

Irrigation District certain permits issued by the State of Wyoming for the diversion, storage and appropriation of the waters of Wind River and its tributaries, as designated in paragraph (a) of the "Explanatory Recitals" of the Amendatory Repayment Contract (see Act of Congress dtd June 23, 1952—Sec. 3) between the United States of America and the Midvale Irrigation District, dated June 25, 1952.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to arrange to sell to Midvale Irrigation District for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) the Pilot Butte Power Plant, feeder lines and other works appurtenant to the power plant; and

(a) further, assist in the transfer of all existing contracts for sale of Pilot Butte Power Plant power to the Midvale Irrigation District; and

(b) revenue from the sale of power in excess of operation and maintenance of the power plant be used first for the repair and replacement of structures now needed and lining canals with permanent linings.

SEC. 3. The secretary is hereby authorized and directed to sell the irrigated lands and improvements thereon of the Third Division and Cottonwood Bench areas, Riverton Project, by public auction bid basis, with the limitation of 320 irrigated acres (maximum and minimum) to any one individual who is a citizen of the United States of America, without a commitment by the bureau of Reclamation on land class; and

(a) that individuals may also purchase 320 acres non-irrigated land; and

(b) delivery of water to the Third Division and Cottonwood Bench irrigated areas shall be effected by contract with the Midvale Irrigation District until such time owners may make a determination whether to merge with Midvale Irrigation District; or establish an irrigation district under the water laws of the State of Wyoming; and

(c) net revenues from the sale of lands and improvements of Third Division and Cottonwood Bench area shall accrue to the reclamation fund.

SEC. 4. The Bureau of Reclamation operations shall henceforth be only to the "take line" of Boysen Reservoir on the Wind River water shed.

SEC. 5. Appropriations heretofore and hereafter made for carrying on the functions of the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for credits, expenses, charges and costs provided by or incurred under this Act. Expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of Sections 1, 2, and 3 inclusive of this Act shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable under Federal Reclamation Laws.

JUSTIFICATION FOR ALTERNATIVE

A BILL For the relief of the land owners and water users of Midvale Irrigation District, Riverton, Wyoming, and other purposes

SECTION 1. Cancellation of repayment contracts:

1. Precedents have been established by Act of May 26, 1926, ch. 395 (44 Stat. 653); the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 980); the Act of June 5, 1920 (41 Stat. 1054).

2. The Bureau of Reclamation has been mismanaging the Riverton Project for over 40 years, mistakes in the engineering and drainage and other "rehabilitation work" has not made the project well under the auspices of the bureau, so isn't it time to give some one else a chance to try to amend the mistakes that have been made here?

3. First contract in 1931 provided for expenditures of no more than \$5,000,000 to *complete* the project; 1952 Amendatory Repayment Contract increased the amount to be paid by irrigation to over \$7,000,000 and included write-off for non-productive lands due to seepage; Supplemental Rehab and Betterment Contract of Sept. 1956 was for \$2,500,000, increasing the expenditures to over \$9 million; during the life of these contracts the District has repaid the federal government slightly over \$1,000,000 during the 40 years the project had been in existence.

4. Landowners in Midvale District could get their water rights adjudicated under State law, have better collateral for refinancing; or to add to existing farm units, many of which are too small to furnish an adequate family living.

5. The increase in additional income tax due to more feasible farm operations here would create additional income for the federal government.

6. Under this Act further appropriations for the Riverton project would not be required; while under bureau control annual appropriations and new legislation for "relief" of the project seem to be a continuous process.