

Comparative Print: Changes in Existing Law for Bill number:

Notice

This document was computer-generated to show how legislative text that may be considered by the House proposes to change existing law. It has not been reviewed for accuracy. This document does not represent an official expression by the House and should not be relied on as an authoritative delineation of the proposed change(s) to existing law.

Omitted text is shown ~~stricken~~, new matter that is proposed is in underlined italics, and existing text in which no change is being proposed is shown in regular roman. Typesetting and stylistic characteristics, particularly in the headings and indentations, may not conform to how the text, if adopted, would be illustrated in subsequent versions of legislation or public law.

Summary

- (1) 1 amendments.
- (2) 0 automated notifications.

Current Law(s) being amended

[1. Geothermal Steam Act of 1970](#)

Comparative Print: Changes in Existing Law

1. Geothermal Steam Act of 1970

[As Amended Through P.L. 116–260, Enacted December 27,
2020]

* * * * *

Sec. 6. LEASE TERM AND WORK COMMITMENT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) In General.—

(1) Primary term.— A geothermal lease shall be for a primary term of 10 years.

(2) Initial extension.— The Secretary shall extend the primary term of a geothermal lease for 5 years if, for each year after the 10th year of the lease—

(A) the Secretary determined under subsection (b) that the lessee satisfied the work commitment requirements that applied to the lease for that year; or

(B) the lessee paid in annual payments accordance with subsection (c).

(3) Additional extension.— The Secretary shall extend the primary term of a geothermal lease (after an initial extension under paragraph (2)) for an additional 5 years if, for each year of the initial extension under paragraph (2), the Secretary determined under subsection (b) that the lessee satisfied the minimum work requirements that applied to the lease for that year.

(b) Requirement to Satisfy Annual Minimum Work Requirement.—

(1) In general.— The lessee for a geothermal lease shall, for each year after the 10th year of the lease, satisfy minimum work requirements prescribed by the Secretary that apply to the lease for that year.

(2) Prescription of minimum work requirements.— The Secretary shall issue regulations prescribing minimum work requirements for geothermal leases, that—

(A) establish a geothermal potential; and

(B) if a geothermal potential has been established, confirm the existence of producible geothermal resources.

(c) Payments in Lieu of Minimum Work Requirements.— In lieu of the minimum work requirements set forth in subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall by regulation establish minimum annual payments which may be made by the lessee for a limited number of years that the Secretary determines will not impair achieving diligent development of the geothermal resource, but in no event shall the number of years exceed the duration of the extension period provided in subsection (a).

(d) Transition Rules for Leases Issued Prior to Enactment of Energy Policy Act of 2005.— The Secretary shall by regulation establish transition rules for leases issued before the date of the enactment of this subsection, including terms under which a lease that is near the end of its term on the date of enactment of this subsection may be extended for up to 2 years—

(1) to allow achievement of production under the lease; or

(2) to allow the lease to be included in a producing unit.

(e) Geothermal Lease Overlying Mining Claim.—

(1) Exemption.— The lessee for a geothermal lease of an area overlying an area subject to a mining claim for which a plan of operations has been approved by the relevant Federal land management agency is exempt from annual work requirements established under this Act, if development of the geothermal resource subject to the lease would interfere with the mining operations under such claim.

(2) Termination of exemption.— An exemption under this paragraph expires upon the termination of the mining operations.

(f) Termination of Application of Requirements.— Minimum work requirements prescribed under this section shall not apply to a geothermal lease after the date on which the geothermal resource is utilized under the lease in commercial quantities.

(g) Any lease for land on which, or for which under an approved cooperative or unit plan of development or operation, actual drilling operations were commenced prior to the end of its primary term and are being diligently prosecuted at that time shall be extended for five years and so long thereafter, but not more than thirty-five years, as geothermal steam is produced or utilized in commercial quantities. If, at the end of such extended term, steam is being produced or utilized in commercial quantities and the lands are not needed for other purposes, the lessee shall have a

preferential right to a renewal of such lease for a second term in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(h) Except as otherwise provided for in this section, for purposes of this section the term “produced or utilized in commercial quantities” means the completion of a well producing geothermal steam in commercial quantities. Such term shall also include the completion of a well capable of producing geothermal steam in commercial quantities so long as the Secretary determines that diligent efforts are being made toward the utilization of the geothermal steam.

(i) Minerals locatable under the mining laws of the United States in lands subject to a geothermal lease issued under the provisions of this Act which are not associated with the geothermal resources of such lands as defined in section 2(c) herein shall be locatable under said mining laws in accordance with the principles of the Multiple Mineral Development Act (68 Stat. 708; found in 30 U.S.C. 521 et seq.).

(j) COST RECOVERY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— During the period that begins on the date of enactment of this subsection and ends September 30, 2032, the Secretary may require an applicant for, or a holder of, a geothermal lease to reimburse the United States for all reasonable administrative and other costs incurred by the United States from—

(A) processing the application for the geothermal lease, including any application for an operations plan, geothermal drilling permit, utilization plan, site license, facility construction permit, commercial use permit, and any other approval associated with a geothermal lease; and

(B) inspecting and monitoring—

(i) geophysical exploration activities;

(ii) the drilling, plugging, and abandonment of wells; and

(iii) the construction, operation, termination, and reclamation of any well site or facility for the utilization of geothermal resources pursuant to the geothermal lease.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.— In determining whether to require reimbursement under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider whether there is in existence a cooperative cost share agreement between the United States and the holder of a geothermal lease.

(3) ADJUSTMENTS.— The Secretary may reduce the amount to be reimbursed under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines—

(A) that full reimbursement would impose an economic hardship on the applicant; or

(B) that a less than full reimbursement is necessary to promote the greatest use of geothermal resources.

(4) USE.— The amounts reimbursed under this subsection shall be credited to the currently applicable appropriation, account, or fund of the Department of the Interior as discretionary offsetting collections, and shall be available only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts for—

(A) processing the application for geothermal leases, including any application for operations plans, geothermal drilling permits, utilization plans, site licenses, facility construction permits, commercial use permits, and any other approval associated with geothermal leases; and

(B) inspecting and monitoring—

(i) geophysical exploration activities;

(ii) the drilling, plugging, and abandonment of wells; and
(iii) the construction, operation, termination, and reclamation of any well site or
facility for the utilization of geothermal resources pursuant to geothermal leases.

Summary

- (1) 1 amendments.
- (2) 0 automated notifications.

About this report

U.S. Code release point 119-34, dated 08/19/2025

XML Database version: 0.6.30

CSS version: 2.0.2

Version of the system: Bill to Law Report Generator 2.0.3; AMPL 2.1.4

