

United States, including its Territories and possessions, when the employee has acquired eligibility for such transportation or when the public interest requires the return of the immediate family for compelling personal reasons of a humanitarian or compassionate nature, such as may involve physical or mental health, death of any member of the immediate family, or obligation imposed by authority or circumstances over which the individual has no control: *And provided further*, That when an employee returns his immediate family and household goods to the United States, including its Territories and possessions, at his own expense prior to his return and for other than reasons of public interest, the Government shall reimburse him for proper transportation expenses at such time as he acquires eligibility therefor."

Approved August 31, 1954.

Public Law 738

CHAPTER 1156

AN ACT

August 31, 1954  
[H. R. 270]

To provide for the control and extinguishment of outcrop and underground fires in coal formations, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That it is hereby recognized that outcrop and underground fires in coal formations involve serious wastage of the fuel resources of the Nation, and constitute a menace to the health and safety of the public and to surface property. It is therefore declared to be the policy of the Congress to provide for the control and extinguishment of outcrop and underground coal fires and thereby to prevent injuries and loss of life, protect public health, conserve natural resources, and to preserve public and private surface property.

Fires in coal  
mines, etc.  
Control.

SEC. 2. As used in this Act:

Definitions.

"Coal" means any of the recognized classifications and ranks of coal, including anthracite, bituminous, semibituminous, subbituminous, and lignite.

"Outcrop" means any place where a formation is visible or substantially exposed at the surface.

"Formation" means any vein, seam, stratum, bed, or other naturally occurring deposit.

"Coal mine" means any underground, surface, or strip mine from which coal is obtained.

"State" means any State or Territory of the United States, or any political subdivision thereof.

"Person" means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, business trust, legal representative, or any organized group of persons.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to effectuate the policy declared in section 1 of this Act, is hereby authorized—

Surveys, etc.

(a) to conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the causes and extent of outcrop and underground fires in coal formations and the methods for control or extinguishment of such fires; to publish the results of any such surveys, investigations, and researches; and to disseminate information concerning such method; and

(b) to plan and execute projects for control or extinguishment of fires in coal formations.

Projects.

SEC. 4. The acts authorized in section 3 of this Act may be performed—

(a) on lands owned or controlled by the United States or any of its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency having jurisdiction thereof; and

(b) on any other lands, upon obtaining proper consent or the necessary rights or interests in such lands: *Provided, however,* That expenditure of Federal funds for this purpose in any privately owned operating coal mine shall be limited to the acts authorized in section 3 (a).

**Requirements.**

SEC. 5. (a) As a condition to the extending of any benefits under section 3 (b) of this Act to any lands not owned or controlled by the United States or any of its agencies, except where such action is necessary for the protection of lands or other property owned or controlled by the United States or any of its agencies, the Secretary of the Interior may require—

(1) the enactment of State or local laws providing for the control and extinguishment of outcrop and underground fires in coal formations on State or privately owned land and the cooperation of State or local authorities in the work; and

(2) agreements or covenants as to the performance and maintenance of the work required to control or extinguish such fires.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior shall require in connection with any project for the control or extinguishment of fires in any inactive coal mine on any lands not owned or controlled by the United States or any of its agencies, except where such project is necessary for the protection of lands or other property owned or controlled by the United States or any of its agencies, (1) that the State or person owning or controlling such lands contribute on a matching basis 50 per centum of the cost of planning and executing such project, or (2), if such State or person furnishes evidence satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior of an inability to make the matching contribution herein provided for, that such State or person pay to the Government, within such period of time as the Secretary of the Interior shall determine, an amount equal to 50 per centum of the cost of planning and executing such project. At least 75 per centum of the funds expended in any fiscal year, from any appropriation available to carry out the purposes of this Act, in connection with projects for the control or extinguishment of fires in inactive coal mines where such action is not necessary for the protection of lands or other property owned or controlled by the United States or any of its agencies, shall be expended in conformity with clause (1) of this subsection.

SEC. 6. In carrying out the provisions of section 3 of this Act the Secretary of the Interior is authorized—

(a) to secure, by contract or otherwise, and without regard to the civil service laws and the Classification Act of 1949, for work of a temporary, intermittent, or emergency character, such personal services as may be deemed necessary for the efficient and economical performance of the work;

(b) to hire, with or without personal services, work animals and animal-drawn and motor-propelled vehicles and equipment, at rates to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior and without regard to the provisions of section 3709, Revised Statutes (41 U. S. C., sec. 5);

(c) to procure all or any part of the surveys, investigations, and control or extinguishment work by contracts with engineers, contractors, or firms or corporations thereof;

(d) to acquire lands or rights and interests therein, including improvements, by purchase, lease, gift, exchange, condemnation, or otherwise, whenever necessary for the purposes of this Act;

Personnel.  
63 Stat. 954.  
5 USC 1071 note.

Animals, vehicles, etc.

Contracts.

Acquisition of lands, etc.

(e) to repair, restore, or replace private property damaged or destroyed as a result of, or incident to, operations under this Act; and

Property restoration.

(f) to receive and accept money and property, real or personal, or interests therein, as a gift, bequest, or contribution, for use in any of the activities authorized under this Act; and to conduct any of the activities authorized under this Act in cooperation with any person or agency, Federal, State, or private. Any money so received shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States in an available trust fund to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Treasury upon certification by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the terms of the grant, and shall remain available until expended for the purposes for which received and accepted.

Contributions.

Agency cooperation.

SEC. 7. The Secretary of the Interior may issue rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

Rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, not to exceed \$500,000 annually, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions and purposes of this Act.

Appropriation.

Approved August 31, 1954.

Public Law 739

CHAPTER 1157

AN ACT

August 31, 1954  
[H. R. 4017]

To provide for the conveyance of certain land and improvements to the England Special School District of the State of Arkansas.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to convey by quitclaim deed, without monetary consideration therefor, to the England Special School District of the State of Arkansas, all the right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of land, and all improvements thereon, in the southwest quarter of section 35, township 1 north, range 10 west, in Lonoke County, Arkansas, such conveyance to be made only upon the agreement of the England Special School District that all proceeds from the sale of the said property shall be used exclusively to acquire permanent school fixtures for the England Special School District, said property being more particularly described as follows:

England Special  
School District,  
Ark.  
Conveyance.

Commencing at the northeast corner of section 2, township 1 south, range 10 west, thence north eighty-nine degrees eight minutes west for a distance of two thousand and thirty feet to the west right-of-way line of project road; thence along said project road right-of-way line north one degree fifty-eight minutes east, for a distance of one thousand one hundred and seventy-two feet, more or less, to an iron pipe for the point of beginning; thence north eighty-eight degrees two minutes west for a distance of three hundred and forty feet to an iron pipe, thence north one degree fifty-eight minutes east for a distance of seven hundred and eight feet to an iron pipe; thence north twenty-seven degrees thirty-two minutes east for a distance of three hundred and forty-seven feet to an iron pipe; thence south forty-four degrees thirty-three minutes east for a distance of two hundred and sixty-three feet to an iron pipe; thence south one degree fifty-eight minutes west for a distance of eight hundred thirty-nine and five-tenths feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, containing seven and three one-hundredths acres more or less.

Approved August 31, 1954.