

**§ 277d-15. Integration of operation of dam with other United States water conservation activities**

If a dam is constructed pursuant to an agreement concluded under the authorization granted by section 277d-13 of this title, its operation for conservation and release of United States share of waters shall be integrated with other United States water conservation activities on the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman, Texas, in such manner as to provide the maximum feasible amount of water for beneficial use in the United States with the understandings that (a) releases of United States share of waters from said dam for domestic, municipal, industrial, and irrigation uses in the United States shall be made pursuant to order by the appropriate authority or authorities of the State of Texas, and (b) the State of Texas having stipulated that the amount of water that will be available for use in the United States below Falcon Dam after the proposed dam is placed in operation will be not less than the amount available under existing conditions of river development, and to carry out such understandings and said stipulation the conservation storage of said dam shall be used, and it shall be the exclusive responsibility of the appropriate authority or authorities of said State to distribute available United States share of waters of the Rio Grande in such manner as will comply with said stipulation.

(Pub. L. 86-605, § 3, July 7, 1960, 74 Stat. 360.)

**§ 277d-16. Authorization of appropriations**

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State for the use of the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 277d-13 to 277d-16 of this title.

(Pub. L. 86-605, § 4, July 7, 1960, 74 Stat. 361.)

**§ 277d-17. Chamizal boundary settlement; investigations relating to river channel; acquisition of lands; relocation of facilities**

In connection with the convention between the United States of America and the United Mexican States for the solution of the problem of the Chamizal, signed August 29, 1963, the Secretary of State, acting through the United States Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is authorized—

a. to conduct technical and other investigations relating to: the demarcation or monumentation of the boundary between the United States and Mexico; flood control; water resources; sanitation and prevention of pollution; channel relocation, improvement, and stabilization; and other matters related to the new river channel.

b. to acquire by donation, purchase, or condemnation, all lands required—

(1) for transfer to Mexico as provided in said convention;

(2) for construction of that portion of the new river channel and the adjoining levee in the territory of the United States;

(3) for relocation of highways, roadways, railroads, telegraph, telephone, electric transmission lines, bridges, related facilities, and any publicly owned structure or facility, the relocation of which, in the judgment of the said Commissioner, is necessitated by the project.

c. For the purpose of effecting said relocations—

(1) to perform any or all work involved in said relocations;

(2) to enter into contracts with the owners of properties to be relocated whereby they undertake to acquire any or all properties needed for said relocations, or undertake to perform any or all work involved in said relocations;

(3) to convey or exchange properties acquired or improved by the United States under sections 277d-17 to 277d-25 of this title or under said convention, with or without improvements, or to grant term or perpetual easements therein or thereover.

(Pub. L. 88-300, § 1, Apr. 29, 1964, 78 Stat. 184.)

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

Section is comprised of part of section 1 of Pub. L. 88-300. Remainder of section 1 is set out as a Short Title note below.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**SHORT TITLE**

Pub. L. 88-300, § 1, Apr. 29, 1964, 78 Stat. 184, provided in part: "That this Act [enacting this section and sections 277d-18 to 277d-25 of this title] may be cited as the 'American-Mexican Chamizal Convention Act of 1964'."

**§ 277d-18. Construction, operation, and maintenance of works; Bridge of the Americas**

**(a) In general**

The United States Commissioner is authorized to construct, operate, and maintain all works provided for in said convention and sections 277d-17 to 277d-25 of this title, and to turn over the operation and maintenance of any such works to any Federal agency, or any State, county, municipality, district, or other political subdivision within which such project or works may be in whole or in part situated, upon such terms, conditions, and requirements as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**(b) Bridge of the Americas**

The United States Commissioner is authorized to receive payments of money from public or private sources in the United States or Mexico made for the purpose of sharing in the cost of operations, maintenance, and replacement of the Bridge of the Americas which crosses the Rio Grande between El Paso, Texas, and Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such payments of money shall be credited to any appropriation to the Commission which is currently available. Funds received under this subsection shall be available only for the replacement of such bridge.

