§ 390gg. Equivalency

Upon the request of any district, the ownership and pricing limitations imposed by this subchapter shall apply to the irrigable lands classified within such district by the Secretary as having class I productive potential or the equivalent thereof in larger acreage of less productive potential, as determined by the Secretary, taking into account all factors which significantly affect productivity, including but not limited to topography, soil characteristics, length of growing season, elevation, adequacy of water supply, and crop adaptability.

(Pub. L. 97–293, title II, § 207, Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1266.)

§ 390hh. Operation and maintenance charges

(a) Price adequate to recover charges

The price of irrigation water delivered by the Secretary pursuant to a contract or an amendment to a contract with a district, as specified in section 390cc of this title, shall be at least sufficient to recover all operation and maintenance charges which the district is obligated to pay to the United States.

(b) Modification of price

Whenever a district enters into a contract or requests that its contract be amended as specified in section 390cc of this title, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall calculate such operation and maintenance charges and shall modify the price of irrigation water delivered under the contract as necessary to reflect any changes in such costs by amending the district's contract accordingly.

(c) Districts not operating from Federal funds

This section shall not apply to districts which operate and maintain project facilities and finance the operation and maintenance thereof from non-Federal funds.

(Pub. L. 97–293, title II, § 208, Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1267.)

§ 390ii. Disposition of excess lands

(a) Disposal of lands in excess of ownership limitations within reasonable time

Irrigation water made available in the operation of reclamation project facilities may not be delivered for use in the irrigation of lands held in excess of the ownership limitations imposed by Federal reclamation law, including this subchapter, unless and until the owners thereof shall have executed a recordable contract with the Secretary, in accordance with the terms and conditions required by Federal reclamation law, requiring the disposal of their interest in such excess lands within a reasonable time to be established by the Secretary. In the case of recordable contracts entered into prior to October 12, 1982, such reasonable time shall not exceed ten years after the recordable contract is executed by the Secretary. In the case of recordable contracts entered into after October 12, 1982, except as provided in section 390rr of this title, such reasonable time shall not exceed five years after the recordable contract is executed by the Secretary.

(b) Continued delivery of irrigation water to lands held in excess of ownership limitations

Lands held in excess of the ownership limitations imposed by Federal reclamation law, including this subchapter, which, on October 12, 1982, are, or are capable of, receiving delivery of irrigation water made available by the operation of existing reclamation project facilities may receive such deliveries only—

(1) if the disposal of the owner's interest in such lands is required by an existing recordable contract with the Secretary, or

(2) if the owners of such lands have requested that a recordable contract be executed by the Secretary.

(c) Amendment of existing recordable contracts

Recordable contracts existing on October 12, 1982, shall be amended at the request of the landowner to conform with the ownership limitations contained in this subchapter: *Provided*, That the time period for disposal of excess lands specified in the existing recordable contract shall not be extended except as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

(d) Power of attorney requirement in contracts; exercise of power by Secretary

Any recordable contract covering excess lands sales shall provide that a power of attorney shall vest in the Secretary to sell any excess lands not disposed of by the owners thereof within the period of time specified in the recordable contract. In the exercise of that power, the Secretary shall sell such lands through an impartial selection process only to qualified purchasers according to such reasonable rules and regulations as the Secretary may establish: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall recover for the owner the fair market value of the land unrelated to irrigation water deliveries plus the fair market value of improvements thereon.

(e) Extension of time for disposal of excess lands

In the event that the owner of any lands in excess of the ownership limitations of Federal reclamation law has heretofore entered into a recordable contract with the Secretary for the disposition of such excess lands and has been prevented from disposing of them because the Secretary may have withheld the processing or approval of the disposition of the lands (whether he may have been compelled to do so by court order or for other reasons), the period of time for the disposal of such lands by the owner thereof pursuant to the contract shall be extended from the date on which the Secretary again commences the processing or the approval of the disposition of such lands for a period which shall be equal to the remaining period of time under the recordable contract for the disposal thereof by the owner at the time the decision of the Secretary to withhold the processing or approval of such disposition first became effective.

