

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2750

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.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2008

Mrs. FEINSTEIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

## 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       “Abandoned Mine Reclamation Act of 2008”.

6       (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
7       this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions and references.
- Sec. 3. Application rules.

## TITLE I—MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 101. Royalty.  
 Sec. 102. Hardrock mining claim maintenance fee.  
 Sec. 103. Reclamation fee.  
 Sec. 104. Effect of payments for use and occupancy of claims.

## TITLE II—ABANDONED MINE CLEANUP FUND

- Sec. 201. Establishment of Fund.  
 Sec. 202. Contents of Fund.  
 Sec. 203. Use and objectives of the Fund.  
 Sec. 204. Eligible lands and waters.  
 Sec. 205. Expenditures.  
 Sec. 206. Availability of amounts.

## TITLE III—EFFECTIVE DATE

- Sec. 301. Effective date.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—As used in this Act:

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

5 (A) Any person who controls, is controlled  
 6 by, or is under common control with such per-  
 7 son.

8 (B) Any partner of such person.

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

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

14 (3) The term “beneficiation” means the crush-  
 15 ing and grinding of locatable mineral ore and such  
 16 processes as are employed to free the mineral from

1 other constituents, including but not necessarily lim-  
2 ited to, physical and chemical separation techniques.

3 (4) The term “claim holder” means a person  
4 holding a mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site  
5 claim located under the general mining laws and  
6 maintained in compliance with such laws and this  
7 Act. Such term may include an agent of a claim  
8 holder.

9 (5) The term “control” means having the abil-  
10 ity, directly or indirectly, to determine (without re-  
11 gard to whether exercised through one or more cor-  
12 porate structures) the manner in which an entity  
13 conducts mineral activities, through any means, in-  
14 cluding without limitation, ownership interest, au-  
15 thority to commit the entity’s real or financial as-  
16 sets, position as a director, officer, or partner of the  
17 entity, or contractual arrangement.

18 (6) The term “exploration”—

19 (A) subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),  
20 means creating surface disturbance other than  
21 casual use, to evaluate the type, extent, quan-  
22 tity, or quality of minerals present;

23 (B) includes mineral activities associated  
24 with sampling, drilling, and analyzing locatable  
25 mineral values; and

1 (C) does not include extraction of mineral  
2 material for commercial use or sale.

3 (7) The term “Federal land” means any land,  
4 and any interest in land, that is owned by the  
5 United States and open to location of mining claims  
6 under the general mining laws.

7 (8) The term “hardrock mineral” has the  
8 meaning given the term “locatable mineral” except  
9 that legal and beneficial title to the mineral need not  
10 be held by the United States.

11 (9) The term “Indian lands” means lands held  
12 in trust for the benefit of an Indian tribe or indi-  
13 vidual or held by an Indian tribe or individual sub-  
14 ject to a restriction by the United States against  
15 alienation.

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

25 (11) The term “locatable mineral”—

1 (A) subject to subparagraph (B), means  
2 any mineral, the legal and beneficial title to  
3 which remains in the United States and that is  
4 not subject to disposition under any of—

5 (i) the Mineral Leasing Act (30  
6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.);

7 (ii) the Geothermal Steam Act of  
8 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);

9 (iii) the Act of July 31, 1947, com-  
10 monly known as the Materials Act of 1947  
11 (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); or

12 (iv) the Mineral Leasing for Acquired  
13 Lands Act (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.); and

14 (B) does not include any mineral that is  
15 subject to a restriction against alienation im-  
16 posed by the United States and is—

17 (i) held in trust by the United States  
18 for any Indian or Indian tribe, as defined  
19 in section 2 of the Indian Mineral Develop-  
20 ment Act of 1982 (25 U.S.C. 2101); or

21 (ii) owned by any Indian or Indian  
22 tribe, as defined in that section.

23 (12) The term “mineral activities” means any  
24 activity on a mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel  
25 site claim for, related to, or incidental to, mineral

1 exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, or rec-  
2 lamation activities for any locatable mineral.

