

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-90 inserted before period at end “, including a reasonable amount for official reception and representation expenses, as determined by the Board, not to exceed \$5,000 for a fiscal year”.

2004—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office” in heading and in two places in text.

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-156 substituted “Trust Fund” for “Fund”.

§ 5607a. Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund**(a) Establishment**

There is established in the Treasury of the United States an Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund to be administered by the Foundation. The Fund shall consist of amounts appropriated to the Fund under section 5609(b) of this title and amounts paid into the Fund under section 5607b of this title.

(b) Expenditures

The Foundation shall expend from the Fund such sums as the Board determines are necessary to establish and operate the National Center, including such amounts as are necessary for salaries, administration, the provision of mediation and other services, and such other expenses as the Board determines are necessary, including not to exceed \$1,000 annually for official reception and representation expenses.

(c) Distinction from Trust Fund

The Fund shall be maintained separately from the Trust Fund established under section 5606 of this title.

(d) Investment of amounts**(1) In general**

The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary, required to meet current withdrawals.

(2) Interest-bearing obligations

Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(3) Acquisition of obligations

For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired—

- (A) on original issue at the issue price; or
- (B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

(4) Sale of obligations

Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(5) Credits to Fund

The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

(Pub. L. 102-259, §10, as added Pub. L. 105-156, §6(b), Feb. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 10; amended Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(h) [title V, §517(c)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-480, 2681-512; Pub. L. 116-94, div. P, title III, §306, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 3190.)

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PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 10 of Pub. L. 102-259 was renumbered section 12 and is classified to section 5608 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-94 substituted “National Center” for “Institute”.

1998—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-277 inserted before period at end “, including not to exceed \$1,000 annually for official reception and representation expenses”.

§ 5607b. Use of the National Center by Federal agency or other entity**(a) Authorization**

A Federal agency may use the Foundation and the National Center to provide assessment, mediation, collaboration, or other related services in connection with a dispute or conflict related to the environment, public lands, or natural resources, or with a Federal, State, or tribal process or procedure that may result in a dispute or conflict.

(b) Payment**(1) In general**

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

(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 National Center to provide the services described in subsection (a).

(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 mediation, collaboration, and 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