

SUBCHAPTER I—RECLAMATION RURAL
WATER SUPPLY

§ 2401. Definitions

In this subchapter:

(1) Construction

The term “construction” means the installation of infrastructure and the upgrading of existing facilities in locations in which the infrastructure or facilities are associated with the new infrastructure of a rural water project recommended by the Secretary pursuant to this subchapter.

(2) Federal reclamation law

The term “Federal reclamation law” means the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.).

(3) Indian

The term “Indian” means an individual who is a member of an Indian tribe.

(4) Indian tribe

The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 450b of title 25.

(5) Non-Federal project entity

The term “non-Federal project entity” means a State, regional, or local authority, Indian tribe or tribal organization, or other qualifying entity, such as a water conservation district, water conservancy district, or rural water district or association.

(6) Operations, maintenance, and replacement costs

(A) In general

The term “operations, maintenance, and replacement costs” means all costs for the operation of a rural water supply project that are necessary for the safe, efficient, and continued functioning of the project to produce the benefits described in a feasibility study.

(B) Inclusions

The term “operations, maintenance, and replacement costs” includes—

- (i) repairs of a routine nature that maintain a rural water supply project in a well kept condition;
- (ii) replacement of worn-out project elements; and
- (iii) rehabilitation activities necessary to bring a deteriorated project back to the original condition of the project.

(C) Exclusion

The term “operations, maintenance, and replacement costs” does not include construction costs.

(7) Program

The term “Program” means the rural water supply program carried out under section 2402 of this title.

(8) Reclamation States

The term “Reclamation States” means the States and areas referred to in the first section of the Act of June 17, 1902 (43 U.S.C. 391).

(9) Rural water supply project

(A) In general

The term “rural water supply project” means a project that is designed to serve a community or group of communities, each of which has a population of not more than 50,000 inhabitants, which may include Indian tribes and tribal organizations, dispersed homesites, or rural areas with domestic, industrial, municipal, and residential water.

(B) Inclusion

The term “rural water supply project” includes—

- (i) incidental noncommercial livestock watering and noncommercial irrigation of vegetation and small gardens of less than 1 acre; and
- (ii) a project to improve rural water infrastructure, including—
 - (I) pumps, pipes, wells, and other diversions;
 - (II) storage tanks and small impoundments;
 - (III) water treatment facilities for potable water supplies, including desalination facilities;
 - (IV) equipment and management tools for water conservation, groundwater recovery, and water recycling; and
 - (V) appurtenances.

(C) Exclusion

The term “rural water supply project” does not include—

- (i) commercial irrigation; or
- (ii) major impoundment structures.

(10) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(11) Tribal organization

The term “tribal organization” means—

- (A) the recognized governing body of an Indian tribe; and
- (B) any legally established organization of Indians that is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by the governing body or democratically elected by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by the organization.

(Pub. L. 109-451, title I, §102, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3346.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), referred to in par. (2), is popularly known as the Reclamation Act and is classified generally to chapter 12 (§371 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 371 of this title and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 109-451, §1(a), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3345, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Rural Water Supply Act of 2006’.”

Pub. L. 109-451, title I, §101, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3346, provided that: “This title [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the ‘Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006’.”

Pub. L. 109-451, title II, §201, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3356, provided that: “This title [enacting subchapter II

of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Twenty-First Century Water Works Act.’”

§ 2402. Rural water supply program

(a) In general

The Secretary, in cooperation with non-Federal project entities and consistent with this subchapter, may carry out a rural water supply program in Reclamation States to—

(1) investigate and identify opportunities to ensure safe and adequate rural water supply projects for domestic, municipal, and industrial use in small communities and rural areas of the Reclamation States;

(2) plan the design and construction, through the conduct of appraisal investigations and feasibility studies, of rural water supply projects in Reclamation States; and

(3) oversee, as appropriate, the construction of rural water supply projects in Reclamation States that are recommended by the Secretary in a feasibility report developed pursuant to section 2405 of this title and subsequently authorized by Congress.

(b) Non-Federal project entity

Any activity carried out under this subchapter shall be carried out in cooperation with a qualifying non-Federal project entity, consistent with this subchapter.

(c) Eligibility criteria

Not later than 1 year after December 22, 2006, the Secretary shall, consistent with this subchapter, develop and publish in the Federal Register criteria for—

(1) determining the eligibility of a rural community for assistance under the Program; and

(2) prioritizing requests for assistance under the Program.

(d) Factors

The criteria developed under subsection (c) shall take into account such factors as whether—

(1) a rural water supply project—

(A) serves—

(i) rural areas and small communities; or
(ii) Indian tribes; or

(B) promotes and applies a regional or watershed perspective to water resources management;

(2) there is an urgent and compelling need for a rural water supply project that would—

(A) improve the health or aesthetic quality of water;

(B) result in continuous, measurable, and significant water quality benefits; or

(C) address current or future water supply needs;

(3) a rural water supply project helps meet applicable requirements established by law; and

(4) a rural water supply project is cost effective.

(e) Inclusions

The Secretary may include—

(1) to the extent that connection provides a reliable water supply, a connection to pre-ex-

isting infrastructure (including impoundments and conveyance channels) as part of a rural water supply project; and

(2) notwithstanding the limitation on population under section 2401(9)(A) of this title, a town or community with a population in excess of 50,000 inhabitants in an area served by a rural water supply project if, at the discretion of the Secretary, the town or community is considered to be a critical partner in the rural supply project.

(Pub. L. 109–451, title I, §103, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3347.)

§ 2403. Rural water programs assessment

(a) In general

In consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the Indian Health Service, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary shall develop an assessment of—

(1) the status of all rural water supply projects under the jurisdiction of the Secretary authorized but not completed prior to December 22, 2006, including appropriation amounts, the phase of development, total anticipated costs, and obstacles to completion;

(2) the current plan (including projected financial and workforce requirements) for the completion of the projects identified in paragraph (1) within the time frames established under the provisions of law authorizing the projects or the final engineering reports for the projects;

(3) the demand for new rural water supply projects;

(4) rural water programs within other agencies and a description of the extent to which those programs provide support for rural water supply projects and water treatment programs in Reclamation States, including an assessment of the requirements, funding levels, and conditions of eligibility for the programs assessed;

(5) the extent of the demand that the Secretary can meet with the Program;

(6) how the Program will complement authorities already within the jurisdiction of the Secretary and the heads of the agencies with whom the Secretary consults; and

(7) improvements that can be made to coordinate and integrate the authorities of the agencies with programs evaluated under paragraph (4), including any recommendations to consolidate some or all of the activities of the agencies with respect to rural water supply.

(b) Consultation with States

Before finalizing the assessment developed under subsection (a), the Secretary shall solicit comments from States with identified rural water needs.

(c) Report

Not later than 2 years after December 22, 2006, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a detailed report on the assessment conducted under subsection (a).