3 (13) The term “operator” means any person  
4 proposing or authorized by a permit issued under  
5 this Act to conduct mineral activities and any agent  
6 of such person.

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

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

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

21 (17) The term “temporary cessation” means a  
22 halt in mine-related production activities for a con-  
23 tinuous period of no longer than 5 years.

24 (b) REFERENCES TO OTHER LAWS.—(1) Any ref-  
25 erence in this Act to the term general mining laws is a

1 reference to those Acts that generally comprise chapters  
2 2, 12A, and 16, and sections 161 and 162, of title 30,  
3 United States Code.

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

10 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION RULES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—This Act applies to any mining  
12 claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site claim located under  
13 the general mining laws, before, on, or after the date of  
14 enactment of this Act, except as provided in subsection  
15 (b).

16 (b) PREEXISTING CLAIMS.—(1) Any unpatented min-  
17 ing claim or millsite claim located under the general min-  
18 ing laws before the date of enactment of this Act for which  
19 a plan of operation has not been approved or a notice filed  
20 prior to the date of enactment shall, upon the effective  
21 date of this Act, be subject to the requirements of this  
22 Act, except as provided in paragraph (2).

23 (2)(A) If a plan of operations is approved for mineral  
24 activities on any claim or site referred to in paragraph  
25 (1) prior to the date of enactment of this Act but such

1 operations have not commenced prior to the date of enact-  
2 ment of this Act—

3 (i) during the 10-year period beginning on the  
4 date of enactment of this Act, mineral activities at  
5 such claim or site shall be subject to such plan of  
6 operations;

7 (ii) during such 10-year period, modifications of  
8 any such plan may be made in accordance with the  
9 provisions of law applicable prior to the enactment  
10 of this Act if such modifications are deemed minor  
11 by the Secretary concerned; and

12 (iii) the operator shall bring such mineral ac-  
13 tivities into compliance with this Act by the end of  
14 such 10-year period.

15 (B) Where an application for modification of a plan  
16 of operations referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) has been  
17 timely submitted and an approved plan expires prior to  
18 Secretarial action on the application, mineral activities  
19 and reclamation may continue in accordance with the  
20 terms of the expired plan until the Secretary makes an  
21 administrative decision on the application.

22 (c) FEDERAL LANDS SUBJECT TO EXISTING PER-  
23 MIT.—(1) Any Federal land shall be subject to the require-  
24 ments of section 101(a)(2) if the land is—

25 (A) subject to an operations permit; and

1           (B) producing valuable locatable minerals in  
2           commercial quantities prior to the date of enactment  
3           of this Act.

4           (2) Any Federal land added through a plan modifica-  
5           tion to an operations permit on Federal land that is sub-  
6           mitted after the date of enactment of this Act shall be  
7           subject to the terms of section 101(a)(3).

8           (d) APPLICATION OF ACT TO BENEFICIATION AND  
9           PROCESSING OF NON-FEDERAL MINERALS ON FEDERAL  
10          LANDS.—The provisions of this Act shall apply in the  
11          same manner and to the same extent to mining claims,  
12          millsite claims, and tunnel site claims used for  
13          beneficiation or processing activities for any mineral with-  
14          out regard to whether or not the legal and beneficial title  
15          to the mineral is held by the United States. This sub-  
16          section applies only to minerals that are locatable minerals  
17          or minerals that would be locatable minerals if the legal  
18          and beneficial title to such minerals were held by the  
19          United States.

20          **TITLE           I—MINERAL           EXPLO-**  
21          **RATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

22          **SEC. 101. ROYALTY.**

23          (a) RESERVATION OF ROYALTY.—

24                  (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
25          graph (2) and subject to paragraph (3), production

1 of all locatable minerals from any mining claim lo-  
2 cated under the general mining laws and maintained  
3 in compliance with this Act, or mineral concentrates  
4 or products derived from locatable minerals from  
5 any such mining claim, as the case may be, shall be  
6 subject to a royalty of 8 percent of the gross income  
7 from mining. The claim holder or any operator to  
8 whom the claim holder has assigned the obligation  
9 to make royalty payments under the claim and any  
10 person who controls such claim holder or operator  
11 shall be liable for payment of such royalties.

