

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-221 effective Feb. 20, 2003, see section 101(c) of Pub. L. 109-221, set out as a note under section 1629b 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.)

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Resources of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Natural Resources of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Tenth Congress, Jan. 5, 2007.

§ 1629g. Open season for certain Alaska Native veterans for allotments

(a) In general

(1) During the eighteen month period following promulgation of implementing rules pursuant to subsection (e), a person described in subsection (b) shall be eligible for an allotment of not more than two parcels of federal¹ land totaling 160 acres or less under the Act of May 17, 1906 (chapter 2469; 34 Stat. 197), as such Act was in effect before December 18, 1971.

(2) Allotments may be selected only from lands that were vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved on the date when the person eligible for the allotment first used and occupied those lands.

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

¹ So in original. Probably should be capitalized.

(3) The Secretary may not convey allotments containing any of the following—

(A) lands upon which a native or non-native campsite is located, except for a campsite used primarily by the person selecting the allotment;

(B) lands selected by, but not conveyed to, the State of Alaska pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act or any other provision of law;

(C) lands selected by, but not conveyed to, a Village or Regional Corporation;

(D) lands designated as wilderness by statute;

(E) acquired lands;

(F) lands containing a building, permanent structure, or other development owned or controlled by the United States, another unit of government, or a person other than the person selecting the allotment;

(G) lands withdrawn or reserved for national defense purposes other than National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska;

(H) National Forest Lands; and

(I) lands selected or claimed, but not conveyed, under a public land law, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Lands within a recorded mining claim.
- (2) Home sites.
- (3) Trade and Manufacturing sites.
- (4) Reindeer sites or headquarters sites.
- (5) Cemetery sites.

(4) A person who qualifies for an allotment on lands prohibited from conveyance by a provision of subsection (a)(3) may select an alternative allotment from the following lands located within the geographic boundaries of the same Regional Corporation as the excluded allotment—

(A) lands withdrawn pursuant to section 1610(a)(1) of this title which were not selected, or were relinquished after selection;

(B) lands contiguous to the outer boundary of lands withdrawn pursuant to section 1610(a)(1)(C) of this title, except lands excluded from selection by a provision of subsection (a)(3) and lands within a National Park; or

(C) vacant, unappropriated and unreserved lands.

(5) After consultation with a person entitled to an allotment within a Conservation System Unit, the Secretary may convey alternative lands of equal acreage, including lands within a Conservation System Unit, to that person if the Secretary determines that the allotment would be incompatible with a purpose for which the Conservation System Unit was established.

(6) All conveyances under this section shall—

(A) be subject to valid existing rights, including any right of the United States to income derived, directly or indirectly, from a lease, license, permit, right-of-way or easement; and

(B) reserve to the United States deposits of oil, gas and coal, together with the right to explore, mine, and remove these minerals, on lands which the Secretary determines to be prospectively valuable for development.

(b) Eligible person

(1) A person is eligible to select an allotment under this section if that person—

(A) would have been eligible for an allotment under the Act of May 17, 1906 (chapter 2469; 34 Stat. 197), as that Act was in effect before December 18, 1971 (except that the term “nonmineral”, as used in that Act, shall for the purpose of this subsection be defined as provided in section 1634(a)(3) of this title, except that such definition shall not apply to land within a conservation system unit); and

(B) is a veteran who served during the period between January 1, 1969 and December 31, 1971 and—

(i) served at least 6 months between January 1, 1969 and December 31, 1971; or

(ii) enlisted or was drafted into military service after June 2, 1971 but before December 3, 1971.

(2)(A) The personal representative or special administrator, appointed in an Alaska State court proceeding of the estate of a decedent who was eligible under subsection (b)(1)(A) may, for the benefit of the heirs, select an allotment if the decedent was a veteran who served in South East Asia at any time during the period beginning August 5, 1964, and ending December 31, 1971, and during that period the decedent—

(i) was killed in action;

(ii) was wounded in action and subsequently died as a direct consequence of that wound, as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs or based on other evidence acceptable to the Secretary; or

(iii) died while a prisoner of war.

(B)(i) If the Secretary requests that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs make a determination whether a veteran died as a direct consequence of a wound received in action, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, within 60 days of receipt of the request—

(I) provide a determination to the Secretary if the records of the Department of Veterans Affairs contain sufficient information to support such a determination; or

(II) notify the Secretary that the records of the Department of Veterans Affairs do not contain sufficient information to support a determination and that further investigation will be necessary.

(ii) Not later than 1 year after notification to the Secretary that further investigation is necessary, the Department of Veterans Affairs shall complete the investigation and provide a determination to the Secretary.

(3) No person who received an allotment or has a pending allotment under the Act of May 17, 1906 may receive an allotment under this section.

(c) Study and report

(1) The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a study to identify and assess the circumstances of veterans of the Vietnam era who—

(A) served during a period other than that specified in subsection (b)(1)(B);

(B) were eligible for an allotment under the Act of May 17, 1906; and

(C) did not apply for an allotment under that Act.

(2) The Secretary shall, within one year of October 21, 1998, issue a written report on the

study, including findings and recommendations, to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Resources in the House of Representatives.

(d) Definitions

For the purposes of this section, the terms “veteran” and “Vietnam era” have the meanings given those terms by paragraphs (2) and (29), respectively, of section 101 of title 38.

(e) Regulations

No later than 18 months after October 21, 1998, the Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate, after consultation with Alaska Natives groups, rules to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 92-203, §41, as added Pub. L. 105-276, title IV, §432, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2516; amended Pub. L. 106-559, title III, §301, Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2782; Pub. L. 108-452, title III, §306, Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3590.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of May 17, 1906, referred to in subsecs. (a)(1), (b)(1)(A), (3) and (c)(1)(B), (C), is act May 17, 1906, ch. 2469, 34 Stat. 197, as amended, which was classified to sections 270-1 to 270-3 of this title prior to its repeal by Pub. L. 92-203, §18(a), Dec. 18, 1971, 85 Stat. 710.

The Alaska Statehood Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(3)(B), is Pub. L. 85-508, July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 339, as amended, which is set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 108-452, §306(1), inserted before semicolon at end “(except that the term ‘nonmineral’, as used in that Act, shall for the purpose of this subsection be defined as provided in section 1634(a)(3) of this title, except that such definition shall not apply to land within a conservation system unit)”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 108-452, §306(2), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A), redesignated former subpars. (A) to (C) as cls. (i) to (iii), respectively, of subpar. (A), inserted “or based on other evidence acceptable to the Secretary” after “Department of Veterans Affairs” in cl. (ii), and added subpar. (B).

2000—Subsec. (a)(3)(I)(4). Pub. L. 106-559, §301(1), substituted “or” for “and Reindeer”.

Subsec. (a)(4)(B). Pub. L. 106-559, §301(2), substituted “; or” for “; and” at end.

Subsec. (b)(1)(B)(i). Pub. L. 106-559, §301(3), substituted “December 31” for “June 2”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 106-559, §301(4), inserted introductory provisions and struck out former introductory provisions which read as follows: “The personal representative of the estate of a decedent who was eligible under subsection (b)(1) of this section may, for the benefit of the heirs, select an allotment if, during the period specified in subsection (b)(1)(B) of this section, the decedent—”.

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Resources of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Natural Resources of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Tenth Congress, Jan. 5, 2007.

§ 1629h. Kake Tribal Corporation land transfer

(a) In general

If—

(1) the State of Alaska relinquishes its selection rights under the Alaska Statehood Act