

(8) The usual tax receipts, mortgage releases, judgment satisfactions, etc., will be obtained for each monetary encumbrance which has been discharged. These instruments will be placed with the title papers, unless the landowner wishes to retain them.

(9) Separate receipts on ENG Form 1571, Receipt for Payment Under Power of Attorney, must be obtained for each disbursement made under the power of attorney and order to disburse, including a receipt for the balance of the purchase price paid to the landowner. One copy of such receipt will be placed in the project files.

(10) The Closing Officer will prepare an original and two copies of ENG Form 1570, Report of Disbursement Under Power of Attorney, showing the exact amount of each disbursement made under the power of attorney and order to disburse. The Closing Officer will prepare an original and two copies of appropriate certification thereon. The original and two copies will be signed by the landowner, who will retain one copy. The Closing Officer will place one copy in the files of the project office and will place the original with the title papers. The separate receipts on ENG Form 1571 for each disbursement made will be attached to the original ENG Form 1570.

(o) *Procurement of Check.* (1) After acceptance and distribution of the offer assembly and the acquisition is ready for closing, the following instruments and supporting data will be transmitted to the Finance and Accounting Officer for scheduling of SF 1166, Voucher and Schedule of Payments, and issuance of check:

(i) Two true copies of the preliminary opinion of the Attorney General, where required; or

(ii) Two true copies of a preliminary certificate of title or title guarantee policy where the preliminary opinion of the Attorney General is not required; or

(iii) Two copies of ENG Form 909, Attorney's Preliminary Certificate of Title, in easements acquisition which cost less than \$1,000; and

(iv) Two true copies of other supporting data evidencing amount due and payable, such as statement of closing attorney; and

(v) Two true copies of the offer assembly or deed executed by the vendor, if offer form has not been utilized.

(2) The following statement, appropriately modified, signed by the Chief, Real Estate Division, may be transmitted in lieu of the above listed certificates:

I certify that the check requested hereby is to pay an obligation of the United States as reflected on the attached (Offer to Sell) (easement or deed). I further certify that the parties signatory to this document and shown on the voucher as payees are the same parties reflected in a preliminary certificate of title issued by the \_\_\_\_\_ Title Company in the possession of the Real Estate Division of this office. The completion of the transaction will be in accordance with existing regulations pertaining to the closing of real estate acquisitions.

The landowner's signature on a voucher is not necessary. On payments involving civil funds, paragraph 3-7g, ER 37-2-10, will be followed.

(p) *Procedure After Payment.* When the above closing requirements have been met, the Closing Officer will:

(1) Immediately order a final continuation of the type of title evidence which has been contracted for. The final title evidence must be dated as of the date of recordation of the deed to the United States, or a subsequent date, to show a valid title vested in the United States of America subject only to those title defects which have been administratively waived or to those liens and encumbrances for which sufficient funds were withheld from the purchase price to satisfy and discharge them.

(2) Check carefully ENG Form 1566, Payment and Closing Sheet and Receipt for United States Treasurer's Check, to see that funds have been properly disbursed.

(3) Review the continued abstract, final certificate of title, or title insurance policy, as soon as they are prepared and determine that the proper preliminary and final title evidence and related papers on the case have been completed in proper order. Thereupon a Final Title Opinion will be prepared.

(4) Transmit as the Final Title Assembly to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314, the Final Title Opinion, title evidence and related papers.

This Final Title Assembly must be chronologically arranged and securely fastened for permanent filing, and should include the following:

- (i) Abstract of title, properly continued through time of closing; or preliminary, intermediate, and original of final certificate of title; or interim binder and original of the Title Guarantee (Insurance) Policy.
- (ii) Curative instruments and material pertaining to title defects appearing in the abstract, the final certificate of title, or the title guarantee or insurance policy.
- (iii) Deed to the United States, executed, stamped, acknowledged, and recorded.
- (iv) Copy of the accepted offer to sell (ENG Form 42 or ENG Form 2970).
- (v) Completed ENG Form 798.
- (vi) Completed ENG Form 1566.
- (vii) Statement regarding payment of taxes or amount withheld to pay the taxes.
- (viii) Where required, completed ENG Form 1290.
- (ix) If the power of attorney procedure is followed, power of attorney on proper Department of the Treasury Form and completed ENG Forms 1569 and 1571.
- (x) Certified copy of any waiver letter or certificate.
- (xi) Any other papers relating to the title or closing of the case.
- (xii) An additional copy of the deed and the Attorney's Final Title Opinion for review by the Attorney General.

(5) A copy of the executed and recorded deed will be retained by the Division or District Engineer for the project files.

(6) Similar action will be taken by the Closing Officer in acquisition of easements costing not in excess of \$1,000.

**§ 644.71 Final Title Assembly.**

(a) *Disposition of Final Title Assemblies.* The final title opinion and related papers will be forwarded to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314 for review and disposition. In addition, copies of deeds and related papers in acquisitions for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program of the Department of Energy will be forwarded to: Department of Energy, Strategic Petroleum

Reserve Project Management Office, 900 Commerce Road East, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123.

(b) *Division/District Files.* True copies will be retained for Division or District files.

**§ 644.72 Transfer to Condemnation.**

(a) *Transfer of Tracts from Purchase to Condemnation.* If at any time, in the course of acquisition by purchase, it becomes apparent that title clearance and closing cannot be completed within 60 days of the offer to sell, action will immediately be taken to acquire the land by condemnation in order to make funds available to the landowner.

(b) *Contents of Letter of Submittal.* In such cases the letter of submittal will contain or be accompanied by:

- (1) All title evidence.
- (2) An analysis of the title defects and a statement of the attempts which have been made to cure the defects.
- (3) A statement of the attempts to have the title infirmities waived by the title company and the reasons for refusal; or
- (4) The curative material which has been obtained to remedy the infirmities; and
- (5) Two copies of the offer to sell from the apparent owners.

ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE, DONATION,  
AND TRANSFER

**§ 644.81 General.**

Sections 644.81 through 644.88 describe the procedures of the Corps of Engineers relating to the acquisition of land and interests therein for both military and civil works projects by purchase, donation and transfer.

(a) *Applicability.* These sections are applicable to all Division and District Engineers having real estate responsibilities.

(b) *Acquisition Authority—(1) Limitation.* Acquisition of land for use by the United States requires express authorization (10 U.S.C. 2676, 41 U.S.C. 14).