(f) Eligibility of excess lands for irrigation water after disposition

Excess lands which have been or may be disposed of in compliance with Federal reclamation law, including this subchapter, shall not be considered eligible to receive irrigation water unless—

(1) they are held by nonexcess owners; and

(2) in the case of disposals made after October 12, 1982, their title is burdened by a covenant prohibiting their sale, for a period of ten years after their original disposal to comply with Federal reclamation law, including this subchapter, for values exceeding the sum of the value of newly added improvements and the value of the land as increased by market appreciation unrelated to the delivery of irrigation water. Upon expiration of the terms of such covenant, the title to such lands shall be freed of the burden of any limitations on subsequent sale values which might otherwise be imposed by the operation of section 423e of this title.

(Pub. L. 97–293, title II, § 209, Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1267.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Federal reclamation law, referred to in subsecs. (a), (b), (e), and (f), is defined in section 390aa of this title.

§ 390jj. Water conservation

(a) Implementation of program by non-Federal recipients

The Secretary shall, pursuant to his authorities under otherwise existing Federal reclamation law, encourage the full consideration and incorporation of prudent and responsible water conservation measures in the operations of non-Federal recipients of irrigation water from Federal reclamation projects, where such measures are shown to be economically feasible for such non-Federal recipients.

(b) Development of plan

Each district that has entered into a repayment contract or water service contract pursuant to Federal reclamation law or the Water Supply Act of 1958, as amended (43 U.S.C. 390b), shall develop a water conservation plan which shall contain definite goals, appropriate water conservation measures, and a time schedule for meeting the water conservation objectives.

(c) Coordination of ongoing programs; full public participation

The Secretary is authorized and directed to enter into memorandums of agreement with those Federal agencies having capability to assist in implementing water conservation measures to assure coordination of ongoing programs. Such memorandums should provide for involvement of non-Federal entities such as States, Indian tribes, and water user organizations to assure full public participation in water conservation efforts.

(Pub. L. 97–293, title II, § 210, Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1268.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Federal reclamation law, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b), is defined in section 390aa of this title.

The Water Supply Act of 1958, as amended, referred to in subsec. (b), is title III of Pub. L. 85–500, July 3, 1958, 72 Stat. 319, as amended, which enacted section 390b of this title and enacted a provision set out as a note under section 390b of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 390b of this title and Tables.

§ 390kk. Residency not required

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, irrigation water made available from the operation of reclamation project facilities shall not be withheld from delivery to any project lands for the reason that the owners, lessees, or operators do not live on or near them.

(Pub. L. 97–293, title II, § 211, Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1269.)

§ 390*ll*. Corps of Engineers projects

(a) Applicability of Federal reclamation laws

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither the ownership or pricing limitation provisions nor the other provisions of Federal reclamation law, including this subchapter, shall be applicable to lands receiving benefits from Federal water resources projects constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, unless—

(1) the project has, by Federal statute, explicitly been designated, made a part of, or integrated with a Federal reclamation project; or

(2) the Secretary, pursuant to his authority under Federal reclamation law, has provided project works for the control or conveyance of an agricultural water supply for the lands involved.

(b) Payment of construction, operation, maintenance and administrative costs allocated to conservation or irrigation storage

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, obligations that require water users, pursuant to contracts with the Secretary, to repay the share of construction costs and to pay the share of the operation and maintenance and contract administrative costs of a Corps of Engineers project which are allocated to conservation storage or irrigation storage shall remain in effect.

(Pub. L. 97–293, title II, § 212, Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1269.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Federal reclamation law, referred to in subsec. (a), is defined in section 390aa of this title.

§ 390mm. Repayment of construction charges

(a) Ownership and pricing limitations inapplicable when repayment obligation has been discharged

The ownership and full cost pricing limitations of this subchapter and the ownership limitations provided in any other provision of Federal reclamation law shall not apply to lands in a district after the obligation of a district for the repayment of the construction costs of the project facilities used to make project water available for delivery to such lands shall have been discharged by a district (or by a person within the district pursuant to a contract existing on October 12, 1982), by payment of periodic installments throughout a specified contract term, including individual or district accelerated payments where so provided in contracts existing on October 12, 1982.