

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 410

To modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. RAHALL (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. DEFAZIO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4       (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5       “Mineral Exploration and Development Act of 1999”.

6       (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions and references.

## TITLE I—MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 101. Lands open to location.
- Sec. 102. Rights under this act.
- Sec. 103. Location of mining claims.
- Sec. 104. Conversion of existing claims.
- Sec. 105. Claim maintenance requirements.
- Sec. 106. Failure to comply.
- Sec. 107. Basis for contest.

## TITLE II—ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS OF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 201. Surface management standard.
- Sec. 202. Permits.
- Sec. 203. Exploration permits.
- Sec. 204. Operations permit.
- Sec. 205. Persons ineligible for permits.
- Sec. 206. Financial assurance.
- Sec. 207. Reclamation.
- Sec. 208. State law and regulation.
- Sec. 209. Unsuitability review.
- Sec. 210. Certain mineral activities covered by other law.

## TITLE III—ABANDONED LOCATABLE MINERALS MINE RECLAMATION FUND

- Sec. 301. Abandoned locatable minerals mine reclamation.
- Sec. 302. Use and objectives of the fund.
- Sec. 303. Eligible lands and waters.
- Sec. 304. Fund expenditures.
- Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 306. Royalty.

## TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

## SUBTITLE A—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Policy functions.
- Sec. 402. User fees.
- Sec. 403. Public participation requirements.
- Sec. 404. Inspection and monitoring.
- Sec. 405. Citizens suits.
- Sec. 406. Administrative and judicial review.
- Sec. 407. Enforcement.
- Sec. 408. Regulations; effective dates.

## SUBTITLE B—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 411. Transitional rules; surface management requirements.
- Sec. 412. Claims subject to special rules.
- Sec. 413. Purchasing power adjustment.
- Sec. 414. Savings clause.
- Sec. 415. Availability of public records.
- Sec. 416. Miscellaneous powers.
- Sec. 417. Limitation on patent issuance.
- Sec. 418. Multiple mineral development and surface resources.

Sec. 419. Mineral materials.

Sec. 420. Application of Act to beneficiation and processing of nonFederal minerals on Federal lands.

Sec. 421. Compliance with Buy American Act.

Sec. 422. Severability.

Sec. 423. Award of Compensation for takings from Fund.

Sec. 424. Report to Congress on mining claims in the United States held by foreign firms.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds and declares the fol-  
3 lowing:

4 (1) The general mining laws, commonly re-  
5 ferred to as the Mining Law of 1872, at one time  
6 promoted the development of the West and provided  
7 a framework for the exploitation of Federal mineral  
8 resources.

9 (2) Congress recognized that the public interest  
10 was no longer being advanced under the Mining Law  
11 of 1872 when, in 1920, it removed energy minerals  
12 and minerals chiefly valuable for agricultural use,  
13 and in 1955, removed common varieties of mineral  
14 materials, from the scope of the general mining laws  
15 and made such minerals available under regimes  
16 which provide for a financial return to the public for  
17 the disposition of such minerals and which better  
18 safeguard the environment.

19 (3) The Mining Law of 1872 no longer fosters  
20 the efficient and diligent development of those min-  
21 eral resources still under its scope, giving rise to

1 speculation and nonmining uses of lands chiefly val-  
2 uable for minerals.

3 (4) The Mining Law of 1872 does not provide  
4 for a financial return to the American people for use  
5 by claim holders of public domain lands or for the  
6 disposition of valuable mineral resources from such  
7 lands.

8 (5) The Mining Law of 1872 continues to  
9 transfer lands valuable for mineral resources from  
10 the public domain to private ownership for less than  
11 the fair market value of such lands and mineral re-  
12 sources.

13 (6) There are a substantial number of acres of  
14 land throughout the Nation disturbed by mining ac-  
15 tivities conducted under the Mining Law of 1872 on  
16 which little or no reclamation was conducted, and  
17 the impacts from these unreclaimed lands pose a  
18 threat to the public health, safety, and general wel-  
19 fare and to environmental quality.

20 (7) Activities under the Mining Law of 1872  
21 continue to result in disturbances of surface areas  
22 and water resources which burden and adversely af-  
23 fect the public welfare by destroying or diminishing  
24 the utility of public domain lands for other appro-

1        piate uses and by creating hazards dangerous to  
2        the public health and safety and to the environment.

3            (8) Existing Federal law and regulations, as  
4        well as applicable State laws, have proven to be in-  
5        adequate to ensure that active mining operations  
6        under the Mining Law of 1872 will not leave to fu-  
7        ture generations a new legacy of hazards associated  
8        with unreclaimed mined lands.

9            (9) The public interest is no longer being served  
10       by archaic features of the Mining Law of 1872 that  
11       thwart the efficient exploration and development of  
12       those minerals which remain under its scope and  
13       which conflict with modern public land use manage-  
14       ment philosophies.

15           (10) The public is justified in expecting the dili-  
16       gent development of its mineral resources, a finan-  
17       cial return for the use of public domain lands for  
18       mineral activities as well as for the disposition of  
19       valuable mineral resources from such lands.

20           (11) It is not in the public interest for public  
21       domain lands to be sold far below fair market value  
22       nor does this aspect of the Mining Law of 1872  
23       comport with modern Federal land policy which is  
24       grounded on the retention of public domain lands  
25       under the principles of multiple use.

1           (12) Mining and reclamation technology is now  
2 developed so that effective and reasonable regulation  
3 of operations by the Federal Government in accord-  
4 ance with this Act is an appropriate and necessary  
5 means to minimize so far as practicable the adverse  
6 social, economic and environmental effects of such  
7 mining operations.

8           (13) Mining activities on public domain lands  
9 affect interstate commerce, contribute to the eco-  
10 nomic well-being, security and general welfare of the  
11 Nation and should be conducted in an environ-  
12 mentally sound manner.

13           (14) It is necessary that any revision of the  
14 general mining laws insure that a domestic supply of  
15 hardrock minerals be made available to the domestic  
16 economy of the United States.

17           (15) America's economy still depends heavily on  
18 hardrock minerals and a strong environmentally  
19 sound mining industry is critical to the domestic  
20 minerals supply.

21           (16) Many of the deposits of hardrock minerals  
22 remain to be discovered on the Federal public do-  
23 main.

1           (17) Private enterprise must be given adequate  
2           incentive to engage in a capital-intensive industry  
3           such as hardrock mining.

4           (18) The United States, as owner of the public  
5           domain, has a dual interest in insuring a fair return  
6           for mining on the public domain and insuring that  
7           any royalty and fees charged do not discourage es-  
8           sential mining activity on the public domain.

9           (19) The domestic mining industry provides  
10          thousands of jobs directly and indirectly to the do-  
11          mestic economy and those jobs must be preserved  
12          and encouraged by a sound Federal policy regarding  
13          mining on Federal lands.

14          (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

15               (1) to devise a more socially, fiscally and envi-  
16               ronmentally responsible regime to govern the use of  
17               public domain lands for the exploration and develop-  
18               ment of those minerals not subject to mineral leas-  
19               ing acts or mineral materials statutes;

20               (2) to provide for a fair return to the public for  
21               the use of public domain lands for mineral activities  
22               and for the disposition of minerals from such lands;

23               (3) to foster the diligent development of mineral  
24               resources on public domain lands in a manner that

1 is compatible with other resource values and envi-  
2 ronmental quality;

3 (4) to promote the restoration of mined areas  
4 left without adequate reclamation prior to the enact-  
5 ment of this Act and which continue, in their  
6 unreclaimed condition, to substantially degrade the  
7 quality of the environment, prevent the beneficial  
8 use of land or water resources, and endanger the  
9 health and safety of the public;

10 (5) to assure that appropriate procedures are  
11 provided for public participation in the development,  
12 revision and enforcement of regulations, standards  
13 and programs established under this Act; and

14 (6) to, whenever necessary, exercise the full  
15 reach of Federal constitutional powers to ensure the  
16 protection of the public interest through the effective  
17 control of mineral exploration and development ac-  
18 tivities.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act:

21 (1) The term “affiliate” means with respect to  
22 any person, any of the following:

23 (A) Any person who controls, is controlled  
24 by, or is under common control with such per-  
25 son.



1 (B) Any partner of such person.

2 (C) Any person owning at least 10 percent  
3 of the voting shares of such person.

4 (2) The term “applicant” means any person ap-  
5 plying for a permit under this Act or a modification  
6 to or a renewal of a permit under this Act.

7 (3) The term “beneficiation” means the crush-  
8 ing and grinding of locatable mineral ore and such  
9 processes as are employed to free the mineral from  
10 other constituents, including but not necessarily lim-  
11 ited to, physical and chemical separation techniques.

12 (4) The term “claim holder” means a person  
13 holding a mining claim located or converted under  
14 this Act. Such term may include an agent of a claim  
15 holder.

16 (5) The term “control” means having the abil-  
17 ity, directly or indirectly, to determine (without re-  
18 gard to whether exercised through one or more cor-  
19 porate structures) the manner in which an entity  
20 conducts mineral activities, through any means, in-  
21 cluding without limitation, ownership interest, au-  
22 thority to commit the entity’s real or financial as-  
23 sets, position as a director, officer, or partner of the  
24 entity, or contractual arrangement. The Secretary  
25 and the Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly pro-

1 mulgate such rules as may be necessary under this  
2 paragraph.

3 (6) The term “exploration” means those tech-  
4 niques employed to locate the presence of a locatable  
5 mineral deposit and to establish its nature, position,  
6 size, shape, grade and value not associated with min-  
7 ing, beneficiation, processing or marketing of min-  
8 erals.

9 (7) The term “Indian lands” means lands held  
10 in trust for the benefit of an Indian tribe or individ-  
11 ual or held by an Indian tribe or individual subject  
12 to a restriction by the United States against alien-  
13 ation.

14 (8) The term “Indian tribe” means any Indian  
15 tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group  
16 or community, including any Alaska Native village  
17 or regional corporation as defined in or established  
18 pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement  
19 Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), which is recognized as  
20 eligible for the special programs and services pro-  
21 vided by the United States to Indians because of  
22 their status as Indians.

23 (9) The term “land use plans” means those  
24 plans required under section 202 of the Federal  
25 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43

1 U.S.C. 1712) or the land management plans for Na-  
2 tional Forest System units required under section 6  
3 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources  
4 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604), whichever  
5 is applicable.

6 (10) The term “legal subdivisions” means an  
7 aliquot quarter quarter section of land as established  
8 by the official records of the public land survey sys-  
9 tem, or a single lot as established by the official  
10 records of the public land survey system if the perti-  
11 nent section is irregular and contains fractional lots,  
12 as the case may be.

13 (11)(A) The term “locatable mineral” means  
14 any mineral, the legal and beneficial title to which  
15 remains in the United States and which is not sub-  
16 ject to disposition under any of the following:

17 (i) The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.  
18 181 and following).

19 (ii) The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970  
20 (30 U.S.C. 1001 and following).

21 (iii) The Act of July 31, 1947, commonly  
22 known as the Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C.  
23 601 and following).

24 (iv) The Mineral Leasing for Acquired  
25 Lands Act (30 U.S.C. 351 and following).

1           (B) The term “locatable mineral” does not in-  
2           clude any mineral held in trust by the United States  
3           for any Indian or Indian tribe, as defined in section  
4           2 of the Indian Mineral Development Act of 1982  
5           (25 U.S.C. 2101), or any mineral owned by any In-  
6           dian or Indian tribe, as defined in that section, that  
7           is subject to a restriction against alienation imposed  
8           by the United States.

9           (12) The term “mineral activities” means any  
10          activity on Federal lands for, related to, or inciden-  
11          tal to, mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation,  
12          processing, or reclamation activities for any locatable  
13          mineral.

14          (13) The term “mining” means the processes  
15          employed for the extraction of a locatable mineral  
16          from the earth.

17          (14) The term “mining claim” means a claim  
18          for the purposes of mineral activities.

19          (15) The term “National Conservation System  
20          unit” means any unit of the National Park System,  
21          National Wildlife Refuge System, National Wild and  
22          Scenic Rivers System, National Trails System, or a  
23          National Conservation Area, National Recreation  
24          Area, a National Forest Monument or any unit of  
25          the National Wilderness Preservation System.

1           (16) The term “operator” means any person,  
2           conducting mineral activities subject to this Act or  
3           any agent of such a person.

4           (17) The term “person” means an individual,  
5           Indian tribe, partnership, association, society, joint  
6           venture, joint stock company, firm, company, cor-  
7           poration, cooperative or other organization and any  
8           instrumentality of State or local government includ-  
9           ing any publicly owned utility or publicly owned cor-  
10          poration of State or local government.

11          (18) The term “processing” means processes  
12          downstream of beneficiation employed to prepare  
13          locatable mineral ore into the final marketable prod-  
14          uct, including but not limited to, smelting and elec-  
15          trolytic refining.

16          (19) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
17          of the Interior, unless otherwise specified.

18          (20) The term “surface management require-  
19          ments” means the requirements and standards of  
20          title II, and such other standards as are established  
21          by the Secretary governing mineral activities pursu-  
22          ant to this Act.

23          (b) REFERENCES.—(1) Any reference in this Act to  
24          the term “general mining laws” is a reference to those  
25          Acts which generally comprise chapters 2, 12A, and 16,

1 and sections 161 and 162 of title 30 of the United States  
2 Code.

3 (2) Any reference in this Act to the “Act of July 23,  
4 1955”, is a reference to the Act of July 23, 1955, entitled  
5 “An Act to amend the Act of July 31, 1947 (61 Stat.  
6 681) and the mining laws to provide for multiple use of  
7 the surface of the same tracts of the public lands, and  
8 for other purposes” (30 U.S.C. 601 and following).

9 **TITLE I—MINERAL EXPLO-**  
10 **RATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

11 **SEC. 101. LANDS OPEN TO LOCATION.**

12 (a) LANDS OPEN TO LOCATION.—Except as provided  
13 in subsection (b), mining claims may be located under this  
14 Act on lands and interests in lands owned by the United  
15 States if—

16 (1) such lands and interests were open to the  
17 location of mining claims under the general mining  
18 laws on the date of enactment of this Act; or

19 (2) such lands and interests are opened to the  
20 location of mining claims after the date of enact-  
21 ment of this Act by reason of any administrative ac-  
22 tion or statute.

23 (b) LANDS NOT OPEN TO LOCATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
25 provision of law and subject to valid existing rights,

1 each of the following shall not be open to the loca-  
2 tion of mining claims under this Act on or after the  
3 date of enactment of this Act:

4 (A) Lands recommended for wilderness  
5 designation by the agency managing the sur-  
6 face, pending a final determination by the Con-  
7 gress of the status of such recommended lands.

8 (B) Lands being managed by the Sec-  
9 retary, acting through Bureau of Land Manage-  
10 ment, as wilderness study areas on the date of  
11 enactment of this Act except where the location  
12 of mining claims is specifically allowed to con-  
13 tinue by the statute designating the study area,  
14 pending a final determination by the Congress  
15 of the status of such lands.

16 (C)(i) Lands under study for inclusion in  
17 the National Wild and Scenic River System  
18 pursuant to section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic  
19 Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)), pending a final  
20 determination by the Congress of the status of  
21 such lands, and (ii) lands determined by a Fed-  
22 eral agency under section 5(d) of such Act to  
23 be eligible for inclusion in such system, pending  
24 a final determination by the Congress of the  
25 status of such lands.

1 (D) Lands withdrawn from mineral activi-  
2 ties under authority of other law.

3 (2) DEFINITION.—(A) As used in this sub-  
4 section, the term “valid existing rights” refers to a  
5 mining claim located on lands described in para-  
6 graph (1) of subsection (a) that—

7 (i) was properly located and maintained  
8 under this Act prior to and on the applicable  
9 date, or

10 (ii) was properly located and maintained  
11 under the general mining laws prior to the ap-  
12 plicable date, and

13 (I) was supported by a discovery of a  
14 valuable mineral deposit within the mean-  
15 ing of the general mining laws on the ap-  
16 plicable date, and

17 (II) continues to be valid under this  
18 Act.

19 (B) As used in this paragraph, the term “appli-  
20 cable date” means one of the following:

21 (i) In the case of lands described in para-  
22 graph (1)(A), such term means the date of the  
23 recommendation referred to in paragraph  
24 (1)(A) if such recommendation is made on or  
25 after the enactment of this Act.



1           (ii) In the case of lands described in para-  
2 graph (1)(A), if the recommendation referred to  
3 in paragraph (1)(A) was made before the enact-  
4 ment of this Act, such term means the earlier  
5 of (I) the date of enactment of this Act or (II)  
6 the date of any withdrawal of such lands from  
7 mineral activities.

8           (iii) For lands described in paragraph  
9 (1)(B), such term means the date of the enact-  
10 ment of this Act.

11           (iv) For lands referred to in paragraph  
12 (1)(C)(i), such term means the date of the en-  
13 actment of the amendment to the Wild and Sce-  
14 nic Rivers Act listing the river segment for  
15 study and for lands referred to in paragraph  
16 (1)(C)(ii), such term means the date of the eli-  
17 gibility determination.

18           (v) For lands referred to in paragraph  
19 (1)(D), such term means the date of the with-  
20 drawal.

21 **SEC. 102. RIGHTS UNDER THIS ACT.**

22           The holder of a mining claim located or converted  
23 under this Act and maintained in compliance with this Act  
24 shall have the exclusive right of possession and use of the  
25 claimed land for mineral activities, including the right of

1 ingress and egress to such claimed lands for such activi-  
2 ties, subject to the rights of the United States under this  
3 Act and other applicable Federal law. Such rights of the  
4 claim holder shall terminate upon completion of mineral  
5 activities of lands to the satisfaction of the Secretary. In  
6 cases where an area is determined unsuitable under sec-  
7 tion 209, holders of claims converted or located under this  
8 Act shall be entitled to receive a refund of claim mainte-  
9 nance fees.

10 **SEC. 103. LOCATION OF MINING CLAIMS.**

11 (a) GENERAL RULE.—A person may locate a mining  
12 claim covering lands open to the location of mining claims  
13 by posting a notice of location, containing the person's  
14 name and address, the time of location (which shall be  
15 the date and hour of location and posting), and a legal  
16 description of the claim. The notice of location shall be  
17 posted on a suitable, durable monument erected as near  
18 as practicable to the northeast corner of the mining claim.  
19 No person who is not a citizen of the United States, or  
20 a corporation organized under the laws of the United  
21 States or of any State or the District of Columbia may  
22 locate or hold a claim under this Act. On or after the en-  
23 actment of this Act, a mining claim for a locatable mineral  
24 on lands open to location—

1           (1) may be located only in accordance with this  
2     Act,

3           (2) may be maintained only as provided in this  
4     Act, and

5           (3) shall be subject to the requirements of this  
6     Act.

7     (b) USE OF PUBLIC LAND SURVEY.—Except as pro-  
8     vided in subsection (c), each mining claim located under  
9     this Act shall (1) be located in accordance with the public  
10    land survey system, and (2) conform to the legal subdivi-  
11    sions thereof. Except as provided in subsection (c)(1), the  
12    legal description of the mining claim shall be based on the  
13    public land survey system and its legal subdivisions.

14    (c) EXCEPTIONS.—(1) If only a protracted survey ex-  
15    ists for the public lands concerned, each of the following  
16    shall apply in lieu of subsection (b):

17           (A) The legal description of the mining claim  
18           shall be based on the protracted survey and the min-  
19           ing claim shall be located as near as practicable in  
20           conformance with a protracted legal subdivision.

21           (B) The mining claim shall be monumented on  
22           the ground by the erection of a suitable, durable  
23           monument at each corner of the claim.

24           (C) The legal description of the mining claim  
25           shall include a reference to any existing survey

1 monument, or where no such monument can be  
2 found within a reasonable distance, to a permanent  
3 and conspicuous natural object.

4 (2) If no survey exists for the public lands concerned,  
5 each of the following shall apply in lieu of subsection (b):

6 (A) The mining claim shall be a regular square,  
7 with each side laid out in cardinal directions, 40  
8 acres in size.

9 (B) The claim shall be monumented on the  
10 ground by the erection of a suitable durable monu-  
11 ment at each corner of the claim.