(2) *Military.* Title 10 U.S.C. 2571 authorizes transfer of real property between Defense elements without compensation if the Secretaries approve. Title 10 U.S.C. 2662 provides that acquisition of fee title or transfer of real property owned by the United States to

another Federal agency, military department or a state must be reported to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives if the estimated value is more than \$50,000 and the transaction may not be consummated until after 30 days have expired from the date the report is submitted to the Committees. Title 10 U.S.C. 2663 provides for acquisition by the Secretary of a military department during time of war or when war is imminent of any interest in land, including temporary use, required for a Defense installation, munitions plant or power plant for production of munitions, through negotiation and purchase, by condemnation or by gift. Title 10 U.S.C. 2672 provides that the Secretary of a military department may acquire any interest in land, including temporary use, by gift, purchase, exchange of United States owned land or otherwise, that he or his designee determines is needed in the interest of national defense and does not cost more than \$50,000 exclusive of administrative costs or the amounts of deficiency judgments.

(3) *Civil Works.* Acquisition of real property for civil works projects for which provision has been made by law is authorized in 33 U.S.C. 591-595a and 701. As in the case of military projects, the Secretary of the Army is also authorized to accept donations of lands and materials required for civil works projects.

(c) *Rights-of-Entry.* Rights-of-entry for construction may be obtained by the Division or District Engineer, after he has been authorized by the Chief of Engineers to acquire the land, pending completion of acquisition by purchase or the filing of condemnation proceedings with declaration of taking. In the event the landowner will not voluntarily grant a right-of-entry, an appraisal of the required interest should be made and negotiations conducted on the basis thereof. If the negotiations are not successful, a declaration of taking should be submitted to acquire the necessary rights. The same procedure will be used for acquiring rights-of-entry for other purposes, such as survey and exploration.

#### § 644.82 Prerequisites to acquisition.

(a) *Authority to Begin Acquisition.* Action to acquire a tract of land will not be initiated until the Real Estate Design Memorandum (for all projects except military) or Real Estate Planning Report (for Army, other than Civil Works, and Air Force projects) is approved and specific authorization of the Chief of Engineers, or the appropriate Air Force Regional Civil Engineer (AFRCE), to proceed with the acquisition of the project is received by the Division and District Engineer and funds have been made available. Upon such approval, the Division or District Engineer is authorized to initiate action for the acquisition of the estate approved for the particular project in accordance with the procedures herein-after set forth.

(b) *Tract Description.* Authority to initiate engineering planning of a project will state the mapping procedures provided for in Chapter 3, ER 405-1-12. It is necessary that land requirements be determined, that the various tracts be identified by ownership, and that accurate tract descriptions be developed. Tract ownership data may be developed by Division or District personnel from the local land records or procured by contract from a qualified local Government official, abstractor or title company representative.

(c) *Title Evidence.* With approval to proceed with acquisition, title evidence contracts can be initiated. The procedures for obtaining title evidence are covered in §§ 644.61 through 644.72. Preliminary title evidence to confirm ownership and status of the title is prerequisite to negotiating for acquisition of the land or interests therein.

(d) *Appraisals.* Concurrently with the procurement of title evidence, the appraisal of the land should begin. The appraisal, when approved, forms the basis for the determination of fair market value which will not be less than the approved appraised value. The appraisal procedures are covered in Subpart B. Normally, one appraisal per tract (ownership) will be obtained; however, in unusual cases such as those which involve novel, unique or controversial appraisal concepts, there is no objection to obtaining more than one appraisal covering the same tract

if considered advisable by the Division or District Engineer. When fee tracts are acquired by eminent domain procedures, where the value of the property is between \$50,000 and \$100,000, only one appraisal need be provided to the Department of Justice so long as it is a contract appraisal; two appraisals will be provided for values exceeding \$100,000. Easement tracts acquired by eminent domain procedures, in excess of \$50,000, will require two appraisals. At least one of the two appraisals must be made by a contract appraiser. Generally, in these cases, the second appraisal is procured only after negotiations indicate that agreement on price cannot be reached and that acquisition by condemnation will be required. The second appraisal will be procured in order that the Corps can take advantage of any negotiating flexibility that the second appraisal may afford in order to preclude court action. It is also necessary that the appraisals be relatively current in point of time (not to exceed six months) since dependent upon the real estate activity and degree of stability of the local economy, significant changes may take place in relatively short periods of time.

(e) *Environmental Considerations.* Paragraph D3, Attachment 1 to Enclosure 1, DOD Directive 6050.1, dated March 19, 1974, subject: "Environmental Considerations in DOD Actions," requires close environmental scrutiny of real estate acquisitions, disposals and outgrants to determine if said actions constitute a "Major Action Significantly Affecting the Quality of the Human Environment (MASAQHE)." If the action is determined to be a MASAQHE, then an environmental impact statement is required. Paragraph D3 is quoted here for ready reference:

D. Certain types of actions require close environmental scrutiny because of the possibility that they may either affect the quality of the environment or create environmental controversy. It may be desirable in such cases to have a complete presentation of the environmental aspects of the proposed action available for any interested party. For these reasons, consideration shall be given to documenting the environmental effect of the following types of actions in writing: (The written environmental assessment need not be elaborate for actions in which it

is readily determinable that the impact would not be significant; however, negative declarations must be supported by written environmental assessments which generally meet the EIS format requirements.)

- \* \* \* \* \*
- 3. Real estate acquisition, disposal and outgrants.
- \* \* \* \* \*

**§644.83 Negotiations.**

(a) *Acquisition Objectives.* The objective of a land acquisition program is to acquire land at a price that will afford each landowner his constitutional guarantee of "just compensation" as that term has been defined by Federal judicial decisions. The Government must never pay less than just compensation unless a gift is intended. In eminent domain proceedings, the just compensation due a landowner is determined judicially by court award or by settlement prior to trial; in a purchase case, it is determined by negotiations leading to a satisfactory price and agreement with the landowner. While it is recognized that an appraisal is only an informed opinion and does not establish or determine just compensation, it is also recognized that, in negotiating for the purchase of land, an appraisal is the best and sometimes the only reliable opinion of the market value of the land which is supported by a thorough, acceptable analysis of market conditions at the time of purchase. Therefore, in the negotiation for the purchase of land, an approved current appraisal shall establish the minimum price to be paid for the land being acquired by the Corps of Engineers. Negotiations or offers below this price are prohibited except where the property is being acquired on a competitive basis and condemnation is not authorized.

(b) *Negotiating Objectives.* In all cases, it is important that the negotiator receives adequate guidelines and explicit instructions. Promptly, after the amount of the estimated just compensation is established, the negotiator shall make an initial offer in the full amount of the fair market value, shall advise the landowner that the land was appraised for such amount, and shall

furnish the landowner a written statement of, and summary of the basis for, said amount. A concentrated effort will be made to acquire the land for that amount. This written statement will be in the form of a letter which may be delivered personally or by first class mail. Such summary will include, as a minimum, the following items:

(1) Definition of the term "fair market value."

(2) An accurate legal description and location identification of the real property and the interest(s) therein to be acquired (legal description and estate may be attached).

