

Cost variance and limitation.

Agreement respecting acquisitions or disposals.

Temporary housing.

Appropriation authorized.  
Post, pp. 311, 867.

nance facilities, \$120,906,554; personnel training and housing facilities, \$46,579,670; hospital facilities, \$42,071,750; shore radio facilities, \$4,060,000; Naval Research Laboratory, \$1,593,550; miscellaneous structures, \$24,360,000; advance base construction, material and equipment, \$1,019,000,000: *Provided*, That the approximate cost indicated for each of the classes of projects enumerated above may, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Navy, be varied upward or downward, but the total cost shall not exceed \$1,644,373,024: *Provided further*, That prior to the acquisition or disposal, by lease or otherwise, of any land acquired for naval use under the authority of this, or any other Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall come into agreement with the Naval Affairs Committees of the Senate and of the House of Representatives with respect to the terms of such prospective acquisitions or disposals; and recital of compliance with this proviso in any instrument of conveyance by the Secretary of the Navy under authority of this or any other Act shall be conclusive evidence of the Secretary's compliance with this proviso as to the property conveyed: *Provided further*, That effective December 13, 1943, temporary housing is authorized for transient personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, with their dependents, on a rental basis, for periods not exceeding sixty days, without loss of rental allowance or money allowance for quarters.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to effectuate the purpose of this Act.

Approved April 4, 1944.

[CHAPTER 172]

AN ACT

April 5, 1944  
[S. 1243]  
[Public Law 290]

Synthetic liquid fuel demonstration plants. Construction and operation.

Size.

Cooperation with Department of Agriculture.

Authority of Secretary of the Interior.

Laboratory research, etc.

Authorizing the construction and operation of demonstration plants to produce synthetic liquid fuels from coal, oil shales, agricultural and forestry products, and other substances, in order to aid the prosecution of the war, to conserve and increase the oil resources of the Nation, and for other purposes,

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Mines, within the limits of critical materials available, is authorized for not more than five years to construct, maintain, and operate one or more demonstration plants to produce synthetic liquid fuels from coal, oil shale, and other substances, and one or more demonstration plants to produce liquid fuels from agricultural and forestry products, with all facilities and accessories for the manufacture, purification, storage, and distribution of the products. The plants shall be of the minimum size which will allow the Government to furnish industry the necessary cost and engineering data for the development of a synthetic liquid-fuel industry and of such size that the combined product of all the plants constructed in accordance with this Act will not constitute a commercially significant amount of the total national commercial sale and distribution of petroleum and petroleum products. Any activities under this Act relating to the production of liquid fuels from agricultural and forestry products shall be carried out in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and subject to the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 2. In order to carry out the purpose of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized—

(a) to conduct laboratory research and development work, and with pilot plants and semiworks plants to make careful process engineering studies along with structural engineering studies in

order to ascertain lowest investment and operating costs, necessary to determine the best demonstration plant designs and conditions of operation;

(b) to acquire, by purchase, license, lease for a term of years or less, or donation, secret processes, technical data, inventions, patent applications, patents, irrevocable nonexclusive licenses, and other rights and licenses under patents granted by this or any other nation; to acquire by purchase, lease for a term of years or less, or donation, land, and any interest in land (including easements and leasehold interests), options on real or personal property, and plants and their facilities; to assume the obligation to pay rentals in advance on property so acquired, and to pay damages arising out of the use of any such property: *Provided, however,* That the maximum quantity of land or any interest therein, or any other property, acquired hereunder shall not exceed that necessary to carry on experiments for the purposes herein provided;

(c) to engage, by contract or otherwise, engineers, architects, and any private industrial organization or any educational institution he deems suitable, to do all or any part of the work of designing, constructing, or operating the plants, the operation to be under his supervision, and through leases or otherwise as he believes advisable;

(d) to cooperate with any other Federal or State department, agency, or instrumentality, and with any private person, firm, educational institution, or corporation, in effectuating the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to sell the products of the plants at not more than actual cost, including amortization of capital expenses, as determined by him, to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal or any State government, but priority shall be given to orders placed by the War or Navy Departments. Any remaining products may be sold at going prices to any purchaser through regular commercial channels. The Secretary of the Interior, subject to approval by Congress, shall also have authority to dispose of any lands or other real or personal property acquired, but in his opinion no longer useful, for the purposes of this Act; and he shall have authority to grant, on such terms as he may consider appropriate, licenses under patent rights acquired under this Act: *Provided,* That such licenses are consistent with the terms of the agreements by which such patent rights are acquired. No patent acquired by the Secretary of the Interior under this Act shall prevent any citizen of the United States, or corporation created under the laws of the United States or any State thereof, from using any invention, discovery, or process covered by such patent, or restrict such use by any such citizen or corporation, or be the basis of any claim against any such person or corporation on account of such use.

SEC. 4. All moneys received under this Act for products of the plants and royalties shall be paid into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. The Secretary of the Interior shall render to Congress on or before the first day of January of each year a report of all operations under this Act.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior may issue rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this Act. The authority and duties of the Secretary of the Interior under this Act shall be exercised through the Bureau of Mines of the Department of the Interior.

SEC. 6. There is authorized to be appropriated not to exceed the sum of \$30,000,000 to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved April 5, 1944.

Acquisition of patent rights, properties, etc.

Limitation.

Plant construction and operation.

Cooperation with other agencies.

Sale of products.

Disposition of property.

Licenses under acquired patent rights.

Deposit of receipts.

Report to Congress.

Rules and regulations.

Appropriation authorized.  
*Post, p. 494.*