

as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of Title 7, Agriculture.

Amendment by section 4002(b)(1)(A), (C), (2)(GG) of Pub. L. 110-246 effective Oct. 1, 2008, see section 4407 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 1161 of Title 2, The Congress.

§ 1627. Merger of Native corporations

(a) Applicability of State law

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, any corporation created pursuant to section 1606(d), 1607(a), 1613(h)(2), or 1613(h)(3) of this title within any of the twelve regions of Alaska, as established by section 1606(a) of this title, may, at any time, merge or consolidate, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the laws of the State of Alaska, with any other of such corporation or corporations created within or for the same region. Any corporations resulting from mergers or consolidations further may merge or consolidate with other such merged or consolidated corporations within the same region or with other of the corporations created in said region pursuant to section 1606(d), 1607(a), 1613(h)(2), or 1613(h)(3) of this title.

(b) Terms and conditions of merger; rights of dissenting shareholders; rights and liabilities of successor corporation

Such mergers or consolidations shall be on such terms and conditions as are approved by vote of the shareholders of the corporations participating therein, including, where appropriate, terms providing for the issuance of additional shares of Regional Corporation stock to persons already owning such stock, and may take place pursuant to votes of shareholders held either before or after January 2, 1976: *Provided*, That the rights accorded under Alaska law to dissenting shareholders in a merger or consolidation may not be exercised in any merger or consolidation pursuant to this chapter effected while the Settlement Common Stock of all corporations subject to merger or consolidation remains subject to alienability restrictions.¹ Upon the effectiveness of any such mergers or consolidations the corporations resulting therefrom and the shareholders thereof shall succeed and be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and benefits of this chapter, including but not limited to the receipt of lands and moneys and exemptions from various forms of Federal, State, and local taxation, and shall be subject to all the restrictions and obligations of this chapter as are applicable to the corporations and shareholders which and who participated in said mergers or consolidations or as would have been applicable if the mergers or consolidations and transfers of rights and titles thereto had not taken place: *Provided*, That, where a Village Corporation organized pursuant to section 1618(b) of this title merges or consolidates with the Regional Corporation of the region in which such village is located or with another Village Corporation of that region, no provision of such merger or consolidation shall be construed as increasing or otherwise changing regional enrollments for purposes of distribution of the Alaska Native Fund; land selection eligibility; or revenue sharing pursuant

to sections 1605(c), 1606(m), 1611(b), 1613(h)(8), and 1606(i) of this title.

(c) Alteration or elimination of dividend rights

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1606(j) or (m) of this title, in any merger or consolidation in which the class of stockholders of a Regional Corporation who are not residents of any of the villages in the region are entitled under Alaska law to vote as a class, the terms of the merger or consolidation may provide for the alteration or elimination of the right of said class to receive dividends pursuant to said section 1606(j) or (m) of this title. In the event that such dividend right is not expressly altered or eliminated by the terms of the merger or consolidation, such class of stockholders shall continue to receive such dividends pursuant to section 1606(j) or (m) of this title as would have been applicable if the merger or consolidation had not taken place and all Village Corporations within the affected region continued to exist separately.

(d) Approval of merger or consolidation by shareholders

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or of any other law, no corporation referred to in this section may merge or consolidate with any other such corporations unless that corporation's shareholders have approved such merger or consolidation.

(e) Conveyance of right to withhold consent to mineral exploration, development, etc., as part of merger or consolidation

The plan of merger or consolidation shall provide that the right of any affected Village Corporation pursuant to section 1613(f) of this title to withhold consent to mineral exploration, development, or removal within the boundaries of the Native village shall be conveyed, as part of the merger or consolidation, to a separate entity composed of the Native residents of such Native village.

(Pub. L. 92-203, §30, as added Pub. L. 94-204, §6, Jan. 2, 1976, 89 Stat. 1148; amended Pub. L. 100-241, §12(c), Feb. 3, 1988, 101 Stat. 1810.)

AMENDMENTS

1988—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-241 substituted “while the Settlement Common Stock of all corporations subject to merger or consolidation remains subject to alienability restrictions.” for “prior to December 19, 1991”.

§ 1628. Assignments by Regional Corporations of rights to receive payments from Fund

(a) Recognition by Secretary; scope of recognition

Notwithstanding the provision of section 3727 of title 31, the Secretary is authorized to recognize validly executed assignments made by Regional Corporations of their rights to receive payments from the Alaska Native Fund. Such assignments shall only be recognized to the extent that the Regional Corporation involved is not required to distribute funds pursuant to subsection (j) or (m) of section 1606 of this title.