(3) The amount of the offer and a statement that such amount:

(i) Is the amount believed by the agency to be just compensation for the property;

(ii) Is not less than the approved appraisal of the fair market value of the property;

(iii) Disregards any increase or decrease in the fair market value caused by the project for which the property is to be acquired, or by the likelihood that the property would be acquired for such project, other than that due to physical deterioration within the reasonable control of the owner;

(iv) Does not reflect any consideration of or allowance for any relocation assistance and payments which the owner is entitled to receive.

(4) An inventory identifying the buildings, structures, fixtures, and other improvements, including appurtenant removable building equipment, which are considered to be part of the real property for which the offer of just compensation is made. The inventory shall include a statement of the utility and condition of said buildings, structures, fixtures, and other improvements.

(5) A description of the appraisal technique used, i.e., market approach, income approach, or cost approach, in sufficient detail to explain clearly to the landowner the process by which his property was valued. Thus, as an illustration, where the market approach was used, the explanation should include the number of comparable sales used, their general location and type, the factors considered in adjusting sales of subject property, and any other

information which would help the landowner understand what was done to value his property. A statement that comparable sales of similar properties were examined without more explanation is not sufficient. Similar information should be given when any other appraisal technique is used. Unusual cases will require a more detailed explanation.

(6) An identification of land classification categories (do not show acreage breakdown).

(7) If only a portion of a property is to be acquired, an apportionment of the total estimated just compensation for the partial acquisition between:

(i) The amount representing the just compensation for the real property to be acquired;

(ii) The amount, if any, representing severance damages to the remainder, together with a brief narrative description of the cause thereof; and

(iii) In the event "off-setting benefits" are involved, these must be shown, along with a narrative explanation and the landowner shall be given a "person-to-person" explanation by the negotiator.

(8) If the property contain a dwelling, the value of said dwelling and homesite shall be set forth separately, with the statement that this figure will be used in calculating housing relocation benefits under title II of Pub. L. 91-646.

(9) If any building, structure, fixture, or other improvement, comprising part of the real property, has been identified as being owned by a tenant who has the right or obligation to remove it at the expiration of his term, the amount of the value of such building, structure, fixture, or other improvement, being the greater of:

(i) The amount which the tenant's improvement contributes to the fair market value of the real property to be acquired; or

(ii) The fair market value of the tenant's improvement for removal from the real property. The basis of such amount shall be included.

(c) Appraisal reports or the appraiser's analysis (complete breakdown of principal value elements) will not be revealed by the negotiator unless specifically authorized. Cases involving property for which the highest and best

use cannot be definitely established, and to which the exceptions mentioned in paragraph (a) of this section do not apply, will be reported to HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 for specific instructions. If the land is being donated, initial offers are not necessary, and the appraisal will be significant in negotiations only when considering the conditions under which the donation is made as, for example, an agreed valuation for tax purposes. Negotiations will be based on current market values, which normally means that last offers will be based on appraisals not over six months old. Exceptions will be required in instances of rapid escalation of values when the appraisal is quickly outdated or in instances of a relatively static market or other condition resulting in a minimal change in property values. In such cases an explanation will be necessary.

(d) *Exceptions*—(1) *Corps Employees*. If an employee of the Corps of Engineers has a direct interest in a tract of land being acquired by the Corps for public use, the tract will be acquired by condemnation. In cases of this nature, appraisal reports should be prepared, reviewed and forwarded together with a declaration of taking, with the condemnation assembly. The negotiator's report, of course, will not be included. The Department of Justice will be requested to handle all further matters pertaining to settlement or trial of the case. The Department of Justice has agreed to accept full responsibility for negotiations and approval of settlements or awards in such cases, without contacting any Corps personnel other than the owner of the interests being acquired.

(2) *Members of Congress*. Since, under 18 U.S.C. 431 and 432, members of Congress who hold interests in land that is required for project purposes cannot contract for sale of such interests to the Government, these interests will also be acquired by condemnation. Negotiations for acquisition by purchase or for settlement without trial cannot be conducted by officers or agents of the United States. The determination of just compensation must be made by judicial proceedings. Appraisal reports and the condemnation assembly should

be prepared and forwarded as set forth in paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(e) *Negotiating Guidelines*. (1) The negotiator should be thoroughly familiar with the Division and District negotiating guidelines and should study the background data of the project, consisting of the authorizing act, survey report, project document, design memoranda, etc.; the applicable appraisal reports; tract ownership data; preliminary title certificates; and other related material. He should be entirely familiar with the project and the owner's individual property before initiating negotiations.

(2) The owner shall be provided with available brochures which explain the project and the Pub. L. 91-646 benefits, together with the written statement and summary required by §644.83(b). The negotiator should explain to the landowner the Government's requirement for the land, the amount of land required, the estate(s) to be acquired, the terms and conditions of the Government's contract form, and the fact that relocation assistance benefits may be available. He should furnish the landowner a copy of a map indicating the boundaries of that portion of his land to be acquired, where the entire ownership is not being acquired or where different estates are being acquired in the same ownership, specifying the estate in each area.

(3) Negotiations will be continued in an effort to obtain acceptance of the Government's offer or a reasonable counteroffer from the landowner, or until it is definitely determined that such a counteroffer will not be forthcoming. It is not intended that negotiations be continued until an unacceptable counteroffer is finally obtained. However, in an effort to obtain a reasonable counteroffer above the Government's estimate, the negotiator will, if necessary, take the initiative in suggesting a series of prices within a range which, in accord with the guidelines discussed in §644.84, has been predetermined to be reasonable.

(4) The interest of both owners and tenants must be considered and protected. The tenant is a proper party to the transaction, and every effort must be made to obtain the consent of the landowner and tenant as to the price to

be paid to the tenant for his leasehold interest. This can be accomplished by the tenant's execution of ENG Form 1564, Consent to Offer to Sell Real Property, which shall then accompany the owner's offer to sell. In cases where the tenant executes this form, payment for the tenant's interest can be made to him in the closing of the purchase transaction. This procedure will be followed whenever possible. An exception is permitted in those cases where the landowner and tenant prefer to handle the matter as a private transaction between themselves. In such cases, it should be determined that a satisfactory agreement has been made by the landowner and tenant. Consideration should be given to any interest which the tenant may have in growing crops. This procedure is also applicable to any third party having an interest in the property, except through severance of a subsurface estate.

(5) Negotiations with landowners will be conducted in a fair and courteous manner. The negotiator must not, under any circumstances, resort to coercion or threats of condemnation.

(6) The negotiator has no authority to obligate the Government in any manner beyond the contract form. He must refrain from oral promises or understandings and include all terms and conditions in the contract form.

(7) Although appraisal reports cannot be made available for inspection by a landowner, the various elements of value considered by the appraisers may, and should, be discussed with the landowner to satisfy him that all elements of compensable values and damages have been considered in arriving at an overall value for the property being acquired. Care will be exercised during any discussion not to reveal specific amounts related to any elements considered in the appraisal, except the acquisition cost assigned to the dwelling for purpose of calculating replacement housing payment under section 203, Pub. L. 91-646.

