

(b) Concentration

One center shall concentrate primarily on research in the continental shelf regions of the United States, 1 center shall concentrate primarily on research in deep seabed and near-shore environments of islands, and 1 center shall concentrate primarily on research in arctic and cold water regions.

(c) Criteria

In designating a center under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to a university that—

- (1) administers a federally funded center for marine minerals research;
- (2) matriculates students for advanced degrees in marine geological sciences, nonenergy natural resources, and related fields of science and engineering;
- (3) is a United States university with established programs and facilities that primarily focus on marine mineral resources;
- (4) has engaged in collaboration and cooperation with industry, governmental agencies, and other universities in the field of marine mineral resources;
- (5) has demonstrated significant engineering, development, and design experience in two or more of the following areas;¹
 - (A) seabed exploration systems;
 - (B) marine mining systems; and
 - (C) marine mineral processing systems;
- and
- (6) has been designated by the Secretary as a State Mining and Mineral Resources Research Institute.

(d) Center activities

A center shall—

- (1) provide technical assistance to the Secretary concerning marine mineral resources;
- (2) advise the Secretary on pertinent international activities in marine mineral resources development;
- (3) engage in research, training, and education transfer associated with the characterization and utilization of marine mineral resources; and
- (4) promote the efficient identification, assessment, exploration, and management of marine mineral resources in an environmentally sound manner.

(e) Allocation of funds

In distributing funds to the centers designated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, allocate an equal amount to each center.

(f) Limitations**(1) Administrative expenses**

Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section during a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary for expenses associated with administration of the program authorized by this section.

(2) Construction costs

None of the funds made available under this section may be used for the construction of a

new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

(Pub. L. 91-631, title II, §204, as added Pub. L. 104-325, §2(3), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3998.)

§ 1905. Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-631, title II, §205, as added Pub. L. 104-325, §2(3), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3999.)

CHAPTER 32—METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec.	Findings.
2001.	Definitions.
2002.	
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Editorial Notes**CODIFICATION**

This chapter is comprised of Pub. L. 106-193, as amended generally by Pub. L. 109-58, title IX, §968(a), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 894, known as the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000, which was formerly set out as a note under section 1902 of this title.

§ 2001. Findings

Congress finds that—

(1) in order to promote energy independence and meet the increasing demand for energy, the United States will require a diversified portfolio of substantially increased quantities of electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuels;

(2) according to the report submitted to Congress by the National Research Council entitled “Charting the Future of Methane Hydrate Research in the United States”, the total United States resources of gas hydrates have been estimated to be on the order of 200,000 trillion cubic feet;

(3) according to the report of the National Commission on Energy Policy entitled “Ending the Energy Stalemate—A Bipartisan Strategy to Meet America’s Energy Challenge”, and dated December 2004, the United States may be endowed with over one-fourth of the methane hydrate deposits in the world;

(4) according to the Energy Information Administration, a shortfall in natural gas supply from conventional and unconventional sources is expected to occur in or about 2020; and

(5) the National Academy of Sciences states that methane hydrate may have the potential to alleviate the projected shortfall in the natural gas supply.

(Pub. L. 106-193, §2, as added Pub. L. 109-58, title IX, §968(a), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 894.)

Editorial Notes**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 2 of Pub. L. 106-193 was set out in a note under section 1902 of this title prior to the general amendment of Pub. L. 106-193 by Pub. L. 109-58.

¹ So in original. The semicolon probably should be a colon.