

Alaska, extension of general land laws, see section 280a of Title 25, Indians.

Atomic Energy Act of 1954, source material, see section 2091 et seq. of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

Control of mining operations in areas of the National Park System to minimize damage to the environment and other resources, see section 1901 et seq. of Title 16, Conservation.

Forest reservation lands, found to be mineral in character, restored to public domain, see section 482 of Title 16.

Kansas and Missouri mineral deposits, see section 49 of this title.

Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin mineral lands, see section 48 of this title.

Sale of reserved mineral interests in certain agricultural lands, see sections 1033 to 1035 and 1037 to 1039 of Title 7, Agriculture.

Timber on public mineral lands, felling and removal for mining and other purposes, see sections 604 to 606 of Title 16, Conservation.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 24, 29, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 48, 102 of this title; title 43 section 1712.

§ 21a. National mining and minerals policy; “minerals” defined; execution of policy under other authorized programs

The Congress declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government in the national interest to foster and encourage private enterprise in (1) the development of economically sound and stable domestic mining, minerals, metal and mineral reclamation industries, (2) the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources, reserves, and reclamation of metals and minerals to help assure satisfaction of industrial, security and environmental needs, (3) mining, mineral, and metallurgical research, including the use and recycling of scrap to promote the wise and efficient use of our natural and reclaimable mineral resources, and (4) the study and development of methods for the disposal, control, and reclamation of mineral waste products, and the reclamation of mined land, so as to lessen any adverse impact of mineral extraction and processing upon the physical environment that may result from mining or mineral activities.

For the purpose of this section “minerals” shall include all minerals and mineral fuels including oil, gas, coal, oil shale and uranium.

It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this policy when exercising his authority under such programs as may be authorized by law other than this section.

(Pub. L. 91-631, title I, §101, formerly §2, Dec. 31, 1970, 84 Stat. 1876; Pub. L. 104-66, title I, §1081(b), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 721; renumbered title I, §101, Pub. L. 104-325, §2(1), (2), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3994.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-66 in last par. struck out at end “For this purpose the Secretary of the Interior shall include in his annual report to the Congress a report on the state of the domestic mining, minerals, and mineral reclamation industries, including a statement of the trend in utilization and depletion of these resources, together with such recommendations for legislative programs as may be necessary to implement the policy of this section.”

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 91-631 provided: “That this Act [enacting this section] may be cited as the ‘Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970.’”

CROSS REFERENCES

Control of mining operations in areas of the National Park System to minimize damage to the environment and other resources, see section 1901 et seq. of Title 16, Conservation.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 1292, 1601, 1605 of this title; title 43 sections 1701, 1866.

§ 22. Lands open to purchase by citizens

Except as otherwise provided, all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States, both surveyed and unsurveyed, shall be free and open to exploration and purchase, and the lands in which they are found to occupation and purchase, by citizens of the United States and those who have declared their intention to become such, under regulations prescribed by law, and according to the local customs or rules of miners in the several mining districts, so far as the same are applicable and not inconsistent with the laws of the United States.

(R.S. §2319.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. §2319 derived from act May 10, 1872, ch. 152, §1, 17 Stat. 91.

Words “Except as otherwise provided,” were editorially supplied on authority of act Feb. 25, 1920, ch. 85, 41 Stat. 437, popularly known as the Mineral Lands Leasing Act, which is classified to chapter 3A (§181 et seq.) of this title.

SHORT TITLE

Sections 22 to 24, 26 to 28, 29, 30, 33 to 35, 37, 39 to 43, and 47 of this title are based on sections of the Revised Statutes which are derived from act May 10, 1872, ch. 152, 17 Stat. 91, popularly known as the “General Mining Act of 1872”.

CROSS REFERENCES

Acquisition of mining lands within National Park System by Secretary of the Interior, see section 1911 of Title 16, Conservation.

Disposition to citizens of the United States of deposits of coal, phosphate sodium, oil, oil shale or gas and lands containing such deposits, see section 181 et seq. of this title.

Kansas and Missouri mineral deposits, see section 49 of this title.

Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin mineral lands, see section 48 of this title.

Preservation and management of National Park System mining areas, see section 1902 of Title 16, Conservation.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 24, 29, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 102, 541b of this title; title 16 section 460mm-1; title 25 section 640d-10; title 43 sections 1712, 1714, 1732.

