Public Law 93-454

October 18, 1974
[S. 3362]

AN ACT

To enable the Secretary of the Interior to provide for the operation, maintenance, and continued construction of the Federal transmission system in the Pacific Northwest by use of the revenues of the Federal Columbia River Power System and the proceeds of revenue bonds, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act.

SHORT TITLE

16 USC 838 note.

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act".

FINDINGS

16 USC 838.
16 USC 837.
16 USC 835j-835m.

SEC. 2. (a) Congress finds that in order to enable the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the policies of Public Law 88-552 relating to the marketing of electric power from hydroelectric projects in the Pacific Northwest, Public Laws 89-448 and 89-561 relating to use of revenues of the Federal Columbia River Power System to provide financial assistance to reclamation projects in the Pacific Northwest, the treaty between the United States and Canada relating to the cooperative development of the resources of the Columbia River Basin, and other applicable law, it is desirable and appropriate that the revenues of the Federal Columbia River Power System and the proceeds of revenue bonds be used to further the operation, maintenance, and further construction of the Federal transmission system in the Pacific Northwest.

(b) Other than as specifically provided herein, the present authority and duties of the Secretary of the Interior relating to the Federal Columbia River Power System shall not be affected by this Act. The authority and duties of the Administrator referred to herein are subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary.

DEFINITIONS

16 USC 838a.

SEC. 3. As used in this Act—

(a) The term "Administrator" means the Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration.

(b) The term "electric power" means electric peaking capacity or electric energy, or both.

(c) The term "major transmission facilities" means transmission facilities intended to be used to provide services not previously provided by the Bonneville Power Administration with its own facilities.

THE FEDERAL COLUMBIA RIVER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

16 USC 838b.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Interior, acting by and through the Administrator, shall operate and maintain the Federal transmission system within the Pacific Northwest and shall construct improvements, betterments, and additions to and replacements of such system within the Pacific Northwest as he determines are appropriate and required to:

(a) integrate and transmit the electric power from existing or additional Federal or non-Federal generating units;

(b) provide service to the Administrator's customers;

(c) provide interregional transmission facilities; or

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(d) maintain the electrical stability and electrical reliability of the Federal system: *Provided, however*, That the Administrator shall not construct any transmission facilities outside the Pacific Northwest, excepting customer service facilities within any contiguous areas, not in excess of seventy-five airline miles from said region, which are a part of the service area of a distribution cooperative which has (i) no generating facilities, and (ii) a distribution system from which it serves both within and without said region, nor shall he commence construction of any major transmission facility within the Pacific Northwest, unless the expenditure of the funds for the initiation of such construction is specifically approved by Act of Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

SEC. 5. (a) Unless specifically authorized by Act of Congress, the Administrator shall not expend funds made available under this Act, other than funds specifically appropriated by the Congress for such purpose, to acquire any operating transmission facility by condemnation: *Provided*, That this provision shall not restrict the acquisition of the right to cross such a facility by condemnation. 16 USC 838c.

(b) At least sixty days prior to the time a request for approval or authority under section 4 or 5 of this Act is sent to Congress, the Administrator shall give notice of such request to entities in the Pacific Northwest with which the Administrator has power sales or exchange contracts or transmission contracts or which have a transmission interconnection with the Federal transmission system.

TRANSMISSION OF NON-FEDERAL POWER

SEC. 6. The Administrator shall make available to all utilities on a fair and nondiscriminatory basis, any capacity in the Federal transmission system which he determines to be in excess of the capacity required to transmit electric power generated or acquired by the United States. 16 USC 838d.

ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

SEC. 7. Subject to the provisions of section 5 of this Act the Administrator may purchase or lease or otherwise acquire and hold such real and personal property in the name of the United States as he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out his duties pursuant to law. 16 USC 838e.

MARKETING AUTHORITY

SEC. 8. The Administrator is hereby designated as the marketing agent for all electric power generated by Federal generating plants in the Pacific Northwest, constructed by, under construction by, or presently authorized for construction by the Bureau of Reclamation or the United States Corps of Engineers except electric power required for the operation of each Federal project and except electric power from the Green Springs project of the Bureau of Reclamation. 16 USC 838f.

RATES AND CHARGES

SEC. 9. Schedules of rates and charges for the sale, including dispositions to Federal agencies, of all electric power made available to the Administrator pursuant to section 8 of this Act or otherwise acquired, and for the transmission of non-Federal electric power over 16 USC 838g.

the Federal transmission system, shall become effective upon confirmation and approval thereof by the Federal Power Commission. Such rate schedules may be modified from time to time by the Secretary of the Interior, acting by and through the Administrator, subject to confirmation and approval by the Federal Power Commission, and shall be fixed and established (1) with a view to encouraging the widest possible diversified use of electric power at the lowest possible rates to consumers consistent with sound business principles, (2) having regard to the recovery (upon the basis of the application of such rate schedules to the capacity of the electric facilities of the projects) of the cost of producing and transmitting such electric power, including the amortization of the capital investment allocated to power over a reasonable period of years and payments provided for in section 11(b)(9), and (3) at levels to produce such additional revenues as may be required, in the aggregate with all other revenues of the Administrator, to pay when due the principal of, premiums, discounts, and expenses in connection with the issuance of and interest on all bonds issued and outstanding pursuant to this Act, and amounts required to establish and maintain reserve and other funds and accounts established in connection therewith.

