

## SUBCHAPTER V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§ 1551. Construction of Colorado River Basin Act****(a) Effect on other laws**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to alter, amend, repeal, modify, or be in conflict with the provisions of the Colorado River Compact (45 Stat. 1057), the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact (63 Stat. 31), the Water Treaty of 1944 with the United Mexican States (Treaty Series 994; 59 Stat. 1219), the decree entered by the Supreme Court of the United States in Arizona against California and others (376 U.S. 340), or, except as otherwise provided herein, the Boulder Canyon Project Act (45 Stat. 1057) [43 U.S.C. 617 et seq.], the Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act (54 Stat. 774), [43 U.S.C. 618 et seq.], or the Colorado River Storage Project Act (70 Stat. 105) [43 U.S.C. 620 et seq.].

**(b) Reports to Congress**

The Secretary is directed to—

(1) make reports as to the annual consumptive uses and losses of water from the Colorado River system after each successive five-year period, beginning with the five-year period starting on October 1, 1970. Such reports shall include a detailed breakdown of the beneficial consumptive use of water on a State-by-State basis. Specific figures on quantities consumptively used from the major tributary streams flowing into the Colorado River shall also be included on a State-by-State basis. Such reports shall be prepared in consultation with the States of the lower basin individually and with the Upper Colorado River Commission, and shall be transmitted to the President, the Congress, and to the Governors of each State signatory to the Colorado River Compact; and

(2) condition all contracts for the delivery of water originating in the drainage basin of the Colorado River system upon the availability of water under the Colorado River Compact.

**(c) Compliance of Federal officers and agencies**

All Federal officers and agencies are directed to comply with the applicable provisions of this chapter, and of the laws, treaty, compacts, and decree referred to in subsection (a) of this section, in the storage and release of water from all reservoirs and in the operation and maintenance of all facilities in the Colorado River system under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Secretary, and in the operation and maintenance of all works which may be authorized hereafter for the augmentation of the water supply of the Colorado River system. In the event of failure of any such officer or agency to so comply, any affected State may maintain an action to enforce the provisions of this section in the Supreme Court of the United States and consent is given to the joinder of the United States as a party in such suit or suits, as a defendant or otherwise.

(Pub. L. 90-537, title VI, §601, Sept. 30, 1968, 82 Stat. 899.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 90-537,

Sept. 30, 1968, 82 Stat. 885, as amended, known as the Colorado River Basin Project Act, which enacted this chapter and sections 616aa-1, 620a-1, 620a-2, 620c-1, and 620d-1 of this title, amended sections 616hh, 620, and 620a of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 620, 620k, and 1501 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1501 of this title and Tables.

The Boulder Canyon Project Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is act Dec. 21, 1928, ch. 42, 45 Stat. 1057, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§617 et seq.) of chapter 12A of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 617 of this title and Tables.

The Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is act July 19, 1940, ch. 643, 54 Stat. 774, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§618 et seq.) of chapter 12A of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 618 of this title and Tables.

The Colorado River Storage Project Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is act Apr. 11, 1956, ch. 203, 70 Stat. 105, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 12B (§620 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 620 of this title and Tables.

## TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For termination, effective May 15, 2000, of provisions in subsec. (b)(1) of this section relating to the requirement that the Secretary transmit a report to Congress every five years, see section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and the 9th item on page 114 of House Document No. 103-7.

**§ 1552. Criteria for long-range operation of reservoirs****(a) Promulgation by Secretary; order of priorities**

In order to comply with and carry out the provisions of the Colorado River Compact, the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, and the Mexican Water Treaty, the Secretary shall propose criteria for the coordinated long-range operation of the reservoirs constructed and operated under the authority of the Colorado River Storage Project Act [43 U.S.C. 620 et seq.], the Boulder Canyon Project Act [43 U.S.C. 617 et seq.], and the Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act [43 U.S.C. 618 et seq.]. To effect in part the purposes expressed in this paragraph, the criteria shall make provision for the storage of water in storage units of the Colorado River storage project and releases of water from Lake Powell in the following listed order of priority:

(1) releases to supply one-half the deficiency described in article III(c) of the Colorado River Compact, if any such deficiency exists and is chargeable to the States of the Upper Division, but in any event such releases, if any, shall not be required in any year that the Secretary makes the determination and issues the proclamation specified in section 1512 of this title;