12 (2) ROYALTY FOR FEDERAL LANDS SUBJECT  
13 TO EXISTING PERMIT.—The royalty under para-  
14 graph (1) shall be 4 percent in the case of any Fed-  
15 eral land that—

16 (A) is subject to an operations permit on  
17 the date of the enactment of this Act; and

18 (B) produces valuable locatable minerals in  
19 commercial quantities on the date of enactment  
20 of this Act.

21 (3) FEDERAL LAND ADDED TO EXISTING OPER-  
22 ATIONS PERMIT.—Any Federal land added through  
23 a plan modification to an operations permit that is  
24 submitted after the date of enactment of this Act

1 shall be subject to the royalty that applies to Fed-  
2 eral land under paragraph (1).

3 (4) DEPOSIT.—Amounts received by the United  
4 States as royalties under this subsection shall be de-  
5 posited into the Abandoned Mine Cleanup Fund es-  
6 tablished by section 201(a).

7 (b) DUTIES OF CLAIM HOLDERS, OPERATORS, AND  
8 TRANSPORTERS.—(1) A person—

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

13 (B) shall notify the Secretary, in the time and  
14 manner as may be specified by the Secretary, of any  
15 assignment that such person may have made of the  
16 obligation to make any royalty or other payment  
17 under a mining claim.

18 (2) Any person paying royalties under this section  
19 shall file a written instrument, together with the first roy-  
20 alty payment, affirming that such person is responsible for  
21 making proper payments for all amounts due for all time  
22 periods for which such person has a payment responsi-  
23 bility. Such responsibility for the periods referred to in the  
24 preceding sentence shall include any and all additional  
25 amounts billed by the Secretary and determined to be due

1 by final agency or judicial action. Any person liable for  
2 royalty payments under this section who assigns any pay-  
3 ment obligation shall remain jointly and severally liable  
4 for all royalty payments due for the claim for the period.

5 (3) A person conducting mineral activities shall—

6 (A) develop and comply with the site security  
7 provisions in the operations permit designed to pro-  
8 tect from theft the locatable minerals, concentrates  
9 or products derived therefrom which are produced or  
10 stored on a mining claim, and such provisions shall  
11 conform with such minimum standards as the Sec-  
12 retary may prescribe by rule, taking into account the  
13 variety of circumstances on mining claims; and

14 (B) not later than the 5th business day after  
15 production begins anywhere on a mining claim, or  
16 production resumes after more than 90 days after  
17 production was suspended, notify the Secretary, in  
18 the manner prescribed by the Secretary, of the date  
19 on which such production has begun or resumed.

20 (4) The Secretary may by rule require any person en-  
21 gaged in transporting a locatable mineral, concentrate, or  
22 product derived therefrom to carry on his or her person,  
23 in his or her vehicle, or in his or her immediate control,  
24 documentation showing, at a minimum, the amount, ori-  
25 gin, and intended destination of the locatable mineral, con-

1 centrate, or product derived therefrom in such cir-  
2 cumstances as the Secretary determines is appropriate.

3 (c) RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIRE-  
4 MENTS.—A claim holder, operator, or other person di-  
5 rectly involved in developing, producing, processing, trans-  
6 porting, purchasing, or selling locatable minerals, con-  
7 centrates, or products derived therefrom, subject to this  
8 Act, through the point of royalty computation shall estab-  
9 lish and maintain any records, make any reports, and pro-  
10 vide any information that the Secretary may reasonably  
11 require for the purposes of implementing this section or  
12 determining compliance with rules or orders under this  
13 section. Such records shall include, but not be limited to,  
14 periodic reports, records, documents, and other data. Such  
15 reports may also include, but not be limited to, pertinent  
16 technical and financial data relating to the quantity, qual-  
17 ity, composition volume, weight, and assay of all minerals  
18 extracted from the mining claim. Upon the request of any  
19 officer or employee duly designated by the Secretary con-  
20 ducting an audit or investigation pursuant to this section,  
21 the appropriate records, reports, or information that may  
22 be required by this section shall be made available for in-  
23 spection and duplication by such officer or employee. Fail-  
24 ure by a claim holder, operator, or other person referred  
25 to in the first sentence to cooperate with such an audit,

