

have approved your Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations. If the lands are already leased, your operations may not unreasonably interfere with or endanger those other operations or other authorized uses, or cause unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.

§ 3250.12 What general standards apply to exploration operations?

BLM-approved exploration operations must:

- (a) Meet all operational and environmental standards;
- (b) Protect public health, safety, and property;
- (c) Prevent unnecessary impacts on surface and subsurface resources;
- (d) Be conducted in a manner consistent with the principles of multiple use; and
- (e) Comply with the requirements of § 3200.4.

§ 3250.13 What additional BLM orders or instructions govern exploration?

BLM may issue the following types of orders or instructions:

- (a) Geothermal resource operational orders that contain detailed requirements of nationwide applicability;
- (b) Notices to lessees that contain detailed requirements on a statewide or regional basis;
- (c) Other orders and instructions specific to a field or area;
- (d) Conditions of approval contained in an approved Notice of Intent; and
- (e) Verbal orders that BLM will confirm in writing.

§ 3250.14 What types of operations may I propose in my application to conduct exploration?

(a) You may propose any activity fitting the definition of “exploration operations” in § 3200.1. Submit Form 3200-9, Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations, together with the information required under § 3251.11, and BLM will review your proposal.

(b) The exploration operations regulations do not address drilling wells intended for production or injection, which is covered in subpart 3260, or geothermal resources utilization, which is covered in subpart 3270.

Subpart 3251—Exploration Operations: Getting BLM Approval

§ 3251.10 Do I need a permit before I start exploration operations?

BLM must approve a Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations (NOI) before you conduct exploration operations. The approved NOI, including any necessary conditions for approval, constitutes your permit.

§ 3251.11 What information is in a complete Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations application?

To obtain approval of exploration operations on BLM-managed lands, your application must:

- (a) Include a complete and signed Form 3200-9, Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations that describes the lands you wish to explore;
- (b) For operations other than drilling temperature gradient wells, describe your exploration plans and procedures, including the approximate starting and ending dates for each phase of operations;
- (c) For drilling temperature gradient wells, describe your drilling and completion procedures, and include, for each well or for several wells you propose to drill in an area of geologic and environmental similarity:
 - (1) A detailed description of the equipment, materials, and procedures you will use;
 - (2) The depth of each well;
 - (3) The casing and cementing program;
 - (4) The circulation media (mud, air, foam, etc.);
 - (5) A description of the logs that you will run;
 - (6) A description and diagram of the blowout prevention equipment you will use during each phase of drilling;
 - (7) The expected depth and thickness of fresh water zones;
 - (8) Anticipated lost circulation zones;
 - (9) Anticipated temperature gradient in the area;
 - (10) Well site layout and design;
 - (11) Existing and planned access roads or ancillary facilities; and