§ 23. Length of claims on veins or lodes

Mining claims upon veins or lodes of quartz or other rock in place bearing gold, silver, cinnabar, lead, tin, copper, or other valuable deposits, located prior to May 10, 1872, shall be governed

as to length along the vein or lode by the customs, regulations, and laws in force at the date of their location. A mining claim located after the 10th day of May 1872, whether located by one or more persons, may equal, but shall not exceed, one thousand five hundred feet in length along the vein or lode; but no location of a mining claim shall be made until the discovery of the vein or lode within the limits of the claim located. No claim shall extend more than three hundred feet on each side of the middle of the vein at the surface, nor shall any claim be limited by any mining regulation to less than twenty-five feet on each side of the middle of the vein at the surface, except where adverse rights existing on the 10th day of May 1872 render such limitation necessary. The end lines of each claim shall be parallel to each other.

(R.S. § 2320.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2320 derived from act May 10, 1872, ch. 152, § 2, 17 Stat. 91.

PROMOTION OF MINING

See Promotion of Mining note set out under section 22 of this title.

CROSS REFERENCES

Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin mineral lands, see section 48 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 24, 29, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 102, 541b of this title; title 16 section 460mm-1; title 25 section 640d-10; title 43 sections 1712, 1714, 1732.

§ 24. Proof of citizenship

Proof of citizenship, under sections 21, 22 to 24, 26 to 28, 29, 30, 33 to 48, 50 to 52, 71 to 76 of this title and section 661 of title 43, may consist, in the case of an individual, of his own affidavit thereof; in the case of an association of persons unincorporated, of the affidavit of their authorized agent, made on his own knowledge, or upon information and belief; and in the case of a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, or of any State or Territory thereof, by the filing of a certified copy of their charter or certificate of incorporation.

(R.S. § 2321.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 21, 22 to 24, 26 to 28, 29, 30, 33 to 48, 50 to 52, 71 to 76 of this title and section 661 of title 43, referred to in text, were in the original "this chapter", meaning chapter 6 of title 32 of the Revised Statutes, consisting of R.S. §§ 2318 to 2352.

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2321 derived from act May 10, 1872, ch. 152, § 7, 17 Stat. 94.

CROSS REFERENCES

Affidavit of citizenship, see section 25 of this title.
Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin mineral lands, see section 48 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 29, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 102, 541b of this title; title 16 section

460mm-1; title 25 section 640d-10; title 43 sections 1712, 1714, 1732.

§ 25. Affidavit of citizenship

Applicants for mineral patents, if residing beyond the limits of the district wherein the claim is situated, may make any oath or affidavit required for proof of citizenship before the clerk of any court of record or before any notary public of any State or Territory.

(Apr. 26, 1882, ch. 106, § 2, 22 Stat. 49.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 16 section 460mm-1.

§ 26. Locators' rights of possession and enjoyment

The locators of all mining locations made on any mineral vein, lode, or ledge, situated on the public domain, their heirs and assigns, where no adverse claim existed on the 10th day of May 1872 so long as they comply with the laws of the United States, and with State, territorial, and local regulations not in conflict with the laws of the United States governing their possessory title, shall have the exclusive right of possession and enjoyment of all the surface included within the lines of their locations, and of all veins, lodes, and ledges throughout their entire depth, the top or apex of which lies inside of such surface lines extended downward vertically, although such veins, lodes, or ledges may so far depart from a perpendicular in their course downward as to extend outside the vertical side lines of such surface locations. But their right of possession to such outside parts of such veins or ledges shall be confined to such portions thereof as lie between vertical planes drawn downward as above described, through the end lines of their locations, so continued in their own direction that such planes will intersect such exterior parts of such veins or ledges. Nothing in this section shall authorize the locator or possessor of a vein or lode which extends in its downward course beyond the vertical lines of his claim to enter upon the surface of a claim owned or possessed by another.

(R.S. § 2322.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2322 derived from act May 10, 1872, ch. 152, § 3, 17 Stat. 91.

PROMOTION OF MINING

See Promotion of Mining note set out under section 22 of this title.

CROSS REFERENCES

Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin mineral lands, see section 48 of this title.

National forests, locators' rights, see sections 482a, 482b, 482e, 482h, 482h-1, 482j, 482n and 482o of Title 16, Conservation.

Preservation and management of National Park System mining areas, see section 1902 of Title 16.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 24, 29, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 102, 541b of this title; title 16 section 460mm-1; title 25 section 640d-10; title 43 sections 1712, 1714, 1732.