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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

admission to a State bar, including three years experience in the law of real property. Real estate attorneys on the staffs of Division and District Engineers, who possess these qualifications, will be designated by the Division and District Engineers, in writing, to pass on the sufficiency of title to lands pursuant to the said delegation. The names of such attorneys shall be furnished to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314 as soon as possible.

(2) A final opinion of title shall be issued in all acquisitions, except for easement acquisitions not in excess of $1,000 which are governed by § 644.69(b).

(3) Division and District Engineers are authorized to waive the issuance of written preliminary opinions of title where the closing of the case is based upon a certificate of title or title insurance issued by an acceptable and approved title company, in either fee or easement acquisitions.

(4) A preliminary and a final opinion of title shall be issued in all fee and easement acquisitions involving abstracts of title, except for easement acquisitions not in excess of $1,000 which are governed by § 644.69(b).

(5) Any final title opinion issued pursuant to the delegated authority shall substantially follow the format of the Attorney's Final Title Opinion (Figure 5–3 of ER 405–1–12).

(e) *Opinion of Attorney General.* Whenever the District or Division Engineer determines that a title defect is of such character that a possibility exists that it may be waived, the case shall be submitted to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314 for review and transmittal to the Attorney General for a title opinion. The letter of submittal shall contain or be accompanied by the information and data required by § 644.72(b).

(f) *Rejection opinion.* If it is obvious that no possibility of waiver of a title defect exists, a title opinion shall be issued according to the procedure set forth in § 644.67(d). Copies of such opinion shall be submitted with the condemnation assembly.

§ 644.68 Title Clearance—Certificate of Title and Title Insurance.

(a) *Curative action.* Upon receipt of an acceptable certificate of title, ENG Form 903 or an interim binder on an owner's title guarantee or insurance policy, ENG Form 1014, the title evidence will be reviewed by a qualified real estate attorney of the Corps of Engineers. Where the title evidence indicates that the acquisition of the land or interest therein by purchase is feasible, and a satisfactory ENG Form 42, Offer to Sell Real Property, or ENG Form 2970, Offer to Sell Easement, is received from the landowner and accepted by the Government, curative action will be conducted and curative material will be processed as follows:

(1) With regard to the title objections set forth in Schedule ''B'' of certificates of title or interim binders, it will be necessary to take such curative action as will insure the issuance of a final certificate of title or title guarantee or insurance policy showing title vested in the United States of America, subject only to those objections, if any, which have been administratively waived.

(2) As set forth in the title contract, the title company will authorize its local representative to give final approval of curative material furnished to satisfy such objections and insure their elimination from the final certificate of title or title guarantee or insurance policy. As such curative material is approved, the local representative of the title company will:

(i) Initial, or otherwise indicate, on the margin of the preliminary certificate or interim binder, the fact that the objection has been eliminated through the procurement of satisfactory curative material.

(ii) Determine whether or not he wishes the curative instrument recorded and if the instrument is to be recorded, so indicate on the margin of the certificate or interim binder. By the express terms of the offer to sell, the vendor is responsible for payment of recording fees on such curative material.

(iii) Where curative material is not recorded, the title company will be permitted to retain such material if they wish it for their files; otherwise, it will be placed with the title assembly. If the original curative instruments are retained by the title company, true copies will be transmitted with the