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Subpart A—Project Planning

§ 644.1 Preface.

Subpart A sets out basic procedures to be followed in planning and scheduling for the acquisition of lands in connection with Military and Civil Works projects. It is not intended to be taken as absolute, without modification, but more as a guide to insure all aspects involved and potential problems are fully considered in planning for the acquisition of additional lands. Proper planning in the initial stages of any project can and should eliminate unnecessary delays during the acquisition phase.

CIVIL WORKS

§ 644.2 General.

(a) *Purpose.* Sections 644.2 through 644.8 describe the authorities and procedures of the Corps of Engineers relating to real estate planning and project authorization for the acquisition of land and interests therein for all water resource projects.

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

(c) *River and harbor and flood control projects*—(1) *River and Harbor Projects.* The Act of Congress approved April 24, 1888 (33 U.S.C. 591) authorizes acquisition of land for river and harbor purposes. These include the construction, operation, maintenance and improvement of both natural and artificial waterways, the construction of locks and dams, dikes, bulkheads, jetties, revetment and other bank protection works, and spoil disposal dikes and retaining structures for construction and maintenance. Unless otherwise specified by Congress, local interests furnish, free of cost to the United States, all lands, easements and rights-of-way required for initial construction, operation and subsequent maintenance. A cash contribution may also be required if enhancement of land values results from disposal of spoil dredged from project areas (ER 1150–2–301 and EM 1120–2–101).

(2) *Flood control projects.* The Act of Congress approved March 1, 1917 (33 U.S.C. 701) authorizes acquisition of land for flood control purposes, and section 2 of the Act of Congress approved June 28, 1938, as amended (33 U.S.C. 701c–1), authorizes the acquisition of land and interests therein for dam and reservoir projects, channel improvements, and rectification projects for flood control at Federal expense. Dam, reservoir and lake projects are generally constructed entirely at the expense of the United States and are maintained and operated with the use of Federal funds. Local interests are not required to furnish lands, easements and rights-of-way for dam and reservoir projects, unless specifically authorized by law for small reservoirs which provide localized flood protection (EM 1120–2–101). For local flood protection projects, except channel improvement or channel rectification projects authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1936, 1937 and 1938, local interests must provide, without cost to the United States, all necessary lands, easements, and rights-of-way. They must also hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction, operation and maintenance of the project, except where such damages are due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors, and maintain and operate all the works after completion, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Army. Channel improvement and channel rectification projects authorized by the Acts of 1936, 1937 and 1938 are built entirely at Federal expense and no local cooperation is required. Exceptions to these rules are provided by law in the case of certain specific projects such as hurricane protection, shore protection, beach erosion control or other purposes. As in river and harbor projects, a cash contribution may also be required if enhancement of land values results from disposal of spoil dredged from project areas (ER 1150–2–301 and EM 1120–2–101).

(d) *The navigational servitude.* As a general rule the United States does not acquire interests in real estate which it already possesses or over which jurisdiction is or can be legally exercised. Irrespective of the ownership of the banks and bed of a stream below ordinary high water mark, and irrespective of western water rights under the prior