actual settlers are not contrary to the provisions and restrictions of the Act, the authorized officer may approve the plan. Before making this determination and approving the plan, the authorized officer may, in agreement with the State, modify the plan.

(b) Upon approval of the plan, the grant contract may be signed by the Secretary of the Interior, or an officer in the Office of the Secretary who has been appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. A notice that the contract has been signed and the lands are segregated shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. As a condition to entering into the contract, the Secretary or his delegate may require additional terms and conditions. If such is done, the new contract form shall be returned to the State for signing.

(c) The contract is not final and binding until approved by the President.

(d) After the plan has been approved, and the contract signed and approved, the lands may be entered by the State and its agents for reclamation and for residency, if appropriate.

§ 2611.1–5 Priority of Carey Act applications.

Properly filed applications under § 2611.1–1 or § 2611.1–3 of this title shall have priority over any subsequently filed agricultural applications for lands within the project boundaries. However, the rejection of a Carey Act application will not preclude subsequent agricultural development under another authority.

§ 2611.2 Period of segregation.

(a) The States are allowed 10 years from the date of the signing of the contract by the Secretary in which to cause the lands to be reclaimed. If the State fails in this, the State Director may, in his discretion, extend the period for up to 5 years, or may restore the lands to the public domain at the end of the 10 years or any extension thereof. If actual construction of the reclamation works has not been commenced within 3 years after the segregation of the land or within such further period not exceeding 3 years as may be allowed for that purpose by the State Director, the State Director may, in his discretion, restore the lands to the public domain.

(b) All applications for extensions of the period of segregation must be submitted to the State Director. Such applications will be entertained only upon the showing of circumstances which prevent compliance by the State with the requirements within the time allowed, which, in the judgment of the State Director, could not have been reasonably anticipated or guarded against, such as the distruction of irrigation works by storms, floods, or other unavoidable casualties, unforeseen structural or physical difficulties encountered in the operations, or errors in surveying and locating needed ditches, canals, or pipelines.

§ 2611.3 Rights-of-way over other public lands.

When the canals, ditches, pipelines, reservoirs or other facilities required by the plan of development will be located on public lands not applied for by the State under the Carey Act, an application for right-of-way over such lands under Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761 *et seq.*), shall be filed separately by the proposed constructor. Rights-of-way shall be approved simultaneously with the approval of the plan, but shall be conditioned on approval of the contract.

Subpart 2612—Issuance of Patents

§ 2612.1 Lists for patents.

When patents are desired for any lands that have been segregated, the State shall file in the BLM State Office a list of lands to be patented, with a certificate of the presiding officer of the State land board, or other officer of the State who may be charged with the duty of disposing of the lands which the State may obtain under the law, that the lands have been reclaimed according to the plan of development, so that a permanent supply of water has been made available for each tract in the list, sufficient to thoroughly reclaim each 160-acre tract for the raising of ordinary agricultural crops. If patents are to be issued directly to assignees, the list shall include their names, the particular lands each

claims, and a certification by the State that each is an actual settler and has cultivated at least 20 acres of each 160-acre tract. If there are portions which cannot be reclaimed, the nature, extent, location, and area of such portions should be fully stated. If less than 5 acres of a smallest legal subdivision can be reclaimed and the subdivision is not essential for the reclamation, cultivation, or settlement of the lands; such legal subdivision must be relinquished, and shall be restored to the public domain as provided in a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

§ 2612.2 Publication of lists for patents.

(a) *Notice of lists.* When a list for patents is filed in the State Office, it shall be acompanied by a notice of the filing, in duplicate, prepared for the signature of the State Director, or his delegate, fully incorporating the list. The State shall cause this notice to be published once a week for 5 consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of established character and general circulation in the vicinity of the lands, to be designated by the State Director, as provided in subpart 1824 of this chapter.

(b) *Proof of publication.* At the expiration of the period of publication, the State shall file in the State Office proof of publication and of payment for the same.

§ 2612.3 Issuance of patents.

Upon the receipt of proof of publication such action shall be taken in each case as the showing may require, and all tracts that are free from valid protest, and respecting which the law and regulations and grant contract have been complied with, shall be patented to the State, or to its assignees if the lands have been settled and cultivated. If patent issues to the State, it is the responsibility of the State to assure that the lands are cultivated and settled. If the State does not dispose of the patented lands within 5 years to actual settlers who have cultivated at least 20 acres of each 160 acre tract, or if the State disposes of the patented lands to any person who is not an actual settler or has not cultivated 20 acres of the 160 acre tract, action may be taken to revest title in the United States.

Subpart 2613—Preference Right Upon Restoration

§ 2613.0–3 Authority.

The Act approved February 14, 1920 (41 Stat. 407; 43 U.S.C. 644), provides that upon restoration of Carey Act lands from segregation, the Secretary is authorized, in his discretion, to allow a preference right of entry under other applicable land laws to any Carey Act entryman on any such lands which such person had entered under and pursuant to the State laws providing for the administration of the grant and upon which such person had established actual, *bona fide* residence or had made substantial and permanent improvements.

§ 2613.1 Allowance of filing of applications.

(a) *Status of lands under State laws.* Prior to the restoration of lands segregated under the Carey Act, the Bureau of Land Management shall ascertain from the proper State officials whether any entries have been allowed under the State Carey Act laws on any such lands, and if any such entries have been allowed, the status thereof and action taken by the State with reference thereto.

(b) *No entries under State laws.* If it is shown with reasonable certainty, either from the report of the State officers or by other available information, that there are no entries under State law, then the Act of February 14, 1920, shall not be considered applicable to the restoration of the lands. Lands shall be restored as provided in a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) *Entries under State laws.* If it appears from the report of the State officials or otherwise that there are entries under the State law which may properly be the basis for preference rights under this act, in the order restoring the lands the authorized officer may, in his discretion, allow only the filing of applications to obtain a preference right under the Act of February 14, 1920.