

(1) the project design has been validated through the operation of a continuous process facility;

(2) the project has been subject to a full technical review;

(3) the project, with the loan guarantee, is economically viable; and

(4) there is a reasonable assurance of repayment of the guaranteed loan.

(d) Limitations

(1) Maximum guarantee

Except as provided in paragraph (2), a loan guarantee under this section—

(A) may be issued for up to 80 percent of the estimated cost of a project; but

(B) shall not exceed \$50,000,000 for any 1 project.

(2) Additional guarantees

(A) In general

The Secretary may issue additional loan guarantees for a project to cover—

(i) up to 80 percent of the excess of actual project costs; but

(ii) not to exceed 15 percent of the amount of the original loan guarantee.

(B) Principal and interest

Subject to subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall guarantee 100 percent of the principal and interest of a loan guarantee made under subparagraph (A).

(Pub. L. 109–58, title XV, §1516, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 1091.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Title XIV, referred to in subsec. (a), is title XIV of Pub. L. 109–58, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 1061, which enacted subchapter XIII of this chapter and section 13557 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER XV—INCENTIVES FOR INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

§ 16511. Definitions

In this subchapter:

(1) Commercial technology

(A) In general

The term “commercial technology” means a technology in general use in the commercial marketplace.

(B) Inclusions

The term “commercial technology” does not include a technology solely by use of the technology in a demonstration project funded by the Department.

(2) Cost

The term “cost” has the meaning given the term “cost of a loan guarantee” within the meaning of section 661a(5)(C) of title 2.

(3) Eligible project

The term “eligible project” means a project described in section 16513 of this title.

(4) Guarantee

(A) In general

The term “guarantee” has the meaning given the term “loan guarantee” in section 661a of title 2.

(B) Inclusion

The term “guarantee” includes a loan guarantee commitment (as defined in section 661a of title 2).

(5) Obligation

The term “obligation” means the loan or other debt obligation that is guaranteed under this section.

(Pub. L. 109–58, title XVII, §1701, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 1117.)

§ 16512. Terms and conditions

(a) In general

Except for division C of Public Law 108–324 [15 U.S.C. 720 et seq.], the Secretary shall make guarantees under this or any other Act for projects on such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines, after consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, only in accordance with this section.

(b) Specific appropriation or contribution

(1)¹ In general

No guarantee shall be made unless—

(A) an appropriation for the cost of the guarantee has been made;

(B) the Secretary has received from the borrower a payment in full for the cost of the guarantee and deposited the payment into the Treasury; or

(C) a combination of one or more appropriations under subparagraph (A) and one or more payments from the borrower under subparagraph (B) has been made that is sufficient to cover the cost of the guarantee.

(c) Amount

Unless otherwise provided by law, a guarantee by the Secretary shall not exceed an amount equal to 80 percent of the project cost of the facility that is the subject of the guarantee, as estimated at the time at which the guarantee is issued.

(d) Repayment

(1) In general

No guarantee shall be made unless the Secretary determines that there is reasonable prospect of repayment of the principal and interest on the obligation by the borrower.

(2) Amount

No guarantee shall be made unless the Secretary determines that the amount of the obligation (when combined with amounts available to the borrower from other sources) will be sufficient to carry out the project.

(3) Subordination

The obligation shall be subject to the condition that the obligation is not subordinate to other financing.

(e) Interest rate

An obligation shall bear interest at a rate that does not exceed a level that the Secretary determines appropriate, taking into account the prevailing rate of interest in the private sector for similar loans and risks.

¹ So in original. No par. (2) has been enacted.

(f) Term

The term of an obligation shall require full repayment over a period not to exceed the lesser of—

- (1) 30 years; or
- (2) 90 percent of the projected useful life of the physical asset to be financed by the obligation (as determined by the Secretary).

(g) Defaults**(1) Payment by Secretary****(A) In general**

If a borrower defaults on the obligation (as defined in regulations promulgated by the Secretary and specified in the guarantee contract), the holder of the guarantee shall have the right to demand payment of the unpaid amount from the Secretary.

(B) Payment required

Within such period as may be specified in the guarantee or related agreements, the Secretary shall pay to the holder of the guarantee the unpaid interest on, and unpaid principal of the obligation as to which the borrower has defaulted, unless the Secretary finds that there was no default by the borrower in the payment of interest or principal or that the default has been remedied.

(C) Forbearance

Nothing in this subsection precludes any forbearance by the holder of the obligation for the benefit of the borrower which may be agreed upon by the parties to the obligation and approved by the Secretary.

(2) Subrogation**(A) In general**

If the Secretary makes a payment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall be subrogated to the rights of the recipient of the payment as specified in the guarantee or related agreements including, where appropriate, the authority (notwithstanding any other provision of law) to—

- (i) complete, maintain, operate, lease, or otherwise dispose of any property acquired pursuant to such guarantee or related agreements; or
- (ii) permit the borrower, pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary, to continue to pursue the purposes of the project if the Secretary determines this to be in the public interest.

(B) Superiority of rights

The rights of the Secretary, with respect to any property acquired pursuant to a guarantee or related agreements, shall be superior to the rights of any other person with respect to the property.

(C) Terms and conditions

A guarantee agreement shall include such detailed terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to—

- (i) protect the interests of the United States in the case of default; and
- (ii) have available all the patents and technology necessary for any person selected, including the Secretary, to complete and operate the project.

