

**§ 6966a. Increased use of recovered mineral component in federally funded projects involving procurement of cement or concrete**

**(a) Definitions**

In this section:

**(1) Agency head**

The term “agency head” means—

- (A) the Secretary of Transportation; and
- (B) the head of each other Federal agency that on a regular basis procures, or provides Federal funds to pay or assist in paying the cost of procuring, material for cement or concrete projects.

**(2) Cement or concrete project**

The term “cement or concrete project” means a project for the construction or maintenance of a highway or other transportation facility or a Federal, State, or local government building or other public facility that—

- (A) involves the procurement of cement or concrete; and
- (B) is carried out in whole or in part using Federal funds.

**(3) Recovered mineral component**

The term “recovered mineral component” means—

- (A) ground granulated blast furnace slag other than lead slag;
- (B) coal combustion fly ash;
- (C) blast furnace slag aggregate other than lead slag aggregate;
- (D) silica fume; and
- (E) any other waste material or byproduct recovered or diverted from solid waste that the Administrator, in consultation with an agency head, determines should be treated as recovered mineral component under this section for use in cement or concrete projects paid for, in whole or in part, by the agency head.

**(b) Implementation of requirements**

**(1) In general**

Not later than 1 year after August 10, 2005, the Administrator and each agency head shall take such actions as are necessary to implement fully all procurement requirements and incentives in effect as of August 10, 2005 (including guidelines under section 6962 of this title) that provide for the use of cement and concrete incorporating recovered mineral component in cement or concrete projects.

**(2) Priority**

In carrying out paragraph (1) an agency head shall give priority to achieving greater use of recovered mineral component in cement or concrete projects for which recovered mineral components historically have not been used or have been used only minimally.

**(3) Conformance**

The Administrator and each agency head shall carry out this subsection in accordance with section 6962 of this title.

**(c) Full implementation study**

**(1) In general**

The Administrator, in cooperation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary

of Energy, shall conduct a study to determine the extent to which current procurement requirements, when fully implemented in accordance with subsection (b), may realize energy savings and environmental benefits attainable with substitution of recovered mineral component in cement used in cement or concrete projects.

**(2) Matters to be addressed**

The study shall—

(A) quantify the extent to which recovered mineral components are being substituted for Portland cement, particularly as a result of current procurement requirements, and the energy savings and environmental benefits associated with that substitution;

(B) identify all barriers in procurement requirements to greater realization of energy savings and environmental benefits, including barriers resulting from exceptions from current law; and

(C)(i) identify potential mechanisms to achieve greater substitution of recovered mineral component in types of cement or concrete projects for which recovered mineral components historically have not been used or have been used only minimally;

(ii) evaluate the feasibility of establishing guidelines or standards for optimized substitution rates of recovered mineral component in those cement or concrete projects; and

(iii) identify any potential environmental or economic effects that may result from greater substitution of recovered mineral component in those cement or concrete projects.

**(3) Report**

Not later than 30 months after August 10, 2005, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study.

**(d) Additional procurement requirements**

Unless the study conducted under subsection (c) identifies any effects or other problems described in subsection (c)(2)(C)(iii) that warrant further review or delay, the Administrator and each agency head shall, not later than 1 year after the release of the report in accordance with subsection (c)(3), take additional actions authorized under this chapter to establish procurement requirements and incentives that provide for the use of cement and concrete with increased substitution of recovered mineral component in the construction and maintenance of cement or concrete projects, so as to—

(1) realize more fully the energy savings and environmental benefits associated with increased substitution; and

(2) eliminate barriers identified under subsection (c).

**(e) Effect of section**

Nothing in this section affects the requirements of section 6962 of this title (including the guidelines and specifications for implementing those requirements).

(Pub. L. 89-272, title II, §6005, as added Pub. L. 109-59, title VI, §6017(a), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1888.)

## CODIFICATION

Another section 6005 of Pub. L. 89-272 is classified to section 6966 of this title.

