

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3978

To authorize the Secretary of Energy to purchase certain essential mineral rights and resolve natural resource damage liability claims.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Energy to purchase certain essential mineral rights and resolve natural resource damage liability claims.

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. ROCKY FLATS ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY**

4 **SITE.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

6 (1) ESSENTIAL MINERAL RIGHT.—The term
7 “essential mineral right” means a right to mine
8 sand and gravel at Rocky Flats, as depicted on the
9 map.

1 (2) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The term “fair
2 market value” means the value of an essential min-
3 eral right, as determined by an appraisal performed
4 by an independent, certified mineral appraiser under
5 the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal
6 Practice.

7 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
8 titled “Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge”, dated
9 July 25, 2005, and available for inspection in appro-
10 priate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife
11 Service and the Department of Energy.

12 (4) NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE LIABILITY
13 CLAIM.—The term “natural resource damage liabil-
14 ity claim” means a natural resource damage liability
15 claim under subsections (a)(4)(C) and (f) of section
16 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response,
17 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C.
18 9607) arising from hazardous substances releases at
19 or from Rocky Flats that, as of the date of enact-
20 ment of this Act, are identified in the administrative
21 record for Rocky Flats required by the National Oil
22 and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency
23 Plan prepared under section 105 of that Act (42
24 U.S.C. 9605).

1 (5) ROCKY FLATS.—The term “Rocky Flats”
2 means the Department of Energy facility in the
3 State of Colorado known as the “Rocky Flats Envi-
4 ronmental Technology Site”.

5 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Energy.

7 (7) TRUSTEES.—The term “Trustees” means
8 the Federal and State officials designated as trust-
9 ees under section 107(f)(2) of the Comprehensive
10 Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabil-
11 ity Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607(f)(2)).

12 (b) PURCHASE OF ESSENTIAL MINERAL RIGHTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, such amounts au-
15 thorized to be appropriated under subsection (c)
16 shall be available to the Secretary to purchase essen-
17 tial mineral rights at Rocky Flats.

18 (2) CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall not pur-
19 chase an essential mineral right under paragraph (1)
20 unless—

21 (A) the owner of the essential mineral
22 right is a willing seller; and

23 (B) the Secretary purchases the essential
24 mineral right for an amount that does not ex-
25 ceed fair market value.

1 (3) LIMITATION.—Only those funds authorized
2 to be appropriated under subsection (c) shall be
3 available for the Secretary to purchase essential
4 mineral rights under paragraph (1).

5 (4) RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.—Notwith-
6 standing any other law, any natural resource dam-
7 age liability claim shall be considered to be satisfied
8 by—

9 (A) the purchase by the Secretary of essen-
10 tial mineral rights under paragraph (1) for con-
11 sideration in an amount equal to \$10,000,000;

12 (B) the payment by the Secretary to the
13 Trustees of \$10,000,000; or

14 (C) the purchase by the Secretary of any
15 portion of the mineral rights under paragraph
16 (1) for—

17 (i) consideration in an amount less
18 than \$10,000,000; and

19 (ii) a payment by the Secretary to the
20 Trustees of an amount equal to the dif-
21 ference between—

22 (I) \$10,000,000; and

23 (II) the amount paid under
24 clause (i).

25 (5) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any amounts received
2 under paragraph (4) shall be used by the Trust-
3 ees for the purposes described in section
4 107(f)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental
5 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of
6 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607(f)(1)), including—

7 (i) the purchase of additional mineral
8 rights at Rocky Flats; and

9 (ii) the development of habitat res-
10 toration projects at Rocky Flats.

11 (B) CONDITION.—Any expenditure of
12 funds under this paragraph shall be made joint-
13 ly by the Trustees.

14 (C) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—The Trustees
15 may use the funds received under paragraph
16 (4) in conjunction with other private and public
17 funds.

18 (6) EXEMPTION FROM NATIONAL ENVIRON-
19 MENTAL POLICY ACT.—Any purchases of mineral
20 rights under this subsection shall be exempt from
21 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
22 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

23 (7) ROCKY FLATS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REF-
24 UGE.—

1 (A) TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT RESPON-
2 SIBILITIES.—The Rocky Flats National Wildlife
3 Refuge Act of 2001 (16 U.S.C. 668dd note;
4 Public Law 107–107) is amended—

5 (i) in section 3175—

6 (I) by striking subsections (b)
7 and (f); and

8 (II) by redesignating subsections
9 (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (b),
10 (c), and (d), respectively; and

11 (ii) in section 3176(a)(1), by striking
12 “section 3175(d)” and inserting “section
13 3175(c)”.

14 (B) BOUNDARIES.—Section 3177 of the
15 Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of
16 2001 (16 U.S.C. 668dd note; Public Law 107–
17 107) is amended by striking subsection (c) and
18 inserting the following:

19 “(c) COMPOSITION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
21 graph (2), the refuge shall consist of land within the
22 boundaries of Rocky Flats, as depicted on the
23 map—

24 “(A) entitled ‘Rocky Flats National Wild-
25 life Refuge’;

1 “(B) dated July 25, 2005; and

2 “(C) available for inspection in the appro-
3 priate offices of the United States Fish and
4 Wildlife Service and the Department of Energy.

5 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The refuge does not in-
6 clude—

7 “(A) any land retained by the Department
8 of Energy for response actions under section
9 3175(c);

10 “(B) any land depicted on the map de-
11 scribed in paragraph (1) that is subject to 1 or
12 more essential mineral rights described in sec-
13 tion 3114(a) of the National Defense Author-
14 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 over which the
15 Secretary shall retain jurisdiction of the surface
16 estate until the essential mineral rights—

17 “(i) are purchased under subsection
18 (b) of that Act; or

19 “(ii) are mined and reclaimed by the
20 mineral rights holders in accordance with
21 requirements established by the State of
22 Colorado; and

23 “(C) the land depicted on the map de-
24 scribed in paragraph (1) on which essential
25 mineral rights are being actively mined as of

1 the date of enactment of this subparagraph
2 until—

3 “(i) the essential mineral rights are
4 purchased; or

5 “(ii) the surface estate is reclaimed by
6 the mineral rights holder in accordance
7 with requirements established by the State
8 of Colorado.

9 “(3) ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND.—Not-
10 withstanding paragraph (2), upon the purchase of
11 the mineral rights or reclamation of the land de-
12 picted on the map described in paragraph (1), the
13 Secretary shall—

14 “(A) transfer the land to the Secretary of
15 the Interior for inclusion in the refuge; and

16 “(B) the Secretary of the Interior shall—

17 “(i) accept the transfer of the land;
18 and

19 “(ii) manage the land as part of the
20 refuge.”.

21 (c) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be ap-
22 propriated to the Secretary for the Rocky Flats Environ-
23 mental Technology Site for fiscal year 2006, \$10,000,000

- 1 shall be made available to the Secretary for the purposes
- 2 described in subsection (b).

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