

taken from any sums paid him for such allowance, or in any case wherein any such employee has paid or refunded any sums to any Government agency by reason of claim made against him for such items, a sum equivalent to the amount of such deductions or refund shall be paid to such employee, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to make such payments; and, for such purpose, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this paragraph; and the Comptroller General of the United States is hereby authorized and directed to allow credits or to cancel charges therefor in the same manner and to the same extent as provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

Appropriation au-
thorized.

Ante, p. 723.

(d) In any case wherein sums for travel or other expenses have been advanced to any such employee, or in any case wherein any such employee has been partially paid on account of such allowance, the Comptroller General of the United States is hereby authorized and directed to allow credits or to cancel charges for such items in the same manner and to the same extent as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, so that any such charges will be eliminated and canceled in determining whether such employees or the Government is entitled to any difference between such advance or partial payment and the allowable per diem: *Provided, however*, That in any case wherein any sums were advanced to any such employee for travel or other expenses, the disbursing officer shall be credited for charges for such items only to the extent of any such advances outstanding.

Ante, p. 723.

Relief from liability.

SEC. 5. Any surety on any bond furnished by any such employee is hereby relieved from any liability by reason of any claim or charges for any such items.

Ante, p. 723.

SEC. 6. No provision of this Act shall apply to or prejudice any claim of the United States against any such employee or the surety on his bond by reason of any item other than those specified in section 1 of this Act; and any refunds or payments made to any such employee by reason of this Act shall be subject to deductions by reason of any other proper charges against the account of any such employee.

Time limitation.

SEC. 7. Any refund or payment to any such employee, or any credit or cancellation of any charges for such items, made by reason of this Act, shall be in full settlement of all claims by any such employee against the United States or any department or agency thereof for reimbursement for expenses of such employee for such items and shall be made within one year after the enactment of this Act.

Approved October 7, 1949.

[CHAPTER 650]

AN ACT

To provide for the return of rehabilitation and betterment costs of Federal reclamation projects.

October 7, 1949
[H. R. 1694]
[Public Law 335]

Federal reclamation
projects.
Return of rehabilita-
tion, etc., costs.
Post, p. 980.
43 U. S. C. § 372 *et*
seq.; Supp. II, § 385a
et seq.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That expenditures of funds hereafter specifically appropriated for rehabilitation and betterment of irrigation systems on projects governed by the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto) shall be made only after the organizations concerned shall have obligated themselves for the return thereof in installments fixed in accordance with their ability to pay, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior in the light of their outstanding repayment obligations, and which shall, to the fullest practicable extent, be scheduled for return with their construction charge installments or otherwise scheduled as he shall determine.

No such determination of the Secretary of the Interior shall become effective until the expiration of sixty days after it has been submitted to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Public Lands of the House of Representatives. The term "rehabilitation and betterment", as used in this Act, shall mean maintenance, including replacements, which cannot be financed currently, as otherwise contemplated by the Federal reclamation laws in the case of operation and maintenance costs, but shall not include construction, the costs of which are returnable, in whole or in part, through "construction charges" as that term is defined in section 2 (d) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (53 Stat. 1187). Such rehabilitation and betterment work may be performed by contract, by force-account, or, notwithstanding any other law and subject only to such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior shall deem appropriate for the protection of the United States, by contract entered into with the organization concerned whereby such organization shall perform such work.

SEC. 2. This Act shall be deemed a supplement to the Federal reclamation laws.

Approved October 7, 1949.

[CHAPTER 651]

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to complete construction of the irrigation facilities and to contract with the water users on the Buffalo Rapids project, Montana, increasing the reimbursable construction cost obligation, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to complete the construction of irrigation facilities including necessary drainage works on the first and second divisions of the Buffalo Rapids project, Montana, as approved by the President under authority of the Act of May 10, 1939 (53 Stat. 685), and the Act of October 14, 1940 (54 Stat. 1119), as amended: *Provided,* That of the funds heretofore or hereafter expended for such construction an amount equal to \$60 per irrigable acre as determined and announced by the Secretary of the Interior upon completion of the project, shall be reimbursable by the water users over a repayment period of not to exceed sixty years, and provision for the recovery thereof and for payment of the operation and maintenance costs of the irrigation and drainage features of the project shall be made by a contract or contracts satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 2. To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to allot any moneys available from appropriations heretofore made to the Department of the Interior for "water conservation and utility projects" and "water conservation and utilization projects", and there is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums of money as may be necessary to complete the project.

Approved October 10, 1949.

[CHAPTER 652]

AN ACT

To authorize completion of the land development and settlement of the Angostura unit of the Missouri Basin project, notwithstanding a limitation of time.

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

Effective date.

"Rehabilitation and betterment."

"Construction charges."
43 U. S. C. § 485a (d).

October 10, 1949
[S. 2042]

[Public Law 336]

Buffalo Rapids project, Mont.
Irrigation facilities.

16 U. S. C. §§ 590 y-590z-10; Supp. II, § 590z-2 note.
Ante, p. 171.
Reimbursement by water users.

Allotment of funds.

Appropriation authorized.

October 10, 1949
[H. R. 2538]

[Public Law 337]

Missouri Basin project.
Angostura unit.