

to this chapter and later conveyed to a Settlement Trust as if the land or interest in land were still held by the Native Corporation that conveyed the land or interest in land.

(2) No timber resources subject to section 1606(i) of this title conveyed to a Settlement Trust shall be sold, exchanged, or otherwise conveyed except as necessary to—

- (A) dispose of diseased or dying timber or to prevent the spread of disease or insect infestation;
- (B) prevent or suppress fire; or
- (C) ensure public safety.

The revenue, if any, from such timber harvests shall be subject to section 1606(i) of this title as if such conveyance had not occurred.

(3) The conveyance of assets (including stock or beneficial interests) pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not affect the applicability or enforcement (including specific performance) of a valid contract, judgment, lien, or other obligation (including an obligation arising under section 1606(i) of this title) to which such assets, stock, or beneficial interests were subject immediately prior to such conveyance.

(4) A claim based upon paragraph (1), (2), or (3) shall be enforceable against the transferee Settlement Trust holding the land, interest in land, or other assets (including stock or beneficial interests) in question to the same extent as such claim would have been enforceable against the transferor Native Corporation, and valid obligations arising under section 1606(i) of this title as well as claims with respect to a conveyance in violation of a valid contract, judgment, lien, or other obligation shall also be enforceable against the transferor corporation.

(5) Except as provided in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), once a Native Corporation has made, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, a conveyance to a Settlement Trust that does not—

- (A) render it—
 - (i) unable to satisfy claims based upon paragraph (1), (2), or (3); or
 - (ii) insolvent; or
- (B) occur when the Native Corporation is insolvent;

the assets so conveyed to the Settlement Trust shall not be subject to attachment, distraint, or sale on execution of judgment or other process or order of any court, except with respect to the lawful debts or obligations of the Settlement Trust.

(6) No transferee Settlement Trust shall make a distribution or conveyance of assets (including cash, stock, or beneficial interests) that would render it unable to satisfy a claim made pursuant to paragraph (1), (2), or (3). A distribution or conveyance made in violation of this paragraph shall be void ab initio and shall not be given effect by any court.

(7) Except where otherwise expressly provided, no provision of this section shall be construed to require shareholder approval of an action where shareholder approval would not be required under the laws of the State.

(Pub. L. 92-203, § 39, as added Pub. L. 100-241, § 10, Feb. 3, 1988, 101 Stat. 1804.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 1602, 1629b, 1636 of this title.

§ 1629f. Claims arising from contamination of transferred lands

(a) As used in this section the term “contaminant” means¹ hazardous substance harmful to public health or the environment, including friable asbestos.

(b) Within 18 months of November 2, 1995, and after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, State of Alaska, and appropriate Alaska Native Corporations and organizations, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a report addressing issues presented by the presence of contaminants on lands conveyed or prioritized for conveyance to such corporations pursuant to this chapter. Such report shall consist of—

- (1) existing information concerning the nature and types of contaminants present on such lands prior to conveyance to Alaska Native Corporations;
- (2) existing information identifying to the extent practicable the existence and availability of potentially responsible parties for the removal or remediation of the effects of such contaminants;
- (3) identification of existing remedies;
- (4) recommendations for any additional legislation that the Secretary concludes is necessary to remedy the problem of contaminants on the lands; and
- (5) in addition to the identification of contaminants, identification of structures known to have asbestos present and recommendations to inform Native landowners on the containment of asbestos.

(Pub. L. 92-203, § 40, as added Pub. L. 104-42, title I, § 103, Nov. 2, 1995, 109 Stat. 354.)

CHAPTER 33A—IMPLEMENTATION OF ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT AND ALASKA STATEHOOD

Sec.	
1631.	Ownership of submerged lands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Meandering in the surveying of submerged land. (b) Ownership of riparian lands; ratification of memorandum of agreement. (c) Interim conveyances and patents; navigability of streams; award of costs and attorney's fees. (d) Definitions.
1632.	Statute of limitations on decisions of Secretary and reconveyance of land by Village Corporation.
1633.	Administrative provisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Limitations concerning easements. (b) Acquisition of future easements. (c) Status of certain lease offers. (d) Limitation.
1634.	Alaska Native allotments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Approval of applications for certain lands; lands containing coal, oil, or gas; nonmineral lands; lands within National Park System; protests; voluntary relinquishment of application.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “means a”.