(8) Any interest in a tract of land sought to be acquired, or any type of relationship with the owner, disqualifies the negotiator from participating in negotiations for the acquisition of that particular tract.

(9) An appraiser is not, under any circumstances, permitted to negotiate for the acquisition of a tract of land for which he has prepared the appraisal or reviewed it as reviewing appraiser.

(f) *Discussions With Landowners.* In order to avoid the creation of negotiating patterns, and keeping in mind that counteroffers must be justified as being just and reasonable, discussions with landowners should be conducted without disclosing the extent of the delegations and redelegations of authority to accept counteroffers. However, during negotiations on individual tracts, the landowners must be advised that, in the event of condemnation, the deposit will be in an amount no less than the approved appraised value, since the question of value cannot be resolved by negotiations. It must further be made clear that this advice is not in the nature of a threat, but is an explanation of the statement of policy directed by the Congress and the law. The negotiator will also inform each owner that offers and counteroffers made during negotiations are made without prejudice in the event of condemnation. The negotiator will make a notation on the Negotiator's Report to the effect that he has so informed the owner.

(g) *Obtaining the Written Counteroffer; Preparation of Negotiator's Report.* If the negotiator considers that a counteroffer in excess of the approved appraised value is in the amount which should be considered for acceptance, the counteroffer will be reduced to writing on ENG Form 42, Offer to Sell Real Property, or on ENG Form 2970, Offer to Sell Easement, and be properly executed by the landowner. In such cases, a complete written record of negotiations with respect to each tract or ownership, as appropriate, will be maintained by means of ENG Form 3423, Negotiator's Report, Part I. This record will state the chronological history of negotiations, all elements considered in evaluating the landowner's final counteroffer, and the justification for such recommendation in accordance with §644.84. The justification will be fully recorded in ENG Form 3423A, Negotiator's Report, Part II, which is a separate page of this report, and which will be removed in the Office of the Chief of Engineers prior to submitting

the counteroffer assembly to higher authority for approval. Final action on the counteroffer, either by the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Engineers or under the delegated authority to Division and District Engineers, will be entered on this record as soon as that information is available.

**§ 644.84 Counteroffers.**

(a) *Consideration of Counteroffers.* In negotiations with landowners, if agreement cannot be reached with a landowner as to the purchase price established by the appraisal, the lowest price demanded by the landowner may be considered by the Division and District Engineer, and the Chief of the Real Estate Division, on the basis of the following factors:

(1) *Variations in Appraisals.* In the usual case, the Corps will have the opinion of only one appraiser with respect to the market value of the particular tract of land. It must be recognized that the opinion of a second equally competent appraiser might be higher or lower than that of the appraiser who appraised the property. Hence in considering counteroffers of landowners, Division and District Engineers should keep in mind that two equally competent appraisals may reflect reasonably divergent opinions of value as to the same property. Instances requiring two appraisals are covered in § 644.82(d).

(2) *Built-in Costs, Prior Counteroffers, Settlements and Liability Risks of Proceeding to Trial.* It is recognized that there are certain Government administrative costs and liability risks involved when property is condemned by the United States and the land value is judicially determined. These items are definite in character but the attendant costs will vary. "Built-in" costs of proceeding to trial include, but are not limited to, the following items: Salaries of all Government personnel participating in trial preparation, pre-trial hearings, and the actual trial; cost of an additional appraisal(s); witness fees of contract appraisers employed by the Corps of Engineers or the Department of Justice; travel costs of all Government personnel and consultants participating in trial preparation, pre-trial hearings, and the actual trial;

and cost of preparing trial documents and exhibits. Consideration should also be given to prior counteroffers which have been accepted and settlements approved prior to trial. "Liability risks" of proceeding to trial are the amount of the anticipated award over and above the appraised value, taking into consideration probable testimony on behalf of the Government and the landowners, as well as the history of condemnation awards in the Federal court jurisdiction in which the lands are located, and the amount of interest on a deficiency judgment which would result from the anticipated award. Serious consideration of the above factors may justify a recommendation for authority to accept a counteroffer which otherwise would appear to liberal.

(3) *Non-Compensable Elements of Value.* Elements of value based on consequential damages or speculative values, as defined by the Federal courts, may not be recognized in considering a landowner's counteroffer. However, even though a landowner's counteroffer might include non-compensable items of value, favorable consideration of the counteroffer may be given if it can be justified on the basis of variances in appraisals, built-in costs, and liability risks of proceeding to trial.

(4) *Value of Reserved Items.* The salvage value of improvements and the value of crops and/or timber reserved by the landowners, as provided in § 644.86 (g), (h), and (i), will not be included in the amount of the counteroffer in determining the excess of counteroffers over appraised values when applying the dollar and percentage limitations in the delegations of authority to Division and District Engineers for acceptance of counteroffers. The determination of the excess will be made on the basis of the appraised value of the interests being acquired (including the value of the reserved items) compared to the cash payment which will be made to the landowner if the Government accepts his counteroffer. However, this method of analyzing the counteroffer is intended for use only in determining the limitations of authority. The overall transaction must be in the interest of the United States and not afford an unwarranted windfall to the vendor.

(b) *Application and Limits of Delegated Authority.* The negotiating procedures outlined herein will apply to all acquisitions by the Corps of Engineers for the Army (military and civil), Air Force, Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and other Federal agencies which utilize the services of the Corps for acquisition of real estate. Delegations of authority to Division and District Engineers and to the Chiefs of their Real Estate Divisions to accept offers in excess of the appraised valuation have been made. Offers which do not exceed the approved appraised value may be accepted by authorized Division and District personnel regardless of the amount. Other offers will be handled as outlined in the paragraphs which follow.

(c) *Exercise of Delegated Authority.* The approval of a counteroffer over the appraised value, but within the authority redelegated to Divisions and Districts, will be evidenced by the Division Engineer, the District Engineer, the Chief of the Real Estate Division, or the incumbent of the position to which redelegations have been made, in one of the following manners:

(1) Manually accepting, on behalf of the United States, the offer to sell, as provided in §644.87; or

(2) Manually executing a dated notation of approval of the purchase price, to be placed in the tract file, preferably on the original of the Negotiator's Report (§644.83(g)).

