

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 780

To provide for the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California (for himself and Mr. RAHALL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Abandoned Hardrock
5 Mines Reclamation Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. RECLAMATION FEE.**

7 (a) RESERVATION OF RECLAMATION FEE.—Any per-
8 son producing hardrock minerals from a mine that was
9 within a mining claim that has subsequently been patented

1 under the general mining laws shall pay a reclamation fee
 2 to the Secretary under this section. The amount of such
 3 fee shall be equal to a percentage of the net proceeds from
 4 such mine. The percentage shall be based upon the ratio
 5 of the net proceeds to the gross proceeds related to such
 6 production in accordance with the following table:

Net proceeds as percentage of gross proceeds	Rate of fee as percentage of net proceeds
Less than 10	2.00
10 or more but less than 18	2.50
18 or more but less than 26	3.00
26 or more but less than 34	3.50
34 or more but less than 42	4.00
42 or more but less than 50	4.50
50 or more	5.00

7 (b) EXEMPTION.—Gross proceeds of less than
 8 \$500,000 from minerals produced in any calendar year
 9 shall be exempt from the reclamation fee under this sec-
 10 tion for that year if such proceeds are from one or more
 11 mines located on a single patented claim or on two or more
 12 contiguous patented claims.

13 (c) PAYMENT.—The amount of all fees payable under
 14 this section for any calendar year shall be paid to the Sec-
 15 retary within 60 days after the end of such year.

16 (d) DISBURSEMENT OF REVENUES.—The receipts
 17 from the fee collected under this section shall be paid into
 18 the Abandoned Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund estab-
 19 lished under this Act.

1 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
2 with respect to hardrock minerals produced in calendar
3 years after December 31, 1996.

4 **SEC. 3. ABANDONED MINERALS MINE RECLAMATION FUND.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) There is established on
6 the books of the Treasury of the United States an interest-
7 bearing fund to be known as the Abandoned Minerals
8 Mine Reclamation Fund (hereinafter referred to in this
9 section as the Fund). The Fund shall be administered by
10 the Secretary.

11 (2) The Secretary shall notify the Secretary of the
12 Treasury as to what portion of the Fund is not, in his
13 judgment, required to meet current withdrawals. The Sec-
14 retary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the
15 Fund in public debt securities with maturities suitable for
16 the needs of such Fund and bearing interest at rates de-
17 termined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into
18 consideration current market yields on outstanding mar-
19 ketplace obligations of the United States of comparable
20 maturities. The income on such investments shall be cred-
21 ited to, and from a part of, the Fund.

22 (b) USE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND.—The Sec-
23 retary is, subject to appropriations, authorized to use
24 moneys in the Fund for the reclamation and restoration
25 of land and water resources adversely affected by past

1 mineral (other than coal and fluid minerals) and mineral
2 material mining, including but not limited to, any of the
3 following:

4 (1) Reclamation and restoration of abandoned
5 surface mined areas.

6 (2) Reclamation and restoration of abandoned
7 milling and processing areas.

8 (3) Sealing, filling, and grading abandoned deep
9 mine entries.

10 (4) Planting of land adversely affected by past
11 mining to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

12 (5) Prevention, abatement, treatment and con-
13 trol of water pollution created by abandoned mine
14 drainage.

15 (6) Control of surface subsidence due to aban-
16 doned deep mines.

17 (7) Such expenses as may be necessary to ac-
18 complish the purposes of this section.

19 (c) ELIGIBLE AREAS.—(1) Land and waters eligible
20 for reclamation expenditures under this section shall be
21 those within the boundaries of States that have lands sub-
22 ject to the general mining laws—

23 (A) which were mined or processed for minerals
24 and mineral materials or which were affected by
25 such mining or processing, and abandoned or left in

1 an inadequate reclamation status prior to the date
2 of enactment of this title;

3 (B) for which the Secretary makes a determina-
4 tion that there is no continuing reclamation respon-
5 sibility under State or Federal laws; and

6 (C) for which it can be established that such
7 lands do not contain minerals which could economi-
8 cally be extracted through the reprocessing or remin-
9 ing of such lands.

10 (2) Sites and areas designated for remedial action
11 pursuant to the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control
12 Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 7901 and following) or which have
13 been listed for remedial action pursuant to the Com-
14 prehensive Environmental Response Compensation and
15 Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 and following) shall
16 not be eligible for expenditures from the Fund under this
17 section.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19 As used in this Act:

20 (1) The term “gross proceeds” means the value
21 of any extracted hardrock mineral which was—

22 (A) sold;

23 (B) exchanged for any thing or service;

24 (C) removed from the country in a form
25 ready for use or sale; or

1 (D) initially used in a manufacturing proc-
2 ess or in providing a service.

3 (2) The term “net proceeds” means gross pro-
4 ceeds less the sum of the following deductions:

5 (A) The actual cost of extracting the min-
6 eral.

7 (B) The actual cost of transporting the
8 mineral to the place or places of reduction, re-
9 fining and sale.

10 (C) The actual cost of reduction, refining
11 and sale.

12 (D) The actual cost of marketing and de-
13 livering the mineral and the conversion of the
14 mineral into money.

15 (E) The actual cost of maintenance and re-
16 pairs of the following:

17 (i) All machinery, equipment, appara-
18 tus and facilities used in the mine.

19 (ii) All milling, refining, smelting and
20 reduction works, plants and facilities.

21 (iii) All facilities and equipment for
22 transportation.

23 (F) The actual cost of fire insurance on
24 the machinery, equipment, apparatus, works,

1 plants and facilities mentioned in subparagraph
2 (E).

3 (G) Depreciation of the original capitalized
4 cost of the machinery, equipment, apparatus,
5 works, plants and facilities mentioned in sub-
6 paragraph (E).

7 (H) All money expended for premiums for
8 industrial insurance, and the actual cost of hos-
9 pital and medical attention and accident bene-
10 fits and group insurance for all employees.

11 (I) The actual cost of developmental work
12 in or about the mine or upon a group of mines
13 when operated as a unit.

14 (J) All royalties and severance taxes paid
15 to the Federal Government or State govern-
16 ments.

17 (3) The term “hardrock mineral” means any
18 mineral other than a mineral that would be subject
19 to disposition under any of the following if located
20 on land subject to the general mining laws:

21 (A) The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
22 181 and following).

23 (B) The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970
24 (30 U.S.C. 100 and following).

1 (C) The Act of July 31, 1947, commonly
2 known as the Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C.
3 601 and following).

4 (D) The Mineral Leasing for Acquired
5 Lands Act (30 U.S.C. 351 and following).

6 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
7 of the Interior.

8 (5) The term “patented mining claim” means
9 an interest in land which has been obtained pursu-
10 ant to sections 2325 and 2326 of the Revised Stat-
11 utes (30 U.S.C. 29 and 30) for vein or lode claims
12 and sections 2329, 2330, 2331, and 2333 of the Re-
13 vised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 35, 36 and 37) for placer
14 claims, or section 2337 of the Revised Statutes (30
15 U.S.C. 42) for mill site claims.

16 (6) The term “general mining laws” means
17 those Acts which generally comprise chapters 2,
18 12A, and 16, and sections 161 and 162 of title 30
19 of the United States Code.

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