

PUBLIC LAW 106-246 – JULY 13, 2000

TITLE IV—LEWIS AND CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Lewis and Clark
Rural Water
System Act of
2000.
State listing.

SEC. 4101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act of 2000”.

SEC. 4102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **FEASIBILITY STUDY.**—The term “feasibility study” means the study entitled “Feasibility Level Evaluation of a Missouri River Regional Water Supply for South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota”, dated September 1993, that includes a water conservation plan, environmental report, and environmental enhancement component.

(2) **INCREMENTAL COST.**—The term “incremental cost” means the cost of the savings to the project were the City of Sioux Falls not to participate in the water supply system.

(3) **MEMBER ENTITY.**—The term “member entity” means a rural water system or municipality that meets the requirements for membership as defined by the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. bylaws, dated September 6, 1990.

(4) **PROJECT CONSTRUCTION BUDGET.**—The term “project construction budget” means the description of the total amount of funds needed for the construction of the water supply project, as contained in the feasibility study.

(5) **PUMPING AND INCIDENTAL OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—The term “pumping and incidental operational requirements” means all power requirements that are necessary for the operation of intake facilities, pumping stations, water treatment facilities, reservoirs, and pipelines up to the point of delivery of water by the water supply system to each member entity that distributes water at retail to individual users.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) **WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “water supply project” means the physical components of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water Project.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “water supply project” includes—

- (i) necessary pumping, treatment, and distribution facilities;
- (ii) pipelines;
- (iii) appurtenant buildings and property rights;
- (iv) electrical power transmission and distribution facilities necessary for services to water systems facilities; and
- (v) such other pipelines, pumping plants, and facilities as the Secretary considers necessary and appropriate to meet the water supply, economic, public health, and environment needs of the member entities (including water storage tanks, water lines, and other facilities for the member entities).

(8) **WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.**—The term “water supply system” means the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established and operated substantially in accordance with the feasibility study.

SEC. 4103. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall make grants to the water supply system for the planning and construction of the water supply project.

Grants.

(b) **SERVICE AREA.**—The water supply system shall provide for the member entities safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, mitigation of wetland areas, and water conservation in—

- (1) Lake County, McCook County, Minnehaha County, Turner County, Lincoln County, Clay County, and Union County, in southeastern South Dakota;

(2) Rock County and Nobles County, in southwestern Minnesota; and

(3) Lyon County, Sioux County, Osceola County, O'Brien County, Dickinson County, and Clay County, in northwestern Iowa.

(c) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Grants made available under subsection (a) to the water supply system shall not exceed the amount of funds authorized under section 4108.

(d) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—The Secretary shall not obligate funds for the construction of the water supply project until—

(1) the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) are met; and

(2) a final engineering report and a plan for a water conservation program are prepared and submitted to the Congress not less than 90 days before the commencement of construction of the water supply project.

Reports.
Deadline.

SEC. 4104. MITIGATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LOSSES.

Mitigation for fish and wildlife losses incurred as a result of the construction and operation of the water supply project shall be on an acre-for-acre basis, based on ecological equivalency, concurrent with project construction, as provided in the feasibility study.

SEC. 4105. USE OF PICK-SLOAN POWER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—From power designated for future irrigation and drainage pumping for the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program, the Western Area Power Administration shall make available, at the firm power rate, the capacity and energy required to meet the pumping and incidental operational requirements of the water supply project during the period beginning on May 1 and ending on October 31 of each year.

(b) QUALIFICATION TO USE PICK-SLOAN POWER.—For operation during the period beginning May 1 and ending October 31 of each year, for as long as the water supply system operates on a not-for-profit basis, the portions of the water supply project constructed with assistance under this title shall be eligible to receive firm power from the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program established by section 9 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter 665; 58 Stat. 887), popularly known as the Flood Control Act of 1944.

SEC. 4106. NO LIMITATION ON WATER PROJECTS IN STATES.

This title does not limit the authorization for water projects in the States of South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota under law in effect on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4107. WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title—

(1) invalidates or preempts State water law or an interstate compact governing water;

(2) alters the rights of any State to any appropriated share of the waters of any body of surface or ground water, whether determined by past or future interstate compacts or by past or future legislative or final judicial allocations;

(3) preempts or modifies any Federal or State law, or interstate compact, governing water quality or disposal; or

(4) confers on any non-Federal entity the ability to exercise any Federal right to the waters of any stream or to any ground water resource.

SEC. 4108. COST SHARING.

(a) FEDERAL COST SHARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall provide funds equal to 80 percent of—

(A) the amount allocated in the total project construction budget for planning and construction of the water supply project under section 4103; and

(B) such amounts as are necessary to defray increases in development costs reflected in appropriate engineering cost indices after September 1, 1993.

(2) SIOUX FALLS.—The Secretary shall provide funds for the City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in an amount equal to 50 percent of the incremental cost to the city of participation in the project.

(b) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the non-Federal share of the costs allocated to the water supply system shall be 20 percent of the amounts described in sub-section (a)(1).

(2) SIOUX FALLS.—The non-Federal cost-share for the City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, shall be 50 percent of the incremental cost to the city of participation in the project.

SEC. 4109. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—At the request of the water supply system, the Secretary may allow the Commissioner of Reclamation to provide project construction oversight to the water supply project for the service area of the water supply system described in section 4103(b).

(b) PROJECT OVERSIGHT ADMINISTRATION.—The amount of funds used by the Commissioner of Reclamation for oversight described in subsection (a) shall not exceed the amount that is equal to 1 percent of the amount provided in the total project construction budget for the entire project construction period.

SEC. 4110. PROJECT OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY.

The water supply system shall retain title to all project facilities during and after construction, and shall be responsible for all operation, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation costs of the project.

SEC. 4111. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$213,887,700, to remain available until expended.