(d) *Submission of Counteroffers to the Chief of Engineers.* Recommendations for the grant of authority to accept counteroffers which are considered reasonable, but which cannot be accepted by the Division Engineer, the District Engineer, or the Chief of the Real Estate Division, within the limitations of delegated authority, will be submitted to HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 for consideration. Negotiator's Reports, prepared in accordance with §644.83(g) will accompany this submission; the contents thereof need not be repeated in the transmittal letter or in forwarding indorsements. The assembly will consist of the forwarding correspondence and the Negotiator's Report, with any additional material needed to support the recommendation

of the Division and District Engineer. An analysis should be made of this offer as compared with other counteroffers accepted for the project, as well as with results in condemnation cases settled before trial. Signed offers will not be forwarded unless they contain deviations requiring approval by the Chief of Engineers. Appraisal reports are helpful and may be necessary reference for proper consideration of the recommendation. In the event the appraisal report was approved by HQDA (DAEN-REA), the forwarding letter should refer to the approval correspondence and data. It will not be necessary to enclose copies of the appraisal report. Where only a portion of an ownership is required, information should be furnished in the Negotiator's Report or in the transmittal correspondence (1) as to whether or not the remainder portion is considered to be an uneconomic remnant and (2) if so, as to whether or not an offer was made to acquire the entire property. Further, a statement is required as to whether or not it is considered that the acquisition will have any adverse effect on the acquisition of the remaining land required for the project.

#### **§644.85 General negotiation procedures.**

(a) *Provisions of Military Construction Appropriation Act.* (1) Section 108 of the Military Construction Appropriation (MCA) Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-101) provides that no part of the funds provided in the Act shall be used for purchase of land or easements in excess of the value as determined by the Corps of Engineers, except:

(i) Where there is a determination of value by a Federal Court; or

(ii) Purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or his designee; or

(iii) Where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or

(iv) As otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

(2) The above wording, except for paragraph (a)(1)(iv) of this section, constitutes a limitation on accepting or submitting a recommendation for approval of a counteroffer in excess of the appraised value. Paragraph (a)(1)(iv) brings military acquisition within the

general acquisition policy required under Pub. L. 91-646. Future MCA Acts should be carefully examined to determine if any limitations on acquisition have been restored.

(b) *Local Cooperation Projects.* The participation of a non-Federal agency in a federally-assisted project will be in accord with section 221 of Pub. L. 91-611 and subpart J (to be published). Acquisition of real property by a non-Federal agency will be in accord with sections 210 and 305 of Pub. L. 91-646 and this chapter.

(c) *Negotiations on the Basis of Ownership; "Package-Deal" Negotiations.* (1) Normally, negotiations for all interests in all tracts which are being acquired from one parent ownership will be negotiated at one time. These tracts will usually consist of all those to which the same basic tract number has been assigned. Exceptions may be made only where negotiations for some of the tracts in a series must be accomplished to obtain possession, or for other critical reasons. Piecemeal acquisition must be avoided if at all possible.

(2) When more than one tract is operated by the owner as a unit, negotiations should take place on the two or more tracts or groups of tracts, whether or not they bear the same basic tract number.

(3) In cases where an owner insists on a "package-deal" negotiation on all tracts in the same ownership, or having at least one common owner, the negotiations will be considered as one transaction.

(4) Tracts which are in the same ownership, but which are not operated as a unit, should, unless the owner desires otherwise, be negotiated separately, on the basis of the separate appraisals which would be prepared in this type of case.

(5) Under paragraphs (c)(1), (2), and (3) of this section, the limitations of authority to accept counteroffers will be applied to the entire transaction.

(d) *Acquisition by Condemnation if Negotiations Fail.* As soon as it is determined that a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached after full consideration of all reasonable counteroffers received, action will be promptly taken to acquire the property by condemnation proceedings, including the filing of

a declaration of taking, in order to make funds available to the landowner and to maintain the project acquisition schedule. The landowner should be advised in writing, sufficiently in advance of the submission of the condemnation assembly to the Chief of Engineers, that condemnation proceedings will be recommended and the reason therefor. Condemnation assemblies will include copies of the Negotiator's Reports or other written records of negotiations. The estimated compensation to be deposited in the registry of the Federal District Court with the filing of a declaration of taking will be in the amount of the approved appraisal.

#### **§ 644.86 Exceptions and reservations.**

(a) *General.* Prior to the enactment of Pub. L. 91-646, the Corps encompassed a very generous policy of priority leasing with respect to former owners and tenants, in order to ease the burden of people who had to relocate because of the Corps' projects. Recognizing the inadequacies of the well-intentioned attempts by acquiring agencies to make whole the former landowner or tenant, the Congress enacted Pub. L. 91-646 which was approved on January 2, 1971. It would appear that the Congress intended that such law provide for the fair and equitable treatment of persons who are displaced, without having to rely on interim measures, such as priority leasing, to ease the inevitable relocation. In House Report 91-1656, the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives noted the likelihood that adequate housing may not be available readily and indicated this as its reason for including the provision in the law that satisfactory replacement housing must be available before displacement. In view of this, it is incumbent on the District Engineer to be opportune in seeking out replacement housing and to be judicious in the early relocation of owners and tenants before market changes eliminate any available supply of replacement homes. It is also essential that the District Engineer be diligent in providing the required relocation assistance advisory services and benefits authorized by the law.

(b) *Possession by Government.* It will be the objective of the District Engineer to have the premises vacated and to cause unneeded improvements to be removed at the earliest practicable date and conform to the Congressional intention expressed above. In addition to the above, reasons for this objective are:

- (1) To provide for the expeditious payment of benefits to former owners and tenants;
- (2) To complete administration of the actual relocation of owners and tenants in a timely manner;
- (3) To avoid maintenance and security problems with respect to acquired improvements;
- (4) To prevent vandalism, trespassing and poaching with respect to acquired improvements;
- (5) To avoid any implication that former owners or tenants may be permitted to remain indefinitely on the federally acquired property;
- (6) To cause land to be leased on the basis of the most practicable size and configuration rather than on the basis of the size of the units acquired;
- (7) To permit the general public to bid for the lease of federally owned land rather than restricting the privilege of leasing to the former owner or tenant; and
- (8) To avoid a backlog of incomplete actions when construction or flooding is imminent or the land is otherwise required.

(c) *Possession Reserved to Former Owners and Tenants.* It is considered that the policy of granting priority leases to former owners and tenants has been overridden by the enactment of Pub. L. 91-646. Accordingly, this policy is being phased out, and where applicable, the acquisition agreement will set forth the dates agreed upon for the vacation of the premises by the owner and tenant without commitments, express or implied, as to the leasing of the premises after such dates. Procedure for providing for vendor's continued possession after the Government's acquisition is covered in paragraph (l) of this section.

(d) *Outstanding Rights.* (1) When the United States is acquiring title subject to outstanding rights, the offer will differentiate between:

(i) Property which the vendor is excepting or rights which he is reserving and which are created for the first time; and

(ii) Rights which third parties have acquired in the past, generally referred to as outstanding rights in third parties.

