

[CHAPTER 199]

AN ACT

April 23, 1946
[S. 486]
[Public Law 353]

For the acquisition of Indian lands required in connection with the construction, operation, and maintenance of electric transmission lines and other works, Fort Peck project, Montana.

Fort Peck project.
Acquisition of Indian lands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in aid of the construction of the Fort Peck project, there is hereby granted to the United States, subject to the provisions of this Act, such right, title, and interest of the Indians as may be required in and to such tribal and allotted lands as may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior from time to time for the construction, operation, and maintenance of electric transmission lines and other works of the project or for the relocation or reconstruction of properties made necessary by the construction of the project.

Compensation.

SEC. 2. As lands or interests in lands are designated from time to time under this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall determine the amount of money to be paid to the Indians as just and equitable compensation therefor. The amounts due the tribe and the individual allottees or their heirs or devisees shall be paid from funds now or hereafter made available to the Department of the Interior for the Fort Peck project to the superintendent of the appropriate Indian agency, or such other officer as may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior, for credit on the books of such agency to the accounts of the tribe and the individuals concerned.

Use of deposits.

SEC. 3. Funds deposited to the credit of allottees, their heirs, or devisees may be used, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, for the acquisition of other lands and improvements, or the relocation of existing improvements or construction of new improvements on the lands so acquired for the allottees or heirs whose lands and improvements are acquired under the provisions of this Act. Lands so acquired shall be held in the same status as those from which the funds were derived, and shall be nontaxable until otherwise provided by Congress.

Status of acquired lands.

Administration.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to perform any and all acts and to prescribe such regulations as he may deem appropriate to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Reversionary provision.

SEC. 5. All designations of Indian lands pursuant to this Act shall be made subject to the condition that in the event any such lands shall no longer be required for the purposes for which they were designated, then the right, title, or interest so acquired in lands so designated shall revert to the United States in trust for the Fort Peck Indian Tribes.

Approved April 23, 1946.