**§ 6966b. Use of granular mine tailings****(a) Mine tailings****(1) In general**

Not later than 180 days after August 10, 2005, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and heads of other Federal agencies, shall establish criteria (including an evaluation of whether to establish a numerical standard for concentration of lead and other hazardous substances) for the safe and environmentally protective use of granular mine tailings from the Tar Creek, Oklahoma Mining District, known as “chat”, for—

(A) cement or concrete projects; and

(B) transportation construction projects (including transportation construction projects involving the use of asphalt) that are carried out, in whole or in part, using Federal funds.

**(2) Requirements**

In establishing criteria under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consider—

(A) the current and previous uses of granular mine tailings as an aggregate for asphalt; and

(B) any environmental and public health risks and benefits derived from the removal, transportation, and use in transportation projects of granular mine tailings.

**(3) Public participation**

In establishing the criteria under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall solicit and consider comments from the public.

**(4) Applicability of criteria**

On the establishment of the criteria under paragraph (1), any use of the granular mine tailings described in paragraph (1) in a transportation project that is carried out, in whole or in part, using Federal funds, shall meet the criteria established under paragraph (1).

**(b) Effect of sections**

Nothing in this section or section 6966a of this title affects any requirement of any law (including a regulation) in effect on August 10, 2005.

(Pub. L. 89-272, title II, §6006, as added Pub. L. 109-59, title VI, §6018(a), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1890.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 6966a of this title, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “section 6005” meaning section 6005 of Pub. L. 89-272, which was translated as meaning the section 6005 of Pub. L. 89-272 as added by section 6017(a) of Pub. L. 109-59, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

## SUBCHAPTER VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**§ 6971. Employee protection****(a) General**

No person shall fire, or in any other way discriminate against, or cause to be fired or dis-

criminated against, any employee or any authorized representative of employees by reason of the fact that such employee or representative has filed, instituted, or caused to be filed or instituted any proceeding under this chapter or under any applicable implementation plan, or has testified or is about to testify in any proceeding resulting from the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this chapter or of any applicable implementation plan.

**(b) Remedy**

Any employee or a representative of employees who believes that he has been fired or otherwise discriminated against by any person in violation of subsection (a) of this section may, within thirty days after such alleged violation occurs, apply to the Secretary of Labor for a review of such firing or alleged discrimination. A copy of the application shall be sent to such person who shall be the respondent. Upon receipt of such application, the Secretary of Labor shall cause such investigation to be made as he deems appropriate. Such investigation shall provide an opportunity for a public hearing at the request of any party to such review to enable the parties to present information relating to such alleged violation. The parties shall be given written notice of the time and place of the hearing at least five days prior to the hearing. Any such hearing shall be of record and shall be subject to section 554 of title 5. Upon receiving the report of such investigation, the Secretary of Labor shall make findings of fact. If he finds that such violation did occur, he shall issue a decision, incorporating an order therein and his findings, requiring the party committing such violation to take such affirmative action to abate the violation as the Secretary of Labor deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, the rehiring or reinstatement of the employee or representative of employees to his former position with compensation. If he finds that there was no such violation, he shall issue an order denying the application. Such order issued by the Secretary of Labor under this subparagraph shall be subject to judicial review in the same manner as orders and decisions of the Administrator or subject to judicial review under this chapter.

**(c) Costs**

Whenever an order is issued under this section to abate such violation, at the request of the applicant, a sum equal to the aggregate amount of all costs and expenses (including the attorney’s fees) as determined by the Secretary of Labor, to have been reasonably incurred by the applicant for, or in connection with, the institution and prosecution of such proceedings, shall be assessed against the person committing such violation.

**(d) Exception**

This section shall have no application to any employee who, acting without direction from his employer (or his agent) deliberately violates any requirement of this chapter.

**(e) Employment shifts and loss**

The Administrator shall conduct continuing evaluations of potential loss or shifts of employment which may result from the administration