(2) Exceptions or reservations of rights which the vendor may retain, without interfering with the construction or operation of the project, will be set forth in the offer and deed by a clause following the description, beginning with the words: "Excepting \* \* \*" or "Reserving \* \* \*." Any other outstanding rights, subject to which the United States is acquiring title, held by third parties will be set forth in the offer and deed by a clause, following the description, beginning with words, "Said premises are conveyed subject to \* \* \*." Negotiations with the surface owner will include the owner's interest in the subsurface, unless acquisition of a lesser interest has been authorized by directive or specific approvals. These negotiations will not include interest severed and outstanding in third parties by purchase or lease, unless the surface owner agrees to remove the outstanding interest or agrees to obtain a subordination from the holder of the outstanding interest if that is consistent with the acquisition plan. If negotiations with the surface owner are successful, an Offer to Sell will be obtained, reciting the outstanding interest in the "Subject to" paragraph of the form, unless the surface owner has agreed to remove the outstanding interest (or obtain a subordination, if appropriate), in which case the Offer to Sell must recite specifically that the surface owner is assuming this obligation. In order to carry out the requirements of this paragraph, the title evidence must be examined prior to negotiations or, in any event, prior to acceptance of the Offer to Sell.

(e) *Right to Repurchase Prohibited.* In no case will an offer be obtained in which the vendor reserves the right to repurchase the property. Such a reservation would be contrary to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of June 30, 1949, 63 Stat. 377, 40 U.S.C. 471, *et seq.*

(f) *General Reservation Guidelines.* (1) Reservations of the right to remove crops, timber, buildings, and improvements during a specified period will not be permitted without express approval of the Division or District Engineer on civil works projects, the Army or Air Force using service on military projects, or the Federal agency, if other than the Army or Air Force, for which the land is being acquired.

(2) At the time of the approval of the acquisition by the Chief of Engineers, a determination will generally have been made as to whether subsurface rights and/or water rights will be acquired or left outstanding. Acquisition will be on the basis of such determination and as outlined below. Lands will be acquired subject to minerals, oil and gas rights or other similar interests severed and outstanding in third parties by purchase or lease and as approved by the Chief of Engineers.

(3) Where it is not possible to acquire or subordinate an outstanding interest by negotiation and the interest will not interfere with the operation of the project, consideration may be given to obtaining a waiver from the Office of the Chief of Engineers on the basis of taking a calculated risk rather than resorting to condemnation (paragraph (k) of this section). Waivers will be considered on a tract-by-tract basis or on a project segment basis. Since such waivers involve several elements of the Office of the Chief of Engineers (Civil Works or Military Construction as well as Real Estate), the basis for the calculated risk must be fully explained.

(4) Concurrently with the negotiations to acquire from the surface owner, negotiations should be opened with the owner of the subsurface rights or other interests severed and outstanding in third parties by purchase or lease and required for the project, unless these interests are held in "block ownership." Block ownership exists where a person, corporation, or other entity owns subsurface or other interests in connection with more than one surface tract and in sufficient amount for the entire interest holding to have added value, for operational or other reasons, because it is in a block ownership. In other words, block ownership exists when the acquisition of a

part of the block would require the assessment of severance damage, even if the value of the interest or the amount of the severance damage would be in a nominal amount. On this basis, subsurface or other interests need not be contiguous to constitute a block ownership. Block ownership interests will not be acquired (or subordinated) piecemeal.

(5) Acquisition of the required interests, including subordination, held in block ownership should be started as soon as the extent of an operational unit is determined. As stated in paragraph (f)(4) of this section, all interests in a tract of land should be acquired at one time or as close in time as possible. Dual acquisitions of entire areas, one for surface rights and then for subsurface interests, should be avoided and acquisition of separate interests should be scheduled to coincide.

(g) *Reservation of Buildings and Improvements.* The reservation by vendors of the right to remove buildings and improvements will be permitted under the following conditions:

(1) Where the Division or District Engineer, in civil works projects, the using service in Army and Air Force projects, or the Federal agency, if other than the Army or Air Force, for which the land is being acquired, has determined that they will not be needed for the purpose of the project;

(2) The consideration to the Government for the reservation will be an amount negotiated at not less than the appraised salvage value of the building and improvements which are reserved, and such amount will be deducted from the negotiated price at the time of negotiation prior to execution of the offer;

(3) Where a reservation is permitted, the following clause will be inserted in the offer, following the description of the land:

Excepting and reserving to the Vendor the right to remove (enter description of buildings) on or before ——— 19 —, which the Vendor agrees not to relocate on other land to be acquired for the project; provided, however, that, in the event that the said buildings and improvements are not completely removed on or before said date, the right of removal shall terminate automatically, and the United States shall have a good and indefeasible title to said buildings and improvements

which remain without notice to the Vendor; and provided further that, in the event said buildings and improvements are relocated on other land to be acquired for the project, the United States shall have good and indefeasible title to said buildings and improvements without notice or further compensation to the Vendor.

The date on which the buildings or improvements must be removed must be fixed so that there is no interference with construction or carrying out the mission of the project. The date for the removal should allow a reasonable time for removal of the improvements, usually not more than 90 days, except that for valid reasons the Division or District Engineer may grant an extension of time for removal. The right to remove such buildings cannot be prolonged indefinitely and certainly such right cannot survive the limited right of possession reserved to former owners and tenants as provided in paragraph (c) of this section.

(h) *Reservation of Growing Crops.* (1) The reservation by the owners of the right to harvest and remove growing crops should be encouraged in order to conserve land acquisition funds and to avoid the costs incident to disposal of crops by the Government, whenever there is a probability that possession of the land will not be required prior to the harvest season.

(2) Where a reservation is permitted, the following clause will be inserted in the offer, following the description of the land:

Reserving to the vendor the right to harvest all of the growing crops located on the above described land on or before \_\_\_\_ 19\_\_ . In the event the crops are not harvested on or before said date, the right of removal shall terminate automatically, and the United States shall have a good and indefeasible title to said crops, without notice to the vendor.

The date on which the crops must be removed must be fixed so that there is no interference with construction or carrying out the mission of the project.

(3) The consideration to the Government for the reservation will be an amount not less than the appraised value of the crops as of the date of surrender of possession as disclosed by an approved appraisal report, and such amount will be deducted from the pur-

chase price at the time of preparation and execution of the offer.

(4) Where a tenant has an interest in growing crops, the value of his interest must be fixed by use of ENG Form 1564, Consent to Offer to Sell Real Property, which provides that the value of the tenant's interest, as agreed upon by the landowner and tenant, will be paid from the purchase price for the land. The use of this form not only protects the tenant but, in addition, provides a simple method for extinguishing rights which the United States is legally bound to recognize. Where a tenant wishes to reserve the right to remove crops, it must be done in the name of the landowner, and in like manner. To accomplish the foregoing, any other form is satisfactory, in lieu of ENG Form 1564, as long as closing requirements are satisfied.