12 (C) The legal description of the mining claim  
13 shall be expressed in metes and bounds and shall be  
14 defined by and referenced to the closest existing sur-  
15 vey monument, or where no such monument can be  
16 found within a reasonable distance, to a permanent  
17 and conspicuous natural object. Such description  
18 shall be of sufficient accuracy and completeness to  
19 permit recording of the claim upon the public land  
20 records and to permit the claim to be readily found  
21 upon the ground.

22 (3) In the case of a conflict between the boundaries  
23 of a mining claim as monumented on the ground and the  
24 description of such claim in the notice of location referred  
25 to in subsection (a), the notice of location shall be deter-

1 minative, except where determined otherwise by the Sec-  
2 retary.

3 (d) FILING WITH SECRETARY.—(1) Within 30 days  
4 after the location of a mining claim pursuant to this sec-  
5 tion, a copy of the notice of location referred to in sub-  
6 section (a) shall be filed with the Secretary in an office  
7 designated by the Secretary.

8 (2)(A) Whenever the Secretary receives a copy of a  
9 notice of location of a mining claim under this Act, the  
10 Secretary shall assign a serial number to the mining claim,  
11 and immediately return a copy of the notice of location  
12 to the locator of the claim, together with a certificate set-  
13 ting forth the serial number, a description of the claim,  
14 and the claim maintenance requirements of section 105.  
15 The Secretary shall enter the claim on the public land  
16 records.

17 (B) Return of the copy of the notice of location and  
18 provision of the certificate under subparagraph (A) shall  
19 not constitute a determination by the Secretary that a  
20 claim is valid. Failure by the Secretary to provide such  
21 copy and certificate shall not constitute a defense against  
22 cancellation of a claim for failure to follow applicable re-  
23 quirements of this Act.

24 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for  
25 every unpatented mining claim located after the date of

1 enactment of this Act, the locator shall, at the time the  
2 location notice is recorded with the Bureau of Land Man-  
3 agement, pay a location fee of \$25.00 per claim. The loca-  
4 tion fee shall be in addition to the claim maintenance fee  
5 payable under section 105.

6 (4) Subsections (b) and (c) of section 314 of the Fed-  
7 eral Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
8 1744(b)) are repealed.

9 (e) CONVERTED CLAIMS.—For mining claims and  
10 mill sites deemed converted under this Act, for the pur-  
11 poses of complying with the requirements of subsection  
12 (d), upon receipt of the initial claim maintenance fee re-  
13 quired under section 105, the Secretary shall issue a cer-  
14 tificate referenced in subsection (d)(2) to the holder of the  
15 mining claim or mill site.

16 (f) DATE OF LOCATION.—A mining claim located  
17 under this Act shall be effective based upon the time of  
18 location.

19 (g) LANDS COVERED BY CLAIM.—A mining claim lo-  
20 cated or converted under this Act shall include all lands  
21 and interests in lands open to location within the bound-  
22 aries of the claim, subject to any prior mining claim lo-  
23 cated or converted under this Act.

24 (h) CONFLICTING LOCATIONS.—Any conflicts be-  
25 tween the holders of mining claims located or converted

1 under this Act relating to relative superiority under the  
2 provisions of this Act may be resolved in adjudication pro-  
3 ceedings in a court with proper jurisdiction, including, as  
4 appropriate, State courts. It shall be incumbent upon the  
5 holder of a mining claim asserting superior rights in such  
6 proceedings to demonstrate that such person was the sen-  
7 ior locator, or if such person is the junior locator, that  
8 prior to the location of the claim by such locator—

9           (1) the senior locator failed to file a copy of the  
10 notice of location within the time provided under  
11 subsection (d); or

12           (2) the amount of claim maintenance fee paid  
13 by the senior locator at the time of filing the loca-  
14 tion notice referred to in subsection (d) was less  
15 than the amount required to be paid by such locator.

16       (i) **EXTENT OF MINERAL DEPOSIT.**—The boundaries  
17 of a mining claim located under this Act shall extend verti-  
18 cally downward.

19 **SEC. 104. CONVERSION OF EXISTING CLAIMS.**

20       (a) **EXISTING CLAIMS.**—Notwithstanding any other  
21 provision of law, on the effective date of this Act any  
22 unpatented mining claim for a locatable mineral located  
23 under the general mining laws prior to the date of enact-  
24 ment of this Act shall become subject to this Act's provi-  
25 sions and shall be deemed a converted mining claim under

1 this Act. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect  
2 extralateral rights in any valid lode mining claim existing  
3 on the date of enactment of this Act. After the effective  
4 date of this Act, there shall be no distinction made as to  
5 whether such claim was originally located as a lode or  
6 placer claim.

7 (b) MILL AND TUNNEL SITES.—On the effective date  
8 of this Act, any unpatented mill or tunnel site located  
9 under the general mining laws before the date of enact-  
10 ment of this Act shall become subject to this Act's provi-  
11 sions and shall be deemed a converted mining claim under  
12 this Act.

13 (c) POSTCONVERSION.—Any unpatented mining  
14 claim or mill site located under the general mining laws  
15 shall be deemed to be a prior claim for the purposes of  
16 section 103(g) when converted pursuant to subsection (a)  
17 or (b).

18 (d) DISPOSITION OF LAND.—In the event a mining  
19 claim is located under this Act for lands encumbered by  
20 a prior mining claim or mill site located under the general  
21 mining laws, such lands shall become part of the claim  
22 located under this Act if the claim or mill site located  
23 under the general mining laws is declared null and void  
24 under this section or is otherwise declared null and void  
25 thereafter.



1 (e) CONFLICTS.—(1) Any conflicts in existence before  
2 the effective date of this Act between holders of mining  
3 claims, mill sites and tunnel sites located under the gen-  
4 eral mining laws shall be subject to, and shall be resolved  
5 in accordance with, applicable laws governing such con-  
6 flicts in effect before the effective date of enactment of  
7 this Act in a court of proper jurisdiction.

8 (2) Any conflicts not relating to matters provided for  
9 under section 103(h) between the holders of a mining  
10 claim located under this Act and a mining claim, mill, or  
11 tunnel site located under the general mining laws arising  
12 either before or after the conversion of any such claim or  
13 site under this section shall be resolved in a court with  
14 proper jurisdiction.

15 **SEC. 105. CLAIM MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The holder of each mining  
17 claim converted pursuant to this Act shall pay to the Sec-  
18 retary an annual claim maintenance fee of \$100 per claim.

19 (2) The holder of each mining claim located pursuant  
20 to this Act shall pay to the Secretary an annual claim  
21 maintenance fee of \$200 per claim.

22 (b) TIME OF PAYMENT.—The claim maintenance fee  
23 payable pursuant to subsection (a) for any year shall be  
24 paid on or before August 31 of each year, except that in  
25 the case of claims referred to in subsection (a)(2), for the

1 initial calendar year in which the location is made, the  
2 locator shall pay the initial claim maintenance fee at the  
3 time the location notice is recorded with the Bureau of  
4 Land Management.

5 (c) OIL SHALE CLAIMS SUBJECT TO CLAIM MAINTENANCE FEES UNDER ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1992.—  
6 This section shall not apply to any oil shale claims for  
7 which a fee is required to be paid under section 2511(e)(2)  
8 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486;  
9 106 Stat. 3111; 30 U.S.C. 242).

11 (d) CLAIM MAINTENANCE FEES PAYABLE UNDER 1993 ACT.—The claim maintenance fees payable under  
12 this section for any period with respect to any claim shall  
13 be reduced by the amount of the claim maintenance fees  
14 paid under section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Rec-  
15 onciliation Act of 1993 with respect to that claim and with  
16 respect to the same period.

18 (e) WAIVER.—(1) The claim maintenance fee re-  
19 quired under this section may be waived for a claim holder  
20 who certifies in writing to the Secretary that on the date  
21 the payment was due, the claim holder and all related par-  
22 ties held not more than 10 mining claims on lands open  
23 to location. Such certification shall be made on or before  
24 the date on which payment is due.

1           (2) For purposes of paragraph (1), with respect to  
2 any claim holder, the term “related party” means each  
3 of the following:

4           (A) The spouse and dependent children (as de-  
5 fined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
6 1986), of the claim holder.

7           (B) Any affiliate of the claim holder.

8           (f) CO-OWNERSHIP.—Upon the failure of any one or  
9 more of several co-owners to contribute such co-owner or  
10 owners’ portion of the fee under this section, any co-owner  
11 who has paid such fee may, after the payment due date,  
12 give the delinquent co-owner or owners notice of such fail-  
13 ure in writing (or by publication in the newspaper nearest  
14 the claim for at least once a week for at least 90 days).  
15 If at the expiration of 90 days after such notice in writing  
16 or by publication, any delinquent co-owner fails or refuses  
17 to contribute his portion, his interest in the claim shall  
18 become the property of the co-owners who have paid the  
19 required fee.

20           (g) FUND.—All monies received under this section  
21 shall be deposited in the Abandoned Locatable Minerals  
22 Mine Reclamation Fund established under title III of this  
23 Act.

24           (h) CREDIT AGAINST ROYALTY.—The amount of the  
25 annual claim maintenance fee required to be paid under

1 this section for any claim for any period shall be credited  
2 against the amount of royalty required to be paid under  
3 section 306 for the same period with respect to that claim.

4 **SEC. 106. FAILURE TO COMPLY.**

5 (a) **FORFEITURE.**—The failure of the claim holder to  
6 file the notice of location, to pay the location fee, or to  
7 pay the claim maintenance fee for a mining claim as re-  
8 quired by this title shall be deemed conclusively to con-  
9 stitute forfeiture of the mining claim by operation of law.  
10 Forfeiture shall not relieve any person of any obligation  
11 created under this Act, including reclamation.

12 (b) **PROHIBITION.**—No claim holder may locate a new  
13 claim on the lands such claim holder included in a for-  
14 feited claim for 1 year from the date such claim is deemed  
15 forfeited.

16 (c) **RELINQUISHMENT.**—A claim holder deciding not  
17 to pursue mineral activities on a claim may relinquish such  
18 claim by notifying the Secretary. A claim holder relin-  
19 quishing a claim is responsible for reclamation as required  
20 by section 207 of this Act and all other applicable require-  
21 ments. A claim holder who relinquishes a claim shall not  
22 be subject to the prohibition of subsection (b) of this sec-  
23 tion unless the Secretary determines that the claim is  
24 being relinquished and relocated for the purpose of avoid-

1 ing compliance with any provision of this Act, including  
2 payment of the claim maintenance fee.

3 **SEC. 107. BASIS FOR CONTEST.**

4 (a) DISCOVERY.—(1) After the effective date of this  
5 Act, a mining claim may not be contested or challenged  
6 on the basis of discovery under the general mining laws,  
7 except as follows:

8 (A) Any claim located before the effective date  
9 of this Act may be contested by the United States  
10 on the basis of discovery under the general mining  
11 laws as in effect prior to the effective date of this  
12 Act if such claim is located within any National  
13 Conservation System unit, or within any area re-  
14 ferred to in section 101(b).

15 (B) Any mining claim located before the effec-  
16 tive date of this Act may be contested by the United  
17 States on the basis of discovery under the general  
18 mining laws as in effect prior to the effective date  
19 of this Act if such claim was located for a mineral  
20 material that purportedly has a property giving it  
21 distinct and special value within the meaning of sec-  
22 tion 3(a) of the Act of July 23, 1955 (as in effect  
23 prior to the date of enactment of this Act), or if  
24 such claim was located for a mineral that was not

1 locatable under the general mining laws before the  
2 effective date of this Act.

3 (2) The Secretary may initiate contest proceedings  
4 against those mining claims referred to in paragraph (1)  
5 at any time, except that nothing in this subsection may  
6 be construed as requiring the Secretary to inquire into,  
7 or contest, the validity of a mining claim for the purpose  
8 of the conversion referred to in section 104, except as pro-  
9 vided in section 412.

10 (3) Nothing in this subsection may be construed as  
11 limiting any contest proceedings initiated by the United  
12 States on issues other than discovery, or any contest pro-  
13 ceedings filed before the effective date of this Act.

14 (4) Any contest proceeding initiated pursuant to  
15 paragraph (1) shall determine whether the mining claim  
16 or claims subject to such proceeding supported a discovery  
17 of a valuable mineral deposit within the meaning of the  
18 general mining laws on the effective date of this Act.

19 (b) CONTINUED SUFFICIENCY OF MINING CLAIM.—

20 (1) At any time, upon request of the Secretary, the claim  
21 holder shall demonstrate that the continued retention of  
22 a mining claim located or converted under this Act is ex-  
23 clusively related to mineral activities at the site.

24 (2) Where the Secretary requests demonstration of  
25 the continuing sufficiency of any mining claim under this

1 section, the claim holder shall have the burden of showing  
2 each of the following:

3 (A) The lands or interests in lands included in  
4 the mining claim are not used predominantly for rec-  
5 reational, residential or other purposes rather than  
6 for mineral activities and are being held in good  
7 faith for the ultimate exploration for, development  
8 of, or production of locatable minerals, as dem-  
9 onstrated by the claimholder or his or her assigns  
10 through showings satisfactory to the Secretary.

11 (B) The claim holder or operator does not re-  
12 strict access to the lands or interests in lands in-  
13 cluded in the mining claim in a manner that is not  
14 required for mineral activities.

15 (C) The mineral being or to be mined on the  
16 mining claim is a locatable mineral (unless such  
17 lands are used for beneficiation or processing).

18 (D) The claim holder or operator has not con-  
19 structed, improved, maintained or used a structure  
20 located on a mining claim in a manner not specifi-  
21 cally authorized by the Secretary in accordance with  
22 this Act.

23 (3) Any mining claim for which the claim holder fails  
24 to demonstrate continued sufficiency, in the determination  
25 of the Secretary, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,

1 shall thereupon be deemed forfeited and be declared null  
2 and void.

3 (c) REMEDIES.—(1) The Secretary may assess a civil  
4 penalty of not more than \$5,000 per claim against the  
5 claimholder upon declaring a mining claim null and void  
6 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

7 (2) Upon declaring a mining claim null and void pur-  
8 suant to subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide a rea-  
9 sonable opportunity for the mining claim holder or opera-  
10 tor to remove any real or personal property which such  
11 person had previously placed upon the claim. If the prop-  
12 erty is not removed within the time provided, the Sec-  
13 retary may retain the property or provide for its disposi-  
14 tion or destruction.

15 (d) OTHER LAW.—The Secretary shall take such ac-  
16 tions as may be necessary to ensure the compliance by  
17 claim holders with section 4 of the Act of July 23, 1955  
18 (30 U.S.C. 612), consistent with this section.

19 **TITLE II—ENVIRONMENTAL CON-**  
20 **SIDERATIONS OF MINERAL**  
21 **EXPLORATION AND DEVELOP-**  
22 **MENT**

23 **SEC. 201. SURFACE MANAGEMENT STANDARD.**

24 Notwithstanding the last sentence of section 302(b)  
25 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976,



1 and in accordance with this title and other applicable law,  
2 the Secretary, and for National Forest System lands the  
3 Secretary of Agriculture, shall require that mineral activi-  
4 ties on Federal lands conducted by any person minimize  
5 adverse impacts to the environment.

6 **SEC. 202. PERMITS.**

7 (a) PERMITS REQUIRED.—No person may engage in  
8 mineral activities on Federal lands that may cause a dis-  
9 turbance of surface resources, including but not limited  
10 to, land, air, ground water and surface water, fish, wild-  
11 life, and biota unless—

12 (1) the claim was properly located or converted  
13 under this Act and properly maintained; and

14 (2) a permit was issued to such person under  
15 this title authorizing such activities.

16 (b) NEGLIGIBLE DISTURBANCE.—Notwithstanding  
17 subsection (a)(2), a permit under this title shall not be  
18 required for mineral activities related to exploration, or  
19 gathering of data, required to comply with section 203 or  
20 204 that cause a negligible disturbance of surface re-  
21 sources and do not involve any of the following:

22 (1) The use of mechanized earth moving equip-  
23 ment, suction dredging, explosives.

24 (2) The use of motor vehicles in areas closed to  
25 off-road vehicles.

1           (3) The construction of roads, drill pads, or the  
2           use of toxic or hazardous materials.

3 Persons engaging in such activities shall provide prior  
4 written notice. The Secretary and the Secretary of Agri-  
5 culture may provide, by joint regulations the manner in  
6 which such notice shall be provided.

7           (c) WAIVER OF THE SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY OF IN-  
8 DIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary is authorized to require In-  
9 dian tribes to waive sovereign immunity as a condition of  
10 obtaining a permit under this Act.

11 **SEC. 203. EXPLORATION PERMITS.**

12           (a) AUTHORIZED EXPLORATION ACTIVITY.—Any  
13 claim holder may apply for an exploration permit for any  
14 mining claim authorizing the claim holder to remove a rea-  
15 sonable amount of the locatable minerals from the claim  
16 for analysis, study and testing. Such permit shall not au-  
17 thorize the claim holder to remove any mineral for sale  
18 nor to conduct any activities other than those required for  
19 exploration for locatable minerals and reclamation.

20           (b) PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An ap-  
21 plication for an exploration permit under this section shall  
22 be submitted in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary  
23 or, for National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Ag-  
24 riculture, and shall contain an exploration plan, a reclama-  
25 tion plan for the proposed exploration, such documenta-

1 tion as necessary to ensure compliance with applicable  
2 Federal and State environmental laws and regulations,  
3 and each of the following:

4 (1) The name, mailing address, and social secu-  
5 rity number or tax identification number, as applica-  
6 ble, of each of the following:

7 (A) The applicant for the permit and any  
8 agent of the applicant.

9 (B) The operator (if different than the ap-  
10 plicant) of the claim concerned.

11 (C) Each claim holder (if different than  
12 the applicant) of the claim concerned.

13 (2) A statement of whether any person referred  
14 to in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph  
15 (1) is currently in violation of, or was, during the 3-  
16 year period preceding the date of the application,  
17 found to be in violation of, any of the following and,  
18 if so, a brief explanation of the facts involved, in-  
19 cluding identification of the site and nature of the  
20 violation:

21 (A) Any provision of this Act or any regu-  
22 lation under this Act.

23 (B) Any applicable toxic substance, solid  
24 waste, air, water quality, or fish and wildlife  
25 conservation law or regulation at any site where

1 mining, beneficiation, or processing activities  
2 are occurring or have occurred.

3 (C) The Surface Mining Control and Rec-  
4 lamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 and fol-  
5 lowing) or any regulation under that Act at any  
6 site where surface coal mining operations have  
7 occurred or are occurring.

8 (3) A description of the type and method of ex-  
9 ploration activities proposed, the engineering tech-  
10 niques proposed to be used and the equipment pro-  
11 posed to be used.

12 (4) The anticipated starting and termination  
13 dates of each phase of the exploration activities pro-  
14 posed, including any planned temporary cessation of  
15 exploration.

16 (5) A map, to an appropriate scale, clearly  
17 showing the land to be affected by the proposed ex-  
18 ploration.

19 (6) Information determined necessary by the  
20 Secretary concerned to assess the cumulative im-  
21 pacts, as required to comply with the National Envi-  
22 ronmental Policy Act.

23 (7) Evidence of appropriate financial assurance  
24 as specified in section 206.

1           (c) RECLAMATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The rec-  
2 lamation plan required to be included in a permit applica-  
3 tion under subsection (b) shall include such provisions as  
4 may be jointly prescribed by the Secretary and the Sec-  
5 retary of Agriculture and each of the following:

6           (1) A description of the condition of the land,  
7 including the fish and wildlife resources and habitat  
8 contained thereon, subject to the permit prior to the  
9 commencement of any exploration activities.

10           (2) A description of reclamation measures pro-  
11 posed pursuant to the requirements of section 207.

12           (3) The engineering techniques to be used in  
13 reclamation and the equipment proposed to be used.

14           (4) The anticipated starting and termination  
15 dates of each phase of the reclamation proposed.

16           (5) A description of the proposed condition of  
17 the land, including the fish and wildlife resources  
18 and habitat contained thereon, following the comple-  
19 tion of reclamation.