UNIFORM RATES

16 USC 838h.

SEC. 10. The said schedules of rates and charges for transmission, the said schedules of rates and charges for the sale of electric power, or both such schedules, may provide, among other things, for uniform rates or rates uniform throughout prescribed transmission areas. The recovery of the cost of the Federal transmission system shall be equitably allocated between Federal and non-Federal power utilizing such system.

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Establishment.
16 USC 838i.

SEC. 11. (a) There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a Bonneville Power Administration fund (hereinafter referred to as the "fund"). The fund shall consist of (1) all receipts, collections, and recoveries of the Administrator in cash from all sources, including trust funds, (2) all proceeds derived from the sale of bonds by the Administrator, (3) any appropriations made by the Congress for the fund, and (4) the following funds which are hereby transferred to the Administrator: (i) all moneys in the special account in the Treasury established pursuant to Executive Order Numbered 8526 dated August 26, 1940, (ii) the unexpended balances in the continuing fund established by the provisions of section 11 of the Bonneville Project Act of August 20, 1937 (16 U.S.C. 831 et seq.), and (iii) the unexpended balances of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the Bonneville Power Administration. All funds transferred hereunder shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary of the Interior, acting by and through the Administrator, as authorized in this Act and any other Act relating to the Federal Columbia River transmission system, subject to such limitations as may be prescribed by any applicable appropriation act effective during such period as may elapse between their transfer and the approval by the Congress of the first subsequent annual budget program of the Administrator.

3 CFR, 1938-1943 Comp., p. 704.

16 USC 832j.

(b) The Administrator may make expenditures from the fund, which shall have been included in his annual budget submitted to Congress, without further appropriation and without fiscal year limi-

tation, but within such specific directives or limitations as may be included in appropriation acts, for any purpose necessary or appropriate to carry out the duties imposed upon the Administrator pursuant to law, including but not limited to—

(1) construction, acquisition, and replacement of (i) the transmission system, including facilities and structures appurtenant thereto, and (ii) additions, improvements, and betterments thereto (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "transmission system");

(2) operation, maintenance, repair, and relocation, to the extent such relocation is not provided for under subsection (1) above, of the transmission system;

(3) electrical research, development, experimentation, test, and investigation related to construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission systems and facilities;

(4) marketing of electric power;

(5) transmission over facilities of others and rental, lease, or lease-purchase of facilities;

(6) purchase of electric power (including the entitlement of electric plant capability) (i) on a short-term basis to meet temporary deficiencies in electric power which the Administrator is obligated by contract to supply, or (ii) if such purchase has been heretofore authorized or is made with funds expressly appropriated for such purchase by the Congress, or (iii) if to be paid for with funds provided by other entities for such purpose under a trust or agency arrangement;

(7) defraying emergency expenses or insuring continuous operation;

(8) paying the interest on, premiums, discounts, and expenses, if any, in connection with the issuance of, and principal of all bonds issued under section 13(a) of this Act, including provision for and maintenance of reserve and other funds established in connection therewith;

(9) making such payments to the credit of the reclamation fund or other funds as are required by or pursuant to law to be made into such funds in connection with reclamation projects in the Pacific Northwest: *Provided*, That this clause shall not be construed as permitting the use of revenues for repayment of costs allocated to irrigation at any project except as otherwise expressly authorized by law;

(10) making payments to the credit of miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury for all unpaid costs required by or pursuant to law to be charged to and returned to the general fund of the Treasury for the repayment of the Federal investment in the Federal Columbia River Power System from electric power marketed by the Administrator; and

(11) acquiring such goods and services, and paying dues and membership fees in such professional, utility, industry, and other societies, associations, and institutes, together with expenses related to such memberships, including but not limited to the acquisitions and payments set forth in the general provisions of the annual appropriations Act for the Department of Interior, as the Administrator determines to be necessary or appropriate in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Ante, p. 822.

(c) Moneys heretofore or hereafter appropriated shall be used only for the purposes for which appropriated, and moneys received by the Administrator in trust shall be used only for carrying out such trust.