1 provide data required by the Secretary, or grant access  
2 to information may, at the discretion of the Secretary, re-  
3 sult in involuntary forfeiture of the claim.

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

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

1           (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this sub-  
2 section (relating to trade secrets), and pursuant to a coop-  
3 erative agreement, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, upon  
4 request, have access to all royalty accounting information  
5 in the possession of the Secretary respecting the produc-  
6 tion, removal, or sale of locatable minerals, concentrates,  
7 or products derived therefrom from claims on lands open  
8 to location under this Act.

9           (3) Trade secrets, proprietary, and other confidential  
10 information protected from disclosure under section 552  
11 of title 5, United States Code, popularly known as the  
12 Freedom of Information Act, shall be made available by  
13 the Secretary to other Federal agencies as necessary to  
14 assure compliance with this Act and other Federal laws.  
15 The Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Adminis-  
16 trator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and other  
17 Federal officials shall ensure that such information is pro-  
18 vided protection in accordance with the requirements of  
19 that section.

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

1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In the case of an  
2 underpayment, interest shall be computed and charged  
3 only on the amount of the deficiency and not on the total  
4 amount.

5 (2) If there is any underreporting of royalty owed on  
6 production from a claim for any production month by any  
7 person liable for royalty payments under this section, the  
8 Secretary shall assess a penalty of not greater than 25  
9 percent of the amount of that underreporting.

10 (3) For the purposes of this subsection, the term  
11 “underreporting” means the difference between the roy-  
12 alty on the value of the production that should have been  
13 reported and the royalty on the value of the production  
14 which was reported, if the value that should have been  
15 reported is greater than the value that was reported.

16 (4) The Secretary may waive or reduce the assess-  
17 ment provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection if the  
18 person liable for royalty payments under this section cor-  
19 rects the underreporting before the date such person re-  
20 ceives notice from the Secretary that an underreporting  
21 may have occurred, or before 90 days after the date of  
22 the enactment of this section, whichever is later.

23 (5) The Secretary shall waive any portion of an as-  
24 sessment under paragraph (2) of this subsection attrib-  
25 utable to that portion of the underreporting for which the

1 person responsible for paying the royalty demonstrates  
2 that—

3 (A) such person had written authorization from  
4 the Secretary to report royalty on the value of the  
5 production on basis on which it was reported;

6 (B) such person had substantial authority for  
7 reporting royalty on the value of the production on  
8 the basis on which it was reported;

9 (C) such person previously had notified the Sec-  
10 retary, in such manner as the Secretary may by rule  
11 prescribe, of relevant reasons or facts affecting the  
12 royalty treatment of specific production which led to  
13 the underreporting; or

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

16 (6) All penalties collected under this subsection shall  
17 be deposited in the Abandoned Mine Cleanup Fund estab-  
18 lished by section 201(a).

19 (g) DELEGATION.—For the purposes of this section,  
20 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior  
21 acting through the Director of the Minerals Management  
22 Service.

23 (h) EXPANDED ROYALTY OBLIGATIONS.—Each per-  
24 son liable for royalty payments under this section shall  
25 be jointly and severally liable for royalty on all locatable

1 minerals, concentrates, or products derived therefrom lost  
2 or wasted from a mining claim located under the general  
3 mining laws and maintained in compliance with this Act  
4 when such loss or waste is due to negligence on the part  
5 of any person or due to the failure to comply with any  
6 rule, regulation, or order issued under this section.