(3) Payment of principal and interest by Secretary

With respect to any obligation guaranteed under this section, the Secretary may enter into a contract to pay, and pay, holders of the obligation, for and on behalf of the borrower, from funds appropriated for that purpose, the principal and interest payments which become due and payable on the unpaid balance of the obligation if the Secretary finds that—

- (A)(i) the borrower is unable to meet the payments and is not in default;
- (ii) it is in the public interest to permit the borrower to continue to pursue the purposes of the project; and
- (iii) the probable net benefit to the Federal Government in paying the principal and interest will be greater than that which would result in the event of a default;

(B) the amount of the payment that the Secretary is authorized to pay shall be no greater than the amount of principal and interest that the borrower is obligated to pay under the agreement being guaranteed; and

(C) the borrower agrees to reimburse the Secretary for the payment (including interest) on terms and conditions that are satisfactory to the Secretary.

(4) Action by Attorney General**(A) Notification**

If the borrower defaults on an obligation, the Secretary shall notify the Attorney General of the default.

(B) Recovery

On notification, the Attorney General shall take such action as is appropriate to recover the unpaid principal and interest due from—

- (i) such assets of the defaulting borrower as are associated with the obligation; or
- (ii) any other security pledged to secure the obligation.

(h) Fees**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall charge and collect fees for guarantees in amounts the Secretary determines are sufficient to cover applicable administrative expenses.

(2) Availability

Fees collected under this subsection shall—

- (A) be deposited by the Secretary into the Treasury; and

- (B) remain available until expended, subject to such other conditions as are contained in annual appropriations Acts.

(i) Records; audits**(1) In general**

A recipient of a guarantee shall keep such records and other pertinent documents as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulation, including such records as the Secretary may require to facilitate an effective audit.

(2) Access

The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States, or their duly authorized representatives, shall have access, for the pur-

pose of audit, to the records and other pertinent documents.

(j) Full faith and credit

The full faith and credit of the United States is pledged to the payment of all guarantees issued under this section with respect to principal and interest.

(k) Wage rate requirements

All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of construction work financed in whole or in part by a loan guaranteed under this subchapter shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40. With respect to the labor standards in this subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40.

(Pub. L. 109-58, title XVII, § 1702, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 1117; Pub. L. 111-85, title III, § 310, Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2873; Pub. L. 112-74, div. B, title III, § 305(1), Dec. 23, 2011, 125 Stat. 877.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Division C of Public Law 108-324, referred to in subsec. (a), is division C of Pub. L. 108-324, Oct. 13, 2004, 118 Stat. 1255, known as the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act, which is classified principally to chapter 15D (§ 720 et seq.) of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of division C to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 720 of Title 15 and Tables.

Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950, referred to in subsec. (k), is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 112-74 added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “No guarantee shall be made unless—
“(1) an appropriation for the cost has been made; or
“(2) the Secretary has received from the borrower a payment in full for the cost of the obligation and deposited the payment into the Treasury.”

2009—Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 111-85 added subsec. (k).

§ 16513. Eligible projects

(a) In general

The Secretary may make guarantees under this section only for projects that—

- (1) avoid, reduce, or sequester air pollutants or anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases; and
- (2) employ new or significantly improved technologies as compared to commercial technologies in service in the United States at the time the guarantee is issued.

(b) Categories

Projects from the following categories shall be eligible for a guarantee under this section:

- (1) Renewable energy systems.
- (2) Advanced fossil energy technology (including coal gasification meeting the criteria in subsection (d)).
- (3) Hydrogen fuel cell technology for residential, industrial, or transportation applications.

(4) Advanced nuclear energy facilities.

(5) Carbon capture and sequestration practices and technologies, including agricultural and forestry practices that store and sequester carbon.

(6) Efficient electrical generation, transmission, and distribution technologies.

(7) Efficient end-use energy technologies.

(8) Production facilities for the manufacture of fuel efficient vehicles or parts of those vehicles, including electric drive vehicles and advanced diesel vehicles.

(9) Pollution control equipment.

(10) Refineries, meaning facilities at which crude oil is refined into gasoline.

(c) Gasification projects

The Secretary may make guarantees for the following gasification projects:

(1) Integrated gasification combined cycle projects

Integrated gasification combined cycle plants meeting the emission levels under subsection (d), including—

(A) projects for the generation of electricity—

(i) for which, during the term of the guarantee—

(I) coal, biomass, petroleum coke, or a combination of coal, biomass, and petroleum coke will account for at least 65 percent of annual heat input; and

(II) electricity will account for at least 65 percent of net useful annual energy output;

(ii) that have a design that is determined by the Secretary to be capable of accommodating the equipment likely to be necessary to capture the carbon dioxide that would otherwise be emitted in flue gas from the plant;

(iii) that have an assured revenue stream that covers project capital and operating costs (including servicing all debt obligations covered by the guarantee) that is approved by the Secretary and the relevant State public utility commission; and

(iv) on which construction commences not later than the date that is 3 years after the date of the issuance of the guarantee;

(B) a project to produce energy from coal (of not more than 13,000 Btu/lb and mined in the western United States) using appropriate advanced integrated gasification combined cycle technology that minimizes and offers the potential to sequester carbon dioxide emissions and that—

(i) may include repowering of existing facilities;

(ii) may be built in stages;

(iii) shall have a combined output of at least 100 megawatts;

(iv) shall be located in a western State at an altitude greater than 4,000 feet; and

(v) shall demonstrate the ability to use coal with an energy content of not more than 9,000 Btu/lb;

(C) a project located in a taconite-producing region of the United States that is enti-