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what constitutes a tract will be based on ownership of the surface. However, in unusual cases where such a contiguous area is composed of several parcels derived through separate chains of title and requiring separate searches of each chain of title down to a comparatively recent date or where such contiguous area lies in more than one section, the Contracting Officer may contract to pay a specified reasonable additional charge for each such additional chain or section if such additional charge is customary in the locality where the land lies.

(c) *Type of title evidence.* The order will set forth the type of evidence to be furnished. When abstracts are contracted for, the following rules will be observed:

(1) If an abstract of title in satisfactory form cannot be procured from the landowner, a new abstract will be ordered.

(2) If an abstract in satisfactory form is procured from a landowner, the abstract will be transmitted to the abstractor with an order for a continuation of the old abstract.

§ 644.66 Payment for title services.

(a) *Approval.* The Contracting Officer will approve payment for all title evidence obtained in connection with the acquisition of land from funds available to the Division or District Engineer for that purpose, whether the land is acquired by purchase or condemnation.

(b) *Review.* When abstracts are furnished on a per-item or per-page basis, the contents must be carefully reviewed by a qualified representative of the Division or District Engineer, to insure that bills are not excessive and that abstracts do not include superfluous material. Where erroneous or superfluous material is included in abstract, the bills involved will be corrected so that payment for such material is not made. All title evidence will be examined to determine that there has been full compliance with the specifications.

(c) *Payment for title evidence.* Payments for title evidence will be made by the Contracting Officer from available funds for the project to which the title evidence pertains, upon receipt of certified and approved vouchers.

(d) *Preparation of Invoices for Title Services.* The abstractor or title company will submit a certified invoice for services rendered, to the office to which the title evidence was delivered for review. The invoice must specify the particular type of title evidence furnished, the tract number, name of owner, name of project, and contract number. Invoices found to be correct will be certified as to receipt of the services by the receiving office and will be transmitted to the Division or District Engineer for further action and payment.

§ 644.67 Approval of Title by the Attorney General.

(a) *General.* Section 355 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (40 U.S.C. 255), formerly required the written opinion of the Attorney General in favor of the validity of the title to lands as a prerequisite to the expenditure of public funds thereon.

(b) *Delegation.* Pursuant to the provisions of Pub. L. 91–393, approved September 1, 1970, authority to approve title to lands being acquired for the use of the Department of the Army, or of any other department or agency for which the Department of the Army is authorized to acquire land, has been delegated to the Department of the Army, subject to the supervision and review of the Attorney General. Generally, military authorization and/or appropriation legislation expressly authorizes construction on the land prior to approval of title.

(c) *Redelegation.* The authority delegated to the Department of the Army pursuant to Pub. L. 91–393 has been redelegated to Division and District Engineers with real estate responsibility.

(d) *Issuance of title opinions.* Division and District Engineers are authorized to designate staff attorneys to give written approval of the sufficiency of title to land for the purposes for which the property is being acquired. Such attorneys shall issue preliminary and/or final opinions of title.

(1) Attorneys designated for such purposes will have as a minimum five years legal experience, from the date of