20           (d) PERMIT ISSUANCE OR DENIAL.—The Secretary,  
21 or for National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Ag-  
22 riculture, shall issue an exploration permit pursuant to an  
23 application under this section if such Secretary makes  
24 each of the following determinations, and such Secretary

1 shall deny a permit which he or she finds does not fully  
2 meet the requirements of this subsection:

3           (1) The permit application, the exploration plan  
4           and reclamation plan are complete and accurate.

5           (2) The applicant has demonstrated that pro-  
6           posed reclamation can be accomplished.

7           (3) The proposed exploration activities and con-  
8           dition of the land after the completion of exploration  
9           activities and final reclamation would conform with  
10          the land use plan applicable to the area subject to  
11          mineral activities.

12          (4) The area subject to the proposed permit is  
13          not included within an area designated unsuitable  
14          under section 209 or not open to location under sec-  
15          tion 101(b) for the types of exploration activities  
16          proposed.

17          (5) The applicant has demonstrated that the  
18          exploration plan and reclamation plan will be in  
19          compliance with the requirements of this Act and all  
20          other applicable Federal requirements, and any  
21          State requirements agreed to by the Secretary of the  
22          Interior (or Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate)  
23          pursuant to a cooperative agreement under section  
24          208.

1           (6) The applicant has fully complied with the  
2 requirements of section 206 (relating to financial as-  
3 surance).

4           (e) TERM OF PERMIT.—An exploration permit shall  
5 be for a stated term. The term shall be no greater than  
6 that necessary to accomplish the proposed exploration,  
7 and in no case for more than 5 years.

8           (f) PERMIT MODIFICATION.—During the term of an  
9 exploration permit the permit holder may submit an appli-  
10 cation to modify the permit. To approve a proposed modi-  
11 fication to the permit, the Secretary concerned shall make  
12 the same determinations as are required in the case of  
13 an original permit, except that the Secretary and the Sec-  
14 retary of Agriculture may specify by joint rule the extent  
15 to which requirements for initial exploration permits under  
16 this section shall apply to applications to modify an explo-  
17 ration permit based on whether such modifications are  
18 deemed significant or minor.

19           (g) FEES.—Each application for a permit pursuant  
20 to this section shall be accompanied by a fee payable to  
21 the Secretary of the Interior in such amount as may be  
22 established by the Secretary of the Interior. Such amount  
23 shall be equal to the actual or anticipated cost to the Sec-  
24 retary or the Secretary of Agriculture, as the case may  
25 be, of reviewing, administering, and enforcing such permit,

1 as determined by such Secretary. All moneys received  
2 under this subsection shall be deposited in the Abandoned  
3 Locatable Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund established  
4 under title III of this Act.

5 (h) TRANSFER, ASSIGNMENT, OR SALE OF  
6 RIGHTS.—(1) No transfer, assignment, or sale of rights  
7 granted by a permit issued under this section shall be  
8 made without the prior written approval of the Secretary  
9 or for National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Ag-  
10 riculture.

11 (2) Such Secretary may allow a person holding a per-  
12 mit to transfer, assign, or sell rights under the permit to  
13 a successor, if the Secretary finds, in writing, that the  
14 successor—

15 (A) is eligible to receive a permit in accordance  
16 with section 205;

17 (B) has submitted evidence of financial assur-  
18 ance satisfactory under section 206; and

19 (C) meets any other requirements specified by  
20 the Secretary.

21 (3) The successor in interest shall assume the liability  
22 and reclamation responsibilities established by the existing  
23 permit and shall conduct the mineral activities in full com-  
24 pliance with this Act, and the terms and conditions of the



1 permit as in effect at the time of transfer, assignment,  
2 or sale.

3 (4) Each application for approval of a permit trans-  
4 fer, assignment, or sale pursuant to this subsection shall  
5 be accompanied by a fee payable to the Secretary of the  
6 Interior in such amount as may be established by such  
7 Secretary. Such amount shall be equal to the actual or  
8 anticipated cost to the Secretary or the Secretary of Agri-  
9 culture, as appropriate, of reviewing and approving or dis-  
10 approving such transfer, assignment, or sale, as deter-  
11 mined by the Secretary of the Interior. All moneys re-  
12 ceived under this subsection shall be deposited in the  
13 Abandoned Locatable Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund  
14 established under title III of this Act.

15 **SEC. 204. OPERATIONS PERMIT.**

16 (a) OPERATIONS PERMIT.—Any claim holder may  
17 apply to the Secretary, or for National Forest System  
18 lands, the Secretary of Agriculture, for an operations per-  
19 mit authorizing the claim holder to carry out mineral ac-  
20 tivities on Federal lands. The permit shall include such  
21 terms and conditions as prescribed by such Secretary to  
22 carry out this title.

23 (b) PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An ap-  
24 plication for an operations permit under this section shall  
25 be submitted in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary

1 concerned and shall contain an operations plan, a reclama-  
2 tion plan, such documentation as necessary to ensure com-  
3 pliance with applicable Federal and State environmental  
4 laws and regulations, and each of the following:

5 (1) The name, mailing address, and social secu-  
6 rity number or tax identification number, as applica-  
7 ble, of each of the following:

8 (A) The applicant for the permit and any  
9 agent of the applicant.

10 (B) The operator (if different than the ap-  
11 plicant) at the claim concerned.

12 (C) Each claim holder (if different than  
13 the applicant) of the claim concerned.

14 (D) Each affiliate and each officer or di-  
15 rector of the applicant.

16 (2) A statement of whether a person referred to  
17 in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1)  
18 is currently in violation of, or was, during the 3-year  
19 period preceding the date of application, found to be  
20 in violation of, any of the following and if so, a brief  
21 explanation of the facts involved, including identi-  
22 fication of the site and the nature of the violation:

23 (A) Any provision of this Act or any regu-  
24 lation under this Act.

1           (B) Any applicable toxic substance, solid  
2 waste, air, water quality, or fish and wildlife  
3 conservation law or regulation at any site where  
4 mining, beneficiation, or processing activities  
5 are occurring or have occurred.

6           (C) The Surface Mining Control and Rec-  
7 lamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 and fol-  
8 lowing) or any regulation under that Act at any  
9 site where surface coal mining operations have  
10 occurred or are occurring.

11          (3) A statement of any current or previous per-  
12 mits or plans of operations issued under the Surface  
13 Mining Control and Reclamation Act or the Federal  
14 Land Policy and Management Act.

15          (4) A description of the type and method of  
16 mineral activities proposed, the engineering tech-  
17 niques proposed to be used and the equipment pro-  
18 posed to be used.

19          (5) The anticipated starting and termination  
20 dates of each phase of the mineral activities pro-  
21 posed, including any planned temporary cessation of  
22 operations.

23          (6) Maps, to an appropriate scale, clearly show-  
24 ing the lands, watersheds, and surface waters, to be  
25 affected by the proposed mineral activities; surface

1 and mineral ownership; facilities, including roads  
2 and other man-made structures; proposed disturb-  
3 ances; soils and vegetation; topography; and water  
4 supply intakes and surface water bodies.

5 (7) A description of the biological resources in  
6 or associated with the area subject to mineral activi-  
7 ties, including vegetation, fish and wildlife, riparian  
8 and wetland habitats.

9 (8) A description of measures planned to ex-  
10 clude fish and wildlife resources from the area sub-  
11 ject to mineral activities by covering, containment,  
12 or fencing of open waters, beneficiation, and process-  
13 ing materials; or maintenance of all facilities in a  
14 condition that is not harmful to fish and wildlife.

15 (9) A description of the quantity and quality of  
16 surface and ground water resources in or associated  
17 with the area subject to mineral activities, based on  
18 pre-disturbance monitoring sufficient to establish  
19 seasonal variations.

20 (10) An analysis of the probable hydrologic con-  
21 sequences of the mineral activities, both on and off  
22 the area subject to mineral activities, with respect to  
23 the hydrologic regime, quantity and quality of water  
24 in surface and ground water systems including the  
25 dissolved and suspended solids under seasonal flow

1 conditions and the collection of sufficient data for  
2 the mine site and surrounding areas so that an as-  
3 sessment can be made by the Secretary concerned of  
4 the probable cumulative impacts of the anticipated  
5 mineral activities in the area upon the hydrology of  
6 the area and particularly upon water availability.

7 (11) A description of the monitoring systems to  
8 be used to detect and determine whether compliance  
9 has and is occurring consistent with the surface  
10 management requirements and to monitor the ef-  
11 fects of mineral activities on the site and surround-  
12 ing environment, including but not limited to,  
13 ground water, surface water, air, soils, and fish and  
14 wildlife resources.

15 (12) Accident contingency plans that include,  
16 but are not limited to, immediate response strategies  
17 and corrective measures to mitigate environmental  
18 impacts and appropriate insurance to cover accident  
19 contingencies.

20 (13) Any measures to comply with any condi-  
21 tions on minerals activities that may be required in  
22 the applicable land use plan or any condition stipu-  
23 lated pursuant to section 209.

24 (14) Information determined necessary by the  
25 Secretary concerned to assess the cumulative im-

1       pacts of mineral activities, as required to comply  
2       with the National Environmental Policy Act.

3           (15) Such other environmental baseline data as  
4       the Secretaries, by joint regulation, shall require suf-  
5       ficient to validate the determinations required for  
6       issuance of a permit under this Act.

7           (16) Evidence of appropriate financial assur-  
8       ance as specified in section 206.

9           (17) A description of the site security provisions  
10      designed to protect from theft the locatable min-  
11      erals, concentrates or products derived therefrom  
12      which will be produced or stored on a mining claim.

13          (18) A full characterization of soils and geology  
14      in the area to be affected by mineral activities.

15          (19) A copy of the applicant's advertisement to  
16      be published as required by section 403 (relating to  
17      public participation).

18      (c) RECLAMATION PLAN APPLICATION REQUIRE-  
19      MENTS.—The reclamation plan referred to in subsection  
20      (b) shall include such reclamation measures as prescribed  
21      by the Secretary, or for National Forest System lands the  
22      Secretary of Agriculture, and each of the following:

23           (1) A description of the condition of the land,  
24      including the fish and wildlife resources and habitat

1 contained thereon, subject to the permit prior to the  
2 commencement of any mineral activities.

3 (2) A description of reclamation measures pro-  
4 posed pursuant to the requirements of section 207.

5 (3) The engineering techniques to be used in  
6 reclamation and the equipment proposed to be used.

7 (4) The anticipated starting and termination  
8 dates of each phase of the reclamation proposed.

9 (5) A description of the proposed condition of  
10 the land, including the fish and wildlife resources  
11 and habitat contained thereon, following the comple-  
12 tion of reclamation.

13 (6) A description of the maintenance measures  
14 that will be necessary to meet the surface manage-  
15 ment requirements of this Act, such as, but not lim-  
16 ited to, drainage water treatment facilities, or liner  
17 maintenance and control.

18 (7) The consideration which has been given to  
19 making the condition of the land after the comple-  
20 tion of mineral activities and final reclamation con-  
21 sistent with the applicable land use plan.

22 (d) PERMIT ISSUANCE OR DENIAL.—(1) After pro-  
23 viding notice and opportunity for public comment and  
24 hearing, the Secretary, or for National Forest System  
25 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, shall issue an oper-

1 ations permit if such Secretary makes each of the follow-  
2 ing determinations in writing, and such Secretary shall  
3 deny a permit which he or she finds does not fully meet  
4 the requirements of this paragraph:

5 (A) The permit application, operations plan,  
6 and reclamation plan are complete and accurate.

7 (B) The applicant has demonstrated that the  
8 proposed reclamation in the reclamation plan can be  
9 accomplished.

10 (C) The proposed mineral activities and condi-  
11 tion of the land including the fish and wildlife re-  
12 sources and habitat contained thereon, after the  
13 completion of mineral activities and final reclama-  
14 tion conform to the land use plan applicable to the  
15 area subject to mineral activities.

16 (D) The area subject to the proposed plan is  
17 not included within an area designated unsuitable or  
18 not open to location for the types of mineral activi-  
19 ties proposed.

20 (E) The applicant has demonstrated that the  
21 mineral activities will be in compliance with this Act  
22 and all other applicable Federal requirements, and  
23 any State requirements agreed to by the appropriate  
24 Secretary pursuant to cooperative agreements under  
25 section 208.



1           (F) The assessment of the probable cumulative  
2           impact of all anticipated mining in the area on the  
3           hydrologic balance specified in subsection (b)(10)  
4           has been made and the proposed operation has been  
5           designed to minimize disturbances to the prevailing  
6           hydrologic balance of the permit area.

7           (G) The applicant has fully complied with the  
8           requirements of section 206 (relating to financial as-  
9           surance).

10          (2) Issuance of an operations permit under this sec-  
11          tion shall be based on information supplied by the appli-  
12          cant or other interested parties and the applicant shall  
13          have the burden of establishing that the application com-  
14          plies with paragraph (1).

15          (3) With respect to any activities specified in the rec-  
16          lamation plan referred to in subsection (b) which con-  
17          stitute a removal or remedial action under section 101 of  
18          the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensa-  
19          tion and Liability Act of 1980, the Secretary shall consult  
20          with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection  
21          Agency prior to the issuance of an operating permit. To  
22          the extent practicable, the Administrator shall ensure that  
23          the reclamation plan does not require activities which  
24          would increase the costs or likelihood of removal or reme-  
25          dial actions under Comprehensive Environmental Re-

1 sponse, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 or correc-  
2 tive actions under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

3 (e) TERM OF PERMIT; RENEWAL.—(1) An operations  
4 permit shall be for a stated term. The term shall be no  
5 greater than that necessary to accomplish the proposed  
6 mineral activities subject to the permit, and in no case  
7 for more than 10 years, unless the applicant demonstrates  
8 to the satisfaction of the Secretary, or for National Forest  
9 System lands the Secretary of Agriculture, that a specified  
10 longer term is reasonably needed for such mineral activi-  
11 ties.

12 (2) Failure by the operator to commence mineral ac-  
13 tivities within one year of the date scheduled in an oper-  
14 ations permit shall require a modification of the permit  
15 unless the Secretary concerned determines that the delay  
16 was beyond the control of the applicant.

17 (3) An operations permit shall carry with it the right  
18 of successive renewal upon expiration only with respect to  
19 operations on areas within the boundaries of the existing  
20 permit as issued. A renewal of such permit shall not be  
21 issued if such Secretary determines, in writing, any of the  
22 following:

23 (A) The terms and conditions of the existing  
24 permit are not being met.

1           (B) The operator has not demonstrated that  
2           the financial assurance would continue to apply in  
3           full force and effect for the renewal term.

4           (C) Any additional revised or updated informa-  
5           tion required by the Secretary concerned has not  
6           been provided.

7           (D) The applicant has not demonstrated that  
8           the mineral activities will be in compliance with the  
9           requirements of all other applicable Federal require-  
10          ments, and any State requirements agreed to by the  
11          Secretary concerned pursuant to cooperative agree-  
12          ments under section 208.

13          (4) A renewal of an operations permit shall be for  
14          a term of 10 years or for such additional term as the Sec-  
15          retary concerned deems appropriate. Application for re-  
16          newal shall be made at least one year prior to the expira-  
17          tion of the existing permit. Where a renewal application  
18          has been timely submitted and a permit expires prior to  
19          Secretarial action on the renewal application, reclamation  
20          shall and other mineral activities may continue in accord-  
21          ance with the terms of the expired permit until the Sec-  
22          retary concerned makes a decision on the renewal applica-  
23          tion.

24          (f) PERMIT MODIFICATION.—(1) During the term of  
25          an operations permit the operator may submit an applica-

1 tion to modify the permit (including the operations plan  
2 or reclamation plan, or both). To approve a proposed  
3 modification, the Secretary, or for National Forest System  
4 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, shall make the same  
5 determinations as are required in the case of an original  
6 operations permit, except that the Secretaries may estab-  
7 lish joint rules regarding the extent to which requirements  
8 for original permits under this section shall apply to appli-  
9 cations to modify a permit based on whether such modi-  
10 fications are deemed significant or minor. Such rules shall  
11 provide that all requirements applicable to a new permit  
12 shall apply to any extension of the area covered by the  
13 permit (except for incidental boundary revisions).

14 (2) The Secretary, or for National Forest System  
15 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, may, at any time, re-  
16 quire reasonable modification to any operations plan or  
17 reclamation plan upon a determination that the require-  
18 ments of this Act cannot be met if the plan is followed  
19 as approved. Such determination shall be based on a writ-  
20 ten finding and subject to notice and hearing requirements  
21 established by the Secretary concerned.

22 (g) TEMPORARY CESSATION OF OPERATIONS.—(1)  
23 No operator conducting mineral activities under an oper-  
24 ations permit in effect under this title may temporarily  
25 cease mineral activities for a period of 180 days or more

1 under an operations permit unless the Secretary concerned  
2 has approved such temporary cessation or unless the tem-  
3 porary cessation is permitted under the original permit.  
4 Any operator temporarily ceasing mineral activities for a  
5 period of 180 days or more under an existing operations  
6 permit shall submit, before the expiration of such 180-day  
7 period, a complete application for temporary cessation of  
8 operations to the Secretary concerned for approval unless  
9 the temporary cessation is permitted under the original  
10 permit.

11 (2) An application for approval of temporary ces-  
12 sation of operations shall include such provisions as pre-  
13 scribed by the Secretary concerned, including but not lim-  
14 ited to the steps that shall be taken during the cessation  
15 of operations period to minimize impacts on the environ-  
16 ment. After receipt of a complete application for tem-  
17 porary cessation of operations such Secretary shall con-  
18 duct an inspection of the area for which temporary ces-  
19 sation of operations has been requested.

20 (3) To approve an application for temporary ces-  
21 sation of operations, the Secretary concerned shall make  
22 each of the following determinations:

23 (A) A determination that the methods for se-  
24 curing surface facilities and restricting access to the  
25 permit area, or relevant portions thereof, will effec-

1       tively ensure against hazards to the health and safe-  
2       ty of the public and fish and wildlife.

3           (B) A determination that reclamation is in com-  
4       pliance with the approved reclamation plan, except  
5       in those areas specifically designated in the applica-  
6       tion for temporary cessation of operations for which  
7       a delay in meeting such standards is necessary to fa-  
8       cilitate the resumption of operations.

9           (C) A determination that the amount of finan-  
10      cial assurance filed with the permit application is  
11      sufficient to assure completion of the reclamation ac-  
12      tivities identified in the approved reclamation plan in  
13      the event of forfeiture.

14          (D) A determination that any outstanding no-  
15      tices of violation and cessation orders incurred in  
16      connection with the plan for which temporary ces-  
17      sation is being requested are either stayed pursuant  
18      to an administrative or judicial appeal proceeding or  
19      are in the process of being abated to the satisfaction  
20      of the Secretary concerned.

21          (h) PERMIT REVIEWS.—The Secretary, or for Na-  
22      tional Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture,  
23      shall review each permit issued under this section every  
24      3 years during the term of such permit and, based upon  
25      a written finding, such Secretary may require the operator

1 to take such actions as the Secretary deems necessary to  
2 assure that mineral activities conform to the permit, in-  
3 cluding adjustment of financial assurance requirements.

4 (i) FEES.—Each application for a permit pursuant  
5 to this section shall be accompanied by a fee payable to  
6 the Secretary of the Interior in such amount as may be  
7 established by such Secretary. Such amount shall be equal  
8 to the actual or anticipated cost to the Secretary, or for  
9 National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
10 culture, of reviewing, administering, and enforcing such  
11 permit, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. All  
12 moneys received under this subsection shall be deposited  
13 in the Abandoned Locatable Minerals Mine Reclamation  
14 Fund established under title III of this Act.

15 (j) TRANSFER, ASSIGNMENT, OR SALE OF RIGHTS.—  
16 (1) No transfer, assignment, or sale of rights granted by  
17 a permit under this section shall be made without the prior  
18 written approval of the Secretary, or for National Forest  
19 System lands the Secretary of Agriculture.

20 (2) The Secretary, or for National Forest System  
21 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, may allow a person  
22 holding a permit to transfer, assign, or sell rights under  
23 the permit to a successor, if such Secretary finds, in writ-  
24 ing, that the successor—

1           (A) is eligible to receive a permit in accordance  
2 with section 205;

3           (B) has submitted evidence of financial assur-  
4 ance satisfactory under section 206; and

5           (C) meets any other requirements specified by  
6 such Secretary.

