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Government-owned land, or otherwise.'' Title 10 U.S.C. 2662a–4 provides that a transfer of real property owned by the United States to another Federal agency or another military department or to a state must be reported to the Committees on Armed Services if the estimated value of the property is more than $50,000. A prerequisite to any acquisition by exchange is authority for the acquisition.

(2) *Civil works.* The authority to exchange land or other Government property for private lands or property in execution of an authorized river and harbor or flood control work or improvement is found in 33 U.S.C. 558b and 558b–1.

(3) *Coordination with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).* OMB requests that each proposal to use Government-owned property in a land acquisition exchange be cleared with the appropriate Associate Director of OMB. Disposal actions where exchange through the authority of the General Services Administration or specific legislation is envisioned will be cleared with OMB prior to filing a disposal report pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2662. A draft letter to the Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget will be submitted to HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 stating the requirement for the new acquisition, the description of the property to be excessed, its estimated fair market value, and a justification for the exchange of that property as constituting its highest and best use. OMB clearance will be required before disposal reports outlining exchange proposals are filed with the Congress.

INVOLUNTARY ACQUISITION BY THE UNITED STATES

§ 644.101 General.

This Section describes procedures of the Corps of Engineers relating to the involuntary acquisition of land and interests in land on the basis of a physical appropriation or use by the United States. It is applicable to all Division and District Engineers having real estate responsibilities.

§ 644.102 Examples of involuntary acquisitions.

While the Secretary of the Army and Secretary of the Air Force have no authority to acquire interests in real property except under express authorization and appropriation made by Congress, the Government may, nevertheless, in the performance of an authorized act involuntarily acquire an interest in real property, for which the owner is entitled to just compensation. Whenever a plaintiff successfully prosecutes litigation which establishes that an interest in real property has been taken, the interest so taken should be confirmed in the form of a grant, wherever possible. The instrument should be recorded in the public land records and permanently retained in the real estate files, as evidence of the interest taken and as a protection against possible future claims of purchasers for value without notice. No employee or representative of the Corps of Engineers shall intentionally make it necessary for an owner to institute legal proceedings to prove the fact of the taking of his property, as prescribed by Pub. L. 91–646. Examples of involuntary acquisition are:

(a) Damage to real property caused by flooding, saturation, seepage, erosion, or other causes arising out of the construction, operation, or maintenance of an authorized project.

(b) Damage as a result of overflights of aircraft.

(c) Other instances where Government actions result in a restriction of the use of property.

§ 644.103 Litigation Reports.

In those cases where a landowner files suit alleging that the Government took his property or an interest therein, a litigation report should be furnished in accordance with ER 1180–1–1. Litigation reports will be submitted in quadruplicate in cases involving military installations, and in triplicate in cases involving civil works. District and Division Engineers will furnish an additional copy direct to the local United States Attorney in actions in a United States District Court. In addition to the information required by ER

1180–1–1, there will be furnished preliminary certificates of title to properties subject to the taking, covering a period of search of at least 25 years prior to initiation of the action, and indicating the date of acquisition of the plaintiff's interest. Certificates may be procured commercially, or may be prepared by a staff attorney.

(a) *Avigation easements.* Reports on actions alleging the taking of an avigation easement should include the following information together with supporting exhibits:

(1) Permanency of the installation and its designated use;

(2) Dates of commencement of use of the runway involved and of each extension thereof;

(3) Date of commencement of takeoffs and landings by regularly assigned aircraft of the type (identify) causing the taking;

(4) Frequency and actual height of flight of the particular aircraft over some portion of plaintiff's property;

(5) Any applicable zoning regulations affecting use of the property;

(6) A drawing at an approximate scale of 1″ to 400′ showing the location and length of the present runway, its original length, and each extension, and also showing the location of plaintiff's property with relation to the approach-departure zone of the runway and the longitudinal distance in feet, measured along the extended center line from the end of the runway and the lateral distance measured perpendicular to the extended center line, of the plaintiff's property and of any dwellings thereon.

(7) A vertical projection of the drawing at an approximate scale 1″ to 100′ showing the approach-departure clearance surface at the specified slope ratio and the mean sea level heights of the end of the runway and of the plaintiff's property and any dwellings thereon; and

(8) Name of the person qualified to testify concerning preparation of the drawing.