The provisions of the Government Corporation Control Act (31 U.S.C. 841 et seq.) shall be applicable to the Administrator in the same manner as they are applied to the wholly owned Government corporations named in section 101 of such Act (31 U.S.C. 846), but nothing in the proviso of section 850 of title 31, United States Code, shall be construed as affecting the powers granted in subsection (b)(11) of this section and in sections 2(f), 10(b), and 12(a) of the Bonneville Project Act (16 U.S.C. 832 et seq.).

16 USC 832a, 832i, 832k.

Audit, report to Congress.

31 USC 850, 851.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 105 and 106 of the Government Corporation Control Act, the financial transactions of the Administrator shall be audited by the Comptroller General at such times and to such extent as the Comptroller General deems necessary, and reports of the results of each such audit shall be made to the Congress within 6½ months following the end of the fiscal year covered by the audit.

INVESTMENT OF EXCESS FUNDS

16 USC 838j.

SEC. 12. (a) If the Administrator determines that moneys in the fund are in excess of current needs he may request the investment of such amounts as he deems advisable by the Secretary of the Treasury in direct, general obligations of, or obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by, the United States of America.

(b) With the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Administrator may deposit moneys of the fund in any Federal Reserve bank or other depository for funds of the United States of America, or in such other banks and financial institutions and under such terms and conditions as the Administrator and the Secretary of the Treasury may mutually agree.

REVENUE BONDS

Sale and issuance.

16 USC 838k.

SEC. 13. (a) The Administrator is authorized to issue and sell to the Secretary of the Treasury from time to time in the name and for and on behalf of the Bonneville Power Administration bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness (in this Act collectively referred to as "bonds") to assist in financing the construction, acquisition, and replacement of the transmission system, and to issue and sell bonds to refund such bonds. Such bonds shall be in such forms and denominations, bear such maturities, and be subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury taking into account terms and conditions prevailing in the market for similar bonds, the useful life of the facilities for which the bonds are issued, and financing practices of the utility industry. Refunding provisions may be prescribed by the Administrator. Such bonds shall bear interest at a rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury taking into consideration the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturities, plus an amount in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for a rate comparable to the rates prevailing in the market for similar bonds. The aggregate principal amount of any such bonds outstanding at any one time shall not exceed $1,250,000,000.

Terms and conditions.

Interest rate, determination.

Limitation.

(b) The principal of, premiums, if any, and interest on such bonds shall be payable solely from the Administrator's net proceeds as hereinafter defined. "Net proceeds" shall mean for the purposes of this section the remainder of the Administrator's gross receipts from all sources after first deducting trust funds and the costs listed in section 11(b)(2) through 11(b)(7) and 11(b)(11), and shall include reserve or other funds created from such receipts.

"Net proceeds."

(c) The Secretary of the Treasury shall purchase forthwith any bonds issued by the Administrator under this Act and for that purpose is authorized to use as a public debt transaction the proceeds from the sale of any securities issued under the Second Liberty Bond Act, as now or hereafter in force, and the purposes for which securities may be issued under the Second Liberty Bond Act, as now or hereafter in force, are extended to include any purchases of the bonds issued by the Administrator under this Act. The Secretary of the Treasury may, at any time, sell any of the bonds acquired by him under this Act. All redemptions, purchases, and sales by the Secretary of the Treasury of such bonds shall be treated as public debt transactions of the United States.

Bonds, purchase.

31 USC 774.

Approved October 18, 1974.

Public Law 93-455

AN ACT

October 18, 1974
[H. R. 7135]

To amend the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act of 1964, as amended, with respect to the settlement of claims against the United States by members of the uniformed services and civilian officers and employees for damage to, or loss of, personal property incident to their service.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representaties of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) section 3(a)(1) of the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act of 1964, as amended (78 Stat. 767, as amended; 31 U.S.C. 241 (a)(1)), is amended by striking out "$10,000" and inserting in place thereof "$15,000", and

Uniformed services.
Claims settlement.

(b) Section 3(b)(1) of the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act of 1964, as amended (78 Stat. 767, as amended; 31 U.S.C. 241(b)(1)), is amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) Subject to any policies the President may prescribe to effectuate the purposes of this subsection and under such regulations as the head of an agency, other than a military department, the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard, or the Department of Defense, may prescribe, he or his designee may settle and pay a claim arising after the effective date of this Act against the United States for not more than $15,000 made by a member of the uniformed services under the jurisdiction of that agency or by a civilian officer or employee of that agency, for damage to, or loss of, personal property incident to his service. If the claim is substantiated and the possession of that property is determined to be reasonable, useful, or proper under the circumstances, the claim may be paid or the property replaced in kind. This subsection does not apply to claims settled before its enactment."

Non-military departments.

SEC. 2. The amendments provided in this Act shall apply to claims based upon losses of personal property which occur after the effective date of this Act.

31 USC 241 note.

Approved October 18, 1974.