

**§ 485b. Amendment of existing repayment contracts**

In connection with any repayment contract or other form of obligation, existing on August 4, 1939, to pay construction charges, providing for repayment on the basis of a definite period, the Secretary is authorized, upon request by the water users involved or their duly authorized representatives for amendment under this section of said contract or other form of obligation, and if in the Secretary's judgment such amendment is both practicable and in keeping with the general purpose of this subchapter, to amend said contract or other form of obligation so as to provide that the construction charges remaining unaccrued on the date of the amendment, or any later date agreed upon, shall be spread in definite annual installments on the basis of a longer definite period fixed in each case by the Secretary: *Provided*, That for any construction charges said longer period shall not exceed forty years, exclusive of 1931 and subsequent years to the extent of moratoria or deferments of construction charges due and payable for such years effected pursuant to Acts of Congress, from the date when the first installment of said construction charges become due and payable under the original obligation to pay said construction charges and in no event shall the unexpired part of said longer period exceed double the number of remaining years, as of the date of the amendment made pursuant to this subchapter, in which installments of said construction charges would become due and payable under said existing repayment contract or other form of obligation to pay construction charges. (Aug. 4, 1939, ch. 418, § 3, 53 Stat. 1188.)

**EXTENSION OF DATE OF MODIFICATION OF REPAYMENT CONTRACTS**

Act Mar. 6, 1952, ch. 94, 66 Stat. 16, as amended by acts Aug. 31, 1954, ch. 1168, 68 Stat. 1044; Pub. L. 85-156, Aug. 21, 1957, 71 Stat. 390; Pub. L. 85-611, § 3, Aug. 8, 1958, 72 Stat. 543; Pub. L. 86-308, § 2, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 585, provided that the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by sections 485b and 485f of this title should be extended through Dec. 31, 1960.

**§ 485b-1. Deferment of installments under repayment contracts; determination of undue burden; conditions; supplemental contract; report to Congress**

(a) The authority granted in section 485b of this title for modification of existing repayment contracts or other forms of obligations to pay construction charges shall continue through December 31, 1960.

(b) The Secretary is authorized, subject to the provisions of this subsection to defer the time for the payment of such part of any installments of construction charges under any repayment contract or other form of obligation as he deems necessary to adjust such installments to amounts within the probable ability of the water users to pay. Any such deferment shall be effected only after findings by the Secretary that the installments under consideration probably cannot be paid on their due date without undue burden on the water users, considering the various factors which in the Secretary's judgment bear on the ability of the water users so to pay.

The Secretary may effect the deferments hereunder subject to such conditions and provisions relating to the operation and maintenance of the project involved as he deems to be in the interest of the United States. If, however, any deferments would affect installments to accrue more than twelve months after the action of deferment, they shall be effected only by a formal supplemental contract. Such a contract shall provide by its terms that, it being only an interim solution of the repayment problems dealt with therein, its terms are not, in themselves, to be construed as a criterion of the terms of any amendatory contract that may be negotiated and that any such amendatory contract must be approved by the Congress unless it does not lengthen the repayment period for the project in question beyond that permitted by the laws applicable to that project, involves no reduction in the total amount payable by the water users, and is not in other respects less advantageous to the Government than the existing contract arrangements. The Secretary shall report to the Congress all deferments granted under this subsection.

(Aug. 4, 1939, ch. 418, § 17, 53 Stat. 1198; Apr. 24, 1945, ch. 94, § 3, 59 Stat. 76; Pub. L. 85-611, § 3, Aug. 8, 1958, 72 Stat. 543; Pub. L. 86-308, § 1, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 584.)

**AMENDMENTS**

1959—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 86-308 made permanent the Secretary's authority to grant deferments in payment of installments of construction charges under repayment contracts.

1958—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 85-611 substituted "section 485b" for "sections 485b and 485c".

1945—Subsec. (a). Act Apr. 24, 1945, extended authority for modification of existing repayment contracts or other forms of obligations to pay construction charges through Dec. 31, 1950, or Dec. 31 of the fifth full calendar year after the cessation of hostilities of World War II, as determined by proclamation of the President or concurrent resolution of Congress, whichever period was the longer.

Subsec. (b). Act Apr. 24, 1945, authorized Secretary, subject to provisions of this subsection, to defer the time for the payment of such part of any installments of construction charges under any repayment contract or other form of obligation that are due and unpaid as of Apr. 24, 1945, or which would become due prior to the expiration of authority under subsec. (a).

**APPLICABILITY TO OTHER IRRIGATION PROJECTS**

Pub. L. 86-308, § 3, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 585, provided that: "The provisions of section 17, subsection (b), of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 [subsec. (b) of this section], as amended by section 1 of this Act, shall apply to any project within the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation to which, if it had been constructed as a project under the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 383) and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto [see Short Title note set out under section 371 of this title], these provisions would be applicable."

**§ 485c. Repealed. Pub. L. 85-611, § 3, Aug. 8, 1958, 72 Stat. 543**

Section, acts Aug. 4, 1939, ch. 418, § 4, 53 Stat. 1189; Apr. 24, 1945, ch. 94, § 1, 59 Stat. 75, related to repayment contracts with the United States. See section 485h(d)(3) of this title.

**§ 485d. Time of payments to the United States**

The Secretary in this discretion may require, in connection with any contract entered into