

SUBCHAPTER XI—RECLAMATION  
SAFETY OF DAMS

**§ 506. Authority of Secretary to make modifications**

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).

(Pub. L. 95-578, § 2, Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2471.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of June 17, 1902, referred to in text, is popularly known as the Reclamation Act, which is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 371 of this title and Tables.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

SHORT TITLE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-404, § 1, Aug. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1481, provided in part: "That this Act [amending sections 508 and 509 of this title] may be cited as 'The Reclamation Safety of Dams Act Amendments of 1984'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 95-578, § 1, Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2471, provided: "That this Act [enacting this subchapter and amending section 1511 of this title] shall be cited as the 'Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978'."

FACILITIES INCLUDED WITHIN SCOPE OF RECLAMATION  
SAFETY OF DAMS ACT OF 1978

Pub. L. 95-578, § 12, as added by Pub. L. 98-404, § 1(4), Aug. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1482, provided that: "Included within the scope of this Act [this subchapter] are Fish Lake, Four Mile, Ochoco, Savage Rapids Diversion and Warm Springs Dams, Oregon; Como Dam, Montana; Little Wood River Dam, Idaho; and related facilities which have been made a part of a Federal reclamation project by previous Acts of Congress. Coolidge Dam, San Carlos Irrigation Project, Arizona, shall also be included within the scope of this Act."

**§ 507. Construction for dam safety**

Except as provided in section 509b of this title, construction authorized by this subchapter 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 subchapter shall be construed to reduce the amount of project costs allocated to reimbursable purposes heretofore authorized.

(Pub. L. 95-578, § 3, Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2471; Pub. L. 114-113, div. D, title II, § 203(1), Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2406.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-113 substituted "Except as provided in section 509b of this title, construction" for "Construction".

**§ 508. Costs incurred in the modification of structures**

**(a) Costs resulting from age and normal deterioration or lack of maintenance of structures**

Costs heretofore or hereafter incurred in the modification of structures under this subchapter, 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.

**(b) Nonreimbursable costs resulting from new hydrologic or seismic data or changes in criteria**

With respect to the \$100,000,000 authorized to be appropriated in the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 [43 U.S.C. 509], costs heretofore or hereafter incurred in the modification of structures under this subchapter, 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.

**(c) Reimbursement of certain modification costs**

With respect to the additional amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 509 of this title, costs incurred in the modification of structures under this subchapter, 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 reimbursed to the extent provided in this subsection.

(1) Fifteen percent of such costs shall be allocated to the authorized purposes of the structure, except that in the case of Jackson Lake Dam, Minidoka Project, Idaho-Wyoming, such costs shall be allocated in accordance with the allocation of operation and maintenance charges.

(2) Costs allocated to irrigation water service and capable of being repaid by the irrigation water users shall be reimbursed within 50 years of the year in which the work undertaken pursuant to this subchapter is substantially complete. Costs allocated to irrigation water service which are beyond the water users' ability to pay shall be reimbursed in accordance with existing law.

(3) Costs allocated to recreation or fish and wildlife enhancement shall be reimbursed in accordance with the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (79 Stat. 213), as amended [16 U.S.C. 4601-12 et seq.].

(4) Costs allocated to the purpose of municipal, industrial, and miscellaneous water service, commercial power, and the portion of recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement costs reimbursable under the Federal Water Project Recreation Act [16 U.S.C. 4601-12 et seq.], shall be repaid within 50 years with interest. The interest rate used shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into consideration average market yields on outstanding marketable obligations of the