- Sec.
- (b) Conflicting land descriptions in applications; adjustments; reductions.
 - (c) Amendment of land description in application; notification; protest; adoption of final plan of survey.
 - (d) Powersites and power projects.
 - (e) Validity of existing rights; rights acquired by actual use and national forest lands unaffected.
 - (f) Reinstatement.
1635. State selections and conveyances.
- (a) Omitted.
 - (b) School lands settlement.
 - (c) Prior tentative approvals.
 - (d) Prior State selections.
 - (e) Future "top filings".
 - (f) Right to overselect.
 - (g) Conveyance of specified lands.
 - (h) Limitation of conveyances of specified lands tentative approvals; surveys.
 - (i) Adjudication.
 - (j) Clarification of land status outside units.
 - (k) Interim provisions.
 - (l) Existing rights.
 - (m) Extinguishment of certain time extensions.
 - (n) Effect on third-party rights.
 - (o) Status of lands within units.
 - (p) PYK Line.
1636. Alaska land bank.
- (a) Establishment; agreements.
 - (b) Terms of agreement.
 - (c) Benefits to private landowners.
 - (d) Automatic protections for lands conveyed pursuant to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.
 - (e) Condemnation.
 - (f) Existing contracts.
 - (g) State jurisdiction.
1637. Use of protraction diagrams.
1638. National Environmental Policy Act.
1639. Construction with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.
1640. Relinquishment of selections partly within conservation units.
1641. Conveyances to Village Corporations.
- (a) Optional procedure.
 - (b) "Core" townships, etc.
 - (c) Documents.
 - (d) Reconveyances; disputes.
 - (e) Existing rights.
 - (f) Easements.
 - (g) "Native Corporation" defined.
1642. Land conveyances.

§ 1631. Ownership of submerged lands

(a) Meandering in the surveying of submerged land

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), whenever the Secretary surveys land selected by a Native, a Native Corporation, or the State pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], the Alaska Statehood Act, or this Act, lakes, rivers, and streams shall be meandered in accordance with the principles in the Bureau of Land Management, "Manual of Surveying Instructions" (1973).

(2) If title to lands beneath navigable waters of a lake less than fifty acres in size or a river or stream less than three chains in width did not vest in the State pursuant to the Submerged Lands Act [43 U.S.C. 1301 et seq., 1311 et seq.], such lake, river, or stream shall not be meandered.

(3) The Secretary is not required to determine the navigability of a lake, river, or stream which because of its size or width is required to be meandered or to compute the acreage of the land beneath such lake, river, or stream or to describe such land in any conveyance document.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require ground survey or monumentation of meanderlines.

(b) Ownership of riparian lands; ratification of memorandum of agreement

(1) Whenever, either before or after August 16, 1988, the Secretary conveys land to a Native, a Native Corporation, or the State pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], the Alaska Statehood Act, or this Act which abuts or surrounds a meanderable lake, river, or stream, all right, title, and interest of the United States, if any, in the land under such lake, river, or stream lying between the uplands and the median line or midpoint, as the case may be, shall vest in and shall not be charged against the acreage entitlement of such Native or Native Corporation or the State. The right, title, and interest vested in a Native or Native Corporation shall be no greater an estate than the estate he or it is conveyed in the land which abuts or surrounds the lake, river, or stream.

(2) The specific terms, conditions, procedures, covenants, reservations, and other restrictions set forth in the document entitled, "Memorandum of Agreement between the United States Department of the Interior and the State of Alaska" dated March 28, 1984, signed by the Secretary and the Governor of Alaska and submitted to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, are hereby incorporated in this section and are ratified as to the duties and obligations of the United States and the State, as a matter of Federal law.

(c) Interim conveyances and patents; navigability of streams; award of costs and attorney's fees

(1) The execution of an interim conveyance or patent, as appropriate, by the Bureau of Land Management which conveys an area of land selected by a Native or Native Corporation which includes, surrounds, or abuts a lake, river, or stream, or any portion thereof, shall be the final agency action with respect to a decision of the Secretary of the Interior that such lake, river, or stream, is or is not navigable, unless such decision was validly appealed to an agency or board of the Department of the Interior on or before December 2, 1980.

(2) No agency or board of the Department of the Interior other than the Bureau of Land Management shall have authority to determine the navigability of a lake, river, or stream within an area selected by a Native or Native Corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.] or this Act unless a determination by the Bureau of Land Management that such lake, river, or stream, is or is not navigable, was validly appealed to such agency or board on or before December 2, 1980.

(3) If title to land conveyed to a Native Corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims