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(3) *Inspection of property.* (i) As soon as a landowner or tenant gives notification that he is vacating his property, or as soon as this information is obtained from any other source, the District Engineer will immediately have a member of his staff make a personal inspection of the property and execute ENG Form 1567, Report on Vacation of Property. The inspection will be made with a view of determining whether all buildings, improvements, and crops on the land to be acquired, as listed in the appraisal report, are still on the land and in substantially the same condition as they were on the date of the appraisal.

(ii) Where buildings, improvements, and crops have been removed under a reservation in the offer, an appropriate entry will be made in paragraph (3) of ENG Form 1567.

(iii) Where buildings, improvements, and crops have been removed or destroyed in the conduct of construction work on the project, an appropriate entry will be made in paragraph (3) of ENG Form 1567.

(iv) It will be determined whether or not the land is wholly unoccupied and vacant and whether there is evidence of present use thereof for farming and other operations.

(v) The original report will be retained in the real estate project files. The second copy will be held for the use of the closing attorneys on purchase cases, or for the use of the local representative of the Department of Justice in condemnation cases.

(i) *Public relations.* One of the most difficult problems encountered in the real estate activities of the Department of the Army, particularly from a public relations standpoint, is that of the sudden dislocation of families, tenants as well as owners, and the relocation of these families. Special attention, therefore, will be given to their problems.

(j) *Payment of relocation assistance and acquisition.* Public Law 91–646 provides for reimbursement of certain expenses incurred by owners and tenants who are displaced as the result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. Payment of relocation assistance benefits and certain costs incurred by the vendor in transfer of title to the Government and certain litigation expenses incurred by the owner is provided for under that Act.

§ 644.88 Other acquisition.

(a) *Acquisition from other Federal departments and agencies*—(1) *Transfers.* Transfers will be obtained from other Government agencies after issuance of real estate directives. Muniments of title will be obtained from the transferring agency, if possible, and be forwarded to HQDA (DAEN-REP) WASH DC 20314, with the original transfer letter or document. Title 10 U.S.C. 2571 authorizes transfer of real property within the Department of Defense (10 U.S.C. 2662).

(2) *Permits.* Upon receipt of a proper request from an authorized command, service or agency, Division or District Engineers and the Chiefs of the Real Estate Divisions are authorized to obtain, accept, and renew permits from other Government departments or agencies for the temporary (five years) use of land (except public domain for Air Force) and buildings. The use of over 500 acres of public domain land must have prior approval by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (MRA&L) pursuant to Department of Defense Directive 4165.12.

(b) *Withdrawal of public domain lands and right-of-entry permits for temporary use.* (1) Withdrawal of public domain lands will be necessary if a site is selected for construction and/or there is a continuing military use. Except in time of war, withdrawals in excess of 5,000 acres for military use must be by authority of an Act of Congress (Pub. L. 85–337, 43 U.S.C. 156).

(2) Requests for withdrawal of public domain land will be made to the appropriate State or Regional Supervisor of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of the Interior, by the Division or District Engineer, pursuant to 43 CFR part 295, as soon as a real estate directive is issued.

(i) If use the of land is needed promptly to meet a construction deadline or for other use, the request for withdrawal will contain this information, and the BLM supervisor will be requested to expedite submission of his report to BLM in Washington, and to

publish the proposed withdrawal in the FEDERAL REGISTER as soon as possible.

(ii) A copy of the request will be forwarded to HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 (with a copy to HQ, USAF (PRER), WASH DC 20330, on Air Force projects), with request for assistance in obtaining issuance of the Public Land Order in time to meet construction or military use deadline.

(3) Pursuant to authority of 43 U.S.C. 416, requests for withdrawal of public domain lands may also be made to the appropriate State or Regional BLM Supervisor by the Division or District Engineer for the reservation of those public domain lands which will eventually be required for authorized Civil Works projects, in order to proceed with planning phase work and to prevent adverse private entry thereon. Such action will permit administrative jurisdiction to remain with the present Government agency for continued utilization not in conflict with the eventual purpose of the project. A copy of the request will be furnished to DAEN-REA.

(4) If a withdrawal is requested, the BLM supervisor cannot grant a permit to use the area; however, permits can be obtained for survey and exploration purposes, since these do not involve construction or military use of the land.

(5) Necessary rights-of-way will be obtained under the authority of section 507, Pub. L. 94–579, approved October 21, 1976.

(c) *Acquisition of outstanding rights on public domain*—(1) *Acquisition of possessory rights to mining claims.* (i) Upon issuance of a real estate directive to extinguish outstanding mining interests in the public domain, and notification that the Bureau of Reclamation (BLM) has withdrawn the public domain from appropriation under the public land laws and the public mining and leasing laws, the Division or District Engineer will, if necessary to obtain possession for construction or other project purposes, recommend to the Chief of Engineers the filing of a complaint in an eminent domain proceeding, based on a perimeter description of the project, and the obtaining of an order of immediate possession. Thereafter, the Division or District Engineer will promptly determine the possessory mining claims within the area withdrawn, and he is authorized to acquire such claims for either a nominal sum or an amount not to exceed the combined estimated costs of obtaining a detailed appraisal report and having the validity of the claim investigated by the BLM. This authority is limited to $1,000 per claim.

(ii) If an offer to settle is made on the basis provided in paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section, and is not satisfactory to the possessory mineral owner, the Division or District Engineer will request the BLM to investigate the validity of the claim. In such case, under Comptroller General Decision B-143921, the District Engineer is authorized to make an agreement with the BLM for reimbursement of the following:

(A) Examination of the claim itself and assembling of the evidence to support the claim of invalidity.

(B) The presentation of the evidence, the cross-examination of witnesses for the mining claimant and other related expenses (subpart A).

(iii) The Corps of Engineers is not authorized to reimburse the BLM for hearing of the evidence and the rendering of the decision as to the validity of the mining claim.

(iv) If determined to be valid, claims will be appraised and an offer will be made to the owner at the approved appraised value. BLM is authorized to determine value of the claims and the Division or District Engineer may wish to arrange with BLM to perform this service on a reimbursable basis. In the event the offer based on the approved appraisal is not acceptable to the owner, and a reasonable settlement cannot be effected by negotiation, the Division or District Engineer will forward a report to HQDA (DAEN-REA) WASH DC 20314 with recommendation as to whether the claim should be acquired by declaration of taking or be left outstanding. Those cases in which occupants were dispossessed under the order of immediate possession, referred to in paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section, will be given priority attention in all phases of the procedure set out herein, including preparation and submission of declaration of taking assemblies in appropriate instances.

(2) *Acquisition of grazing rights.* (i) Grazing rights in the public domain are granted pursuant to the provisions of a series of Congressional acts commonly referred to as the Taylor Grazing Act, 43 U.S.C. 315 *et seq.* Section 315q of this Act provides as follows:

> Whenever use for war or national defense purposes of the public domain or other property owned by or under the control of the United States prevents its use for grazing, persons holding grazing permits or licenses and persons whose grazing permits or licenses have been or will be cancelled because of such use shall be paid out of the funds appropriated or allocated for such project such amounts as the head of the department or agency so using the lands shall determine to be fair and reasonable for the losses suffered by such persons as a result of the use of such lands for war or national defense purposes. Such payments shall be deemed payment in full for such losses. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to create any liability not now existing against the United States.

It is emphasized that payments under this section are administrative; further that this section applies only to military projects.

(ii) Upon issuance of a real estate directive to acquire or terminate grazing rights in the public domain or other property owned or controlled by the United States and notification that the Government department controlling such lands has granted a right-of-entry or transferred the lands to the Departments of Army or Air Force, the Division or District Engineer will initiate action to acquire or terminate such grazing rights as authorized by the real estate directive.

(iii) Appraisals will be prepared in accordance with subpart B and the guidelines set forth in Comptroller General Decision No. B-132774, dated October 9, 1957.

(iv) Discussions with landowners concerning acquisition of a ranch unit will be conducted in accordance with the procedures for fee acquisition.

(v) Offers will be prepared, accepted, and distributed as provided in § 644.87.

(vi) Title procurement and title clearance relating to the acquisition of title to any fee lands within the ranch unit will be the same as in any other fee acquisition. In preparing title evidence covering leasehold interests, a search of the records will be made by the Division or District Engineer Office and ENG Form 909, Attorney's Preliminary Certificate of Title, will be prepared. In connection with the search of the records, it should be noted that Federal grazing privileges may be pledged or encumbered with mortgages.

(d) *Acquisitions under provisions of relocation contracts.* (1) When land or interests therein, including subordination of minerals, required for project purposes are acquired under the provisions of relocation agreements negotiated in accord with Section 73, ER 1180–1–1, it will be necessary to procure title evidence covering such land and interests. If the value of interests so acquired is not otherwise determinable for compliance with § 664.84, said value will be determined by the Division or District Engineer by means of a memorandum appraisal to be retained in the tract file. While this type of acquisition does not involve the closing procedure set forth in § 644.70, so much of the title assembly described as is applicable, plus an executed or certified true copy of the relocation contract, will be used in the examination and approval of the title. The disposition of final title assemblies will be governed by § 644.71.

(2) The procedures described in §§ 644.81 through 644.88 do not apply to the extinguishment of outstanding rights, including subordination of easements and similar interests, under the provisions of relocation contracts, as differentiated from the acquisition of land or easements, or the subordination of oil, gas, and other mineral rights, to be utilized for project purposes.

(e) *Acquisition by exchange*—(1) *Military.* The authority to acquire land by exchange for military projects is provided in 10 U.S.C. 2672, and in the Military Construction Authorization Act passed each year. As an example sections 601 and 702, Pub. L. 95–82, August 1, 1977, the Military Construction Authorization Act, 1978, provides in part, that ''the authority to acquire real estate or land includes authority to make surveys and to acquire land, and interests in land (including temporary use), by gift, purchase, exchange of

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