**(c) Advance appropriations**

The authority of subsection (b) may be exercised only to the extent or in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

(Pub. L. 88-300, § 2, Apr. 29, 1964, 78 Stat. 184; Pub. L. 103-236, title IV, § 423(a), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 457; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title VII, § 703], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-460.)

**Editorial Notes****AMENDMENTS**

1999—Subsec. (b), Pub. L. 106-113 inserted “operations, maintenance, and” after “cost of”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-236 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

**§ 277d-19. Compensation of owners and tenants to prevent economic injury; regulations**

The United States Commissioner, under regulations approved by the Secretary of State, and upon application of the owners and tenants of lands to be acquired by the United States to fulfill and accomplish the purposes of said convention, and to the extent administratively determined by the Commissioner to be fair and reasonable, is authorized to—

a. Reimburse the owners and tenants for expenses and other losses and damages incurred by them in the process and as a direct result of such moving of themselves, their families, and their possessions as is occasioned by said acquisition: *Provided*, That the total of such reimbursement to the owners and tenants of any parcel of land shall in no event exceed 25 per centum of its fair value, as determined by the Commissioner. No payment under this subsection shall be made unless application therefor is supported by an itemized and certified statement of the expenses, losses, and damages incurred.

b. Compensate the said owners and tenants for identifiable, reasonable, and satisfactorily proved costs and losses to owners and tenants over and above those reimbursed under the foregoing subsection in the categories herein-after provided, and for which purpose there shall be established by the Commissioner a board of examiners, consisting of such personnel employed and compensation fixed as he deems advisable, without regard to the provisions of the civil service laws and chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5. Said board may hold hearings and shall examine submitted evidence and make determinations, subject to the Commissioner's approval, regarding all claims in said categories as follows:

(1) For properties—

(a) For nonconforming abodes and minimum forms of shelter for which there are no comparable properties on the market in the city of El Paso and concerning which fair market value would be inadequate to find minimum housing of equal utility, compensation to the owner up to an amount which when added to the market value allowed for his property, including land values, would enable purchase of minimum hab-

itable housing of similar utility in another residential section of said city.

(b) For commercial properties for which there are no comparable properties on the market in or near El Paso, Texas, compensation to the owner up to an amount which, when added to the total fair market value, including the land value, would compensate the owner for the “value in use” of the real estate to him. Such “value in use” is to be determined on the basis of replacement cost less deterioration and obsolescence in existing real estate and taking into consideration factors bearing upon income attributable to the real estate.

(2) For loss in business:

(a) Loss of profits directly resulting from relocation, limited to the period between termination of business in the old location and commencement of business in the new, such period not to exceed thirty days.

(b) Loss to owner resulting from inability to rent to others housing or commercial space that can be reasonably related to uncertainties arising out of the pending acquisition of the owner's property by the United States, such losses limited to those incurred after July 18, 1963, and prior to the making by the United States of a firm offer to purchase.

(3) For penalty costs to property owners for prepayment of mortgages incident to acquisition of the properties by the United States.

(Pub. L. 88-300, § 3, Apr. 29, 1964, 78 Stat. 184.)

**Editorial Notes****CODIFICATION**

In par. b., “chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5” substituted for “the Classification Act of 1949, as amended” on authority of Pub. L. 89-554, § 7(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 631, the first section of which enacted Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 277d-20. Limitation on application for reimbursement or compensation**

Application for reimbursement or compensation under section 277d-19 of this title shall be submitted to the Commissioner within either one year from the date of acquisition or the date of vacating the premises by the applicant, whichever date is later. Applications not submitted within said period shall be forever barred.

(Pub. L. 88-300, § 4, Apr. 29, 1964, 78 Stat. 185.)

**§ 277d-21. Attorneys' fees; penalties**

The Commissioner, in rendering an award in favor of any claimant under section 277d-19 of this title, may, as part of such award, determine and allow reasonable attorneys' fees which shall not exceed 10 per centum of the amount awarded, to be paid out of but not in addition to the amount of award, to the attorneys representing the claimant. Any attorney who charges, demands, receives, or collects for services rendered in connection with such claim any amount in excess of that allowed by the terms of this sec-