US Code
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TITLE 30 - MINERAL LANDS AND MINING
CHAPTER 1—UNITED STATES BUREAU OF MINES

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§ 1. United States Bureau of Mines; establishment; director; experts and other employees

There is hereby established in the Department of the Interior a bureau of mining, metallurgy, and mineral technology, to be designated the United States Bureau of Mines, and there shall be a director of said bureau, who shall be thoroughly equipped for the duties of said office by technical education and experience and who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and there shall also be in the said bureau such experts and other employees, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, as may be required to carry out the purposes of sections 1, 3, and 5 to 7 of this title in accordance with the appropriations made from time to time by Congress for such purposes.


Change of Name


Section 10(b) of Pub. L. 102–285 provided that: “The Bureau of Mines established by the Act of May 16, 1910 (30 U.S.C. 1), is designated as and shall hereafter [on and after May 18, 1992] be known as the United States Bureau of Mines.”
Transfer of Functions


Pub. L. 104–134, title I, § 101(c) [title I], Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321–156, 1321–167; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 104–140, § 1(a), May 2, 1996, 110 Stat. 1327, provided in part: “That there hereby are transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary of Energy: (1) the functions pertaining to the promotion of health and safety in mines and the mineral industry through research vested by law in the Secretary of the Interior or the United States Bureau of Mines and performed in fiscal year 1995 by the United States Bureau of Mines at its Pittsburgh Research Center in Pennsylvania, and at its Spokane Research Center in Washington; (2) the functions pertaining to the conduct of inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use and disposal of mineral substances vested by law in the Secretary of the Interior or the United States Bureau of Mines and performed in fiscal year 1995 by the United States Bureau of Mines under the minerals and materials science programs at its Pittsburgh Research Center in Pennsylvania, and at its Albany Research Center in Oregon; and (3) the functions pertaining to mineral reclamation industries and the development of methods for the disposal, control, prevention, and reclamation of mineral waste products vested by law in the Secretary of the Interior or the United States Bureau of Mines and performed in fiscal year 1995 by the United States Bureau of Mines at its Pittsburgh Research Center in Pennsylvania: Provided further, That, if any of the same functions were performed in fiscal year 1995 at locations other than those listed above, such functions shall not be transferred to the Secretary of Energy from those other locations: Provided further, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior, is authorized to make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the transfer of functions which relate to or are used by the Department of the Interior, or component thereof affected by this transfer of functions, and to make such dispositions of personnel, facilities, assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, arising from, available to or to be made available in connection with, the functions transferred herein as are deemed necessary to accomplish the purposes of this transfer: Provided further, That all reductions in personnel complements resulting from the provisions of this Act [probably means Pub. L. 104–134, title I, § 101(c), Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321–156; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 104–140, § 1(a), May 2, 1996, 110 Stat. 1327, known as the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, see Tables for classification] shall, as to the functions transferred to the Secretary of Energy, be done by the Secretary of the Interior as though these transfers had not taken place but had been required of the Department of the Interior by all other provisions of this Act before the transfers of function became effective: Provided further, That the transfers of function to the Secretary of Energy shall become effective on the date specified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, but in no event later than 90 days after enactment into law of this Act [Apr. 26, 1996]: Provided further, That the reference to ‘function’ includes, but is not limited to, any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, and activity, or the plural thereof, as the case may be.”

[Pub. L. 104–208, div. A, title I, § 101(e) [title II], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–233, 3009–244, provided in part: “That the functions described in clause (1) of the first proviso under the subheading ‘mines and minerals’ under the heading ‘Bureau of Mines’ in the text of title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, as enacted by section 101(c) of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–134) [set out above], are hereby transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code”.

Functions vested in, or delegated to, Secretary of Energy and Department of Energy under or with respect to sections 1, 3, and 5 to 7 of this title and other authorities relating to certain fossil energy research and development transferred to, and vested in, Secretary of the Interior, by section 100 of Pub. L. 97–257, 96 Stat. 841, set out as a note under section 7152 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

Functions of Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, and officers and components of Department of the Interior under sections 1, 3, and 5 to 7 of this title and other authorities exercised by Bureau of Mines relating to fuel supply and demand analysis and data gathering, research and development relating to increased efficiency of production technology of solid fuel minerals other than research relating to mine health and safety and research relating to the environmental and leasing consequences of solid fuel mining, and coal preparation and analysis transferred to, and vested in, Secretary of Energy as part of the creation of Department of Energy by Pub. L. 95–91, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 565. See section 7152 (d) of Title 42.

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§ 1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Bureau of Mines originally created in Department of the Interior. Bureau transferred to Department of Commerce by Ex. Ord. No. 4239, but transferred back to Department of the Interior by Ex. Ord. No. 6611.
§ 1a. Transfer of activities, employees, records, etc., from Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce to the United States Bureau of Mines

There is hereby transferred from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, to the Department of the Interior, United States Bureau of Mines, all those activities of the Minerals Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce concerned with economic and statistical analyses of mineral commodities, domestic and foreign, together with all employees, records, files, equipment, publications, and funds pertaining thereto, effective immediately.


