

The Secretary may make a commitment to make a loan under this subsection to an applicant who has not met the requirements of paragraph (2), pending compliance by such applicant with such requirements. Such commitment shall be for period¹ of not to exceed 3 years unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, extends such period for good cause shown. Notwithstanding any such commitment, no such loan shall be made before such person has complied with such requirements.

(b) Preference

The Secretary shall give preference to applicants under this section who do not have available alternative financing which the Secretary deems appropriate to carry out the project and whose projects will provide useful information as to the technical and economic feasibility of—

- (1) the generation of electric energy by such projects, and
- (2) the use of energy produced by such projects.

(c) Information

Every applicant for a license for a small hydroelectric power project receiving loans pursuant to this section shall furnish the Secretary with such information as the Secretary may require regarding equipment and services proposed to be used in the design, construction, and operation of such project. The Secretary shall have the right to forbid the use in such project of any equipment or services he finds inappropriate for such project by reason of cost, performance, or failure to carry out the purposes of this section. The Secretary shall make information which he obtains under this subsection available to the public, other than information described as entitled to confidentiality under section 796(d) of title 15.

(d) Joint participation

In making loans for small hydroelectric power projects under this section, the Secretary shall encourage joint participation, to the extent permitted by law, by applicants eligible to receive loans under this section with respect to the same project.

(Pub. L. 95-617, title IV, § 403, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3155.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Secretary, referred to in text, and the Commission, referred to in subsec. (a), mean the Secretary of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, respectively, see section 2602(3), (14) of this title.

§ 2704. Loan rates and repayment

(a) Interest

Each loan made pursuant to this chapter shall bear interest at the discount or interest rate used at the time the loan is made for water resources planning projects under section 1962d-17 of title 42. Each such loan shall be for such term, as the Secretary deems appropriate, but not in excess of—

(1) 10 years (in the case of a loan under section 2702 of this title) or

(2) 30 years (in the case of a loan under section 2703 of this title).

(b) Repayments

Amounts repaid on loans made pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited into the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

(Pub. L. 95-617, title IV, § 404, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3155.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

In subsec. (a), “section 1962d-17 of title 42” was in the original “section 80 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962-17(a))”.

The Secretary, referred to in subsec. (a), means the Secretary of Energy, see section 2602(14) of this title.

§ 2705. Simplified and expeditious licensing procedures

(a) Establishment of program

The Commission shall establish, in such manner as the Commission deems appropriate, consistent with the applicable provisions of law, a program to use simple and expeditious licensing procedures under the Federal Power Act [16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.] for small hydroelectric power projects in connection with existing dams.

(b) Prerequisites

Before issuing any license under the Federal Power Act [16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.] for the construction or operation of any small hydroelectric power project the Commission—

(1) shall assess the safety of existing structures in any proposed project (including possible consequences associated with failure of such structures), and

(2) shall provide an opportunity for consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to the environmental effects of such project.

Nothing in this subsection exempts any such project from any requirement applicable to any such project under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.], the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act [16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.], the Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.], or any other provision of Federal law.

(c) Fish and wildlife facilities

The Commission shall encourage applicants for licenses for small hydroelectric power projects to make use of public funds and other assistance for the design and construction of fish and wildlife facilities which may be required in connection with any development of such project.

(d) Exemptions from licensing requirements in certain cases

The Commission may in its discretion (by rule or order) grant an exemption in whole or in part from the requirements (including the licensing requirements) of part I of the Federal Power Act [16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.] to small hydroelectric

¹ So in original. Probably should be “for a period”.