7 (i) GROSS INCOME FROM MINING DEFINED.—For  
8 the purposes of this section, for any locatable mineral, the  
9 term “gross income from mining” has the same meaning  
10 as the term “gross income” in section 613(c) of the Inter-  
11 nal Revenue Code of 1986.

12 (j) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The royalty under this sec-  
13 tion shall take effect with respect to the production of  
14 locatable minerals after the enactment of this Act, but any  
15 royalty payments attributable to production during the  
16 first 12 calendar months after the enactment of this Act  
17 shall be payable at the expiration of such 12-month period.

18 (k) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ROYALTY REQUIRE-  
19 MENTS.—Any person who fails to comply with the require-  
20 ments of this section or any regulation or order issued to  
21 implement this section shall be liable for a civil penalty  
22 under section 109 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty  
23 Management Act (30 U.S.C. 1719) to the same extent as  
24 if the claim located under the general mining laws and

1 maintained in compliance with this Act were a lease under  
2 that Act.

3 **SEC. 102. HARDROCK MINING CLAIM MAINTENANCE FEE.**

4 (a) FEE.—

5 (1) Except as provided in section 2511(e)(2) of  
6 the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (relating to oil shale  
7 claims), for each unpatented mining claim, mill or  
8 tunnel site on federally owned lands, whether located  
9 before, on, or after enactment of this Act, each  
10 claimant shall pay to the Secretary, on or before Au-  
11 gust 31 of each year, a claim maintenance fee of  
12 \$300 per claim to hold such unpatented mining  
13 claim, mill or tunnel site for the assessment year be-  
14 ginning at noon on the next day, September 1. Such  
15 claim maintenance fee shall be in lieu of the assess-  
16 ment work requirement contained in the Mining Law  
17 of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 28 et seq.) and the related filing  
18 requirements contained in section 314(a) and (c) of  
19 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
20 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1744(a) and (c)).

21 (2)(A) The claim maintenance fee required  
22 under this subsection shall be waived for a claimant  
23 who certifies in writing to the Secretary that on the  
24 date the payment was due, the claimant and all re-  
25 lated parties—

1 (i) held not more than 10 mining claims,  
2 mill sites, or tunnel sites, or any combination  
3 thereof, on public lands; and

4 (ii) have performed assessment work re-  
5 quired under the Mining Law of 1872 (30  
6 U.S.C. 28 et seq.) to maintain the mining  
7 claims held by the claimant and such related  
8 parties for the assessment year ending on noon  
9 of September 1 of the calendar year in which  
10 payment of the claim maintenance fee was due.

11 (B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), with re-  
12 spect to any claimant, the term “all related parties”  
13 means—

14 (i) the spouse and dependent children (as  
15 defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue  
16 Code of 1986), of the claimant; or

17 (ii) a person affiliated with the claimant,  
18 including—

19 (I) a person controlled by, controlling,  
20 or under common control with the claim-  
21 ant; or

22 (II) a subsidiary or parent company  
23 or corporation of the claimant.

24 (3)(A) The Secretary shall adjust the fees re-  
25 quired by this subsection to reflect changes in the

1 Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of  
2 Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor every  
3 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, or  
4 more frequently if the Secretary determines an ad-  
5 justment to be reasonable.

6 (B) The Secretary shall provide claimants no-  
7 tice of any adjustment made under this paragraph  
8 not later than July 1 of any year in which the ad-  
9 justment is made.

10 (C) A fee adjustment under this paragraph  
11 shall begin to apply the calendar year following the  
12 calendar year in which it is made.

13 (4) Moneys received under this subsection that  
14 are not otherwise allocated for the administration of  
15 the mining laws by the Department of the Interior  
16 shall be deposited in the Abandoned Mine Cleanup  
17 Fund established by section 201(a).

