

Public Law 95-554
95th Congress

An Act

To further amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 201(a)), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to exchange Federal coal leases and to encourage recovery of certain coal deposits, and for other purposes.

Oct. 30, 1978
[S. 3189]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and notwithstanding the provisions of section 2(a)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 201(a)(1)), the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue leases for coal on other Federal lands in the State of Utah to the lease applicant named in preference right lease applications serial numbers U1362, U1363, U1375, U5233, U5234, U5235, U5236, and U5237 upon surrender and relinquishment by the applicant of such preference right lease applications and all right to lease the lands covered by such applications, such surrender and relinquishment to be made in exchange for the lease or leases to be issued by the Secretary.

Mineral Leasing
Act of 1920,
amendment.
Coal lease
authorizations.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and notwithstanding the provisions of section 2(a)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 201(a)(1)), the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue leases for coal on other Federal lands in the State of Wyoming to the owner or owners of Federal coal leases serial numbers W0313666, W0111833, W073289, W0312311, and W0313668, B025369, W0256663, W5035, W0322794 covering lands in the State of Wyoming upon the surrender and relinquishment of such leases or portions thereof.

(c) The leases to be issued by the Secretary pursuant to the authority granted by subsections (a) and (b) of this Act and the leases or portions thereof or rights to leases to be exchanged therefor shall be of equal value. If such leases or portions thereof or rights to leases are not of equal value, the Secretary is authorized to receive, or pay out of funds available for that purpose, cash in an amount up to 25 per centum of the value of the coal lease or leases to be issued by the Secretary in order to equalize the value of the lease or lease rights to be exchanged.

(d) Any exchange lease issued by the Secretary under the authority of this Act shall contain the same terms and conditions as those leases surrendered, or in case of a surrendered lease right, the same terms and conditions as those to which the lease applicant would be entitled.

(e) This subsection does not require or obligate the Secretary to take any action or to make any commitment to a lessee or lease applicant with respect to issuance, administration, or development of any lease.

SEC. 2. Section 2(a)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 201(a)(1)), is further amended by striking the period at the end of the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the competitive bidding requirement of this section, the Secretary may, subject to such conditions which he deems appropriate, negotiate the sale at fair market value of coal the removal of which is necessary and incidental to the

exercise of a right-of-way permit issued pursuant to title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.”

SEC. 3. Section 3 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 203), is further amended by adding after the word “contiguous”, the words “or cornering”, and by deleting the period at the end of the second sentence thereof and adding the following clause: “except that nothing in this section shall require the Secretary to apply the production or mining plan requirements of section 2(d) (2) and 7(c) of this Act (30 U.S.C. 201(d) (2) and 207(c)). The minimum royalty provisions of section 7(a) of this Act (30 U.S.C. 207(a)) shall not apply to any lands covered by this modified lease prior to a modification until the term of the original lease or extension thereof which became effective prior to the effective date of this Act has expired.”

SEC. 4. Section 37 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 193) is further amended by the addition of the words “except as provided in sections 206 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2756, 2757-8), and” after “only in the form and manner provided in this Act,” and before the word “except”.

SEC. 5. Section 30 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 187) is further amended by striking the word “boy” and inserting in lieu thereof “child” and by striking the phrase “or the employment of any girl or woman, without regard to age,”.

SEC. 6. (a) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed within nine months of the date of enactment of this Act to evaluate and review the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, cultural, historic, and other public values of the reservoir in Johnson County, Wyoming, known as Lake DeSmet and the adjoining and adjacent coal properties. The Secretary’s review and evaluation shall be for the purpose of determining whether the Lake DeSmet property shall be acquired for public use and enjoyment by exchange for Federal coal lands.

(b) If the Secretary determines that the Lake DeSmet property shall be acquired, he is authorized, with the agreement of the owners of the property, to acquire the Lake DeSmet property by exchanging Federal coal lands, interests in Federal coal lands, or Federal coal leases.

(c) The exchange authorized by this section shall be for equal value. To the extent, if any, the value of the lands or interests exchanged are not equal the difference may be adjusted by the payment of money so long as the payment does not exceed 25 per centum of the total value of the lands or interests transferred out of Federal ownership. In determining the value of the Lake DeSmet property, the Secretary is authorized and directed to include the fair market value of the property, considering the acquisition cost of the lands, the value of the coal deposits, water rights and water resource developments, and capital and other appropriate improvements. The exchange of such properties shall be carried out expeditiously in accordance with the provisions of this section and other Federal land exchange authority to the extent such authority is applicable and consistent with this section.

30 USC 202a.

Evaluation and review.

Acquisition authorization.

Exchanges.

(d) The Secretary is authorized to transfer any property acquired pursuant to this section (1) to the appropriate agency in the Department of the Interior for management and administration, or (2) to the State of Wyoming for recreational purposes and fish and wildlife management. Any conveyance to the State of Wyoming shall contain a reservation of all minerals to the United States and shall provide that, if the State ceases to use the property conveyed for fish propagation and wildlife management, title to such property shall revert to the United States.

Sec. 7. Effective October 1, 1979, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Appropriation
authorization.

Sec. 8. The title of the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-377) is hereby changed to the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976.

Short title.
30 USC 181 note.

Approved October 30, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-1635 accompanying H.R. 13553 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-1169 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 124 (1978):

Sept. 20, considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 3, H.R. 13553 considered and passed House; passage vacated, and S. 3189, amended, passed in lieu.

Oct. 13, Senate concurred in House amendment.