

combinations thereof, or any other agency having authority under State law to carry out, maintain and operate the works of improvement; or any irrigation or reservoir company, water users' association, or similar organization having such authority and not being operated for profit that may be approved by the Secretary; or any Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in section 5304 of title 25, having authority under Federal, State, or Indian tribal law to carry out, maintain, and operate the works of improvement.

(Aug. 4, 1954, ch. 656, § 2, 68 Stat. 666; Aug. 7, 1956, ch. 1027, § 1(a), 70 Stat. 1088; Pub. L. 87-170, Aug. 30, 1961, 75 Stat. 408; Pub. L. 89-337, Nov. 8, 1965, 79 Stat. 1300; Pub. L. 92-419, title II, § 201(b), Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 667; Pub. L. 95-113, title XV, § 1506(a), Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1022; Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, § 1512(a), (b), Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1332, 1333; Pub. L. 99-662, title IX, § 929, Nov. 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 4196; Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, § 1461, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3615; Pub. L. 103-437, § 6(v), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4587; Pub. L. 115-141, div. A, title VII, § 761(a), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 396.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-141 substituted "\$25,000,000" for "\$5,000,000" in concluding provisions relating to definition of "Works of improvement".

1994—Pub. L. 103-437 in concluding provisions relating to definition of "Works of improvement" substituted "Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry" for "Committee on Agriculture and Forestry" and "Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House" for "Committee on Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Public Works of the House".

1990—Pub. L. 101-624, which directed amendment of third sentence by substituting "Each project" for "Each such project submitted to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives after July 1, 1987," and inserting ", including rural communities," after "agriculture", was executed to third sentence of par. defining "Works of improvement" to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

1986—Pub. L. 99-662 inserted in definition of "Works of improvement" provision requiring that projects submitted after July 1, 1987, contain benefits directly related to agriculture accounting for at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the project.

1981—Pub. L. 97-98 substituted "\$5,000,000" for "\$1,000,000" in definition of "Works of improvement" and expanded definition of "Local organization" to include any Indian tribe or tribal organization having authority under Federal, State, or Indian tribal law to carry out, maintain, and operate works of improvement.

1977—Pub. L. 95-113 substituted "\$1,000,000" for "\$250,000".

1972—Pub. L. 92-419 defined "Works of improvement" to include any undertaking for the conservation and proper utilization of land.

1965—Pub. L. 89-337 substituted "more than twelve thousand five hundred acre-feet of floodwater detention capacity" for "more than five thousand acre-feet of floodwater detention capacity".

1961—Pub. L. 87-170 included irrigation or reservoir companies, water users' associations and similar organizations not operated for profit in the definition of local organization.

1956—Act Aug. 7, 1956, struck out provisions which limited works of improvement to agriculture phases of

conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, increased the limits of total capacity of any single structure from 5,000 acre-feet to 25,000 acre-feet, exclude single structures which provide more than 5,000 acre-feet of floodwater detention capacity, required approval of plans involving an estimated Federal contribution to construction costs of more than \$250,000, and specified the Congressional committees that must approve the plans where structures are under and over 4,000 acre-feet of total capacity.

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Public Works and Transportation of House of Representatives treated as referring to Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of House of Representatives by section 1(a) of Pub. L. 104-14, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-98 effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as an Effective Date note under section 4301 of Title 7, Agriculture.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1977 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-113 effective Oct. 1, 1977, see section 1901 of Pub. L. 95-113, set out as a note under section 1307 of Title 7, Agriculture.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Enforcement functions of Secretary or other official in Department of Agriculture, insofar as they involve lands and programs under jurisdiction of that Department, related to compliance with this chapter with respect to pre-construction, construction, and initial operation of transportation system for Canadian and Alaskan natural gas transferred to Federal Inspector, Office of Federal Inspector for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, until first anniversary of date of initial operation of Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, see Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1979, §§ 102(f), 203(a), 44 F.R. 33663, 33666, 93 Stat. 1373, 1376, effective July 1, 1979, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. Office of Federal Inspector for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System abolished and functions and authority vested in Inspector transferred to Secretary of Energy by section 3012(b) of Pub. L. 102-486, set out as an Abolition of Office of Federal Inspector note under section 719e of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. Functions and authority vested in Secretary of Energy subsequently transferred to Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects by section 720d(f) of Title 15.

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS TO PROJECTS AUTHORIZED BEFORE AUG. 7, 1956

Amendment by act Aug. 7, 1956, as applicable to all works of improvements and plans for such works under the provisions of this chapter, see Extension of Benefits note set out under section 1001 of this title.

