

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1137

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001–1027), and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 1993

Mr. WILLIAMS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C.
1001–1027), and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Old Faithful Protec-
5 tion Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO GEOTHERMAL STEAM ACT.**

7 The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001
8 and following) is amended by adding the following new
9 sections:

1 “SEC. 30. The Congress hereby declares that any use
2 of, or production from, any existing geothermal well, or
3 any exploration for, or development of, any new geo-
4 thermal well or any facility related to the use of subsurface
5 geothermal resources within the Corwin Springs Known
6 Geothermal Resource Area (as designated in the July 22,
7 1975, Federal Register (Fed. Reg. Vol. 40, No. 141)) will
8 result in adverse effects on significant thermal features
9 in Yellowstone National Park. Notwithstanding any other
10 provision of law to the contrary, the Secretary shall pro-
11 hibit any use of, or production from, any existing geo-
12 thermal well or any exploration for, or development of, any
13 new geothermal well or any facility related to the use of
14 subsurface geothermal resources within the Corwin
15 Springs Known Geothermal Resource Area, including
16 lands and waters and interests or rights in such lands and
17 waters not owned by the United States. For the purposes
18 of this section, the term ‘geothermal well’ means a well
19 for geothermal steam and associated geothermal re-
20 sources.

21 “SEC. 31. The Secretary shall not issue any lease
22 under this Act for lands within a 15-mile radius of the
23 boundary of Yellowstone National Park. Nothing in this
24 section shall be construed to affect the ban or prohibition
25 referenced under section 28(f) and section 30.”.

1 **SEC. 3. MORATORIUM AND STUDY.**

2 (a) Any use of, or production from, any existing geo-
3 thermal well, or any exploration for, or development of,
4 any new geothermal well or any facility related to the use
5 of subsurface geothermal resources is prohibited on lands
6 and waters and interests or rights in such lands and wa-
7 ters not owned by the United States, within a 15-mile ra-
8 dius of the boundary of Yellowstone National Park, except
9 with respect to the Island Park Geothermal Area (as des-
10 ignated by the map in the “Final Environmental Impact
11 Statement of the Island Park Geothermal Area” (January
12 15, 1980, p. XI)), to which such prohibition shall apply
13 to lands and waters and interests or rights in such lands
14 and waters not owned by the United States within the full
15 extent of such Area, until 180 days after the receipt by
16 Congress of the study referred to in subsection (b). Noth-
17 ing in this section shall be construed to affect the ban or
18 prohibitions referenced under section 28(f), section 30,
19 and section 31 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

20 (b) The National Park Service, in consultation with
21 the Forest Service and the United States Geological Sur-
22 vey, shall conduct a study on the impact of potential geo-
23 thermal development on the thermal features of Yellow-
24 stone National Park. Such study shall not include the area
25 referred to under section 30 of the Geothermal Steam Act
26 of 1970, and shall not include Federal lands within the

1 areas referred to in section 28(f) and section 31 of such
2 Act. The study shall be submitted to Congress no later
3 than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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