(i) *Reservation of Timber.* (1) The reservation of the right to remove timber by vendors will be permitted only with the express approval of the Division or District Engineer, with the concurrence of the using service in cases other than civil works projects of the Corps of Engineers.

(2) Reservation of the right to remove timber will be handled in substantially the same manner as that described for the reservation of buildings and improvements. If owned by a third party, ENG Form 1564 will be used in the same manner as for crops unless the timber interests are held in block ownerships. The consideration to the Government for the reservation will be an amount not less than the appraised value of the timber, giving full weight to any unusual difficulty in harvesting and transporting which are caused by the size, shape and location of the stand reserved, time limitations for removal, clearing requirements over the above those normally involved in prudent harvesting, and similar factors. If necessary, the stand reserved will be re-appraised on this basis. An amount not less than this appraised value will be deducted from the purchase price at the time of preparation and execution of the offer.

(3) Where a reservation is permitted, the following clause will be inserted in the offer following the description of the land:

Reserving to the vendor the right to cut and remove on or before ~~19~~, all trees in excess of  inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) located on the above-described land. In the event the timber is not removed on or before said date, the right of removal shall terminate automatically, and the United States shall have a good and indefeasible title to said timber, without notice to the vendor.

(j) *Coal, Oil, Gas or Other Minerals.* Acquisition of land or interests therein for project purposes will usually include the subsurface as well as the surface, except in areas where minerals have more than a nominal value. When the mineral, oil and gas rights have an identifiable value or are the subject of separate estates in the land, such mineral, oil and gas rights will not be acquired except where the development thereof would interfere with project purposes, but mineral rights not acquired will be subordinated to the Government's right to regulate their development in a manner that will not interfere with the primary purposes of the project, including public access, and not be inimicable to the environment. This is covered in more detail in subpart A. It is essential, however, in many acquisitions that the subsurface rights be acquired. In others, where these rights need not be extinguished, provision must be made in the offer the deed to subordinate such rights to project requirements, by excluding the owners of such rights from the area, or limiting exercise of such rights so that they will not interfere with the primary purposes of the project, including public access. The following guidelines are applicable in these cases:

(1) Where it has been determined that subsurface rights in the vendor, or outstanding in third parties, must be acquired, extinguished or subordinated, such arrangements will be made in the course of obtaining an offer for the surface or subsurface interests. Where the negotiations for acquisition, extinguishment or subordination of subsurface rights will be delayed, and it is considered advisable to proceed with surface acquisition to keep pace with project requirements, appropriate recommendations and justification will be submitted to HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 for approval.

(2) If the owners of the surface and subsurface rights are agreeable, the separate interests can be acquired in a single transaction by use of ENG Form 1564, Consent to Offer to Sell Real Property. This method is the most desirable one, and, if used, the purchase price in the offer will cover both the surface and subsurface interests and the offer will not be taken "subject to" the subsurface rights.

(3) Subordination of the subsurface interest based upon the value of the minerals in place and which will allow continued production by the mineral owner or lessee must be pursuant to such terms as will safeguard the Government's interest and preclude a windfall to the mineral owner or lessee. Value of the minerals in place will not exceed the recoverable portion of said minerals using agreed upon production methods. See Subpart A for detailed treatment in the section pertaining primarily to Real Estate Design Memoranda.

(4) When the third-party owner of subsurface rights refuses to enter into an agreement as contemplated in paragraph (j)(2) of this section, the title to the surface estate may be acquired separately, and the subsurface rights outstanding in third parties acquired as a separate transaction. The offer for the acquisition of the surface estate will provide for the conveyance of all interests of the surface owner in and to the subsurface estate, as well as all surface rights, and provide for taking "subject to" the subsurface rights outstanding in third parties. In such cases, the negotiations described in §644.83 will be conducted on the basis of the approved appraisal, less the appraised value of the outstanding subsurface rights.

(5) Where it has been determined that the subsurface rights and interests therein need not be acquired, but the owners of such rights must be excluded from the area, and the owner of the surface is the owner of the subsurface estate, the offer will contain a clause providing that he relinquish, for the period that title to the tract is vested in the Government, all rights to enter upon the lands covered by the offer or that he will limit entry and exploration in a named manner so as not to interfere with the operation of the

project. If third parties own subsurface rights or interests, a similar waiver of the exercise of such rights must be procured from all third parties having any interest in the subsurface estate, whether as lessees or assignees. The waiver by third parties must be obtained at the time the offer is procured for the surface estate, unless these subsurface interests are held in block ownership.

(k) *Title Exceptions—Administrative Waivers.* (1) A distinction should be made between those title defects, objections, liens or encumbrances which, if not eliminated, might possibly defeat or adversely affect the Government's title, and those interests in the property owned by parties other than the grantor. All encumbrances, defects, and outstanding interests which cannot be waived under paragraphs (k) (2), (3), and (4) of this section must be eliminated or a waiver of the defect secured from the Attorney General.

(2) Title may be taken subject to an outstanding third party interest which has been administratively waived. Requests for administrative waivers shall be submitted to HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 for consideration, together with recommendations from Division and District Engineers. The recommendation for waiver should be coordinated with the using agency, if other than Department of the Army land (military or civil works), and should be accompanied by a certificate signed by the Chief, Real Estate Division or the Chief Appraiser, certifying that the outstanding interest has no contributory value to the estate being acquired and will not interfere with the purpose for which the property is being acquired.

(3) It has previously been administratively determined that all lands for Department of the Army (military or civil works) or Air Force projects may be acquired "subject to existing easements for public roads, public highways, public utilities, railroads and pipelines," and "to the reservations, exceptions and any other outstanding rights contained in or referred to in patents issued by the United States," and also "to water rights, claims or title to water, if any, or other similar title exceptions." A decision as to

whether any of these exceptions should be eliminated is the responsibility of the Division or District Engineer, after coordination with the using service if other than the Department of the Army. If such interests are to be left outstanding, they should be included in the "subject to" clause of the Offer to Sell.

(4) Offers to Sell may be accepted subject to subsurface mineral interests owned by third parties in accordance with §644.86(d). In such case, the "subject to" clause of the Offer to Sell should recite the specific interest which is being left outstanding. Where it is not possible to acquire or subordinate an outstanding subsurface interest by negotiations and the outstanding interest will not interfere with construction, operation or maintenance of the project, consideration may be given to obtaining a waiver from HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 on the basis of taking a calculated risk rather than resorting to condemnation. Such waivers may be considered on a tract-by-tract, segment-by-segment, or project basis. Where a number of small mineral interests in a project are to be recommended for waiver, it is preferable that the recommendation be submitted on an entire project or group of segments at one time. Such a recommendation should specifically identify the subsurface mineral interests which are to be left outstanding, together with the estimated value of each interest, and should be accompanied by a map(s) on which the areas affected by the outstanding interests have been outlined. The basis for the calculated risk should be explained fully.