7           (3) The successor in interest shall assume the liability  
8 and reclamation responsibilities established by the existing  
9 permit and shall conduct the mineral activities in full com-  
10 pliance with this Act, and the terms and conditions of the  
11 permit as in effect at the time of transfer, assignment,  
12 or sale.

13           (4) Each application for approval of a permit trans-  
14 fer, assignment, or sale pursuant to this subsection shall  
15 be accompanied by a fee payable to the Secretary of the  
16 Interior in such amount as may be established by such  
17 Secretary. Such amount shall be equal to the actual or  
18 anticipated cost to the Secretary or the Secretary of Agri-  
19 culture of reviewing and approving or disapproving such  
20 transfer, assignment, or sale, as determined by the Sec-  
21 retary of the Interior. All moneys received under this sub-  
22 section shall be deposited in the Abandoned Locatable  
23 Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund established under title  
24 III of this Act.



1 **SEC. 205. PERSONS INELIGIBLE FOR PERMITS.**

2 (a) CURRENT VIOLATIONS.—Unless corrective action  
3 has been taken in accordance with subsection (c), no per-  
4 mit under this title shall be issued or transferred to an  
5 applicant if the applicant or any agent of the applicant,  
6 the operator (if different than the applicant) of the claim  
7 concerned, any claim holder (if different than the appli-  
8 cant) of the claim concerned, or any affiliate or officer  
9 or director of the applicant is currently in violation of any  
10 of the following:

11 (1) A provision of this Act or any regulation  
12 under this Act.

13 (2) An applicable toxic substance, solid waste,  
14 air, water quality, or fish and wildlife conservation  
15 law or regulation at any site where mining,  
16 beneficiation, or processing activities are occurring  
17 or have occurred.

18 (3) The Surface Mining Control and Reclama-  
19 tion Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 and following) or  
20 any regulation implementing that Act at any site  
21 where surface coal mining operations have occurred  
22 or are occurring.

23 (b) SUSPENSION.—The Secretary, or for National  
24 Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture, shall  
25 suspend an exploration permit or an operations permit,  
26 in whole or in part, if such Secretary determines that any

1 of the entities described in subsection (a) were in violation  
2 of any requirement listed in subsection (a) at the time the  
3 permit was issued.

4 (c) CORRECTION.—(1) The Secretary, or for National  
5 Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture, may  
6 issue or reinstate a permit under this title if the applicant  
7 submits proof that the violation referred to in subsection  
8 (a) or (b) has been corrected or is in the process of being  
9 corrected to the satisfaction of such Secretary or if the  
10 applicant submits proof that the violator has filed and is  
11 presently pursuing, a direct administrative or judicial ap-  
12 peal to contest the existence of the violation. For purposes  
13 of this section, an appeal of any applicant's relationship  
14 to an affiliate shall not constitute a direct administrative  
15 or judicial appeal to contest the existence of the violation.

16 (2) Any permit which is issued or reinstated based  
17 upon proof submitted under this subsection shall be condi-  
18 tionally approved or conditionally reinstated, as the case  
19 may be. If the violation is not successfully abated or the  
20 violation is upheld on appeal, the permit shall be sus-  
21 pended or revoked.

22 (d) PATTERN OF WILLFUL VIOLATIONS.—No permit  
23 under this Act may be issued to any applicant if there  
24 is a demonstrated pattern of willful violations of the sur-  
25 face management requirements of this Act by the appli-

1 cant, any affiliate of the applicant, or the operator or  
2 claim holder if different than the applicant, and such vio-  
3 lations are of such nature and duration, and with such  
4 resulting irreparable damage to the environment, as to  
5 clearly indicate an intent not to comply with the surface  
6 management requirements.

7 **SEC. 206. FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.**

8 (a) FINANCIAL ASSURANCE REQUIRED.—(1) Before  
9 any permit is issued under this title, the operator shall  
10 file with the Secretary, or for National Forest System  
11 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, evidence of financial  
12 assurance payable to the United States on a form pre-  
13 scribed and furnished by such Secretary and conditional  
14 upon faithful performance of such permit and all other  
15 requirements of this Act. The financial assurance shall be  
16 provided in the form of a surety bond, trust fund, letters  
17 of credits, government securities, cash or equivalent.

18 (2) The financial assurance shall cover all lands with-  
19 in the initial permit area and shall be extended to cover  
20 all lands added pursuant to any permit modification made  
21 under section 203(f), section 204(f), or section 204(h).  
22 The financial assurance shall cover all lands to be affected  
23 by mineral activities as described and depicted in the per-  
24 mit application.

1           (b) AMOUNT.—The amount of the financial assur-  
2    ance required under this section shall be sufficient to as-  
3    sure the completion of reclamation satisfying the require-  
4    ments of this Act if the work were to be performed by  
5    the Secretary concerned in the event of forfeiture. The cal-  
6    culation of such amount shall take into account the maxi-  
7    mum level of financial exposure which shall arise during  
8    the mineral activity.

9           (c) DURATION.—The financial assurance required  
10   under this section shall be held for the duration of the  
11   mineral activities and for an additional period to cover the  
12   operator's responsibility for revegetation as specified  
13   under subsection 207(b)(6)(B), and effluent treatment as  
14   specified in subsection (g).

15          (d) ADJUSTMENTS.—The amount of the financial as-  
16   surance and the terms of the acceptance of the assurance  
17   may be adjusted by the Secretary concerned from time to  
18   time as the area requiring coverage is increased or de-  
19   creased, or where the costs of reclamation or treatment  
20   change, or pursuant to section 204(h), but the financial  
21   assurance must otherwise be in compliance with this sec-  
22   tion. The Secretary concerned shall specify periodic times,  
23   or set a schedule, for reevaluating or adjusting the amount  
24   of financial assurance.

1 (e) RELEASE.—Upon request, and after notice and  
2 opportunity for public comment, and after inspection by  
3 the Secretary, or for National Forest System lands the  
4 Secretary of Agriculture, such Secretary may, after con-  
5 sultation with the Administrator of the Environmental  
6 Protection Agency, release in whole or in part the financial  
7 assurance required under this section if the Secretary  
8 makes both of the following determinations:

9 (1) A determination that reclamation covered  
10 by the financial assurance has been accomplished as  
11 required by this Act.

12 (2) A determination that the operator has de-  
13 clared that the terms and conditions of any other  
14 applicable Federal requirements, and State require-  
15 ments applicable pursuant to cooperative agreements  
16 under section 208, have been fulfilled.

17 (f) RELEASE SCHEDULE.—The release referred to in  
18 subsection (e) shall be according to the following schedule:

19 (1) After the operator has completed any re-  
20 quired backfilling, regrading, and drainage control of  
21 an area subject to mineral activities and covered by  
22 the financial assurance, and has commenced revege-  
23 tation on the regraded areas subject to mineral ac-  
24 tivities in accordance with the approved plan, that  
25 portion of the total financial assurance secured for

1 the area subject to mineral activities attributable to  
2 the completed activities may be released.

3 (2) After the operator has completed success-  
4 fully all remaining mineral activities and reclamation  
5 activities and all requirements of the operations plan  
6 and the reclamation plan (including the provisions of  
7 section 207(b)(6)(B) relating to revegetation and ef-  
8 fluent treatment required by subsection (g)), and all  
9 other requirements of this Act have in fact been  
10 fully met, the remaining portion of the financial as-  
11 surance may be released.

12 During the period following release of the financial assur-  
13 ance as specified in paragraph (1), until the remaining  
14 portion of the financial assurance is released as provided  
15 in paragraph (2), the operator shall be required to comply  
16 with the permit issued under this title.

17 (g) EFFLUENT.—Where any discharge resulting from  
18 the mineral activities requires treatment in order to meet  
19 the applicable effluent limitations, the financial assurance  
20 shall include the estimated cost of maintaining such treat-  
21 ment for the projected period that will be needed after  
22 the cessation of mineral activities. The portion of the fi-  
23 nancial assurance attributable to such estimated cost of  
24 treatment shall not be released until the discharge has  
25 ceased, or, if the discharge continues, until the operator

1 has met all applicable effluent limitations and water qual-  
2 ity standards for 5 full years without treatment.

3 (h) ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS.—If the Secretary,  
4 or for National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
5 culture, determines, after final release of financial assur-  
6 ance, that an environmental hazard resulting from the  
7 mineral activities exists, or the terms and conditions of  
8 the operations permit of this Act were not fulfilled in fact  
9 at the time of release, such Secretary shall issue an order  
10 under section 407 requiring the claimholder or operator  
11 (or any person who controls the claimholder or operator)  
12 to correct the condition.

13 **SEC. 207. RECLAMATION.**

14 (a) GENERAL RULE.—(1) Except as provided under  
15 paragraphs (5) and (7) of subsection (b), the operator  
16 shall restore lands subject to mineral activities carried out  
17 under a permit issued under this title to a condition capa-  
18 ble of supporting—

19 (A) the uses, including fish and wildlife habitat  
20 uses, which such lands were capable of supporting  
21 prior to surface disturbance by the operator, or

22 (B) other beneficial uses which conform to ap-  
23 plicable land use plans as determined by the Sec-  
24 retary or for National Forest System lands, the Sec-  
25 retary of Agriculture.

1           (2) Reclamation shall proceed as contemporaneously  
2 as practicable with the conduct of mineral activities and  
3 shall use, with respect to this subsection and subsection  
4 (b), the best technology currently available. To the extent  
5 practicable, reclamation shall be conducted in a manner  
6 that does not increase the costs or likelihood of a removal  
7 or remedial action under section 101 of the Comprehensive  
8 Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act  
9 of 1980 or a corrective action under the Solid Waste Dis-  
10 posal Act.

11           (b) RECLAMATION STANDARDS.—Mineral activities  
12 shall be conducted in accordance with the following stand-  
13 ards; as well as any additional standards the Secretaries  
14 may jointly promulgate under section 201 and subsection  
15 (a) of this section to address specific environmental im-  
16 pacts of selected methods of mining:

17           (1) SOILS.—(A) Soils, including top soils and  
18 subsoils removed from lands subject to mineral ac-  
19 tivities shall be segregated from waste material and  
20 protected for later use in reclamation. If such soil is  
21 not replaced on a backfill area within a time-frame  
22 short enough to avoid deterioration of the topsoil,  
23 vegetative cover or other means shall be used so that  
24 the soil is preserved from wind and water erosion,  
25 remains free of contamination by acid or other toxic



1 material, and is in a usable condition for sustaining  
2 vegetation when restored during reclamation.

3 (B) In the event the topsoil from lands subject  
4 to mineral activities is of insufficient quantity or of  
5 inferior quality for sustaining vegetation, and other  
6 suitable growth media removed from the lands sub-  
7 ject to the mineral activities are available that shall  
8 support vegetation, the best available growth me-  
9 dium shall be removed, segregated and preserved in  
10 a like manner as under subparagraph (A) for sus-  
11 taining vegetation when restored during reclamation.

12 (C) In the event the soil (other than topsoil)  
13 from lands subject to mineral activities is of insuffi-  
14 cient quantity or of inferior quality for sustaining  
15 vegetation, and other suitable growth media removed  
16 from the lands subject to the mineral activities are  
17 available that support revegetation, these substitute  
18 materials shall be removed, segregated or preserved  
19 in a like manner as under subparagraph (A) for  
20 later use in reclamation.

21 (D) Mineral activities shall be conducted to pre-  
22 vent contamination of soils to the extent possible  
23 using the best technology currently available. If con-  
24 tamination occurs, the operator shall decontaminate

1 or dispose of any contaminated soils which have re-  
2 sulted from the mineral activities.

3 (2) STABILIZATION.—All surface areas subject  
4 to mineral activities, including segregated soils or  
5 other growth medium, waste material piles, ore piles,  
6 subgrade ore piles, and open or partially backfilled  
7 mine pits which meet the requirements of paragraph  
8 (5) shall be stabilized and protected during mineral  
9 activities so as to effectively control fugitive dust  
10 and erosion and otherwise comply with toxic sub-  
11 stance, solid waste, air and water pollution control  
12 laws and other environmental laws.

13 (3) SEDIMENTS, EROSION, AND DRAINAGE.—  
14 Facilities such as but not limited to basins, ditches,  
15 stream bank stabilization, diversions or other meas-  
16 ures, shall be designed, constructed and maintained  
17 where necessary to control sediments, erosion, and  
18 drainage of the area subject to mineral activities.

19 (4) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE.—(A) Mineral ac-  
20 tivities shall be conducted to minimize disturbances  
21 to the prevailing hydrologic balance of the permit  
22 area and surrounding watershed existing prior to the  
23 mineral activities in the permit area and in the sur-  
24 rounding watershed, as established by the baseline  
25 information provided pursuant to section

1 204(b)(10). Hydrologic balance includes the quality  
2 and quantity of ground water and surface water and  
3 their interrelationships, including recharge and dis-  
4 charge rates. In all cases, the operator shall comply  
5 with Federal and State laws related to the quality  
6 and quantity of such waters.

7 (B) Mineral activities shall be conducted using  
8 the technology standard referred to in subsection  
9 (a)(2) to prevent where possible the formation of  
10 acidic, toxic or other contaminated water. Where the  
11 formation of acidic, toxic or other contaminated  
12 water occurs despite the use of such technology  
13 standard, mineral activities shall be conducted using  
14 such technology so as to minimize the formation of  
15 acidic, toxic or other contaminated water.

16 (C) Mineral activities shall prevent any con-  
17 tamination of surface and ground water with acid or  
18 other toxic mine pollutants and shall prevent or re-  
19 move water from contact with acid or toxic produc-  
20 ing deposits.

21 (D) Reclamation shall restore approximate hy-  
22 drologic balance existing prior to the mineral activi-  
23 ties.

24 (E) Where the quality of surface water or  
25 ground water used for domestic, municipal, agricul-

1 tural, or industrial purposes is adversely impacted  
2 by mineral activities, such water shall be treated, or  
3 replaced with the same quantity and approximate  
4 quality of water, comparable to premining conditions  
5 as established in paragraph (10) of section 204(b).

6 (5) SURFACE RESTORATION.—(A) The surface  
7 area disturbed by mineral activities shall be shaped,  
8 graded, and contoured to its natural topography.  
9 Backfilling of an open pit mine shall be required  
10 only if the Secretary, or for National Forest System  
11 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, finds that such  
12 open pit or partially backfilled, graded, or contoured  
13 pit would pose a significant threat to the public  
14 health safety or have a significant adverse effect on  
15 the environment in terms of surface water or  
16 groundwater pollution.

17 (B) In instances where complete backfilling of  
18 an open pit is not required, the pit shall be graded  
19 to blend with the surrounding topography as much  
20 as practicable and revegetated in accordance with  
21 paragraph (6).

22 (6) VEGETATION.—(A) The area subject to  
23 mineral activities shall be vegetated in order to es-  
24 tablish a diverse, effective and permanent vegetative  
25 cover of the same seasonal variety native to the area

1 subject to mineral activities, capable of self-regen-  
2 eration and plant succession and at least equal in  
3 extent of cover to the natural revegetation of the  
4 surrounding area, except that introduced species  
5 may be used at the discretion of the Secretary, or  
6 for National Forest System lands the Secretary of  
7 Agriculture, in consultation with the Director, Fish  
8 and Wildlife Service, if such introduction of such  
9 species is necessary as an interim step in, and is  
10 part of a program to restore a native plant commu-  
11 nity. In such instances where the complete backfill  
12 of an open mine pit is not required under paragraph  
13 (5), such Secretary shall prescribe such vegetation  
14 requirements as conform to the applicable land use  
15 plan.

16 (B) In order to insure compliance with subpara-  
17 graph (A), the period for determining successful re-  
18 vegetation shall be for a period of 5 full years after  
19 the last year of augmented seeding, fertilizing, irri-  
20 gation or other work, except that such period shall  
21 be 10 full years where the annual average precipita-  
22 tion is 26 inches or less. The period may be for a  
23 longer time at the discretion of the Secretary con-  
24 cerned where the average precipitation is 26 inches  
25 or less.

1           (7) EXCESS WASTE.—(A) Waste material in ex-  
2           cess of that required to comply with paragraph (5)  
3           shall be transported and placed in approved areas,  
4           in a controlled manner in such a way so as to assure  
5           long-term mass stability, to prevent mass movement  
6           and to facilitate reclamation. In addition to the  
7           measures described under paragraph (3), internal  
8           drainage systems shall be employed, as may be re-  
9           quired, to control erosion and drainage. The design  
10          of such excess waste material piles shall be certified  
11          by a qualified professional engineer.

12          (B) Excess waste material piles shall be graded  
13          and contoured to blend with the surrounding topog-  
14          raphy as much as practicable and revegetated in ac-  
15          cordance with paragraph (6).

16          (8) SEALING.—All drill holes, and openings on  
17          the surface associated with underground mineral ac-  
18          tivities, shall be backfilled, sealed or otherwise con-  
19          trolled when no longer needed for the conduct of  
20          mineral activities to ensure protection of the public  
21          and the environment, and management of fish and  
22          wildlife and livestock.

23          (9) STRUCTURES.—All buildings, structures or  
24          equipment constructed, used or improved during  
25          mineral activities shall be removed, unless the Sec-

1       retary concerned in consultation with the affected  
2       land managing agency, determines that use of the  
3       buildings, structures or equipment would be consist-  
4       ent with subsection (a) or for environmental mon-  
5       itoring and the Secretary concerned takes ownership  
6       of such structures.

7               (10) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Fish and wildlife  
8       habitat in areas subject to mineral activities shall be  
9       restored in a manner commensurate with or superior  
10      to habitat conditions which existed prior to the min-  
11      eral activities, including such conditions as may be  
12      prescribed by the Director, Fish and Wildlife  
13      Service.

14             (c) APPLICATION OF RECLAMATION STANDARDS TO  
15      EXPLORATION.—The provisions of this section shall apply  
16      to mineral exploration pursuant to a permit under this  
17      Act, except that paragraphs (5) and (6) of subsection (b)  
18      shall not apply during any interim periods between com-  
19      pletion of the approved exploration and the commence-  
20      ment of further mineral activities, not to exceed 2 years,  
21      if the operator maintains a sufficient financial assurance  
22      to reclaim the disturbed surface should further mineral ac-  
23      tivities not be authorized. The Secretary concerned shall  
24      prescribe standards for interim stabilization and revegeta-  
25      tion.

1 (d) SPECIAL RULE.—A modified reclamation plan  
2 shall not be required for mineral activities related to re-  
3 clamation where a mining claim is forfeited, relinquished  
4 or lapsed, or a plan is revoked or suspended or has expired  
5 in any such case. Reclamation activities shall continue  
6 only as approved by the Secretary, or for National Forest  
7 System lands the Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to the  
8 previously approved reclamation plan.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

10 (1) The term “best technology currently avail-  
11 able” means equipment, devices, systems, methods,  
12 or techniques which have demonstrated engineering  
13 and economic feasibility, success and practicality.  
14 Within the constraints of the surface management  
15 requirements of this Act, the Secretary, or for Na-  
16 tional Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
17 culture, shall have the discretion to determine the  
18 best technology currently available on a case-by-case  
19 basis.

20 (2) The term “waste material” means the mate-  
21 rial resulting from mineral activities involving ex-  
22 traction, beneficiation and processing, including but  
23 not limited to tailings, and such material resulting  
24 from mineral activities involving processing, to the  
25 extent such material is not subject to subtitle C of



1 the Solid Waste Disposal Act or the Uranium Mill  
2 Tailings Radiation Control Act.

3 (3) The term “ore piles” means ore stockpiled  
4 for beneficiation prior to the completion of mineral  
5 activities.

6 (4) The term “subgrade ore” means ore that is  
7 too low in grade to be processed at the time of ex-  
8 traction but which could reasonably be processed in  
9 the foreseeable future.

10 (5) The term “soil” means the earthy or sandy  
11 layer, ranging in thickness from a few inches to sev-  
12 eral feet, composed of finely divided rock debris, of  
13 whatever origin, mixed with decomposing vegetal and  
14 animal matter, which forms the surface of the  
15 ground and in which plants grow or may grow.

