

Public Law 95-578  
95th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, restore, operate, and maintain new or modified features at existing Federal reclamation dams for safety of dams purposes.

Nov. 2, 1978

[S. 2820]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act shall be cited as the "Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978".*

SEC. 2. In order to preserve the structural safety of Bureau of Reclamation dams and related facilities the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to perform such modifications as he determines to be reasonably required. Said performance of work shall be in accordance with the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, and Acts amendatory or supplementary thereto).

Reclamation  
Safety of Dams  
Act of 1978.  
43 USC 506 note.  
Structures,  
modifications.  
43 USC 506.  
43 USC 391  
note.  
43 USC 507.

SEC. 3. Construction authorized by this Act shall be for the purposes of dam safety and not for the specific purposes of providing additional conservation storage capacity or of developing benefits over and above those provided by the original dams and reservoirs. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to reduce the amount of project costs allocated to reimbursable purposes heretofore authorized.

SEC. 4. (a) Costs heretofore or hereafter incurred in the modification of structures under this Act, the cause of which results from age and normal deterioration of the structure or from nonperformance of reasonable and normal maintenance of the structure by the operating entity shall be considered as project costs and will be allocated to the purposes for which the structure was authorized initially to be constructed and will be reimbursable as provided by existing law.

43 USC 508.

(b) Costs heretofore or hereafter incurred in the modification of structures under this Act, the cause of which results from new hydrologic or seismic data or changes in state-of-the-art criteria deemed necessary for safety purposes shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable under the Federal Reclamation law.

SEC. 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1979 and ensuing fiscal years such sums as may be necessary, but not to exceed \$100,000,000, to carry out the provisions of this Act to remain available until expended if so provided by the appropriations Act: *Provided*, That no funds shall be obligated for carrying out actual construction to modify an existing dam under authority of this Act prior to sixty days (which sixty days shall not include days on which either the House of Representatives or the Senate is not in session because of an adjournment of more than three calendar days to a day certain) from the date that the Secretary has transmitted a report on such existing dam to the Congress. The report required to be submitted by this section will consist of a finding by the Secretary of the Interior to the effect that modifications are required to be made to insure the safety of an existing dam. Such finding shall be accompanied by a technical report containing information on the need for structural modification, the corrective action deemed to be required, alternative solutions to structural modification that were considered, the estimated cost of needed modifications, and environmental impacts if any resulting from the implementation of the recommended plan of modification.

Appropriation  
authorization.  
43 USC 509.

Report to  
Congress.

Salt River  
Project,  
reimbursement.

SEC. 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to reimburse the Salt River Project for expenses incurred to modify the Bartlett Dam spillway and outfall channel, undertaken for safety of dam purposes pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

FEDERAL RECLAMATION DAMS SAFETY

American Falls  
Dam costs,  
payment and  
contracts.

SEC. 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to pay and discharge that portion of the costs associated with the replacement of the American Falls Dam which the irrigation spaceholder contracting entities are obligated to pay pursuant to the implementation of the act of December 28, 1973 (87 Stat. 904), to treat such costs as costs incurred under this act, and to enter into contracts with the irrigation spaceholder contracting entities to accomplish the payment and discharge of such costs.

91 Stat. 227.

SEC. 8. The Congress hereby finds that the oversight provided for in section 3 of Public Law 95-46 has been accomplished with respect to the three temporary water service contracts between the United States and the Westlands Water District, as forwarded to Congress on October 4, 1978.

Investigation  
and study.

SEC. 9. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, after October 1, 1979, shall make a full investigation and study to determine the feasibility of carrying out a project to rehabilitate and improve the existing Santa Cruz Dam and Reservoir, Santa Cruz Irrigation District, New Mexico, including—

- (1) repairing and stabilizing the face of the dam;
- (2) enlarging spillway capacity to insure the safety of the dam; and
- (3) raising the dam to increase the storage capacity of Santa Cruz Reservoir.

(b) In carrying out the investigation and study authorized by subsection (a) the Secretary shall give full consideration to the potential for developing the Santa Cruz Dam and Reservoir as a unit or part of the San Juan-Chama project.

Submittal to  
President and  
Congress.

(c) The Secretary shall submit to the President and the Congress as soon as practicable the results of such investigation together with his recommendations.

(d) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this bill.

43 USC 1511.

SEC. 10. The fourth sentence of section 201 of the Act of September 30, 1968 (Public Law 90-537) is amended by striking out "from the date of this Act" and by inserting in lieu thereof the following: "from the date of the enactment of the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978".

Sec. 11. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby directed, notwithstanding the terms of the Contract Numbers 14-06-100-7174, to make necessary repairs on the Scoggins Valley Road around Henry Hagg Lake, Oregon, at Federal expense pursuant to the authority of Public Law 89-596 which authorized the construction, operation and maintenance of the Tualatin Reclamation Project in Oregon.

Scoggins Valley  
Road, Ore.,  
repairs.

43 USC 616nnn.

Approved November 2, 1978.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-1125, accompanying H.R. 11153 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-810 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 124 (1978):

July 28, considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 14, H.R. 11153 considered and passed House; passage vacated, and S. 2820, amended, passed in lieu.

Oct. 15, Senate concurred in House amendment.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 14, No. 44:

Nov. 2, Presidential statement.