(b) *Clearance easements.* Litigation reports on actions alleging the taking of a clearance easement will contain the following:

(1) Details of any prior acquisition of clearance easements over the same property;

(2) Statement as to any outstanding clearance easement directives, including criteria for approach and transition zones, status of negotiations, and copies of appraisal reports;

(3) Statement that all acquisition of clearance easements has been stopped, unless their prompt acquisition is necessary to provide for current flight operation; and

(4) Recommendation that there be included in the estate, in the event of settlement, provisions for the clearance of existing obstructions and prohibition against future obstructions, provided that circumstances will permit a delay in the acquistion of a clearance easement until completion of the litigation.

(c) *Appraisal reports.* Appraisal reports will be submitted to HQDA (DAEN-REE) WASH DC 20314 after the Department of Justice has determined the date (or dates) of taking. These reports will reflect the ''before'' and ''after'' values of the property, based on the assumption that the United States acquired an easement on that date (or dates).

§ 644.104 Procurement of deed and title assembly.

In any case in which the Court determines that the United States has taken an interest in real property, the Department of Justice will attempt to have included in the findings and in the judgment a precise description of the interests taken. An attempt will also be made to provide in the judgment that payment by the United States will not be required until the plaintiff has delivered a deed or other acceptable conveyance of the interest taken.

(a) *Preparation of instrument.* Upon receipt from the Department of Justice of information as to the nature of the settlement which has been reached, a deed will be prepared, drafted in accordance with § 644.70, covering the estate provided in the judgment.

(b) *Execution and recording of deed.* The Division or District Engineer will obtain proper execution of the deed,

record the same, procure a final certificate of title of a commercial title company or a staff attorney, and obtain a final title opinion pursuant to the provisions of the Delegation to the Department of the Army for the Approval of the Title to Lands Being Acquired for Federal Public Purposes, dated December 4, 1970, and issued by the Assistant Attorney General, Land and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice. The title assembly and final title opinion should be forwarded to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314, with information copy of transmittal letter to Division Engineer.

(c) *Notification to the Department of Justice.* If the recorded deed and the final certificate of title are not readily available, the Division or District Engineer will notify the Land and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice by letter, with a copy to the appropriate United States Attorney, that the deed has been properly executed and delivered by the plaintiff and has been entered for record in order that settlement will not be delayed.

(d) *Disposition of final title assembly, mapping, and audit.* When a final title opinion has been obtained, the Division or District Engineer will assign a tract number to the areas in which the interest has been acquired, will add the tract to the project map, and will transmit the final title opinion and related papers to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314. The tract will be included in the audit of the installation to which it pertains. Audits will be revised for this purpose, if necessary. The amount of the judgment received by the plaintiff will be shown in the audit assembly, with a proper notation that it represents the amount of the judgment entered in the litigation, which will be identified in the audit by its civil number, and by designation of the Court in which it was rendered. A copy or abstract of the judgment will be inserted in the District Office audit assembly, identified as follows:

Directive by judicial decree for the acquisition of Tract No. ; being an easement (or other interest), containing ____ acres.

(e) *Action in lieu of confirmatory deed.* Where a confirmatory deed cannot be obtained, the Division or District Engineer will obtain from the Clerk of the Court a copy of the final judgment (or an appropriately excerpted copy of the final judgment), acknowledged or properly certified to permit recordation in the local land records. The Division or District Engineer will record same and later transmit the appropriate title assembly to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314. If the final judgment does not contain language which clearly vests title in the United States of the interest in land for which compensation was paid, request should be made of the United States Attorney to move the Court to amend the judgment to show that such title has vested.

ACQUISITION BY CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS

SOURCE: Sections 644.111 through 644.121 appear at 44 FR 8184, Feb. 8, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 644.111 General.

Sections 644.111 through 644.121 describe the procedures of the Corps of Engineers relating to the acquisition of real estate and interests therein by condemnation proceedings. It is applicable to the Office of the Chief of Engineers (OCE) and to all Division and District Engineers having real estate responsibilities.

§ 644.112 Applicable statutes in condemnation proceedings.

A complaint in condemnation, and any declaration of taking filed in conjunction therewith, will contain a citation of the congressional authorization and appropriation acts for the particular project, and any other applicable acts of Congress. Existing acts of Congress authorizing the acquisition of land and interests therein are outlined in AR 405–10 and subpart A. Acts of Congress applicable, generally, to condemnation proceedings are outlined below.

(a) *Military projects.* (1) Act of Congress approved August 1, 1888 (25 Stat. 357, 40 U.S.C. 257) authorizes the head of any Government department or agency to acquire real estate, otherwise authorized for acquisition, by condemnation proceedings.

(2) Section 2663 of title 10, United States Code, authorizes the Secretary