18 (b) LOCATION.—

19 (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law, for  
20 every unpatented mining claim, mill or tunnel site  
21 located after the date of enactment of this Act and  
22 before September 30, 1998, the locator shall, at the  
23 time the location notice is recorded with the Bureau  
24 of Land Management, pay to the Secretary a loca-

1       tion fee, in addition to the fee required by subsection  
2       (a) of \$50 per claim.

3           (2) Moneys received under this subsection that  
4       are not otherwise allocated for the administration of  
5       the mining laws by the Department of the Interior  
6       shall be deposited in the Abandoned Mine Cleanup  
7       Fund established by section 201(a).

8       (c) TRANSFER.—

9           (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law, for  
10      every unpatented mining claim, mill, or tunnel site  
11      the ownership interest of which is transferred after  
12      the date of enactment of this Act, the transferee  
13      shall, at the time the transfer document is recorded  
14      with the Bureau of Land Management, pay to the  
15      Secretary a transfer fee, in addition to the fee re-  
16      quired by subsection (a) of \$100 per claim.

17          (2) Moneys received under this subsection that  
18      are not otherwise allocated for the administration of  
19      the mining laws by the Department of the Interior  
20      shall be deposited in the Abandoned Mine Cleanup  
21      Fund established by section 201(a).

22       (d) CO-OWNERSHIP.—The co-ownership provisions of  
23      the Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 28 et seq.) will remain  
24      in effect except that the annual claim maintenance fee,

1 where applicable, shall replace applicable assessment re-  
2 quirements and expenditures.

3 (e) **FAILURE TO PAY.**—Failure to pay the claim  
4 maintenance fee as required by subsection (a) shall conclu-  
5 sively constitute a forfeiture of the unpatented mining  
6 claim, mill or tunnel site by the claimant and the claim  
7 shall be deemed null and void by operation of law.

8 (f) **OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—

9 (1) Nothing in this section shall change or mod-  
10 ify the requirements of section 314(b) of the Federal  
11 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43  
12 U.S.C. 1744(b)), or the requirements of section  
13 314(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
14 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1744(c)) related to filings  
15 required by section 314(b) of that Act, which remain  
16 in effect.

17 (2) Section 2324 of the Revised Statutes of the  
18 United States (30 U.S.C. 28) is amended by insert-  
19 ing “or section 102 of the Abandoned Mine Rec-  
20 lamation Act of 2008” after “Act of 1993,”.

21 **SEC. 103. RECLAMATION FEE.**

22 (a) **IMPOSITION OF FEE.**—

23 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in para-  
24 graph (2), each operator of a hardrock minerals  
25 mining operation shall pay to the Secretary, for de-

1       posit in the Abandoned Mine Cleanup Fund estab-  
2       lished by section 201(a), a reclamation fee of 0.3  
3       percent of the gross income of the hardrock minerals  
4       mining operation for each calendar year.

5           (2) EXCEPTION.—With respect to any calendar  
6       year required under subsection (b), an operator of a  
7       hardrock minerals mining operation shall not be re-  
8       quired to pay the reclamation fee under paragraph  
9       (1) if—

10           (A) the gross annual income of the  
11           hardrock minerals mining operation for the cal-  
12           endar year is an amount less than \$500,000;  
13           and

14           (B) the hardrock minerals mining oper-  
15           ation is comprised of—

16           (i) 1 or more hardrock mineral mines  
17           located in a single patented claim; or

18           (ii) 2 or more contiguous patented  
19           claims.

20       (b) PAYMENT DEADLINE.—The reclamation fee shall  
21       be paid not later than 60 days after the end of each cal-  
22       endar year beginning with the first calendar year occur-  
23       ring after the date of enactment of this Act.

24       (c) DEPOSIT OF REVENUES.—Amounts received by  
25       the Secretary under subsection (a)(1) shall be deposited

1 into the Abandoned Mine Cleanup Fund established by  
2 section 201(a).

3 (d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section requires a re-  
4 duction in, or otherwise affects, any similar fee required  
5 under any law (including regulations) of any State.