(l) *Possession Reserved to Vendor.* (1) The objective in acquisition is to obtain possession for project purposes at the earliest practicable time. It is recognized, however, that there are occasions when possession by the Government may be delayed and provision must be made for continued possession by the former owner in order to meet the requirements of the Government's acquisition policy and to further soften the impact of the Government's acquisition. The retention of possession will enable the owner-occupant of farm land, or residential property, to receive

his purchase money and remove improvements reserved by him, and permit occupants who may be former owners or tenants the privilege of harvesting growing crops and sufficient time to relocate to other locations. Accordingly, the Division or District Engineer may make provision for the former owner, occupant, and/or his tenant(s) to remain in possession of the land under the terms and conditions as follows:

(i) If the tract is to be acquired by direct purchase, the provision for retention will be written into the offer (ENG Form 42, ENG Form 2970, or ENG Form 1564) and will read substantially as follows:

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph — of this offer, (and/or consent to option) the occupant (vendor and/or his tenant) now in possession of the property, in consideration of the protection and maintenance of the land, buildings, and structures, and protection of the property against loss by fire, waste, or other causes, to which the occupant hereby agrees, reserves the right to occupy the property until ———. Such occupancy is subject to revocation by the (Division) (District) Engineer at any time by giving — days notice in writing to the occupant if possession of the property is required by the United States; and provided further that the vendor-occupant or his tenant will remove no improvements or timber unless otherwise provided herein.

(ii) When the tract is to be acquired by condemnation, the circumstances of the right to remain in possession, which has been established as herein-after set forth, will be fully described in the correspondence forwarding the condemnation assembly to HQDA (DAEN-REA-C) WASH DC 20314. The retention of possession without payment of rent is directed to the benefit of the occupant of the property with some property maintenance consideration to the Government. This procedure will not be used to permit non-occupant owners a means of retaining possession without payment of rent and at the same time collect cash rents or unreserved crop rents from tenants.

(iii) When the land being acquired is utilized by the owner and/or tenant for agricultural or related purposes, a period of possession may be allowed, if consistent with project requirements, to permit the crop owner to harvest

growing crops, and to avoid abrupt dislocations. The period of possession reserved in the offer, or for which request for the order of the court is deferred in declaration of taking cases, should generally be co-extensive with the crop season or the date that, by custom in the community, leases of such properties ordinarily expire: *Provided, however,* That such period does not exceed 12 months from the date title vests in the Government. Reservation of possession or delay in entry of order of possession that will interfere with the Government's requirements for use of the land will not be allowed.

(iv) In the case of owner-occupied residential property other than farm residences, possession may be permitted for a sufficient time to allow orderly relocation, but no longer than 12 months after title vests in the Government.

(v) In connection with the acquisition of commercial, industrial, tenant-occupied residential property other than residences occupied by farm tenants, and special use properties, ordinarily the procedures of reserving possession to the vendor by a clause in the offer, or deferring the right to possession under a declaration of taking proceeding, should not be utilized. In such cases, after title vests in the United States, the continued possession of the property by vendor or tenant should be formalized by an outlease from the Government. However, if in the opinion of the Division and District Engineer a reservation for possession in the offer or deferral of order of possession is desirable in certain instances from a public relations standpoint or for other compelling reasons, such cases will be forwarded to HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 for consideration.

(vi) The reservation of use and occupancy in the vendor and/or tenant under the terms of the offer or deferment of possession must be based on adequate consideration to the Government. It is anticipated, however, that items such as the vendor's maintenance of the land, buildings, and structures, his protection of the property against loss by fire, waste, or other causes, and the fact that his possession can be revoked within a short period of time, will, in most instances,

offset any rental for the period of the reserved occupancy or deferred possession which might otherwise be due. However, if possession is reserved by the vendor in the acquisition of commercial, industrial, and special use properties, or other type of property having a potentially high income factor, the fair rental value for the period of reserved use or deferred possession must be deducted from the agreed purchase price.

(vii) Special provisions for protection of the Government, such as those appearing in ENG Form 1366, Department of the Army Lease—River and Harbor or Flood Control Property, will be added to the reservation clause in the offer in cases where, in the opinion of the Division or District Engineer, they are necessary or desirable. If the case is not to be closed by direct purchase, the letter to the vendor notifying him of the Government's intention to file a declaration of taking will set forth the fact that possession is to be deferred and for what period, and will contain a statement as to the Government's expectation that the vendor will properly maintain and protect the premises, and perform such other acts (or refrain from such acts) as deemed advisable by the Division or District Engineer. Both the letter of notice and the reservation clause in the offer will provide that the right to possession may be revoked on 30 days notice to the vendor.

(2) It is recognized that farmers may experience difficulty in finding substitute farms needed for their livelihood within one year, and other owners and tenants may encounter difficulty in relocating within one year. Therefore, the District Engineer, as an exception to the procedure in paragraph (l)(1) of this section may lease properties to former owners or tenants at the fair market rental value for up to one additional year where the circumstances justify such action, and, in such event, the record will contain the reasons justifying the action. Any occupancy by the former owner or tenant beyond 12 months from the date the property was acquired by the Government will be covered by a lease and will provide payment of the fair market rental value of the property leased.

(3) The District Engineer, through channels, may request the Chief of Engineers to grant exceptions to this policy where unusual circumstances warrant such consideration. In keeping with the intent of this action, it is hoped that such cases will be minimal in number.

(4) The following will apply with respect to advance land acquisition projects. Former owners and tenants whose properties were acquired *prior to August 1, 1972* will be allowed to remain on the property by lease on a year-to-year basis until the establishment of a land management use plan and thereafter, if the property is available for leasing, for a single five-year term. Former owners and tenants whose properties are acquired *after August 1, 1972* will be allowed to remain on the property by lease on a year-to-year basis until construction commences: *Provided*, The property is available for leasing. After construction commences, if the property is not immediately required for project purposes, such former owners or tenants will be allowed to remain on the property by lease for an additional two years. Continued possession of properties acquired after the date construction commences will be governed by the procedure outlined in paragraph (l)(1) of this section.

(m) *Schools, Cemeteries, and Facilities of State and Local Governments*. ER 1180-1-1, Section 73, provides for the discretionary relocation by the Chief of Engineers of schools and other local governmental facilities, and acquisition of the sites under section 111 of Pub. L. 85-500. Section 73 will be followed in the acquisition and relocation of cemeteries. Where the school was formerly a part of an abutting tract, offers for the abutting tracts will contain a clause whereby the vendor or vendors agree to quitclaim all right, title, and interest whether vested or reversionary, in and to the school site in executing the deed to the United States.

(n) *Reservations Prior to Completion of Offer*. Where immediate possession of areas is necessary and is obtained by right-of-entry or the filing of condemnation proceedings, owners often wish to move, taking with them buildings and improvements, or wish to harvest timber or crops, prior to any offer