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TITLE 26--INTERNAL REVENUE CODE

Subtitle A--Income Taxes

CHAPTER 1--NORMAL TAXES AND SURTAXES

Subchapter B--Computation of Taxable Income

PART VI--ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS

Sec. 198. Expensing of environmental remediation costs

(a) In general

A taxpayer may elect to treat any qualified environmental remediation expenditure which is paid or incurred by the taxpayer as an expense which is not chargeable to capital account. Any expenditure which is so treated shall be allowed as a deduction for the taxable year in which it is paid or incurred.

(b) Qualified environmental remediation expenditure

For purposes of this section--

(1) In general

The term ``qualified environmental remediation expenditure'' means any expenditure--

- (A) which is otherwise chargeable to capital account, and
- (B) which is paid or incurred in connection with the abatement or control of hazardous substances at a qualified contaminated site.

(2) Special rule for expenditures for depreciable property

Such term shall not include any expenditure for the acquisition of property of a character subject to the allowance for depreciation which is used in connection with the abatement or control of hazardous substances at a qualified contaminated site; except that the portion of the allowance under section 167 for such property which is otherwise allocated to such site shall be treated as a qualified environmental remediation expenditure.

(c) Qualified contaminated site

For purposes of this section--

(1) Qualified contaminated site

(A) In general

The term ``qualified contaminated site'' means any area--

- (i) which is held by the taxpayer for use in a trade or business or for the production of income, or which is property described in section 1221(1) in the hands of the taxpayer,
- (ii) which is within a targeted area, and
- (iii) at or on which there has been a release (or threat of release) or disposal of any hazardous substance.

- (B) Taxpayer must receive statement from State environmental agency

An area shall be treated as a qualified contaminated site with respect to expenditures paid or incurred during any taxable year only if the taxpayer receives a statement from the appropriate agency of the State in which such area is located that such area meets the requirements of clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A).

(C) Appropriate State agency

For purposes of subparagraph (B), the chief executive officer of each State may, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, designate the appropriate State environmental agency within 60 days of the date of the enactment of this section. If the chief executive officer of a State has not designated an appropriate State environmental agency within such 60-day period, the appropriate environmental agency for such State shall be designated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) Targeted area

(A) In general

The term ``targeted area'' means--

- (i) any population census tract with a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent,
- (ii) a population census tract with a population of less than 2,000 if--
 - (I) more than 75 percent of such tract is zoned for commercial or industrial use, and
 - (II) such tract is contiguous to 1 or more other population census tracts which meet the requirement of clause (i) without regard to this clause,
- (iii) any empowerment zone or enterprise community (and any supplemental zone designated on December 21, 1994), and
- (iv) any site announced before February 1, 1997, as being included as a brownfields pilot project of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(B) National priorities listed sites not included

Such term shall not include any site which is on, or proposed for, the national priorities list under section 105(a)(8)(B) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this section).

(C) Certain rules to apply

For purposes of this paragraph the rules of sections 1392(b)(4) and 1393(a)(9) shall apply.

(d) Hazardous substance

For purposes of this section--

(1) In general

The term ``hazardous substance'' means--

- (A) any substance which is a hazardous substance as defined in section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, and
- (B) any substance which is designated as a hazardous substance under section 102 of such Act.

(2) Exception

Such term shall not include any substance with respect to which a removal or remedial action is not permitted under section 104 of such Act by reason of subsection (a)(3) thereof.

(e) Deduction recaptured as ordinary income on sale, etc.

Solely for purposes of section 1245, in the case of property to which a qualified environmental remediation expenditure would have been capitalized but for this section--

(1) the deduction allowed by this section for such expenditure shall be treated as a deduction for depreciation, and

(2) such property (if not otherwise section 1245 property) shall be treated as section 1245 property solely for purposes of applying section 1245 to such deduction.

(f) Coordination with other provisions

Sections 280B and 468 shall not apply to amounts which are treated as expenses under this section.

(g) Regulations

The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.

(h) Termination

This section shall not apply to expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2000.

(Added Pub. L. 105-34, title IX, Sec. 941(a), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 882.)

References in Text

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (c)(1)(C), (2)(B), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 105-34, which was approved Aug. 5, 1997.

Sections 101(14), 102, 104, and 105(a)(8)(B) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, referred to in subsecs. (c)(2)(B) and (d), are classified to sections 9601(14), 9602, 9604, and 9605(a)(8)(B), respectively, of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

Effective Date

Section 941(c) of Pub. L. 105-34 provided that: ``The amendments made by this section [enacting this section] shall apply to expenditures paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 5, 1997], in taxable years ending after such date.''