16 **SEC. 208. STATE LAW AND REGULATION.**

17 (a) STATE LAW.—(1) Any reclamation standard or  
18 requirement in State law or regulation that meets or ex-  
19 ceeds the requirements of section 207 shall not be con-  
20 strued to be inconsistent with any such standard.

21 (2) Any bonding standard or requirement in State  
22 law or regulation that meets or exceeds the requirements  
23 of section 206 shall not be construed to be inconsistent  
24 with such requirements.

1           (3) Any inspection standard or requirement in State  
2 law or regulation that meets or exceeds the requirements  
3 of section 404 shall not be construed to be inconsistent  
4 with such requirements.

5           (b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER STATE REQUIRE-  
6 MENTS.—(1) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as af-  
7 fecting any toxic substance, solid waste, or air or water  
8 quality, standard or requirement of any State law or regu-  
9 lation, or of tribal law or regulation, which may be applica-  
10 ble to mineral activities on lands subject to this Act.

11           (2) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting  
12 in any way the right of any person to enforce or protect,  
13 under applicable law, such person's interest in water re-  
14 sources affected by mineral activities on lands subject to  
15 this Act.

16           (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—(1) Any State  
17 may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Sec-  
18 retary, or for National Forest System lands the Secretary  
19 of Agriculture, for the purposes of such Secretary applying  
20 such standards and requirements referred to in subsection  
21 (a) and subsection (b) to mineral activities or reclamation  
22 on lands subject to this Act.

23           (2) In such instances where the proposed mineral ac-  
24 tivities would affect lands not subject to this Act in addi-  
25 tion to lands subject to this Act, in order to approve a

1 plan of operations the Secretary concerned shall enter into  
2 a cooperative agreement with the State that sets forth a  
3 common regulatory framework consistent with the surface  
4 management requirements of this Act for the purposes of  
5 such plan of operations.

6 (3) The Secretary concerned shall not enter into a  
7 cooperative agreement with any State under this section  
8 until after notice in the Federal Register and opportunity  
9 for public comment.

10 (d) PRIOR AGREEMENTS.—Any cooperative agree-  
11 ment or such other understanding between the Secretary  
12 concerned and any State, or political subdivision thereof,  
13 relating to the surface management of mineral activities  
14 on lands subject to this Act that was in existence on the  
15 date of enactment of this Act may only continue in force  
16 until the effective date of this Act, after which time the  
17 terms and conditions of any such agreement or under-  
18 standing shall only be applicable to plans of operations  
19 approved by the Secretary concerned prior to the effective  
20 date of this Act.

21 (e) DELEGATION.—The Secretary, or for National  
22 Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture, shall  
23 not delegate to any State, or political subdivision thereof,  
24 the Secretary's authorities, duties and obligations under

1 this Act, including with respect to any cooperative agree-  
2 ments entered into under this section.

3 (f) PREEMPTION.—Subject to section 414(b), the re-  
4 quirements of this Act shall preempt any conflicting re-  
5 quirements of any State, or political subdivision thereof  
6 relating to mineral activities for locatable minerals.

7 **SEC. 209. UNSUITABILITY REVIEW.**

8 (a) AUTHORITY.—(1) As provided for in this section,  
9 the Secretary of the Interior, in carrying out the Sec-  
10 retary's responsibilities under the Federal Land Policy  
11 and Management Act of 1976, and the Secretary of Agri-  
12 culture, in carrying out the Secretary's responsibilities  
13 under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources  
14 Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest  
15 Management Act of 1976, shall each review lands that are  
16 subject to this Act in order to determine, in accordance  
17 with the provisions of subsection (b), whether there are  
18 any areas on such lands which are either unsuitable for  
19 all types of mineral activities or conditionally suitable for  
20 certain types of mineral activities.

21 (2) Any determination made in accordance with sub-  
22 section (b) shall be immediately effective. Such determina-  
23 tion shall be incorporated into the applicable land use plan  
24 when such plan is adopted, revised, or significantly amend-  
25 ed pursuant to provisions of law other than this Act.

1           (3) In any instance where a determination is made  
2 in accordance with subsection (b) that an area is condi-  
3 tionally suitable for all or certain mineral activities, the  
4 Secretary concerned shall take appropriate steps to notify  
5 the public that any operations permit application relevant  
6 to that area shall be conditioned accordingly.

7           (b) SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS.—(1) The Secretary,  
8 or for National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
9 culture, shall determine that an area open to location is  
10 unsuitable for all or certain mineral activities if such Sec-  
11 retary finds that such activities would result in significant,  
12 permanent and irreparable damage to special characteris-  
13 ties as described in paragraph (3) which cannot be pre-  
14 vented by the imposition of conditions in the operations  
15 permit required under section 204 (b).

16           (2) The Secretary, or for National Forest System  
17 lands, the Secretary of Agriculture, may determine, after  
18 notice and opportunity for public comment, that an area  
19 is conditionally suitable for all or certain types of mineral  
20 activities, if the Secretary concerned determines that any  
21 of the special characteristics of such area, as listed in  
22 paragraph (3), require protection from the effects of min-  
23 eral activities.

1           (3) Any of the following shall be considered special  
2 characteristics of an area which contains lands or interests  
3 in lands open to location under this Act:

4           (A) The existence of significant water quality or  
5 supplies in or associated with such area, such as  
6 aquifers and aquifer recharge areas.

7           (B) The presence in such area of publicly  
8 owned places which are listed on or are determined  
9 eligible for listing on the National Register of His-  
10 toric Places.

11           (C) The designation of all or any portion of  
12 such area or any adjacent area as a National Con-  
13 servation System unit.

14           (D) The designation of all or any portion of  
15 such area or any adjacent area as critical habitat for  
16 threatened or endangered species under the Endan-  
17 gered Species Act.

18           (E) The designation of all or any portion of  
19 such area as Class I under section 162 of the Clean  
20 Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401).

21           (F) The presence of such other resource values  
22 as the Secretary, or for National Forest System  
23 lands, the Secretary of Agriculture, may, by joint  
24 rule, specify based upon field testing that verifies  
25 such criteria.

1           (c) PERMIT APPLICATION PRIOR TO REVIEW.—(1) If  
2 an area covered by an application for a permit required  
3 under section 204, has not been reviewed pursuant to sub-  
4 section (a) prior to submission of the application, the Sec-  
5 retary, or for National Forest System lands, the Secretary  
6 of Agriculture, shall review the area that would be affected  
7 by the proposed mineral activities to determine, according  
8 to the provisions of subsection (b), whether the area is  
9 unsuitable for all types of mineral activities or condi-  
10 tionally suitable for certain types of mineral activities.  
11 Such review and determination shall precede the final de-  
12 cision on the permit application.

13           (2) The Secretary concerned shall use such review in  
14 the next revision or significant amendment to the applica-  
15 ble land use plan to the extent necessary to reflect the  
16 unsuitability or conditional suitability of such lands.

17           (d) EFFECT OF DETERMINATION.—(1) In any in-  
18 stance in which a determination of unsuitability is made  
19 for any area in accordance with subsection (b)(1), all min-  
20 eral activities shall be prohibited in such area, and the  
21 Secretary shall (with the consent of the Secretary of Agri-  
22 culture for National Forest System lands) withdraw such  
23 area pursuant to section 204 of the Federal Land Policy  
24 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1714). The Sec-  
25 retary's determination under this section shall constitute

1 the documentation required to be provided under section  
2 204(c)(12) of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
3 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1714).

4 (2) In any instance where the Secretary, or for Na-  
5 tional Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agriculture,  
6 determines in accordance with subsection (b)(2) that, by  
7 reason of any of the special characteristics listed in sub-  
8 section (b)(3), an area is conditionally suitable for all or  
9 certain mineral activities, the Secretary concerned shall in-  
10 clude such additional conditions in each permit for mineral  
11 activities in such area as necessary to limit or control min-  
12 eral activities to the extent necessary to protect the special  
13 characteristics concerned.

14 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as af-  
15 fecting lands where mineral activities were being con-  
16 ducted on the date of enactment of this Act under ap-  
17 proved plans of operations or under notice (as provided  
18 for in the regulations of the Secretary of the Interior in  
19 effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act relating  
20 to operations that cause a cumulative disturbance of 5  
21 acres or less).

22 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as pro-  
23 hibiting mineral activities at a specific site, where substan-  
24 tial legal and financial commitments in such mineral ac-  
25 tivities were in existence on the date of enactment of this



1 Act, but nothing in this section shall be construed as pro-  
2 hibiting either Secretary from regulating such activities in  
3 accordance with other authority of law. As used in this  
4 paragraph, the term “substantial legal and financial com-  
5 mitments” means, with respect to a specific site, signifi-  
6 cant investments, expenditures, or undertakings that have  
7 been made to explore or develop any mining claim or and  
8 millsite located at such site under the general mining laws  
9 or converted under this Act, such as but not limited to:  
10 contracts for minerals produced; construction; contracts  
11 for the construction; or commitment to raise capital for  
12 the construction of processing, beneficiation, extraction, or  
13 refining facilities, or transportation or utility infrastruc-  
14 ture; exploration activities conducted to delineate proven  
15 or probable ore reserves; acquisition of mining claims (but  
16 only if such acquisition is part of other significant invest-  
17 ments specified in this paragraph); and such other costs  
18 or expenditures related to mineral activities at such site  
19 as are similar to the foregoing itemized costs or expendi-  
20 tures and as may be specified by the Secretaries by joint  
21 rule.

22 (e) WITHDRAWAL REVIEW.—(1) In carrying out the  
23 responsibilities referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
24 or, for National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Ag-  
25 riculture, shall review all administrative withdrawals of

1 land under such Secretary's jurisdiction (other than wil-  
2 derness study areas) to determine whether the revocation  
3 or modification of such withdrawal for the purpose of al-  
4 lowing such lands to be opened to the location of mining  
5 claims under this Act is appropriate as a result of either  
6 of the following:

7           (A) The imposition of any conditions imposed  
8           as part of the land use planning process or the im-  
9           position of any conditions as a result to the review  
10          process under subsection (a).

11          (B) The limitation of section 417 (relating to  
12          limitation on patent issuance).

13          (2) The Secretary concerned shall publish the review  
14 referred to in paragraph (1) in the Federal Register no  
15 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.  
16 After providing notice and opportunity for comment, the  
17 Secretary may issue a revocation or modification of such  
18 administrative withdrawals as he deems appropriate by  
19 reason of the criteria listed in subparagraph (A) or (B)  
20 of paragraph (1).

21          (f) **EXPLORATION REVIEWS.**—In conjunction with re-  
22 view of a permit application submitted pursuant to section  
23 203, and upon request of the applicant, the Secretary, or  
24 for National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agri-  
25 culture, shall review the area proposed to be affected by

1 mineral activities to determine whether the area would be  
2 unsuitable or conditionally suitable for all or certain min-  
3 eral activities.

4 **SEC. 210. CERTAIN MINERAL ACTIVITIES COVERED BY**  
5 **OTHER LAW.**

6 This title shall not apply to any mineral activities  
7 which are subject to the Stock Raising Homestead Act.

8 **TITLE III—ABANDONED LOCAT-**  
9 **ABLE MINERALS MINE REC-**  
10 **LAMATION FUND**

11 **SEC. 301. ABANDONED LOCATABLE MINERALS MINE REC-**  
12 **LAMATION.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) There is established on  
14 the books of the Treasury of the United States a trust  
15 fund to be known as the Abandoned Locatable Minerals  
16 Mine Reclamation Fund (hereinafter in this title referred  
17 to as the “Fund”). The Fund shall be administered by  
18 the Secretary acting through the Director of the Office  
19 of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

20 (2) The Secretary shall notify the Secretary of the  
21 Treasury as to what portion of the Fund is not, in the  
22 Secretary’s judgment, required to meet current withdraw-  
23 als. The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such por-  
24 tion of the Fund in public debt securities with maturities  
25 suitable for the needs of such Fund and bearing interest

1 at rates determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, tak-  
2 ing into consideration current market yields on outstand-  
3 ing marketplace obligations of the United States of com-  
4 parable maturities. The income on such investments shall  
5 be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund.

6 (b) AMOUNTS.—The following amounts shall be cred-  
7 ited to the Fund:

8 (1) All moneys received from the collection of  
9 claim maintenance fees under section 105.

10 (2) All moneys collected pursuant to section  
11 106 (relating to failure to comply), section 407 (re-  
12 lating to enforcement) and section 405 (relating to  
13 citizens suits).

14 (3) All permit fees and transfer fees received  
15 under sections 203 and 204.

16 (4) All donations by persons, corporations, as-  
17 sociations, and foundations for the purposes of this  
18 title.

19 (5) All amounts referred to in section 306 (re-  
20 lating to royalties and penalties for underreporting).

21 (6) All other receipts from fees, royalties, pen-  
22 alties and other sources collected under this Act.

23 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—(1) In calculating the  
24 amount to be deposited in the Fund during any fiscal year  
25 under subsection (b), the enacted appropriation of the De-

1 partment of the Interior during the preceding year attrib-  
2 utable to administering this Act shall be deducted from  
3 the total of the amounts listed in subsection (b) prior to  
4 the transfer of such amounts to the Fund.

5 (2) The amount deducted under paragraph (1) of this  
6 section shall be available to the Secretary, subject to ap-  
7 propriation, for payment of the costs of administering this  
8 Act.

9 **SEC. 302. USE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized, sub-  
11 ject to appropriations, to use moneys in the Fund for the  
12 reclamation and restoration of land and water resources  
13 adversely affected by past mineral activities on lands the  
14 legal and beneficial title to which resides in the United  
15 States, land within the exterior boundary of any national  
16 forest system unit, or other lands described in subsection  
17 (d) or section 303, including any of the following:

18 (1) Prevention, abatement, treatment and con-  
19 trol of water pollution created by abandoned mine  
20 drainage.

21 (2) Reclamation and restoration of abandoned  
22 surface and underground mined areas.

23 (3) Reclamation and restoration of abandoned  
24 milling and processing areas.

1           (4) Backfilling, sealing, or otherwise control-  
2           ling, abandoned underground mine entries.

3           (5) Revegetation of land adversely affected by  
4           past mineral activities to prevent erosion and sedi-  
5           mentation and to enhance wildlife habitat.

6           (6) Control of surface subsidence due to aban-  
7           doned underground mines.

8 Moneys in the Fund shall also be available for purposes  
9 of compensation (and other payments) under section 422.

10          (b) PRIORITIES.—To the extent that moneys in the  
11 fund are in excess of the amount of compensation (and  
12 other payments) paid under section 422, expenditures of  
13 moneys from the Fund shall reflect the following priorities  
14 in the order stated:

15           (1) The protection of public health, safety, gen-  
16           eral welfare and property from extreme danger from  
17           the adverse effects of past mineral activities, espe-  
18           cially as relates to surface water and groundwater  
19           contaminates.

20           (2) The protection of public health, safety, and  
21           general welfare from the adverse effects of past min-  
22           eral activities.

23           (3) The restoration of land, water and fish and  
24           wildlife resources previously degraded by the adverse  
25           effects of past mineral activities.

1           (c) HABITAT.—Reclamation and restoration activities  
2 under this title, particularly those identified under sub-  
3 section (a)(4), shall include appropriate mitigation meas-  
4 ures to provide for the continuation of any established  
5 habitat for wildlife in existence prior to the commencement  
6 of such activities.

7           (d) OTHER AFFECTED LANDS.—Where mineral ex-  
8 ploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, or reclamation  
9 activities has been carried out with respect to any mineral  
10 which would be a locatable mineral if the legal and bene-  
11 ficial title to the mineral were in the United States, if such  
12 activities directly affect lands managed by the Bureau of  
13 Land Management as well as other lands and if the legal  
14 and beneficial title to more than 50 percent of the affected  
15 lands resides in the United States, the Secretary is author-  
16 ized, subject to appropriations, to use moneys in the fund  
17 for reclamation and restoration under subsection (a) for  
18 all directly affected lands.

19           (e) RESPONSE OR REMOVAL ACTIONS.—Reclamation  
20 and restoration activities under this title which constitute  
21 a removal or remedial action under section 101 of the  
22 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation  
23 and Liability Act of 1980, shall be conducted with the con-  
24 currence of the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-  
25 tection Agency. The Secretary and the Administrator shall

1 enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to establish  
2 procedures for consultation, concurrence, training, ex-  
3 change of technical expertise and joint activities under the  
4 appropriate circumstances, which provide assurances that  
5 reclamation or restoration activities under this title, to the  
6 extent practicable, shall not be conducted in a manner that  
7 increases the costs or likelihood of removal or remedial  
8 actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Re-  
9 sponse, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, and  
10 which avoid oversight by multiple agencies to the maxi-  
11 mum extent practicable.

12 **SEC. 303. ELIGIBLE LANDS AND WATERS.**

13 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Reclamation expenditures under  
14 this title may only be made with respect to Federal lands  
15 or Indian lands or water resources that traverse or are  
16 contiguous to Federal lands or Indian lands where such  
17 lands or waters resources have been affected by past min-  
18 eral activities, including any of the following:

19 (1) Lands and water resources which were used  
20 for, or affected by, mineral activities and abandoned  
21 or left in an inadequate reclamation status before  
22 the effective date of this Act.

23 (2) Lands for which the Secretary makes a de-  
24 termination that there is no continuing reclamation  
25 responsibility of a claim holder, operator, or other



1 person who abandoned the site prior to completion  
2 of required reclamation under State or other Federal  
3 laws.

4 (3) Lands for which it can be established that  
5 such lands do not contain locatable minerals which  
6 could economically be extracted through the repro-  
7 cessing or reining of such lands, unless such consid-  
8 erations are in conflict with the priorities set forth  
9 under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 302(b).

10 (b) SPECIFIC SITES AND AREAS NOT ELIGIBLE.—  
11 The provisions of section 411(d) of the Surface Mining  
12 Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 shall apply to ex-  
13 penditures made from the Fund established under this  
14 title.

15 (c) INVENTORY.—The Secretary shall prepare and  
16 maintain an inventory of abandoned locatable minerals  
17 mines on Federal lands and any abandoned mine on In-  
18 dian lands which may be eligible for expenditures under  
19 this title.

20 **SEC. 304. FUND EXPENDITURES.**

21 Moneys available from the Fund may be expended for  
22 the purposes specified in section 302 directly by the Direc-  
23 tor of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and En-  
24 forcement. The Director may also make such money avail-  
25 able for such purposes to the Director of the Bureau of

1 Land Management, the Chief of the United States Forest  
2 Service, the Director of the National Park Service, Direc-  
3 tor of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to any  
4 other agency of the United States, to an Indian tribe, or  
5 to any public entity that volunteers to develop and imple-  
6 ment, and that has the ability to carry out, all or a signifi-  
7 cant portion of a reclamation program under this title.

8 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9       Amounts credited to the Fund are authorized to be  
10 appropriated for the purpose of this title without fiscal  
11 year limitation.

12 **SEC. 306. ROYALTY.**

13       (a) **RESERVATION OF ROYALTY.**—Production of all  
14 locatable minerals from any mining claim located or con-  
15 verted under this Act, or mineral concentrates or products  
16 derived from locatable minerals from any mining claim lo-  
17 cated or converted under this Act, as the case may be,  
18 shall be subject to a royalty of 8 percent of the net smelter  
19 return from such production. The claimholder and any op-  
20 erator to whom the claimholder has assigned the obliga-  
21 tion to make royalty payments under the claim and any  
22 person who controls such claimholder or operator shall be  
23 jointly and severally liable for payment of such royalties.

24       (b) **DUTIES OF CLAIM HOLDERS, OPERATORS, AND**  
25 **TRANSPORTERS.**—(1) A person—

1           (A) who is required to make any royalty pay-  
2           ment under this section shall make such payments  
3           to the United States at such times and in such man-  
4           ner as the Secretary may by rule prescribe; and

5           (B) shall notify the Secretary, in the time and  
6           manner as may be specified by the Secretary, of any  
7           assignment that such person may have made of the  
8           obligation to make any royalty or other payment  
9           under a mining claim.

