

Reclamation Manual

Directives and Standards

Subject:	Reclamation Standard Water-Related Contract Articles, Standard Article 3: Charges for Delinquent Payments
Purpose:	To provide the text of and requirements for the application of Standard Article 3: Charges for Delinquent Payments (Standard Article 3), for the benefit of supporting general policy and specific requirements set forth in Reclamation Manual Policy, <i>Reclamation Standard Water-Related Contract Articles</i> (PEC P10).
Authority:	The Reclamation Act of 1902 (ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388), and acts amendatory and supplementary thereto, especially section 6 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (Pub. L. 76-260; 53 Stat. 1191; 43 U.S.C. § 485e); and section 11 of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-365), as amended (31 U.S.C. § 3717).
Approving Official:	Director, Mission Assurance and Protection Organization (MAPO)
Contact:	Reclamation Law Administration Division (84-55000)

1. **Introduction.** In general, the Standard Article 3 is required in contracts that obligate the contractor to make periodic payments to the United States (see Paragraph 4.B. of PEC P10). Its purpose is to discourage delinquencies and establish the United States' authority to recover associated costs where they occur.
2. **Applicability.** This Directive and Standard applies to Bureau of Reclamation staff and officials involved in the contracting process, as defined at Paragraph 5.A. of PEC P10.
3. **Requirements and Responsibilities.** Reclamation staff and officials involved in the contracting process will include the text below in all contracts requiring Standard Article 3 under Paragraph 4.B. of PEC P10.

CHARGES FOR DELINQUENT PAYMENTS¹

(a) The Contractor shall be subject to interest, administrative, and penalty charges on delinquent payments. If a payment is not received by the due date, the Contractor shall pay an interest charge on the delinquent payment for each day the payment is delinquent beyond the due date. If a payment becomes 60 days delinquent, the Contractor shall pay, in addition to the interest charge, an administrative charge to cover additional costs of billing and processing the

¹Replaces "Penalty for Late Payments," approved 02/71; "Charge for Late Payments," approved 04/81, revised 04/83; "Charges for Delinquent Payments." Revised 11/84; 06/86; 01/02; 04/10.

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delinquent payment. If a payment is delinquent 90 days or more, the Contractor shall pay, in addition to the interest and administrative charges, a penalty charge for each day the payment is delinquent beyond the due date, based on the remaining balance of the payment due at the rate of 6 percent per year. The Contractor shall also pay any fees incurred for debt collection services associated with a delinquent payment.

(b) The interest rate charged shall be the greater of either the rate prescribed quarterly in the Federal Register by the Department of the Treasury for application to overdue payments, or the interest rate of 0.5 percent per month. The interest rate charged will be determined as of the due date and remain fixed for the duration of the delinquent period.

(c) When a partial payment on a delinquent account is received, the amount received shall be applied first to the penalty charges, second to the administrative charges, third to the accrued interest, and finally to the overdue payment.²

4. **Definitions.** See Paragraph 5 of PEC P10.
5. **Review Period.** The originating office will review this release every 4 years.

²Application of some or all of these charges may not be appropriate for certain bills issued under the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-293, Title II; 96 Stat. 1263), as amended and supplemented (43 U.S.C § 390aa, et seq.).

RECLAMATION MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Effective Date: _____

Release No. _____

Ensure all employees needing this information are provided a copy of this release.

Reclamation Manual Release Number and Subject

Summary of Changes

NOTE: This Reclamation Manual release applies to all Reclamation employees. When an exclusive bargaining unit exists, changes to this release may be subject to the provisions of collective bargaining agreements.

Filing instructions

Remove Sheets

Insert Sheets

All Reclamation Manual releases are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/recman/>

Filed by: _____

Date: _____