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services shall be included in the contract assembly.

(b) *Expert appraisal services.* Employment of qualified real estate appraisers and consultants may be effected utilizing the pertinent provisions of ASPR and ER 1180–1–1.

(c) *Obtaining appraisal reports by purchase order.* (1) Division and District Engineers are urged to utilize an authorized type of purchase order, such as DD Form 1155, in lieu of long-form contract, provided that:

(i) It is in the best interest of the Government, cost wise, not to issue the long-form contract.

(ii) The contractor has performed satisfactorily on at least one contract within the prior three fiscal years.

(iii) The total order, by such purchase orders, from the contractor does not exceed $10,000 for the project during the current fiscal year.

(iv) The order is accompanied by a brief history of negotiation signed by both the contractor and the contracting officer's representative(s).

(2) Care should be exercised to insure that the above provisions are used only to order supplementary reports, single appraisals, and other ''one-time'' reports needed.

(d) *Department of Justice consultation.* Authorized local representatives of the Department of Justice will be consulted concerning the acceptability of the appraiser(s) prior to negotiating any appraisal contract covering tracts proposed for acquisition. The local representative must also approve the per diem fee to be utilized in the appraisal contract. Where agreement cannot be reached between the Division or District Engineer and the local representative of the Department of Justice as to the selection of the appraiser(s), a complete report will be submitted to DAEN-REE, for resolution with the Attorney General.

(e) *Interdepartmental services.* Division Engineers are authorized to arrange for interdepartmental services of qualified specialists in the regular employ of other Government agencies in connection with special problems concerning mineral deposits, water rights, timber cruises, etc. Division Engineers are further authorized, in their discretion, to redelegate this authority or any part thereof to District Engineers.

Subpart C—Acquisition

PROCUREMENT OF TITLE EVIDENCE, TITLE CLEARANCE, AND CLOSINGS

§ 644.61 General.

(a) *Purpose.* Sections 644.61 through 644.72 describe the procedures relating to the procurement of title evidence, title clearance, and closings for the acquisition of real estate and interests therein for all land acquisition programs administered by the Chief of Engineers. Exceptions in connection with the acquisition of properties under the Homeowners Assistance Program are set forth in subpart E.

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

(c) *Guidelines.* (1) The satisfactory progress of land acquisition programs necessitates the prompt procurement of title evidence and prompt title clearance. One of the following types of title evidence should be obtained, after considering the cost of the several types and other factors mentioned below. To effect these objectives, careful planning is essential, including a determination of the most acceptable and available type of title evidence and the source from which such title evidence may be procured. The Chief of Engineers is responsible for procuring all title evidence, including title evidence needed for lands which are acquired by condemnation proceedings. The early procurement and examination of the title evidence and title clearance will expedite payment to landowners from whom offers are obtained or against whom condemnation proceedings are filed.

(2) Insured certificates of title or policies of title insurance shall be obtained wherever possible. This is on the theory that the Government is buying title searching service as well as the title evidence itself and is avoiding the time and cost of examining abstracts of title, generally voluminous in nature.

(3) Where it is not possible to obtain certificates of title or title insurance,

abstracts of title may be obtained, as a last resort.

(4) As used in these sections, an abstract of title is a synopsis or digest of all instruments of record affecting the title to a specific parcel of land. It neither guarantees nor insures the title. A certificate of title is a contract whereby a title company certifies that title to a specific parcel of land is good and unencumbered of record in a named person excepting only such defects and encumbrances as are shown therein. The liability of the company is limited to an amount specified in the certificate. A title insurance policy is a contract which insures that the owner or mortgagee will not suffer any loss or damage by reason of defects in the title to the property, or liens or encumbrances thereon existing at the date of the policy, except those defects, liens, or encumbrances which the policy specifically excepts. Liability thereunder is not limited to matters of record but extends to matters beyond the record.

(5) The Directory of the American Land Title Association may be obtained upon request to the Association at 1828 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036, or to any major title insurance company. This Directory lists, by States, the abstract and title companies which provide title insurance. These companies are acceptable to the Attorney General. Requests for furnishing title certificates or title insurance should be made to the major title insurance companies in addition to local abstractors and title companies.

(6) From past experience, it is considered that the procurement of certificates of title or title insurance is more economical than abstracts of title and the use of these types of title evidence expedites payment to landowners. In the majority of the States either certificates of title or title insurance are obtainable and the premium for issuance of such certificates or policies is based on a schedule of fees approved by the State Insurance Commission or some similar State agency. The premium fixed by such schedules, in most cases, includes the charge for title examination (preliminary certificate of title or preliminary binders) and the charge for insurance (final certificates of title or title guarantee policy) and any variance from the prescribed fees is considered a violation of the Sate law or regulation. Most State Insurance Commissions have recognized and approved the forms of certificates of title and title insurance policies prescribed by the Attorney General and have authorized their use in lieu of owners' policies. Division and District Engineers should familiarize themselves with the State title insurance laws and regulations. If prices quoted by all possible sources seem exorbitant, the matter should be referred to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314 for action.

§ 644.62 Title evidence.

(a) *Acceptable Types of Title Evidence.* (1) Certificates of title are acceptable title evidence. Certificates of title must be in a form acceptable to the Attorney General. An acceptable form of certificate of title which has been approved by the Attorney General has been issued by the Chief of Engineers as ENG Form 903, Certificate of Title.

(i) In contracting for certificates of title, ENG Form 1016, Specifications for Furnishing and Delivering Certificates of Title Owner's Title Guarantee (Insurance) Policies and Continuations Thereof, will be used.

(ii) Any title or abstract company approved by the Department of Justice and authorized and qualified to issue certificates of title in the State where the land is located will be acceptable to furnish certificates of title (Department of Justice ''Standards for the Preparation of Title Evidence in Land Acquisitions by the United States, 1970.'') In those few jurisdictions where bar associations or other public or professional bodies hold that the issuance of certificates of title is the issuance of title opinions and therefore the practice of law and where title companies as corporations cannot engage in the practice of law, insured certificates of title may be procured from attorneys, acceptable to the Lands Division of the Department of Justice, acting as agents for title companies. The procedure for the selection of attorneys is set forth in § 644.63(b).

(iii) Certificates of title will be based on a search of all records affecting the title to the land and be unqualified as