10          (2) Any person paying royalties under this section  
11         shall file a written instrument, together with the first roy-  
12         alty payment, affirming that such person is liable to the  
13         Secretary for making proper payments for all amounts due  
14         for all time periods for which such person has a payment  
15         responsibility. Such liability for the period referred to in  
16         the preceding sentence shall include any and all additional  
17         amounts billed by the Secretary and determined to be due  
18         by final agency or judicial action. Any person liable for  
19         royalty payments under this section who assigns any pay-  
20         ment obligation shall remain jointly and severally liable  
21         for all royalty payments due for the claim for the period.

22          (3) A person conducting mineral activities shall—

23                 (A) develop and comply with the site security  
24                 provisions in operations permit designed to protect  
25                 from theft the locatable minerals, concentrates or

1 products derived therefrom which are produced or  
2 stored on a mining claim, and such provisions shall  
3 conform with such minimum standards as the Sec-  
4 retary may prescribe by rule, taking into account the  
5 variety of circumstances on mining claims; and

6 (B) not later than the 5th business day after  
7 production begins anywhere on a mining claim, or  
8 production resumes after more than 90 days after  
9 production was suspended, notify the Secretary, in  
10 the manner prescribed by the Secretary, of the date  
11 on which such production has begun or resumed.

12 (4) The Secretary may by rule require any person en-  
13 gaged in transporting a locatable mineral, concentrate, or  
14 product derived therefrom to carry on his or her person,  
15 in his or her vehicle, or in his or her immediate control,  
16 documentation showing, at a minimum, the amount, ori-  
17 gin, and intended destination of the locatable mineral, con-  
18 centrate, or product derived therefrom in such cir-  
19 cumstances as the Secretary determines is appropriate.

20 (c) RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIRE-  
21 MENTS.—(1) A claim holder, operator, or other person di-  
22 rectly involved in developing, producing, processing, trans-  
23 porting, purchasing, or selling locatable minerals, con-  
24 centrates, or products derived therefrom, subject to this  
25 Act, through the point of royalty computation shall estab-

1 lish and maintain any records, make any reports, and pro-  
2 vide any information that the Secretary may reasonably  
3 require for the purposes of implementing this section or  
4 determining compliance with rules or orders under this  
5 section. Such records shall include, but not be limited to,  
6 periodic reports, records, documents, and other data. Such  
7 reports may also include, but not be limited to, pertinent  
8 technical and financial data relating to the quantity, qual-  
9 ity, composition volume, weight, and assay of all minerals  
10 extracted from the mining claim. Upon the request of any  
11 officer or employee duly designated by the Secretary or  
12 any State conducting an audit or investigation pursuant  
13 to this section, the appropriate records, reports, or infor-  
14 mation which may be required by this section shall be  
15 made available for inspection and duplication by such offi-  
16 cer or employee or State.

17 (2) Records required by the Secretary under this sec-  
18 tion shall be maintained for 6 years after release of finan-  
19 cial assurance under section 206 unless the Secretary noti-  
20 fies the operator that he or she has initiated an audit or  
21 investigation involving such records and that such records  
22 must be maintained for a longer period. In any case when  
23 an audit or investigation is underway, records shall be  
24 maintained until the Secretary releases the operator of the  
25 obligation to maintain such records.

1           (d) AUDITS.—The Secretary is authorized to conduct  
2 such audits of all claim holders, operators, transporters,  
3 purchasers, processors, or other persons directly or indi-  
4 rectly involved in the production or sales of minerals cov-  
5 ered by this Act, as the Secretary deems necessary for the  
6 purposes of ensuring compliance with the requirements of  
7 this section. For purposes of performing such audits, the  
8 Secretary shall, at reasonable times and upon request,  
9 have access to, and may copy, all books, papers and other  
10 documents that relate to compliance with any provision  
11 of this section by any person.

12           (e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—(1) The Secretary  
13 is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the  
14 Secretary of Agriculture to share information concerning  
15 the royalty management of locatable minerals, con-  
16 centrates, or products derived therefrom, to carry out in-  
17 spection, auditing, investigation, or enforcement (not in-  
18 cluding the collection of royalties, civil or criminal pen-  
19 alties, or other payments) activities under this section in  
20 cooperation with the Secretary, and to carry out any other  
21 activity described in this section.

22           (2) Except as provided in paragraph (4)(A) of this  
23 subsection (relating to trade secrets), and pursuant to a  
24 cooperative agreement, the Secretary of Agriculture shall,  
25 upon request, have access to all royalty accounting infor-

1 mation in the possession of the Secretary respecting the  
2 production, removal, or sale of locatable minerals, con-  
3 centrates, or products derived therefrom from claims on  
4 lands open to location under this Act.

5 (3) Trade secrets, proprietary, and other confidential  
6 information shall be made available by the Secretary pur-  
7 suant to a cooperative agreement under this subsection to  
8 the Secretary of Agriculture upon request only if—

9 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture consents in  
10 writing to restrict the dissemination of the informa-  
11 tion to those who are directly involved in an audit  
12 or investigation under this section and who have a  
13 need to know;

14 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture accepts liabil-  
15 ity for wrongful disclosure; and

16 (C) the Secretary of Agriculture demonstrates  
17 that such information is essential to the conduct of  
18 an audit or investigation under this subsection.

19 (f) INTEREST AND SUBSTANTIAL UNDERREPORTING  
20 ASSESSMENTS.—(1) In the case of mining claims where  
21 royalty payments are not received by the Secretary on the  
22 date that such payments are due, the Secretary shall  
23 charge interest on such underpayments at the same inter-  
24 est rate as is applicable under section 6621(a)(2) of the  
25 Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In the case of an under-

1 payment, interest shall be computed and charged only on  
2 the amount of the deficiency and not on the total amount.

3 (2) If there is any underreporting of royalty owed on  
4 production from a claim for any production month by any  
5 person liable for royalty payments under this section, the  
6 Secretary may assess a penalty of 10 percent of the  
7 amount of that underreporting.

8 (3) If there is a substantial underreporting of royalty  
9 owed on production from a claim for any production  
10 month by any person responsible for paying the royalty,  
11 the Secretary may assess a penalty of 10 percent of the  
12 amount of that underreporting.

13 (4) For the purposes of this subsection, the term  
14 “substantial underreporting” means the difference be-  
15 tween the royalty on the value of the production which  
16 should have been reported and the royalty on the value  
17 of the production which was reported, if the value which  
18 should have been reported is greater than the value which  
19 was reported. An underreporting constitutes a “substan-  
20 tial underreporting” if such difference exceeds 10 percent  
21 of the royalty on the value of production which should  
22 have been reported.

23 (5) The Secretary shall not impose the assessment  
24 provided in paragraphs (2) or (3) of this subsection if the  
25 person liable for royalty payments under this section cor-



1 rects the underreporting before the date such person re-  
2 ceives notice from the Secretary that an underreporting  
3 may have occurred, or before 90 days after the date of  
4 the enactment of this section, whichever is later.

5 (6) The Secretary shall waive any portion of an as-  
6 sessment under paragraph (2) or (3) of this subsection  
7 attributable to that portion of the underreporting for  
8 which the person responsible for paying the royalty dem-  
9 onstrates that—

10 (A) such person had written authorization from  
11 the Secretary to report royalty on the value of the  
12 production on basis on which it was reported, or

13 (B) such person had substantial authority for  
14 reporting royalty on the value of the production on  
15 the basis on which it was reported, or

16 (C) such person previously had notified the Sec-  
17 retary, in such manner as the Secretary may by rule  
18 prescribe, of relevant reasons or facts affecting the  
19 royalty treatment of specific production which led to  
20 the underreporting, or

21 (D) such person meets any other exception  
22 which the Secretary may, by rule, establish.

23 (7) All penalties collected under this subsection shall  
24 be deposited in the Fund.

1 (g) DELEGATION.—For the purposes of this section,  
2 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior  
3 acting through the Director of the Minerals Management  
4 Service.

5 (h) EXPANDED ROYALTY OBLIGATIONS.—Each per-  
6 son liable for royalty payments under this section shall  
7 be jointly and severally liable for royalty on all locatable  
8 minerals, concentrates, or products derived therefrom lost  
9 or wasted from a mining claim located or converted under  
10 this section when such loss or waste is due to negligence  
11 on the part of any person or due to the failure to comply  
12 with any rule, regulation, or order issued under this sec-  
13 tion.

14 (i) EXCEPTION.—No royalty shall be payable under  
15 subsection (a) with respect to minerals processed at a fa-  
16 cility by the same person or entity which extracted the  
17 minerals if an urban development action grant has been  
18 made under section 119 of the Housing and Community  
19 Development Act of 1974 with respect to any portion of  
20 such facility.

21 (j) DEFINITION.—For the proposes of this section,  
22 for any locatable mineral, the term “net smelter return”  
23 shall have the same meaning as the term defined in section  
24 613(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

1 (k) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The royalty under this sec-  
2 tion shall take effect with respect to the production of  
3 locatable minerals after the enactment of this Act, but any  
4 royalty payments attributable to production during the  
5 first 12 calendar months after the enactment of this Act  
6 shall be payable at the expiration of such 12-month period.

7 **TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE AND**  
8 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

9 **Subtitle A—Administrative**  
10 **Provisions**

11 **SEC. 401. POLICY FUNCTIONS.**

12 (a) MINERALS POLICY.—Section 2 of the Mining and  
13 Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 21a) is amended  
14 by adding at the end thereof the following: “It shall also  
15 be the responsibility of the Secretary of Agriculture to  
16 carry out the policy provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2)  
17 of this section.”.

18 (b) MINERAL DATA.—Section 5(e)(3) of the National  
19 Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development  
20 Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1604) is amended by inserting  
21 before the period the following: “, except that for National  
22 Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture shall  
23 promptly initiate actions to improve the availability and  
24 analysis of mineral data in Federal land use decision-  
25 making”.

1 **SEC. 402. USER FEES.**

2       The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture are  
3 each authorized to establish and collect from persons sub-  
4 ject to the requirements of this Act such user fees as may  
5 be necessary to reimburse the United States for the ex-  
6 penses incurred in administering such requirements. Fees  
7 may be assessed and collected under this section only in  
8 such manner as may reasonably be expected to result in  
9 an aggregate amount of the fees collected during any fiscal  
10 year which does not exceed the aggregate amount of ad-  
11 ministrative expenses referred to in this section.

12 **SEC. 403. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.**

13       (a) OPERATIONS PERMIT.—(1) Concurrent with sub-  
14 mittal of an application for an operations permit under  
15 section 204 or a renewal or significant modification there-  
16 of, the applicant shall publish a notice in a newspaper of  
17 local circulation at least once a week for 4 consecutive  
18 weeks. The notice shall include: the name of the applicant,  
19 the location of the proposed mineral activities, the type  
20 and expected duration of the proposed mineral activities,  
21 the proposed use of the land after the completion of min-  
22 eral activities and a location where such plans are publicly  
23 available. The applicant shall also notify in writing other  
24 Federal, State and local government agencies and Indian  
25 tribes that regulate mineral activities or land planning de-  
26 cisions in the area subject to mineral activities or that

1 manage lands adjacent to the area subject to mineral ac-  
2 tivities. The applicant shall provide proof of such notifica-  
3 tion to the Secretary, or for National Forest System lands  
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (2) The applicant for an operations permit shall make  
6 copies of the complete permit application available for  
7 public review at the office of the responsible Federal sur-  
8 face management agency located nearest to the location  
9 of the proposed mineral activities, and at such other public  
10 locations deemed appropriate by the State or local govern-  
11 ment for the county in which the proposed mineral activi-  
12 ties will occur prior to final decision by the Secretary, or  
13 for National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
14 culture. Any person, and the authorized representative of  
15 a Federal, State or local governmental agency or Indian  
16 tribe, shall have the right to file written comments relating  
17 to the approval or disapproval of the permit application  
18 until 30 days after the last day of newspaper publication.  
19 The Secretary concerned shall promptly make such com-  
20 ments available to the applicant.

21 (3) Any person may file written comments during the  
22 comment period specified in paragraph (2) and any person  
23 who is, or may be, adversely affected by the proposed min-  
24 eral activities may request a nonadjudicatory public hear-  
25 ing to be held in the county in which the mineral activities

1 are proposed. The Secretary concerned shall consider all  
2 written comments filed during such period. If a hearing  
3 is requested by any person who is, or may be, adversely  
4 affected by the proposed mineral activities, the Secretary  
5 concerned shall consider such request and may conduct  
6 such hearing. When a hearing is to be held, notice of such  
7 hearing shall be published in a newspaper of local circula-  
8 tion at least once a week for 2 weeks prior to the hearing  
9 date.

10 **SEC. 404. INSPECTION AND MONITORING.**

11 (a) INSPECTIONS.—(1) The Secretary, or for Na-  
12 tional Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture,  
13 shall make inspections of mineral activities so as to ensure  
14 compliance with the surface management requirements of  
15 title II.

16 (2) The Secretary concerned shall establish a fre-  
17 quency of inspections for mineral activities conducted  
18 under a permit issued under title II, but in no event shall  
19 such inspection frequency be less than one complete in-  
20 spection per calendar quarter or, two per calendar quarter  
21 in the case of a permit for which the Secretary concerned  
22 approves an application under section 204(g) (relating to  
23 temporary cessation of operations). After revegetation has  
24 been established in accordance with a reclamation plan,  
25 such Secretary shall conduct annually 2 complete inspec-

1 tions. Such Secretary shall have the discretion to modify  
2 the inspection frequency for mineral activities that are  
3 conducted on a seasonal basis. Inspections shall continue  
4 under this subsection until final release of financial assur-  
5 ance.

6 (3)(A) Any person who has reason to believe he or  
7 she is or may be adversely affected by mineral activities  
8 due to any violation of the surface management require-  
9 ments may request an inspection. The Secretary, or for  
10 National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
11 culture, shall determine within 10 working days of receipt  
12 of the request whether the request states a reason to be-  
13 lieve that a violation exists. If the person alleges and pro-  
14 vides reason to believe that an imminent threat to the en-  
15 vironment or danger to the health or safety of the public  
16 exists, the 10-day period shall be waived and the inspec-  
17 tion shall be conducted immediately. When an inspection  
18 is conducted under this paragraph, the Secretary con-  
19 cerned shall notify the person requesting the inspection,  
20 and such person shall be allowed to accompany the Sec-  
21 retary concerned or the Secretary's authorized representa-  
22 tive during the inspection. The Secretary shall not incur  
23 any liability for allowing such person to accompany an au-  
24 thorized representative. The identity of the person supply-  
25 ing information to the Secretary relating to a possible vio-

1 lation or imminent danger or harm shall remain confiden-  
2 tial with the Secretary if so requested by that person, un-  
3 less that person elects to accompany an authorized rep-  
4 resentative on the inspection.

5 (B) The Secretaries shall, by joint rule, establish pro-  
6 cedures for the review of (i) any decision by an authorized  
7 representative not to inspect or (ii) any refusal by such  
8 representative to ensure that remedial actions are taken  
9 with respect to any alleged violation. The Secretary con-  
10 cerned shall furnish such persons requesting the review  
11 a written statement of the reasons for the Secretary's final  
12 disposition of the case.

13 (b) MONITORING.—(1) The Secretary, or for Na-  
14 tional Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture,  
15 shall require all operators to develop and maintain a mon-  
16 itoring and evaluation system which shall identify compli-  
17 ance with all surface management requirements.

18 (2) Monitoring shall be conducted as close as tech-  
19 nically feasible to the mineral activity involved, and in all  
20 cases such monitoring shall be conducted within the per-  
21 mit area.

22 (3) The point of compliance referred to in paragraph  
23 (1) shall be as close to the mineral activity involved as  
24 is technically feasible, but in any event shall be located  
25 to comply with applicable State and Federal standards.



1 In no event shall the point of compliance be outside the  
2 permit area.

3 (4) The Secretary concerned may require additional  
4 monitoring be conducted as necessary to assure compli-  
5 ance with the reclamation and other environmental stand-  
6 ards of this Act.

7 (5) The operator shall file reports with the Secretary,  
8 or for National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
9 culture, on a frequency determined by the Secretary con-  
10 cerned, on the results of the monitoring and evaluation  
11 process, except that if the monitoring and evaluation show  
12 a violation of the surface management requirements, it  
13 shall be reported immediately to the Secretary concerned.  
14 Information received pursuant to this subsection from any  
15 natural person shall not be used against any such natural  
16 person in any criminal case, except a prosecution for per-  
17 jury or for giving a false statement. The Secretary shall  
18 evaluate the reports submitted pursuant to this para-  
19 graph, and based on those reports and any necessary in-  
20 spection shall take enforcement action pursuant to this  
21 section.

22 (6) The Secretary, or for National Forest System  
23 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, shall determine what  
24 information must be reported by the operator pursuant  
25 to paragraph (5). A failure to report as required by the

1 Secretary concerned shall constitute a violation of this Act  
2 and subject the operator to enforcement action pursuant  
3 to section 407.

4 **SEC. 405. CITIZENS SUITS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
6 (b), any person having an interest which is or may be ad-  
7 versely affected may commence a civil action on his or her  
8 own behalf to compel compliance—

9 (1) against any person (including the Secretary  
10 or the Secretary of Agriculture) alleged to have vio-  
11 lated (if there is evidence the alleged violation has  
12 been repeated), or to be in violation of, any of the  
13 provisions of title II or section 404 of this Act or  
14 any regulation promulgated pursuant to title II or  
15 section 404 of this Act or any term or condition of  
16 any permit issued under title II of this Act; or

17 (2) against the Secretary or the Secretary of  
18 Agriculture where there is alleged a failure of such  
19 Secretary to perform any act or duty under title II  
20 or section 404 of this Act, or to promulgate any reg-  
21 ulation under title II or section 404 of this Act,  
22 which is not within the discretion of the Secretary  
23 concerned.

24 The United States district courts shall have jurisdiction  
25 over actions brought under this section, without regard to

1 the amount in controversy or the citizenship of the parties,  
2 including actions brought to apply any civil penalty under  
3 this Act. The district courts of the United States shall  
4 have jurisdiction to compel agency action unreasonably de-  
5 layed, except that an action to compel agency action re-  
6 viewable under section 406 may only be filed in a United  
7 States District Court within the circuit in which such ac-  
8 tion would be reviewable under section 406.

9 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—(1) No action may be commenced  
10 under subsection (a) prior to 60 days after the plaintiff  
11 has given notice in writing of such alleged violation to the  
12 Secretary, or for National Forest System lands the Sec-  
13 retary of Agriculture, except that any such action may be  
14 brought immediately after such notification if the violation  
15 complained of constitutes an imminent threat to the envi-  
16 ronment or to the health or safety of the public.

17 (2) No action may be brought against any person  
18 other than the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture  
19 under subsection (a)(1) if such Secretary has commenced  
20 and is diligently prosecuting a civil or criminal action in  
21 a court of the United States to require compliance.

22 (3) No action may be commenced under paragraph  
23 (2) of subsection (a) against either Secretary to review any  
24 rule promulgated by, or to any permit issued or denied  
25 by such Secretary if such rule or permit issuance or denial

1 is judicially reviewable under section 406 or under any  
2 other provision of law at any time after such promulga-  
3 tion, issuance, or denial is final.

4 (c) VENUE.—Venue of all actions brought under this  
5 section shall be determined in accordance with title 28  
6 U.S.C. 1391.

7 (d) INTERVENTION; NOTICE.—(1) In any action  
8 under this section, the Secretary, or for National Forest  
9 System lands the Secretary of Agriculture, may intervene  
10 as a matter of right at any time. A judgment in an action  
11 under this section to which the United States is not a  
12 party shall not have any binding effect upon the United  
13 States.

14 (2) Whenever an action is brought under this section  
15 the plaintiff shall serve a copy of the complaint on the  
16 Attorney General of the United States and on the Sec-  
17 retary, or for National Forest System lands the Secretary  
18 of Agriculture. No consent judgment shall be entered in  
19 an action brought under this section in which the United  
20 States is not a party prior to 45 days following the date  
21 on which a copy of the proposed consent judgment is sub-  
22 mitted to the Attorney General and the Secretary, or for  
23 National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
24 culture. During such 45-day period the Attorney General  
25 or such Secretary may submit comments on the proposed

1 consent judgment to the court and parties or may inter-  
2 vene as a matter of right.

