

### What Are Some of the Terms I Should Know for This Notice?

The following are terms we use that may help you understand how we are applying this notice.

*Administrative costs* means all costs we incur to administer our irrigation projects at the local project level. Local project level does not normally include the Agency, Region, or Central Office costs unless we state otherwise in writing.

*Assessable acres* means lands designated by us to be served by one of our irrigation projects and to which we provide irrigation service and recover our costs. (See *Total assessable acres*)

*BIA* means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

*Bill* means our statement to you of the assessment charges and/or fees you owe the United States for administration, operation, maintenance, and/or rehabilitation. The date we mail or hand deliver your bill will be stated on it.

*Costs* means the costs we incur for administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation to provide direct support or benefit to an irrigation facility.

*Customer* means any person or entity that we provide irrigation service to.

*Due date* is the date on which your bill is due and payable. This date will be stated on your bill.

*I, me, my, you, and your* means all interested parties, especially persons or entities that we provide irrigation service to and receive beneficial use of our irrigation projects affected by this notice and our supporting policies, manuals, and handbooks.

*Irrigation project* means, for the purposes of this notice, the facility or portions thereof, that we own, or have an interest in, including all appurtenant works, for the delivery, diversion, and storage of irrigation water to provide irrigation service to customers for which we assess periodic charges to recover our costs to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate. These projects may be referred to as facilities, systems, or irrigation areas.

*Irrigation service* means the full range of services we provide customers of our irrigation projects, including, but not limited to, water delivery. This includes our activities to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate our projects.

*Maintenance costs* means all costs we incur to maintain and repair our irrigation projects and equipment of our irrigation projects and is a cost factor included in calculating your operation and maintenance (O&M) assessment.

*Must* means an imperative or mandatory act or requirement.

*Operation and maintenance (O&M) assessment* means the periodic charge you must pay us to reimburse our costs.

*Operation or operating costs* means costs we incur to operate our irrigation projects and equipment and is a cost factor included in calculating your O&M assessment.

*Past due bill* means a bill that has not been paid by the close of business on the 30th day after the due date, as stated on the bill. Beginning on the 31st day after the due date we begin assessing additional charges accruing from the due date.

*Rehabilitation costs* means costs we incur to restore our irrigation projects or features to original operating condition or to the nearest state which can be achieved using current technology and is a cost factor included in calculating your O&M assessment.

*Total assessable acres* means the total acres served by one of our irrigation projects.

*Total O&M cost* means the total of all the allowable and allocatable costs we incur for administering, operating, maintaining, and rehabilitating our irrigation projects serving your farm unit.

*Water* means water we deliver at our projects for the general purpose of irrigation and other purposes we agree to in writing.

*Water delivery* is an activity that is part of the irrigation service we provide our customers when water is available.

*We, us, and our* means the United States Government, the Secretary of the Interior, the BIA, and all who are authorized to represent us in matters covered under this notice.

### Does This Notice Affect Me?

This notice affects you if you own or lease land within the assessable acreage of one of our irrigation projects, or you have a carriage agreement with one of our irrigation projects.

### Where Can I Get Information on the Regulatory and Legal Citations in This Notice?

You can contact the appropriate office(s) stated in the tables for the irrigation project that serves you, or you can use the Internet site for the Government Printing Office at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

### Why Are You Publishing This Notice?

We are publishing this notice to notify you that we propose to adjust one or more of our irrigation assessment rates. This notice is published in accordance with the BIA's regulations governing its operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, specifically, 25 CFR 171.1.

These sections provide for the fixing and announcing of the rates for annual assessments and related information for our irrigation projects.

### What Authorizes You To Issue This Notice?

Our authority to issue this notice is vested in the Secretary of the Interior by 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Act of August 14, 1914 (38 Stat. 583; 25 U.S.C. 385). The Secretary has in turn delegated this authority to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs under Part 209, Chapter 8.1A, of the Department of the Interior's Departmental Manual and by memorandum dated January 25, 1994, from the Chief of Staff, Department of the Interior, to Assistant Secretaries, and Heads of Bureaus and Offices.

### When Will You Put the Rate Adjustments Into Effect?

We will put the rate adjustments into effect for the 2003 irrigation season and subsequent years where applicable.

### How Do You Calculate Irrigation Rates?

We calculate irrigation assessment rates in accordance with 25 CFR 171.1(f) by estimating the cost of normal operation and maintenance at each of our irrigation projects. The cost of normal operation and maintenance means the expenses we incur to provide direct support or benefit for an irrigation project's activities for administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation. These costs are then applied as stated in the rate table in this notice.

### What Kinds of Expenses Do You Include in Determining the Estimated Cost of Normal Operation and Maintenance?

We include the following expenses:

(a) Personnel salary and benefits for the project engineer/manager and project employees under their management control;

(b) Materials and supplies;

(c) Major and minor vehicle and equipment repairs;

(d) Equipment, including transportation, fuel, oil, grease, lease and replacement;

(e) Capitalization expenses;

(f) Acquisition expenses;

(g) Maintenance of a reserve fund available for contingencies or emergency expenses for, and insuring, reliable operation of the irrigation project; and

(h) Other expenses we determine necessary to properly perform the activities and functions characteristic of an irrigation project.