(b) Nonrecognition by Secretary

The Secretary shall not recognize any assignment under this section which does not provide

¹ So in original.

that the United States reserves the right to assert against the assignee and successors of the assignee, any setoff or counterclaim which the United States has against the assignor Corporation.

(c) Claims against Secretary by stockholders of Regional or Village Corporation for recognition of assignment

No stockholder of any Regional or Village Corporation shall have any claim against the Secretary or the United States as the result of any assignment duly recognized by the Secretary pursuant to this section.

(Pub. L. 92-203, §31, as added Pub. L. 95-178, §4, Nov. 15, 1977, 91 Stat. 1370.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (a), "section 3727 of title 31" substituted for "section 3477 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (31 U.S.C. 203)" on authority of Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1067, the first section of which enacted Title 31, Money and Finance.

§ 1629. Cape Krusenstern National Monument land exchange between United States and NANA Regional Corporation, Inc.

(a) Definitions

For purposes of this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) the term "The Agreement" or "Agreement" means the agreement entitled "Terms and Conditions Governing Legislative Land Consolidation and Exchange between NANA Regional Corporation, Inc., and the United States" executed by the Secretary of the Interior and the President of NANA Regional Corporation, Inc., on January 31 and January 24, 1985, respectively.

(2) the term "transportation system" means the Red Dog Mine Transportation System described in Exhibit B of the Agreement.

(3) the term "NANA" means NANA Regional Corporation, Inc., a corporation formed for the Natives of Northwest Alaska pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Conveyances of lands and interests in lands

Except as otherwise provided by this section, the Secretary shall convey to NANA, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement, lands and interests in lands specified in the Agreement in exchange for lands and interests in lands of NANA, specified in the Agreement, upon fulfillment by NANA of its obligations under the Agreement: *Provided, however*, That this modified exchange is accepted by NANA within 60 days of September 25, 1985.

(c) Exchange limited to designated lands

(1) The Secretary shall convey to NANA, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph A(1) of the Agreement, the right, title and interest of the United States only in and to those lands designated as "Amended A(1) Lands" on the map entitled "Modified Cape Krusenstern Land Exchange", dated July 18, 1985. The charges to be made pursuant to paragraphs B(1) and D(27) of the Agreement against NANA's land entitlements under this chapter shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to the difference between

that acreage conveyed pursuant to this subsection and the acreage that would have been conveyed to NANA pursuant to paragraph A(1) of the Agreement but for this subsection.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph A(3) of the Agreement, the Secretary shall not convey to NANA any right, title and interest of the United States in the lands described in such paragraph A(3) and the Secretary shall make no charge to NANA's remaining entitlements under this chapter with respect to such lands. Such lands shall be retained in Federal ownership but shall be subject to the easement described in Exhibit D to the Agreement as if the lands had been conveyed to NANA pursuant to paragraph A(3) of the Agreement.

(d) Easement in and to transportation system lands

(1) There is hereby granted to NANA an easement in and to the lands designated as "Transportation System Lands" on the map entitled "Modified Cape Krusenstern Land Exchange", dated July 18, 1985, for use in the construction, operation, maintenance, expansion and reclamation of the transportation system. Use of the easement for such purposes shall be subject only to the terms and conditions governing the construction, operation, maintenance, expansion and reclamation of the transportation system, as set forth in Exhibit B to the Agreement.

(2) The easement granted pursuant to this section shall be for a term of 100 years. The easement shall terminate prior to the 100-year term:

(i) if it is relinquished to the United States; or

(ii) if construction of the transportation system has not commenced within 20 years of September 25, 1985. Computation of the 20-year period shall exclude periods when construction could not commence because of force majeure, act of God or order of a court; or

(iii) upon completion of reclamation pursuant to the reclamation plan required by Exhibit B to the Agreement.

(3) Within 90 days after September 25, 1985, the Secretary shall execute the necessary documents evidencing the grant to NANA of the easement granted by this section.

(4) Except as regards the trail easement described in Exhibit D to the Agreement (to which the "Transportation System Lands" shall be subject as if such lands had been conveyed to NANA pursuant to paragraph A(1) of the Agreement), access to the lands subject to the easement granted by this section shall be subject to such limitations, restrictions or conditions as may be imposed by NANA, its successors and assigns, but NANA and its successors and assigns shall permit representatives of the Secretary such access as the Secretary determines is necessary for the monitoring required by this section.

(e) Compliance with local laws

The easement granted by this section makes available land for the transportation system, and is intended to be sufficient to permit NANA to comply with the laws of the State of Alaska which may be necessary to secure financing of the construction of the transportation system