3 (e) COSTS.—The court, in issuing any final order in  
4 any action brought pursuant to this section may award  
5 costs of litigation (including attorney and expert witness  
6 fees) to any prevailing party whenever the court deter-  
7 mines such award is appropriate. The court may, if a tem-  
8 porary restraining order or preliminary injunction is  
9 sought, require the filing of a bond or equivalent security  
10 in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

11 (f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall  
12 restrict any right which any person (or class of persons)  
13 may have under chapter 7 of title 5 of the United States  
14 Code, under section 406 of this Act or under any other  
15 statute or common law to bring an action to seek any relief  
16 against the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture or  
17 against any other person, including any action for any vio-  
18 lation of this Act or of any regulation or permit issued  
19 under this Act or for any failure to act as required by  
20 law. Nothing in this section shall affect the jurisdiction  
21 of any court under any provision of title 28 of the United  
22 States Code, including any action for any violation of this  
23 Act or of any regulation or permit issued under this Act  
24 or for any failure to act as required by law. Nothing in  
25 this Act shall be construed to be a waiver of the sovereign

1 immunity of an Indian tribe except as provided for in sec-  
2 tion 202(c).

3 **SEC. 406. ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

4 (a) REVIEW BY SECRETARY.—(1)(A) Any person  
5 issued a notice of violation or cessation order under sec-  
6 tion 407, or any person having an interest which is or  
7 may be adversely affected by such notice or order, may  
8 apply to the Secretary, or for National Forest System  
9 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, for review of the notice  
10 or order within 30 days of receipt thereof, or as the case  
11 may be, within 30 days of such notice or order being modi-  
12 fied, vacated or terminated.

13 (B) Any person who is subject to a penalty assessed  
14 under section 106, section 107(c), or section 407 may  
15 apply to the Secretary concerned for review of the assess-  
16 ment within 30 days of notification of such penalty.

17 (C) Any person having an interest which is or may  
18 be adversely affected by a decision made by the Secretary  
19 or the Secretary of Agriculture under section 203, 204,  
20 205, 206, 209, or 404(a)(3) may apply to such Secretary  
21 for review of the decision within 30 days after it is made.

22 (2) The Secretary concerned shall provide an oppor-  
23 tunity for a public hearing at the request of any party  
24 to the proceeding as specified in paragraph (1). The filing  
25 of an application for review under this subsection shall not

1 operate as a stay of any order or notice issued under sec-  
2 tion 407.

3 (3) For any review proceeding under this subsection,  
4 the Secretary concerned shall make findings of fact and  
5 shall issue a written decision incorporating therein an  
6 order vacating, affirming, modifying or terminating the  
7 notice, order or decision, or with respect to an assessment,  
8 the amount of penalty that is warranted. Where the appli-  
9 cation for review concerns a cessation order issued under  
10 section 407, the Secretary concerned shall issue the writ-  
11 ten decision within 30 days of the receipt of the applica-  
12 tion for review or within 30 days after the conclusion of  
13 any hearing referred to in paragraph (2), whichever is  
14 later, unless temporary relief has been granted by the Sec-  
15 retary concerned under paragraph (4).

16 (4) Pending completion of any review proceedings  
17 under this subsection, the applicant may file with the Sec-  
18 retary, or for National Forest System lands the Secretary  
19 of Agriculture, a written request that the Secretary grant  
20 temporary relief from any order issued under section 407  
21 together with a detailed statement giving reasons for such  
22 relief. The Secretary concerned shall expeditiously issue  
23 an order or decision granting or denying such relief. The  
24 Secretary concerned may grant such relief under such con-  
25 ditions as he may prescribe only if such relief shall not

1 adversely affect the health or safety of the public or cause  
2 significant, imminent environmental harm to land, air or  
3 water resources.

4 (5) The availability of review under this subsection  
5 shall not be construed to limit the operation of rights  
6 under section 405.

7 (b) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—(1) Any final action by the  
8 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture in promulgat-  
9 ing regulations to implement this Act, or any other final  
10 actions constituting rulemaking to implement this Act,  
11 shall be subject to judicial review only in the United States  
12 Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Any action  
13 subject to judicial review under this subsection shall be  
14 affirmed unless the court concludes that such action is ar-  
15 bitrary, capricious, or otherwise inconsistent with law. A  
16 petition for review of any action subject to judicial review  
17 under this subsection shall be filed within 60 days from  
18 the date of such action, or after such date if the petition  
19 is based solely on grounds arising after the sixtieth day.  
20 Any such petition may be made by any person who com-  
21 mented or otherwise participated in the rulemaking or any  
22 person who may be adversely affected by the action of the  
23 Secretaries.

24 (2) Final agency action under this Act, including  
25 such final action on those matters described under sub-



1 section (a), shall be subject to judicial review in accord-  
2 ance with paragraph (4) and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391  
3 of the United States Code on or before 60 days from the  
4 date of such final action. Any action subject to judicial  
5 review under this subsection shall be affirmed unless the  
6 court concludes that such action is arbitrary, capricious,  
7 or otherwise inconsistent with law.

8 (3) The availability of judicial review established in  
9 this subsection shall not be construed to limit the oper-  
10 ations of rights under section 405 (relating to citizens  
11 suits).

12 (4) The court shall hear any petition or complaint  
13 filed under this subsection solely on the record made be-  
14 fore the Secretary or Secretaries concerned. The court  
15 may affirm or vacate any order or decision or may remand  
16 the proceedings to the Secretary or Secretaries for such  
17 further action as it may direct.

18 (5) The commencement of a proceeding under this  
19 section shall not, unless specifically ordered by the court,  
20 operate as a stay of the action, order or decision of the  
21 Secretary or Secretaries concerned.

22 (c) COSTS.—Whenever a proceeding occurs under  
23 subsection (a) or (b), at the request of any person, a sum  
24 equal to the aggregate amount of all costs and expenses  
25 (including attorney fees) as determined by the Secretary

1 or Secretaries concerned or the court to have been reason-  
2 ably incurred by such person for or in connection with par-  
3 ticipation in such proceedings, including any judicial re-  
4 view of the proceeding, may be assessed against either  
5 party as the court, in the case of judicial review, or the  
6 Secretary or Secretaries concerned in the case of adminis-  
7 trative proceedings, deems proper if it is determined that  
8 such party prevailed in whole or in part, achieving some  
9 success on the merits, and that such party made a sub-  
10 stantial contribution to a full and fair determination of  
11 the issues.

12 **SEC. 407. ENFORCEMENT.**

13 (a) ORDERS.—(1) If the Secretary, or for National  
14 Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture, or an  
15 authorized representative of such Secretary, determines  
16 that any person is in violation of any surface management  
17 or monitoring requirement, such Secretary or authorized  
18 representative shall issue to such person a notice of viola-  
19 tion describing the violation and the corrective measures  
20 to be taken. The Secretary concerned, or the authorized  
21 representative of such Secretary, shall provide such person  
22 with a period of time not to exceed 30 days to abate the  
23 violation. Such period of time may be extended by the Sec-  
24 retary concerned upon a showing of good cause by such  
25 person. If, upon the expiration of time provided for such

1 abatement, the Secretary concerned, or the authorized  
2 representative of such Secretary, finds that the violation  
3 has not been abated he shall immediately order a cessation  
4 of all mineral activities or the portion thereof relevant to  
5 the violation.

6 (2) If the Secretary concerned, or the authorized rep-  
7 resentative of the Secretary concerned, determines that  
8 any condition or practice exists, or that any person is in  
9 violation of any surface management or monitoring re-  
10 quirement, and such condition, practice or violation is  
11 causing, or can reasonably be expected to cause—

12 (A) an imminent danger to the health or safety  
13 of the public; or

14 (B) significant, imminent environmental harm  
15 to land, air, water, fish or wildlife resources;

16 such Secretary or authorized representative shall imme-  
17 diately order a cessation of mineral activities or the por-  
18 tion thereof relevant to the condition, practice or violation.

19 (3)(A) A cessation order pursuant to paragraphs (1)  
20 or (2) shall remain in effect until such Secretary, or au-  
21 thorized representative, determines that the condition,  
22 practice or violation has been abated, or until modified,  
23 vacated or terminated by the Secretary or authorized rep-  
24 resentative. In any such order, the Secretary or authorized  
25 representative shall determine the steps necessary to abate

1 the violation in the most expeditious manner possible and  
2 shall include the necessary measures in the order. The  
3 Secretary concerned shall require appropriate financial as-  
4 surances to ensure that the abatement obligations are met.

5 (B) Any notice or order issued pursuant to para-  
6 graphs (1) or (2) may be modified, vacated or terminated  
7 by the Secretary concerned or an authorized representa-  
8 tive of such Secretary. Any person to whom any such no-  
9 tice or order is issued shall be entitled to a hearing on  
10 the record.

11 (4) If, after 30 days of the date of the order referred  
12 to in paragraph (3)(A) the required abatement has not  
13 occurred the Secretary concerned shall take such alter-  
14 native enforcement action against the claimholder or oper-  
15 ator (or any person who controls the claimholder or opera-  
16 tor) as will most likely bring about abatement in the most  
17 expeditious manner possible. Such alternative enforcement  
18 action may include, but is not necessarily limited to, seek-  
19 ing appropriate injunctive relief to bring about abatement.  
20 Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude the Secretary,  
21 or for National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
22 culture, from taking alternative enforcement action prior  
23 to the expiration of 30 days.

24 (5) If a claimholder or operator (or any person who  
25 controls the claimholder or operator) fails to abate a viola-

1 tion or defaults on the terms of the permit, the Secretary,  
2 or for National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
3 culture, shall forfeit the financial assurance for the plan  
4 as necessary to ensure abatement and reclamation under  
5 this Act. The Secretary concerned may prescribe condi-  
6 tions under which a surety may perform reclamation in  
7 accordance with the approved plan in lieu of forfeiture.

8 (6) The Secretary, or for National Forest System  
9 lands the Secretary of Agriculture, shall not cause forfeit-  
10 ure of the financial assurance while administrative or judi-  
11 cial review is pending.

12 (7) In the event of forfeiture, the claim holder, opera-  
13 tor, or any affiliate thereof, as appropriate as determined  
14 by the Secretary by rule, shall be jointly and severally lia-  
15 ble for any remaining reclamation obligations under this  
16 Act.

17 (b) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary, or for National  
18 Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture, may re-  
19 quest the Attorney General to institute a civil action for  
20 relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction or  
21 restraining order, or any other appropriate enforcement  
22 order, including the imposition of civil penalties, in the dis-  
23 trict court of the United States for the district in which  
24 the mineral activities are located whenever a person—

1           (1) violates, fails or refuses to comply with any  
2           order issued by the Secretary concerned under sub-  
3           section (a); or

4           (2) interferes with, hinders or delays the Sec-  
5           retary concerned in carrying out an inspection under  
6           section 404.

7 Such court shall have jurisdiction to provide such relief  
8 as may be appropriate. Any relief granted by the court  
9 to enforce an order under paragraph (1) shall continue  
10 in effect until the completion or final termination of all  
11 proceedings for review of such order unless the district  
12 court granting such relief sets it aside.

13           (c) DELEGATION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
14           sion of law, the Secretary may utilize personnel of the Of-  
15           fice of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to  
16           ensure compliance with the requirements of this Act.

17           (d) PENALTIES.—(1) Any person who fails to comply  
18           with any surface management requirement shall be liable  
19           for a penalty of not more than \$25,000 per violation. Each  
20           day of violation may be deemed a separate violation for  
21           purposes of penalty assessments.

22           (2) A person who fails to correct a violation for which  
23           a cessation order has been issued under subsection (a)  
24           within the period permitted for its correction shall be as-  
25           sessed a civil penalty of not less than \$1,000 per violation

1 for each day during which such failure continues, but in  
2 no event shall such assessment exceed a 30-day period.

3 (3) Whenever a corporation is in violation of a surface  
4 management requirement or fails or refuses to comply  
5 with an order issued under subsection (a), any director,  
6 officer or agent of such corporation who knowingly author-  
7 ized, ordered, or carried out such violation, failure or re-  
8 fusal shall be subject to the same penalties as may be im-  
9 posed upon the person referred to in paragraph (1).

10 (e) SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS.—The Secretary,  
11 or for National Forest System lands the Secretary of Agri-  
12 culture, may suspend or revoke a permit issued under title  
13 II, in whole or in part, if the operator or person conduct-  
14 ing mineral activities—

15 (1) knowingly made or knowingly makes any  
16 false, inaccurate, or misleading material statement  
17 in any mining claim, notice of location, application,  
18 record, report, plan, or other document filed or re-  
19 quired to be maintained under this Act;

20 (2) fails to abate a violation covered by a ces-  
21 sation order issued under subsection (a);

22 (3) fails to comply with an order of the Sec-  
23 retary concerned;

24 (4) refuses to permit an audit pursuant to this  
25 Act;

1           (5) fails to maintain an adequate financial as-  
2           surance under section 206;

3           (6) fails to pay claim maintenance fees or other  
4           moneys due and owing under this Act; or

5           (7) with regard to plans conditionally approved  
6           under section 205(c)(2), fails to abate a violation to  
7           the satisfaction of the Secretary concerned, or if the  
8           validity of the violation is upheld on the appeal  
9           which formed the basis for the conditional approval.

10          (f) FALSE STATEMENTS; TAMPERING.—Any person  
11        who knowingly—

12           (1) makes any false material statement, rep-  
13           resentation, or certification in, or omits or conceals  
14           material information from, or unlawfully alters, any  
15           mining claim, notice of location, application, record,  
16           report, plan, or other documents filed or required to  
17           be maintained under this Act; or

18           (2) falsifies, tampers with, renders inaccurate,  
19           or fails to install any monitoring device or method  
20           be required to be maintained under this Act,

21        shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more  
22        than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 2  
23        years, or by both. If a conviction of a person is for a viola-  
24        tion committed after a first conviction of such person  
25        under this paragraph, punishment shall be by a fine of



1 not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, or by impris-  
2 onment of not more than 4 years, or both. Each day of  
3 continuing violation may be deemed a separate violation  
4 for purposes of penalty assessments.

5 (g) KNOWING VIOLATIONS.—Any person who  
6 knowingly—

7 (1) engages in mineral activities without a per-  
8 mit required under title II, or

9 (2) violates any other surface management re-  
10 quirement of this Act or any provision of a permit  
11 issued under this Act (including any exploration or  
12 operations plan on which such permit is based), or  
13 condition or limitation thereof,

14 shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not less  
15 than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000 per day of violation,  
16 or by imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both.

17 If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed  
18 after the first conviction of such person under this para-  
19 graph, punishment shall be a fine of not less than \$10,000  
20 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than  
21 6 years, or both.

22 (h) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ROYALTY REQUIRE-  
23 MENTS.—(1) Any person who fails to comply with the re-  
24 quirements of section 306 or any regulation or order  
25 issued to implement section 306 shall be liable for a civil

1 penalty under section 109 of the Federal Oil and Gas Roy-  
2 alty Management Act (30 U.S.C. 1719) to the same extent  
3 as if the claim located or converted under this Act were  
4 a lease under that Act.

5 (2) Any person who knowingly and willfully commits  
6 an act for which a civil penalty is provided in paragraph  
7 (1) shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not  
8 more than \$50,000, or by imprisonment for not more than  
9 2 years, or both.

10 (i) DEFINITION. For purposes of this section, the  
11 term “person” includes a person as defined in section 3(a)  
12 and any officer, agent, or employee of any such person.

13 **SEC. 408. REGULATIONS; EFFECTIVE DATES.**

14 (a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this Act  
15 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, ex-  
16 cept as otherwise provided in this Act.

17 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary and the Secretary  
18 of Agriculture may issue such regulations as may be nec-  
19 essary under this Act. The regulations implementing title  
20 II and the provisions of title IV which affect United States  
21 Forest Service shall be joint regulations issued by both  
22 Secretaries.

23 (c) NOTICE.—Within 180 days after the date of en-  
24 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall give notice to hold-  
25 ers of mining claims and mill sites maintained under the

1 general mining laws as to the requirements of sections  
2 104, 105, and 106.

## 3 **Subtitle B—Miscellaneous** 4 **Provisions**

### 5 **SEC. 411. TRANSITIONAL RULES; SURFACE MANAGEMENT** 6 **REQUIREMENTS.**

7 (a) NEW CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
8 sion of law, any mining claim for a locatable mineral on  
9 lands subject to this Act located after the date of enact-  
10 ment of this Act shall be subject to the requirements of  
11 title II.

12 (b) PREEXISTING CLAIMS.—(1) Notwithstanding any  
13 other provision of law, any unpatented mining claim or  
14 mill site located under the general mining laws before the  
15 date of enactment of this Act for which a plan of operation  
16 has not been approved or a notice filed prior to the date  
17 of enactment shall upon the effective date of this Act, be  
18 subject to the requirements of title II, except as provided  
19 in paragraphs (2) and (3).

20 (2)(A) If a plan of operations had been approved for  
21 mineral activities on any claim or site referred to in para-  
22 graph (1) prior to the date of enactment this Act, for a  
23 period of 5 years after the effective date of this Act min-  
24 eral activities at such claim or site shall be subject to such  
25 plan of operations (or a modification or amendment there-

1 to prepared in accordance with the provisions of law appli-  
2 cable prior to the enactment of this Act). During such 5-  
3 year period, modifications of, or amendments to, any such  
4 plan may be made in accordance with the provisions of  
5 law applicable prior to the enactment of this Act if such  
6 modifications or amendments are deemed minor by the  
7 Secretary concerned. After such 5-year period the require-  
8 ments of title II shall apply, subject to the limitations of  
9 section 209. In order to meet the requirements of title II,  
10 the person conducting mineral activities under such plan  
11 of operations (or modified or amended plan) shall apply  
12 for a modification under section 203(f) and 204(f) no later  
13 than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act. For  
14 purposes of this paragraph, any modification or amend-  
15 ment which extends the area covered by the plan (except  
16 for incidental boundary revisions) or which significantly  
17 increases the risk of adverse effects on the environment  
18 shall not be subject to this paragraph and shall be subject  
19 to other provisions of this Act.

20 (B) During the 5-year period referred to in subpara-  
21 graph (A) the provisions of section 404 (relating to inspec-  
22 tion and monitoring) and section 407 (relating to enforce-  
23 ment) shall apply on the basis of the surface management  
24 requirements applicable to such plans of operations prior  
25 to the effective date of this Act.

1 (C) Where an application for modification or amend-  
2 ment of a plan of operations referred to in subparagraph  
3 (A) has been timely submitted and an approved plan ex-  
4 pires prior to Secretarial action on the application, mineral  
5 activities and reclamation may continue in accordance  
6 with the terms of the expired plan until the Secretary  
7 makes an administrative decision on the application.

8 (3)(A) If a substantially complete application for ap-  
9 proval of a plan of operations or for a modification of,  
10 or amendment to, a plan of operations had been submitted  
11 by January 5, 1995 and either a scoping document or an  
12 Environmental Assessment prepared for purposes of com-  
13 pliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of  
14 1969 had been published with respect to such plan, modi-  
15 fication, or amendment before the date of the enactment  
16 of this Act but the submitted plan of operations or modi-  
17 fication or amendment had not been approved for mineral  
18 activities on any claim or site referred to in paragraph  
19 (1) prior to such date of enactment, for a period of 5 years  
20 after the effective date of this Act mineral activities at  
21 such claim or site shall be subject to the provisions of law  
22 applicable prior to the enactment of this Act. During such  
23 5-year period, subsequent modifications of, or amend-  
24 ments to, any such plan may be made in accordance with  
25 the provisions of law applicable prior to the enactment of

1 this Act if such subsequent modifications or amendments  
2 are deemed minor by the Secretary concerned. After such  
3 5-year period, the requirements of title II shall apply, sub-  
4 ject to the limitations of section 209. For purposes of this  
5 paragraph, any subsequent modification or amendment  
6 which extends the area covered by the plan (except for  
7 incidental boundary revisions) or which significantly in-  
8 creases the risk of adverse effects on the environment shall  
9 not be subject to this paragraph and shall be subject to  
10 other provisions of this Act.