(2) releases to comply with article III(d) of the Colorado River Compact, less such quantities of water delivered into the Colorado River below Lee Ferry to the credit of the States of the Upper Division from other sources; and

(3) storage of water not required for the releases specified in clauses (1) and (2) of this

subsection to the extent that the Secretary, after consultation with the Upper Colorado River Commission and representatives of the three Lower Division States and taking into consideration all relevant factors (including, but not limited to, historic stream-flows, the most critical period of record, and probabilities of water supply), shall find this to be reasonably necessary to assure deliveries under clauses (1) and (2) without impairment of annual consumptive uses in the upper basin pursuant to the Colorado River Compact: *Provided*, That water not so required to be stored shall be released from Lake Powell: (i) to the extent it can be reasonably applied in the States of the Lower Division to the uses specified in article III(e) of the Colorado River Compact, but no such releases shall be made when the active storage in Lake Powell is less than the active storage in Lake Mead, (ii) to maintain, as nearly as practicable, active storage in Lake Mead equal to the active storage in Lake Powell, and (iii) to avoid anticipated spills from Lake Powell.

**(b) Submittal of criteria for review and comment; publication; report to Congress**

Not later than January 1, 1970, the criteria proposed in accordance with the foregoing subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the Governors of the seven Colorado River Basin States and to such other parties and agencies as the Secretary may deem appropriate for their review and comment. After receipt of comments on the proposed criteria, but not later than July 1, 1970, the Secretary shall adopt appropriate criteria in accordance with this section and publish the same in the Federal Register. Beginning January 1, 1972, and yearly thereafter, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress and to the Governors of the Colorado River Basin States a report describing the actual operation under the adopted criteria for the preceding compact water year and the projected operation for the current year. As a result of actual operating experience or unforeseen circumstances, the Secretary may thereafter modify the criteria to better achieve the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section, but only after correspondence with the Governors of the seven Colorado River Basin States and appropriate consultation with such State representatives as each Governor may designate.

**(c) Powerplant operations**

Section 7 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act [43 U.S.C. 620f] shall be administered in accordance with the foregoing criteria.

(Pub. L. 90-537, title VI, §602, Sept. 30, 1968, 82 Stat. 900.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Colorado River Storage Project Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is act Apr. 11, 1956, ch. 203, 70 Stat. 105, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 12B (§620 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 620 of this title and Tables.

The Boulder Canyon Project Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is act Dec. 21, 1928, ch. 42, 45 Stat. 1057, as

amended, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§617 et seq.) of chapter 12A of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 617t of this title and Tables.

The Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is act July 19, 1940, ch. 643, 54 Stat. 774, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§618 et seq.) of chapter 12A of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 618o of this title and Tables.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For termination, effective May 15, 2000, of provisions in subsec. (b) of this section relating to the requirement that the Secretary transmit an annual report to Congress, see section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and the 3rd item on page 113 of House Document No. 103-7.

**§ 1553. Upper Colorado River Basin; rights to consumptive uses not to be reduced or prejudiced; duties and powers of Commission not impaired**

(a) Rights of the upper basin to the consumptive use of water available to that basin from the Colorado River system under the Colorado River Compact shall not be reduced or prejudiced by any use of such water in the lower basin.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed so as to impair, conflict with, or otherwise change the duties and powers of the Upper Colorado River Commission.

(Pub. L. 90-537, title VI, §603, Sept. 30, 1968, 82 Stat. 901.)

**§ 1554. Federal reclamation laws**

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in constructing, operating, and maintaining the units of the projects herein and hereafter authorized, the Secretary shall be governed by the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902; 32 Stat. 388, and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto) to which laws this chapter shall be deemed a supplement.

(Pub. L. 90-537, title VI, §604, Sept. 30, 1968, 82 Stat. 901.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of June 17, 1902, referred to in text, is popularly known as the Reclamation Act, which is classified generally to chapter 12 (§371 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 371 of this title and Tables.

**§ 1555. Federal Power Act inapplicable to Colorado River between Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam**

Part I of the Federal Power Act [16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.] shall not be applicable to the reaches of the main stream of the Colorado River between Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam until and unless otherwise provided by Congress.

(Pub. L. 90-537, title VI, §605, Sept. 30, 1968, 82 Stat. 901.)