

TITLE 20 - EDUCATION

CHAPTER 66 - MORRIS K. UDALL SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOUNDATION

§ 5607b. Use of Institute by Federal agency or other entity

(a) Authorization

A Federal agency may use the Foundation and the Institute to provide assessment, mediation, or other related services in connection with a dispute or conflict related to the environment, public lands, or natural resources.

(b) Payment

(1) In general

A Federal agency may enter into a contract and expend funds to obtain the services of the Institute.

(2) Payment into Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund

A payment from an executive agency on a contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall be paid into the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund established under section 5607a of this title.

(c) Notification and concurrence

(1) Notification

An agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government shall notify the chairperson of the President's Council on Environmental Quality when using the Foundation or the Institute to provide the services described in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) Notification descriptions

In a matter involving two or more agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government, notification under paragraph (1) shall include a written description of—

(A) the issues and parties involved;

(B) prior efforts, if any, undertaken by the agency to resolve or address the issue or issues;

(C) all Federal agencies or instrumentalities with a direct interest or involvement in the matter and a statement that all Federal agencies or instrumentalities agree to dispute resolution; and

(D) other relevant information.

(3) Concurrence

(A) In general

In a matter that involves two or more agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality), the agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government shall obtain the concurrence of the chairperson of the President's Council on Environmental Quality before using the Foundation or Institute to provide the services described in subsection (a) of this section.

(B) Indication of concurrence or nonconcurrence

The chairperson of the President's Council on Environmental Quality shall indicate concurrence or nonconcurrence under subparagraph (A) not later than 20 days after receiving notice under paragraph (2).

(d) Exceptions

(1) Legal issues and enforcement

(A) In general

A dispute or conflict involving agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality) that concern purely

NB: This unofficial compilation of the U.S. Code is current as of Jan. 8, 2008 (see <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscprint.html>).

legal issues or matters, interpretation or determination of law, or enforcement of law by one agency against another agency shall not be submitted to the Foundation or Institute.

(B) Applicability

Subparagraph (A) does not apply to a dispute or conflict concerning—

- (i) agency implementation of a program or project;
- (ii) a matter involving two or more agencies with parallel authority requiring facilitation and coordination of the various Government agencies; or
- (iii) a nonlegal policy or decisionmaking matter that involves two or more agencies that are jointly operating a project.

(2) Other mandated mechanisms or avenues

A dispute or conflict involving agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality) for which Congress by law has mandated another dispute resolution mechanism or avenue to address or resolve shall not be submitted to the Foundation or Institute.

(e) Non-Federal entities

(1) Non-Federal entities, including state¹ and local governments, Native American tribal governments, nongovernmental organizations and persons, as defined in section 1 of title 1, may use the Foundation and the Institute to provide assessment, mediation, or other related services in connection with a dispute or conflict involving the Federal government¹ related to the environment, public lands, or natural resources.

(2) **Payment into the environmental dispute resolution fund.**— Entities utilizing services pursuant to this subsection shall reimburse the Institute for the costs of services provided. Such amounts shall be deposited into the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund established under section 5607a of this title.

Footnotes

¹ So in original. Probably should be capitalized.

(Pub. L. 102–259, § 11, as added Pub. L. 105–156, § 7, Feb. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 10; amended Pub. L. 105–277, div. A, § 101(h) [title V, § 517(a)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–480, 2681–512.)

Prior Provisions

A prior section 11 of Pub. L. 102–259 was renumbered section 13 and is classified to section 5609 of this title.

Amendments

1998—Pub. L. 105–277, § 101(h) [title V, § 517(a)(1)], inserted “or other entity” after “Federal agency” in section catchline.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 105–277, § 101(h) [title V, § 517(a)(2)], added subsec. (e).