6 **SEC. 104. EFFECT OF PAYMENTS FOR USE AND OCCUPANCY**  
7 **OF CLAIMS.**

8 Timely payment of the claim maintenance fee re-  
9 quired by section 102(a) of this Act or any related law  
10 relating to the use of Federal land, asserts the claimant's  
11 authority to use and occupy the Federal land concerned  
12 for prospecting and exploration, consistent with the re-  
13 quirements of this Act and other applicable law.

14 **TITLE II—ABANDONED MINE**  
15 **CLEANUP FUND**

16 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established on the  
18 books of the Treasury of the United States a separate ac-  
19 count to be known as the Abandoned Mine Cleanup Fund  
20 (hereinafter in this title referred to as the “Fund”).

21 (b) INVESTMENT.—The Secretary shall notify the  
22 Secretary of the Treasury as to what portion of the Fund  
23 is not, in the Secretary's judgment, required to meet cur-  
24 rent withdrawals. The Secretary of the Treasury shall in-  
25 vest such portion of the Fund in public debt securities

1 with maturities suitable for the needs of such Fund and  
2 bearing interest at rates determined by the Secretary of  
3 the Treasury, taking into consideration current market  
4 yields on outstanding marketplace obligations of the  
5 United States of comparable maturities.

6 **SEC. 202. CONTENTS OF FUND.**

7 The following amounts shall be credited to the Fund:

8 (1) All donations by persons, corporations, as-  
9 sociations, and foundations for the purposes of this  
10 title.

11 (2) All amounts deposited in the Fund under  
12 section 101 (relating to royalties and penalties for  
13 underreporting).

14 (3) All amounts received by the United States  
15 pursuant to section 102 as claim maintenance, loca-  
16 tion, and transfer fees minus the moneys allocated  
17 for administration of the mining laws by the Depart-  
18 ment of the Interior.

19 (4) All amounts received by the Secretary in ac-  
20 cordance with section 103(a).

21 (5) All income on investments under section  
22 201(b).

23 **SEC. 203. USE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized, with-  
25 out further appropriation, to use moneys in the Fund for

1 the reclamation and restoration of land and water re-  
2 sources adversely affected by past mineral activities on  
3 lands the legal and beneficial title to which resides in the  
4 United States, land within the exterior boundary of any  
5 national forest system unit, or other lands described in  
6 subsection (d), including any of the following:

7 (1) Protecting public health and safety.

8 (2) Preventing, abating, treating, and control-  
9 ling water pollution created by abandoned mine  
10 drainage, including in river watershed areas.

11 (3) Reclaiming and restoring abandoned surface  
12 and underground mined areas.

13 (4) Reclaiming and restoring abandoned milling  
14 and processing areas.

15 (5) Backfilling, sealing, or otherwise control-  
16 ling, abandoned underground mine entries.

17 (6) Revegetating land adversely affected by past  
18 mineral activities in order to prevent erosion and  
19 sedimentation, to enhance wildlife habitat, and for  
20 any other reclamation purpose.

21 (7) Controlling of surface subsidence due to  
22 abandoned underground mines.

23 (b) ALLOCATION.—Expenditures of moneys from the  
24 Fund shall reflect the following priorities in the order stat-  
25 ed:

1           (1) The protection of public health and safety,  
2           from extreme danger from the adverse effects of  
3           past mineral activities, especially as relates to sur-  
4           face water and groundwater contaminants.

5           (2) The protection of public health and safety,  
6           from the adverse effects of past mineral activities.

7           (3) The restoration of land, water, and fish and  
8           wildlife resources previously degraded by the adverse  
9           effects of past mineral activities, which may include  
10          restoration activities in river watershed areas.

11          (c) HABITAT.—Reclamation and restoration activities  
12          under this title, particularly those identified under sub-  
13          section (a)(4), shall include appropriate mitigation meas-  
14          ures to provide for the continuation of any established  
15          habitat for wildlife in existence prior to the commencement  
16          of such activities.