§ 1003. Assistance to local organizations

(a) In general

In order to assist local organizations in preparing and carrying out plans for works of improvement, the Secretary is authorized, upon application of local organizations if such application has been submitted to, and not disapproved within 45 days by, the State agency having supervisory responsibility over programs provided for in this chapter, or by the Governor if there is no State agency having such responsibility—

- (1) to conduct such investigations and surveys as may be necessary to prepare plans for works of improvement;

(2) to prepare plans and estimates required for adequate engineering evaluation;

(3) to make allocations of costs to the various purposes to show the basis of such allocations and to determine whether benefits exceed costs;

(4) to cooperate and enter into agreements with and to furnish financial and other assistance to local organizations: *Provided*, That, for the land-treatment measures, the Federal assistance shall not exceed the rate of assistance for similar practices under existing national programs;

(5) to obtain the cooperation and assistance of other Federal agencies in carrying out the purposes of this section;

(6) to enter into agreements with landowners, operators, and occupiers, individually or collectively, based on conservation plans of such landowners, operators, and occupiers which are developed in cooperation with and approved by the soil and water conservation district in which the land described in the agreement is situated, to be carried out on such land during a period of not to exceed ten years, providing for changes in cropping systems and land uses and for the installation of soil and water conservation practices and measures needed to conserve and develop the soil, water, woodland, wildlife, energy, and recreation resources of and enhance the water quality of lands within the area included in plans for works of improvement, as provided for in such plans, including watershed or sub-watershed work plans in connection with the eleven watershed improvement programs authorized by section 13 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887), as amended and supplemented. Applications for assistance in developing such conservation plans shall be made in writing to the soil and water conservation district involved, and the proposed agreement shall be reviewed by such district. In return for such agreements by landowners, operators, and occupiers the Secretary shall agree to share the costs of carrying out those practices and measures set forth in the agreement for which he determines that cost sharing is appropriate and in the public interest. The portion of such costs, including labor, to be shared shall be that part which the Secretary determines is appropriate and in the public interest for the carrying out of the practices and measures set forth in the agreement, except that the Federal assistance shall not exceed the rate of assistance for similar practices and measures under existing national programs. The Secretary may terminate any agreement with a landowner, operator, or occupier by mutual agreement if the Secretary determines that such termination would be in the public interest, and may agree to such modifications of agreements, previously entered into hereunder, as he deems desirable to carry out the purposes of this paragraph or to facilitate the practical administration of the agreements provided for herein. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary, to the extent he deems it desirable to carry out the purposes of this paragraph, may provide in any agreement hereunder for (1) preservation for a

period not to exceed the period covered by the agreement and an equal period thereafter of the cropland, crop acreage, and allotment history applicable to land covered by the agreement for the purpose of any Federal program under which such history is used as a basis for an allotment or other limitation on the production of any crop; or (2) surrender of any such history and allotments.

(b) Waiver

The Secretary may waive the watershed plan for works of improvement if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the watershed plan is unnecessary or duplicative; and

(2) the works of improvement are otherwise consistent with applicable requirements under section 1004 of this title.

(Aug. 4, 1954, ch. 656, § 3, 68 Stat. 666; Aug. 7, 1956, ch. 1027, § 1(b), 70 Stat. 1088; Pub. L. 92-419, title II, § 201(c), Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 667; Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, § 1512(c), Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1333; Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, § 1464, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3616; Pub. L. 115-334, title II, § 2401(a), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4570.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 13 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887), as amended and supplemented, referred to in par. (6), is section 13 of act Dec. 22, 1944, ch. 665, 58 Stat. 887, which was not classified to the Code.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-334 inserted section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

1990—Par. (6). Pub. L. 101-624 inserted “and enhance the water quality of” after “recreation resources of”.

1981—Par. (6). Pub. L. 97-98 inserted reference to energy in the enumeration of the various aspects of lands to be conserved and developed within areas included under plans for works of improvement.

1972—Par. (6). Pub. L. 92-419 added par. (6).

1956—Pars. (2) to (6). Act Aug. 7, 1956, substituted in par. (2) provisions authorizing the Secretary to prepare plans and estimates required for adequate engineering evaluation for provisions which authorized the Secretary to make studies for physical and economic soundness of plans for works of improvement, added par. (3), and redesignated former pars. (3) and (4) as (4) and (5), respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-98 effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as an Effective Date note under section 4301 of Title 7, Agriculture.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of certain enforcement functions of Secretary or other official in Department of Agriculture under this chapter to Federal Inspector, Office of Federal Inspector for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, and subsequent transfer to Secretary of Energy, then to Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, see note set out under section 1002 of this title.

