his environment; and
  - (3) that population increases and urban concentration contribute directly to pollution and the degradation of our environment.

(b)(1) The Congress declares that there is a national policy for the environment which provides for the enhancement of environmental quality. This policy is evidenced by statutes heretofore enacted relating to the prevention, abatement, and control of environmental pollution, water and land resources, transportation, and economic and regional development.

(2) The primary responsibility for implementing this policy rests with State and local government.

(3) The Federal Government encourages and supports implementation of this policy through appropriate regional organizations established under existing law.

- (c) The purposes of this chapter are—
  - (1) to assure that each Federal department and agency conducting or supporting public works activities which affect the environment shall implement the policies established under existing law; and
  - (2) to authorize an Office of Environmental Quality, which, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall provide the professional and administrative staff for the Council on Environmental Quality established by Public Law 91-190.

(Pub. L. 91-224, title II, § 202, Apr. 3, 1970, 84 Stat. 114.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Public Law 91-190, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, as amended, known as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 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.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 91-224, title II, § 201, Apr. 3, 1970, 84 Stat. 114, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970.’”

**§ 4372. Office of Environmental Quality**

**(a) Establishment; Director; Deputy Director**

There is established in the Executive Office of the President an office to be known as the Office of Environmental Quality (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the “Office”). The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality established by Public Law 91-190 shall be the Director of the Office. There shall be in the Office a Deputy Director who shall be appointed by the