17          (d) OTHER AFFECTED LANDS.—Where mineral ex-  
18          ploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, or reclamation  
19          activities have been carried out with respect to any mineral  
20          which would be a locatable mineral if the legal and bene-  
21          ficial title to the mineral were in the United States, if such  
22          activities directly affect lands managed by the Bureau of  
23          Land Management as well as other lands and if the legal  
24          and beneficial title to more than 50 percent of the affected  
25          lands resides in the United States, the Secretary is author-

1 ized, subject to appropriations, to use moneys in the Fund  
2 for reclamation and restoration under subsection (a) for  
3 all directly affected lands.

4 (e) **RESPONSE OR REMOVAL ACTIONS.**—Reclamation  
5 and restoration activities under this title which constitute  
6 a removal or remedial action under section 101 of the  
7 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation,  
8 and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601), shall be con-  
9 ducted with the concurrence of the Administrator of the  
10 Environmental Protection Agency. The Secretary and the  
11 Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Under-  
12 standing to establish procedures for consultation, concur-  
13 rence, training, exchange of technical expertise and joint  
14 activities under the appropriate circumstances, that pro-  
15 vide assurances that reclamation or restoration activities  
16 under this title shall not be conducted in a manner that  
17 increases the costs or likelihood of removal or remedial  
18 actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Re-  
19 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42  
20 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), and that avoid oversight by multiple  
21 agencies to the maximum extent practicable.

22 **SEC. 204. ELIGIBLE LANDS AND WATERS.**

23 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Reclamation expenditures under  
24 this title may be made with respect to Federal, State,  
25 local, tribal, and private land or water resources that tra-

1 verse or are contiguous to Federal, State, local, tribal, or  
2 private land where such lands or water resources have  
3 been affected by past mineral activities, including any of  
4 the following:

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

9           (2) Lands for which the Secretary makes a de-  
10          termination that there is no continuing reclamation  
11          responsibility of a claim holder, operator, or other  
12          person who abandoned the site prior to completion  
13          of required reclamation under State or other Federal  
14          laws.

15          (b) SPECIFIC SITES AND AREAS NOT ELIGIBLE.—  
16          The provisions of section 411(d) of the Surface Mining  
17          Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C.  
18          1240a(d)) shall apply to expenditures made from the  
19          Fund.

20          (c) INVENTORY.—

21                 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare  
22                 and maintain a publicly available inventory of aban-  
23                 doned locatable minerals mines on public lands and  
24                 any abandoned mine on Indian lands that may be el-  
25                 igible for expenditures under this title, and shall de-

1       liver a yearly report to the Congress on the progress  
2       in cleanup of such sites.

3           (2) PRIORITY.—In preparing and maintaining  
4       the inventory described in paragraph (1), the Sec-  
5       retary shall give priority to abandoned locatable  
6       minerals mines in accordance with section 203(b).

7           (3) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Not later than 5  
8       years after the date of enactment of this Act, and  
9       every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall update  
10      the inventory described in paragraph (1).

11 **SEC. 205. EXPENDITURES.**

12       Moneys available from the Fund may be expended for  
13      the purposes specified in section 203 directly by the Direc-  
14      tor of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and En-  
15      forcement. The Director may also make such money avail-  
16      able for such purposes to the Director of the Bureau of  
17      Land Management, the Chief of the United States Forest  
18      Service, the Director of the National Park Service, or Di-  
19      rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to  
20      any other agency of the United States, to an Indian tribe,  
21      or to any public entity that volunteers to develop and im-  
22      plement, and that has the ability to carry out, all or a  
23      significant portion of a reclamation program under this  
24      title.

1 **SEC. 206. AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.**

2 Amounts credited to the Fund shall—

3 (1) be available, without further appropriation,  
4 for obligation and expenditure; and

5 (2) remain available until expended.

6 **TITLE III—EFFECTIVE DATE**

7 **SEC. 301. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment  
9 of this Act, except as otherwise provided in this Act.

○