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109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1709

AN ACT

To provide favorable treatment for certain projects in response to Hurricane Katrina, with respect to revolving loans under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Gulf Coast Emergency Water Infrastructure Assistance Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF STATE.

In this Act, the term ''State'' means—

(1) the State of Alabama;

(2) the State of Louisiana; and

(3) the State of Mississippi.

SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LOANS.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—In this section, the term ''eligible project'' means a project—

(1) to repair, replace, or rebuild a publicly-owned treatment works (as defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292)), including a privately-owned utility that principally treats municipal wastewater or domestic sewage, in an area affected by Hurricane Katrina or a related condition; or

(2) that is a water quality project directly related to relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina or a related condition, as determined by the State in which the project is located.

(b) ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), for the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may provide additional subsidization to an eligible project that receives funds through a revolving loan under section 603 of

the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383), including—

(A) forgiveness of the principal of the revolving loan; or

(B) a zero-percent interest rate on the revolving loan.

(2) LIMITATION.—The amount of any additional subsidization provided under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 30 percent of the amount of the capitalization grant received by the State under section 602 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1382) for the fiscal year during which the subsidization is provided.

(c) EXTENDED TERMS.—For the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may extend the term of a revolving loan under section 603 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) for an eligible project described in subsection (b), if the extended term—

(1) terminates not later than the date that is 30 years after the date of completion of the project that is the subject of the loan; and

(2) does not exceed the expected design life of the project.

(d) PRIORITY LISTS.—For the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may

provide assistance to an eligible project that is not included on the priority list of the State under section 216 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1296).

SEC. 4. PRIORITY LIST.

For the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may provide assistance to a public water system that is not included on the priority list of the State under section 1452(b)(3)(B) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)(3)(B)), if the project—

(1) involves damage caused by Hurricane Katrina or a related condition; and

(2) is in accordance with section 1452(b)(3)(A) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)(3)(A)).

SEC. 5. TESTING OF PRIVATELY-OWNED DRINKING WATER WELLS.

On receipt of a request from a homeowner, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may conduct a test of a drinking water well owned or operated

by the homeowner that is, or may be, contaminated as a result of Hurricane Katrina or a related condition.

Passed the Senate September 27, 2005.

Attest:

Secretary.

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