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS TO PROJECTS AUTHORIZED BEFORE AUG. 7, 1956

Amendment by act Aug. 7, 1956, as applicable to all works of improvement and plans for such works under the provisions of this chapter, see Extension of Benefits note set out under section 1001 of this title.

§ 1003a. Cost share assistance**(a) Easements**

The Secretary may provide cost share assistance to project sponsors to enable such sponsors to acquire perpetual wetland or floodplain conservation easements to perpetuate, restore and enhance the natural capability of wetlands and floodplains to retain excessive floodwaters, improve water quality and quantity, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

(b) Amount

The Secretary shall require that project sponsors of watershed projects provide up to 50 percent of the cost of acquiring easements under subsection (a).

(Aug. 4, 1954, ch. 656, §3A, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1462, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3615.)

§ 1004. Conditions for Federal assistance

The Secretary shall require as a condition to providing Federal assistance for the installation of works of improvement that local organizations shall—

(1) acquire, or with respect to interests in land to be acquired by condemnation provide assurances satisfactory to the Secretary that they will acquire, without cost to the Federal Government from funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter, such land, easements, or rights-of-way as will be needed in connection with works of improvement installed with Federal assistance: *Provided*, That when a local organization agrees to operate and maintain any reservoir or other area included in a plan for public fish and wildlife or recreational development, the Secretary shall be authorized to bear not to exceed one-half of the costs of (a) the land, easements, or rights-of-way acquired or to be acquired by the local organization for such reservoir or other area, and (b) minimum basic facilities needed for public health and safety, access to, and use of such reservoir or other area for such purposes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to participate in recreational development in any watershed project only to the extent that the need therefor is demonstrated in accordance with standards established by him, taking into account the anticipated mandays of use of the projected recreational development and giving consideration to the availability within the region of existing water-based outdoor recreational developments: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to participate in not more than one recreational development in a watershed project containing less than seventy-five thousand acres, or two such developments in a project containing between seventy-five thousand and one hundred and fifty thousand acres, or three such developments in projects exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand acres: *Provided further*, That when the Secretary and a local organization have agreed that the immediate acquisition by the local organization of land, easements, or rights-of-way is advisable for the preservation of sites for works of improvement included in a plan

from encroachment by residential, commercial, industrial, or other development, the Secretary shall be authorized to advance to the local organization from funds appropriated for construction of works of improvement the amounts required for the acquisition of such land, easements or rights-of-way; and, except where such costs are to be borne by the Secretary, such advance shall be repaid by the local organization, with interest, prior to construction of the works of improvement, for credit to such construction funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to bear an amount not to exceed one-half of the costs of the land, easements, or rights-of-way acquired or to be acquired by the local organization for mitigation of fish and wildlife habitat losses, and that such acquisition is not limited to the confines of the watershed project boundaries;

(2) assume (A) such proportionate share, as is determined by the Secretary to be equitable in consideration of national needs and assistance authorized for similar purposes under other Federal programs, of the costs of installing any works of improvement, involving Federal assistance (excluding engineering costs), which is applicable to the agricultural phases of the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water or for fish and wildlife development, recreational development, ground water recharge, water quality management, or the conservation and proper utilization of land: *Provided*, That works of improvement for water quality management shall consist primarily of water storage capacity in reservoirs for regulation of streamflow, except that any such storage and water releases shall not be provided as a substitute for adequate treatment or other methods of controlling waste at the source, and shall be consistent with standards and regulations adopted by the Water Resources Council on Federal cost sharing for water quality management, and (B) all of the cost of installing any portion of such works applicable to other purposes except that any part of the construction cost (including engineering costs) applicable to flood prevention and features relating thereto shall be borne by the Federal Government and paid for by the Secretary out of funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter: *Provided*, That, in addition to and without limitation on the authority of the Secretary to make loans or advancements under section 1006a of this title, the Secretary may pay for any storage of water for present or anticipated future demands or needs for municipal or industrial water included in any reservoir structure constructed or modified under the provisions of this chapter as hereinafter provided: *Provided further*, That the cost of water storage to meet future demands may not exceed 30 per centum of the total estimated cost of such reservoir structure and the local organization shall give reasonable assurances, and there is evidence, that such demands for the use of such storage will be made within a period of time which will permit repayment within the life of the reservoir structure of the cost of such storage: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall de-