11 (B) In order to meet the requirements of title II, the  
12 person conducting mineral activities under a plan of oper-  
13 ations (or modified or amended plan referred to in sub-  
14 paragraph (A)) shall apply for a modification under sec-  
15 tion 203(f) and 204(f) no later than 3 years after the date  
16 of enactment of this Act. During such 5-year period the  
17 provisions of section 404 (relating to inspection and mon-  
18 itoring) and section 407 (relating to enforcement) shall  
19 apply on the basis of the surface management require-  
20 ments applicable to such plans of operations prior to the  
21 effective date of this Act.

22 (C) Where an application for modification or amend-  
23 ment of a plan of operations referred to in subparagraph  
24 (A) has been timely submitted and an approved plan ex-  
25 pires prior to Secretarial action on the application, mineral

1 activities and reclamation may continue in accordance  
2 with the terms of the expired plan until the Secretary  
3 makes an administrative decision on the application.

4 (4) If a notice or notice of intent had been filed with  
5 the authorized officer in the applicable office of the Bu-  
6 reau of Land Management or the United States Forest  
7 Service (as provided for in the regulations of the Secretary  
8 of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, respec-  
9 tively, in effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act)  
10 prior to the date of enactment this Act, mineral activities  
11 may continue under such notice or notice of intent for a  
12 period of 2 years after the effective date of this Act, after  
13 which time the requirements of title II shall apply, subject  
14 to the limitations of section 209(d)(2). In order to meet  
15 the requirements of title II, the person conducting mineral  
16 activities under such notice or notice of intent must apply  
17 for a permit under section 203 or 204 no later than 18  
18 months after the effective date of this Act, unless such  
19 mineral activities are conducted pursuant to section  
20 202(b). During such 2-year period the provisions of sec-  
21 tion 404 (relating to inspection and monitoring) and 407  
22 (relating to enforcement) shall apply on the basis of the  
23 surface management requirements applicable to such no-  
24 tices prior to the effective date of this Act.

1 **SEC. 412. CLAIMS SUBJECT TO SPECIAL RULES.**

2 (a) CERTAIN CLAIMS NOT CONVERTED.—Notwith-  
3 standing any other provision of law, except as provided  
4 under subsection (c), an unpatented mining claim referred  
5 to in section 37 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.  
6 193) shall not be converted under section 104 of this Act  
7 until the Secretary determines that the claim was valid  
8 on the date of enactment of the Mineral Leasing Act of  
9 1920 and has been maintained in compliance with the gen-  
10 eral mining laws.

11 (b) CONTEST PROCEEDINGS.—As soon as practicable  
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
13 initiate contest proceedings challenging the validity of all  
14 unpatented claims referred to in subsection (a), including  
15 those claims for which a patent application has not been  
16 filed. If a claim is determined to be invalid, the Secretary  
17 shall promptly declare the claim to be null and void. If,  
18 as a result of such proceeding, a claim is determined valid,  
19 the claim shall be converted and thereby become subject  
20 to this Act's provisions on the date of the completion of  
21 the contest proceeding.

22 (c) OIL SHALE CLAIMS.—(1) The provisions of sec-  
23 tion 411 shall apply to oil shale claims referred to in sec-  
24 tion 2511(e)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public  
25 Law 102–486)



1           (2) Section 2511(f) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992  
2 (Public Law 102–486) is amended as follows:

3           (A) Strike “as prescribed by the Secretary”.

4           (B) Insert the following before the period: “in  
5 the same manner as if such claims were subject to  
6 title II of the Mineral Exploration and Development  
7 Act of 1995”.

8 **SEC. 413. PURCHASING POWER ADJUSTMENT.**

9           The Secretary shall adjust all location fees, claim  
10 maintenance rates, penalty amounts, and other dollar  
11 amounts established in this Act for changes in the pur-  
12 chasing power of the dollar every 10 years following the  
13 date of enactment of this Act, employing the Consumer  
14 Price Index for all-urban consumers published by the De-  
15 partment of Labor as the basis for adjustment, and round-  
16 ing according to the adjustment process of conditions of  
17 the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of  
18 1990 (104 Stat. 890).

19 **SEC. 414. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

20           (a) SPECIAL APPLICATION OF MINING LAWS.—Noth-  
21 ing in this Act shall be construed as repealing or modify-  
22 ing any Federal law, regulation, order or land use plan,  
23 in effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act that  
24 prohibits or restricts the application of the general mining  
25 laws, including laws that provide for special management

1 criteria for operations under the general mining laws as  
2 in effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act, to  
3 the extent such laws provide environmental protection  
4 greater than required under this Act, and any such prior  
5 law shall remain in force and effect with respect to claims  
6 located (or proposed to be located) or converted under this  
7 Act. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as applying  
8 to or limiting mineral investigations, studies, or other min-  
9 eral activities conducted by any Federal or State agency  
10 acting in its governmental capacity pursuant to other au-  
11 thority. Nothing in this Act shall affect or limit any as-  
12 sessment, investigation, evaluation or listing pursuant to  
13 the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensa-  
14 tion and Liability Act of 1980, or the Solid Waste Dis-  
15 posal Act.

16 (b) EFFECT ON OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—The provi-  
17 sions of this Act shall supersede the general mining laws,  
18 but, except for the general mining laws, nothing in this  
19 Act shall be construed as superseding, modifying, amend-  
20 ing or repealing any provision of Federal law not expressly  
21 superseded, modified, amended or repealed by this Act.  
22 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as altering, affect-  
23 ing, amending, modifying, or changing, directly or indi-  
24 rectly, any law which refers to and provides authorities  
25 or responsibilities for, or is administered by, the Environ-

1 mental Protection Agency or the Administrator of the En-  
2 vironmental Protection Agency, including the Federal  
3 Water Pollution Control Act, title XIV of the Public  
4 Health Service Act (the Safe Drinking Water Act), the  
5 Clean Air Act, the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, the  
6 Toxic Substances Control Act, the Federal Insecticide,  
7 Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, the Federal Food, Drug,  
8 and Cosmetic Act, the Motor Vehicle Information and  
9 Cost Savings Act, the Federal Hazardous Substances Act,  
10 the Atomic Energy Act, the Noise Control Act of 1972,  
11 the Solid Waste Disposal Act, the Comprehensive Environ-  
12 mental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of  
13 1980, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization  
14 Act of 1986, the Ocean Dumping Act, the Environmental  
15 Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization  
16 Act, the Pollution Prosecution Act of 1990, and the Fed-  
17 eral Facilities Compliance Act of 1992, or any statute con-  
18 taining amendment to any of such Acts. Nothing in this  
19 Act shall be construed as modifying or affecting any provi-  
20 sion of the Native American Graves Protection and Repa-  
21 triation Act (Public Law 101–601) or any provision of the  
22 American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C.  
23 1996).

24 (c) PROTECTION OF CONSERVATION AREAS.—In  
25 order to protect the resources and values of National Con-

1 servation System units, the Secretary, as appropriate,  
2 shall utilize authority under this Act and other applicable  
3 law to the fullest extent necessary to prevent mineral ac-  
4 tivities within the boundaries of such units that could have  
5 an adverse impact on the resources or values for which  
6 such units were established.

7 **SEC. 415. AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC RECORDS.**

8       Copies of records, reports, inspection materials or in-  
9 formation obtained by the Secretary or the Secretary of  
10 Agriculture under this Act shall be made immediately  
11 available to the public, consistent with section 552 of title  
12 5 of the United States Code, in central and sufficient loca-  
13 tions in the county, multi county, and State area of min-  
14 eral activity or reclamation so that such items are conven-  
15 iently available to residents in the area proposed or ap-  
16 proved for mineral activities.

17 **SEC. 416. MISCELLANEOUS POWERS.**

18       (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out his or her duties  
19 under this Act, the Secretary, or for National Forest Sys-  
20 tem lands the Secretary of Agriculture, may conduct any  
21 investigation, inspection, or other inquiry necessary and  
22 appropriate and may conduct, after notice, any hearing  
23 or audit, necessary and appropriate to carrying out his  
24 duties.

1           (b) ANCILLARY POWERS.—In connection with any  
2 hearing, inquiry, investigation, or audit under this Act, the  
3 Secretary, or for National Forest System lands the Sec-  
4 retary of Agriculture, is authorized to take any of the fol-  
5 lowing actions:

6           (1) Require, by special or general order, any  
7 person to submit in writing such affidavits and an-  
8 swers to questions as the Secretary concerned may  
9 reasonably prescribe, which submission shall be  
10 made within such reasonable period and under oath  
11 or otherwise, as may be necessary.

12           (2) Administer oaths.

13           (3) Require by subpoena the attendance and  
14 testimony of witnesses and the production of all  
15 books, papers, records, documents, matter, and ma-  
16 terials, as such Secretary may request.

17           (4) Order testimony to be taken by deposition  
18 before any person who is designated by such Sec-  
19 retary and who has the power to administer oaths,  
20 and to compel testimony and the production of evi-  
21 dence in the same manner as authorized under para-  
22 graph (3) of this subsection.

23           (5) Pay witnesses the same fees and mileage as  
24 are paid in like circumstances in the courts of the  
25 United States.

1           (c) ENFORCEMENT.—In cases of refusal to obey a  
2 subpoena served upon any person under this section, the  
3 district court of the United States for any district in which  
4 such person is found, resides, or transacts business, upon  
5 application by the Attorney General at the request of the  
6 Secretary concerned and after notice to such person, shall  
7 have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person  
8 to appear and produce documents before the Secretary  
9 concerned. Any failure to obey such order of the court may  
10 be punished by such court as contempt thereof and subject  
11 to a penalty of up to \$10,000 a day.

12           (d) ENTRY AND ACCESS.—Without advance notice  
13 and upon presentation of appropriate credentials, the Sec-  
14 retary, or for National Forest System lands the Secretary  
15 of Agriculture, or any authorized representative thereof—

16                   (1) shall have the right of entry to, upon, or  
17 through the site of any claim, mineral activities, or  
18 any premises in which any records required to be  
19 maintained under this Act are located;

20                   (2) may at reasonable times, and without delay,  
21 have access to any copy any records, inspect any  
22 monitoring equipment or method of operation re-  
23 quired under this Act;

1           (3) may engage in any work and to do all  
2 things necessary or expedient to implement and ad-  
3 minister the provisions of this Act;

4           (4) may, on any mining claim located or con-  
5 verted under this Act, and without advance notice,  
6 stop and inspect any motorized form of transpor-  
7 tation that he has probable cause to believe is carry-  
8 ing locatable minerals, concentrates, or products de-  
9 rived therefrom from a claim site for the purpose of  
10 determining whether the operator of such vehicle has  
11 documentation related to such locatable minerals,  
12 concentrates, or products derived therefrom as re-  
13 quired by law, if such documentation is required  
14 under this Act; and

15           (5) may, if accompanied by any appropriate law  
16 enforcement officer, or an appropriate law enforce-  
17 ment officer alone may stop and inspect any motor-  
18 ized form of transportation which is not on a claim  
19 site if he has probable cause to believe such vehicle  
20 is carrying locatable minerals, concentrates, or prod-  
21 ucts derived therefrom from a claim site on Federal  
22 lands or allocated to such claim site. Such inspection  
23 shall be for the purpose of determining whether the  
24 operator of such vehicle has the documentation re-

1       quired by law, if such documentation is required  
2       under this Act.

3 **SEC. 417. LIMITATION ON PATENT ISSUANCE.**

4       (a) MINING CLAIMS.—After January 7, 1997, no pat-  
5 ent shall be issued by the United States for any mining  
6 claim located under the general mining laws or under this  
7 Act unless the Secretary determines that, for the claim  
8 concerned—

9           (1) a patent application was filed with the Sec-  
10       retary on or before January 7, 1997; and

11          (2) all requirements established under sections  
12       2325 and 2326 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C.  
13       29 and 30) for vein or lode claims and sections  
14       2329, 2330, 2331, and 2333 of the Revised Statutes  
15       (30 U.S.C. 35, 36, and 37) for placer claims were  
16       fully complied with by that date.

17 If the Secretary makes the determinations referred to in  
18 paragraphs (1) and (2) for any mining claim, the holder  
19 of the claim shall be entitled to the issuance of a patent  
20 in the same manner and degree to which such claim holder  
21 would have been entitled to prior to the enactment of this  
22 Act, unless and until such determinations are withdrawn  
23 or invalidated by the Secretary or by a court of the United  
24 States.



1 (b) MILL SITES.—After January 7, 1997, no patent  
2 shall be issued by the United States for any mill site claim  
3 located under the general mining laws unless the Secretary  
4 determines that for the mill site concerned—

5 (1) a patent application for such land was filed  
6 with the Secretary on or before January 7, 1997;  
7 and

8 (2) all requirements applicable to such patent  
9 application were fully complied with by that date.

10 If the Secretary makes the determinations referred to in  
11 paragraphs (1) and (2) for any mill site claim, the holder  
12 of the claim shall be entitled to the issuance of a patent  
13 in the same manner and degree to which such claim holder  
14 would have been entitled to prior to the enactment of this  
15 Act, unless and until such determinations are withdrawn  
16 or invalidated by the Secretary or by a court of the United  
17 States.

18 **SEC. 418. MULTIPLE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUR-**  
19 **FACE RESOURCES.**

20 The provisions of sections 4 and 6 of the Act of Au-  
21 gust 13, 1954 (30 U.S.C. 524 and 526), commonly known  
22 as the Multiple Minerals Development Act, and the provi-  
23 sions of section 4 of the Act of July 23, 1955 (30 U.S.C.  
24 612), shall apply to all mining claims located or converted  
25 under this Act.

1 **SEC. 419. MINERAL MATERIALS.**

2 (a) DETERMINATIONS.—Section 3 of the Act of July  
3 23, 1955 (30 U.S.C. 611), is amended as follows:

4 (1) Insert “(a)” before the first sentence.

5 (2) Insert “mineral materials, including but not  
6 limited to” after “varieties of” in the first sentence.

7 (3) Strike “or cinders” and insert in lieu there-  
8 of “cinders, and clay”.

9 (4) Add the following new subsection at the end  
10 thereof:

11 “(b)(1) Subject to valid existing rights, after the date  
12 of enactment of the Mineral Exploration and Development  
13 Act of 1995, notwithstanding the reference to common va-  
14 rieties in subsection (a) and to the exception to such term  
15 relating to a deposit of materials with some property giv-  
16 ing it distinct and special value, all deposits of mineral  
17 materials referred to in such subsection, including the  
18 block pumice referred to in such subsection, shall be sub-  
19 ject to disposal only under the terms and conditions of  
20 the Materials Act of 1947.

21 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘valid  
22 existing rights’ means that a mining claim located for any  
23 such mineral material had some property giving it the dis-  
24 tinct and special value referred to in subsection (a), or  
25 as the case may be, met the definition of block pumice  
26 referred to in such subsection, was properly located and

1 maintained under the general mining laws prior to the  
2 date of enactment of the Mineral Exploration and Devel-  
3 opment Act of 1995, and was supported by a discovery  
4 of a valuable mineral deposit within the meaning of the  
5 general mining laws as in effect immediately prior to the  
6 date of enactment of the Mineral Exploration and Devel-  
7 opment Act of 1995 and that such claim continues to be  
8 valid under this Act.”.

9 (b) MINERAL MATERIALS DISPOSAL CLARIFICA-  
10 TION.—Section 4 of the Act of July 23, 1955 (30 U.S.C.  
11 612), is amended as follows:

12 (1) In subsection (b) insert “and mineral mate-  
13 rial” after “vegetative”.

14 (2) In subsection (c) insert “and mineral mate-  
15 rial” after “vegetative”.

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1 of the  
17 Act of July 31, 1947, entitled “An Act to provide for the  
18 disposal of materials on the public lands of the United  
19 States” (30 U.S.C. 601 and following) is amended by  
20 striking “common varieties of” in the first sentence.

21 (d) SHORT TITLES.—

22 (1) SURFACE RESOURCES.—The Act of July  
23 23, 1955, is amended by inserting after section 7  
24 the following new section:

1       “SEC. 8. This Act may be cited as the ‘Surface Re-  
2 sources Act of 1955’.”.

3           (2) MINERAL MATERIALS.—The Act of July 31,  
4       1947, entitled “An Act to provide for the disposal of  
5       materials on the public lands of the United States”  
6       (30 U.S.C. 601 and following) is amended by insert-  
7       ing after section 4 the following new section:

8       “SEC. 5. This Act may be cited as the ‘Materials Act  
9 of 1947’.”.

10       (e) REPEALS.—(1) Subject to valid existing rights,  
11 the Act of August 4, 1892 (27 Stat. 348, 30 U.S.C. 161)  
12 commonly known as the Building Stone Act is hereby re-  
13 pealed.

14       (2) Subject to valid existing rights, the Act of Janu-  
15 ary 31, 1901 (30 U.S.C. 162) commonly known as the  
16 Saline Placer Act is hereby repealed.

17 **SEC. 420. APPLICATION OF ACT TO BENEFICIATION AND**  
18 **PROCESSING OF NONFEDERAL MINERALS ON**  
19 **FEDERAL LANDS.**

20       The provisions of this Act (including the surface  
21 management requirements of title II) shall apply in the  
22 same manner and to the same extent to Federal lands  
23 used for beneficiation or processing activities for any min-  
24 eral without regard to whether or not the legal and bene-  
25 ficial title to the mineral is held by the United States. This

1 section applies only to minerals which are locatable min-  
2 erals or minerals which would be locatable minerals if the  
3 legal and beneficial title to such minerals were held by the  
4 United States.

5 **SEC. 421. COMPLIANCE WITH BUY AMERICAN ACT.**

6 No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be  
7 expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in ex-  
8 pending the funds the entity will comply with section 2  
9 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 10a-  
10 10c), popularly known as the “Buy American Act”.

11 **SEC. 308. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12 In the case of any equipment or products purchased  
13 with funding provided under this Act, it is the sense of  
14 the Congress that such funding should be used to pur-  
15 chase only American-made equipment and products.

16 **SEC. 309. PROHIBITION OF CONTRACTS.**

17 If it has been finally determined by a court of Federal  
18 agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bear-  
19 ing a “Made in America” inscription, or any inscription  
20 with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped  
21 to the United States that is not made in the United  
22 States, such person shall be ineligible to receive any con-  
23 tract or subcontract made with funds provided pursuant  
24 to this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and

1 ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through  
2 9.409 of title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

3 **SEC. 422. SEVERABILITY.**

4 If any provision of this Act or the applicability there-  
5 of to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the re-  
6 mainder of this Act and the application of such provision  
7 to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected  
8 thereby.

9 **SEC. 423. AWARD OF COMPENSATION FOR TAKINGS FROM**  
10 **FUND.**

11 To the extent a court of competent jurisdiction, after  
12 adjudication, finds that Federal action undertaken pursu-  
13 ant to this Act effects a taking under the Fifth Amend-  
14 ment of the United States Constitution and enters a final  
15 judgment against the United States, the court shall award  
16 just compensation to the plaintiff, from the fund estab-  
17 lished under title III, subject to appropriation, together  
18 with appropriate reasonable fees and expenses to the ex-  
19 tent provided by section 304 of the Uniform Relocation  
20 Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of  
21 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4654(c)). In any case in which the Attor-  
22 ney General effects a settlement of any proceeding brought  
23 under section 1346(a)(2) or 1491 of title 28 of the United  
24 States Code alleging that any Federal action undertaken  
25 pursuant to this Act effects a taking under the Fifth

1 Amendment of the United States Constitution, the Attor-  
2 ney General shall use amounts available in the Fund sub-  
3 ject to appropriations to pay any award necessary pursu-  
4 ant to such settlement.

5 **SEC. 424. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON MINING CLAIMS IN**  
6 **THE UNITED STATES HELD BY FOREIGN**  
7 **FIRMS.**

8 (a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date  
9 of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Sec-  
10 retary of the Interior shall submit a report to the Congress  
11 describing the percentage of each mining claim held by  
12 a foreign firm.

13 (b) FOREIGN FIRM.—(1) For the purposes of this  
14 section, the term “foreign firm” means any firm that is  
15 not a domestic firm.

16 (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the term “do-  
17 mestic firm” means a business entity—

18 (A) that is incorporated or organized in the  
19 United States;

20 (B) that conducts business operations in the  
21 United States; and

22 (C) the assets of which at least 50 percent are  
23 held by United States citizens, permanent resident  
24 aliens, or other domestic firms.

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