

Sections 905 and 940a of this title, referred to in subsec. (c)(6), were repealed by Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §§ 774(a), 780, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1150, 1151.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 917, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title I, § 17, as added Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2343, 104 Stat. 4027, related to establishment of technical assistance unit to provide advice and technical assistance to electric and telephone borrowers under this chapter, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-237, title VII, § 703(b), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1881.

### § 918. General prohibitions

#### (a) No consideration of borrower's level of general funds

The Secretary shall not deny or reduce any loan or loan advance under this chapter based on a borrower's level of general funds.

#### (b) Loan origination fees

The Secretary may not charge any fee or charge not expressly provided in this chapter in connection with any loan made or guaranteed under this chapter.

#### (c) Consultants

##### (1) In general

To facilitate timely action on applications by borrowers for financial assistance under this chapter and for approvals required of the Rural Electrification Administration pursuant to the terms of outstanding loan or security instruments or otherwise, the Secretary may use consultants funded by the borrower, paid for out of the general funds of the borrower, for financial, legal, engineering, and other technical advice and services in connection with the review of the application by the Rural Electrification Administration.

##### (2) Conflicts of interest

The Secretary shall establish procedures for the selection and the provision of technical services by consultants to ensure that the consultants have no financial or other conflicts of interest in the outcome of the application of the borrower.

##### (3) Payment of costs

The Secretary may not, without the consent of the borrower, require, as a condition of processing an application for approval, that the borrower agree to pay the costs, fees, and expenses of consultants hired to provide technical or advisory services to the Secretary.

##### (4) Contracts, grants, and agreements

The Secretary may enter into such contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements as are necessary to carry out this section.

##### (5) Use of consultants

Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of the Secretary to retain the services of consultants from funds made available to the Secretary or otherwise.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title I, § 18, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2353, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4039; amended Pub. L. 103-129, § 2(c)(4), Nov. 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 1364; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, § 235(a)(13), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221; Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6602(b)(1), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4776.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 115-334 struck out “and the Governor of the telephone bank” after “The Secretary”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

1993—Pub. L. 103-129 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

### § 918a. Energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities efficiency grants and loans in rural communities with extremely high energy costs

#### (a) In general

The Secretary, acting through the Rural Utilities Service, may—

(1) in coordination with State rural development initiatives, make grants and loans to persons, States, political subdivisions of States, and other entities organized under the laws of States to acquire, construct, extend, upgrade, and otherwise improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving communities in which the average residential expenditure for home energy is at least 275 percent of the national average residential expenditure for home energy (as determined by the Energy Information Agency using the most recent data available);

(2) make grants and loans to the Denali Commission established by the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105-277) to acquire, construct, extend, upgrade, and otherwise improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving communities described in paragraph (1); and

(3) make grants to State entities, in existence as of November 9, 2000, to establish and support a revolving fund to provide a more cost-effective means of purchasing fuel where the fuel cannot be shipped by means of surface transportation.

#### (b) Authorization of appropriations

##### (1) In general

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as are necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

##### (2) Limitation on planning and administrative expenses

Not more than 4 percent of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) may be used for planning and administrative expenses.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title I, § 19, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title III, § 301, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2069.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Denali Commission Act of 1998, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is title III of div. C of Pub. L. 105-277, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-637, which is set out as a note under section 3121 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

### § 918b. Acquisition of existing systems in rural communities with high energy costs

On and after November 28, 2001, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of

Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service<sup>1</sup> shall use the authorities provided in the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 [7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.] to finance the acquisition of existing generation, transmission and distribution systems and facilities serving high cost, predominantly rural areas by entities capable of and dedicated to providing or improving service in such areas in an efficient and cost effective manner.

(Pub. L. 107-76, title VII, §748, Nov. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 738; Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, §12408(b), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4977.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936, referred to in text, is act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, 49 Stat. 1363, as amended, which is classified generally to this chapter (§901 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 901 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, and not as part of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 which comprises this chapter.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following prior appropriation act:

Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title I, §771], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-45.

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-334 inserted “the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through” before “the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service”.

### § 918c. Rural and remote communities electrification grants

#### (a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) The term “eligible grantee” means a local government or municipality, peoples’ utility district, irrigation district, and cooperative, nonprofit, or limited-dividend association in a rural area.

(2) The term “incremental hydropower” means additional generation achieved from increased efficiency after January 1, 2005, at a hydroelectric dam that was placed in service before January 1, 2005.

(3) The term “renewable energy” means electricity generated from—

(A) a renewable energy source; or

(B) hydrogen, other than hydrogen produced from a fossil fuel, that is produced from a renewable energy source.

(4) The term “renewable energy source” means—

(A) wind;

(B) ocean waves;

(C) biomass;

(D) solar;

(E) landfill gas;

(F) incremental hydropower;

(G) livestock methane; or

(H) geothermal energy.

(5) The term “rural area” means a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants.

#### (b) Grants

The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, may provide grants under this section to eligible grantees for the purpose of—

(1) increasing energy efficiency, siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines serving rural areas; or

(2) providing or modernizing electric generation facilities that serve rural areas.

#### (c) Grant administration

(1) The Secretary shall make grants under this section based on a determination of cost-effectiveness and the most effective use of the funds to achieve the purposes described in subsection (b).

(2) For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate grant funds under this section equally between the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b).

(3) In making grants for the purposes described in subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall give preference to renewable energy facilities.

#### (d) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2012.

(Pub. L. 95-617, title VI, §609, as added Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §209, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 657.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, and not as part of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 which comprises this chapter.

#### DEFINITIONS

Secretary means the Secretary of Energy, see section 2602(14) of Title 16, Conservation.

### SUBCHAPTER II—RURAL TELEPHONE SERVICE

#### § 921. Congressional declaration of policy

It is declared to be the policy of the Congress that adequate telephone service be made generally available in rural areas through the improvement and expansion of existing telephone facilities and the construction and operation of such additional facilities as are required to assure the availability of adequate telephone service to the widest practicable number of rural users of such service.

(Oct. 28, 1949, ch. 776, §1, 63 Stat. 948.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section is composed of the first sentence of section 1 of act Oct. 28, 1949. The second sentence of section 1 of that act, which provided that: “In order to effectuate this policy, the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 [this chapter] is amended as hereinafter provided”, is omitted from the Code.

Section was not enacted as part of title II of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 which comprises subchapter II of this chapter.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be followed by a comma.