Change of Name


§ 2. Performance of duties in absence of director

On and after July 1, 1916, in the absence of the Director of the United States Bureau of Mines the assistant director of said bureau shall perform the duties of the director during the latter’s absence, and in the absence of the Director and of the Assistant Director of the United States Bureau of Mines the Secretary of the Interior may designate some officer of said bureau to perform the duties of the director during his absence.


Change of Name


§ 3. Duties of United States Bureau of Mines

It shall be the province and duty of the United States Bureau of Mines, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, to conduct inquiries and scientific and technologic investigations concerning mining, and the preparation, treatment, and utilization of mineral substances with a view to improving health conditions, and increasing safety, efficiency, economic development, and conserving resources through the prevention of waste in the mining, quarrying, metallurgical, and other mineral industries; to inquire into the economic conditions affecting these industries; to investigate explosives and peat; and on behalf of the Government to investigate the mineral fuels and unfinished mineral products belonging to, or for the use of, the United States, with a view to their most efficient mining, preparation, treatment, and use; and to disseminate information concerning these subjects in such manner as will best carry out the purposes of the provisions of sections 1, 3, and 5 to 7 of this title.

§ 4. Investigation of lignite coal and peat

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to make experiments and investigations, through the United States Bureau of Mines, of lignite coals and peat, to determine the commercial and economic practicability of their utilization in producing fuel oil, gasoline substitutes, ammonia, tar, solid fuels, gas for power, and other purposes. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed subject to applicable regulations under chapters 1 to 11 of title 40 and division C (except sections 3302, 3306 (f), 3307 (e), 3501 (b), 3509, 3906, 4104, 4710, and 4711) of subtitle I of title 41 to sell or otherwise dispose of any property, plant, or machinery purchased or acquired under the provisions of this section, as soon as the experiments and investigations authorized have been concluded, and report the results of such experiments and investigations to Congress.


Codification


First sentence of this section is from first clause of section 1 of act Feb. 25, 1919. Second sentence is from section 2 of said act.

Amendments


Change of Name


§ 4a. Omitted

Codification

Section, act June 25, 1926, ch. 674, § 1, 44 Stat. 768, authorized appropriation of $100,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 1927, and the four succeeding fiscal years for investigation of potash deposits.

§ 4b. Cooperation with individuals, municipalities, etc.; contracts with owners; agreements as to prices

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce jointly are hereby authorized, within their discretion, to cooperate under formal agreement with individuals, associations, corporations,
States, and municipalities, educational institutions, or other bodies, for the purposes of this section:
Provided, That before undertaking drilling operations upon any tract or tracts of land, the mineral deposits of which are not the property of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce jointly shall enter into a contract or contracts with the owners or lessees, or both, of the mineral rights therein, and the aforesaid contract or contracts shall provide, among other things, that, if deposits of potash minerals or oil shall be discovered in pursuance of operations under said contract or contracts and if and when said mineral deposits shall be mined and sold, the owners or lessees, or both, of said mineral rights shall pay to the Government and its cooperators a royalty of not less than 21/2 per centum of the sale value of any potash minerals and oil therefrom, said payments to continue until such time as the total amount derived from said royalty is equal to not more than the cost of the exploration, as may be determined by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce jointly: Provided further, That all Federal claims for reimbursement under this section shall automatically expire twenty years from the date of approval of the contracts entered into, in accordance with the provisions thereof, unless sooner terminated by agreement between the owners or lessees of the potash mineral rights and oil and the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce jointly: Provided further, That said contract or contracts shall not restrict the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce jointly in the choice of drilling locations within the property or in the conduct of the exploratory operations, so long as such selection or conduct do not interfere unreasonably with the surface of the land or with the improvements thereof, and said contract or contracts shall provide that the United States shall not be liable for damages on account of such reasonable use of the surface as may be necessary in the proper conduct of the work.

(June 25, 1926, ch. 674, § 2, 44 Stat. 768; Mar. 3, 1927, ch. 356, 44 Stat. 1388.)

Amendments

§ 4c. Investigation of sub-bituminous and lignite coal
The United States Bureau of Mines, under the general direction of the Secretary of the Interior, is authorized to conduct investigations, studies, and experiments on its own initiative and in cooperation with individuals, State institutions, laboratories, and other organizations, with a view to
(1) the development of a commercially practicable carbonization method of processing sub-bituminous and lignite coal so as to convert such coal into an all-purpose fuel, to provide fertilizers, and obtain such other byproducts thereof as may be commercially valuable;
(2) the development of efficient methods, equipment, and devices for burning lignite or char therefrom; and
(3) determining and developing methods for more efficient utilization of such sub-bituminous and lignite coal for purposes of generating electric power.


Change of Name
§ 4d. Plants, machinery, and equipment
The United States Bureau of Mines is further authorized, under the general direction of the Secretary of the Interior, to erect such plants, construct and purchase such machinery and equipment, and to take such other steps as it may deem necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes of section 4c of this title.


Change of Name

§ 4e. Omitted

Codification
Section, act May 15, 1936, ch. 397, § 3, 49 Stat. 1275, appropriated $100,000 for carrying out provisions of sections 4c and 4d of this title to be expended during certain fiscal years, the last ending June 30, 1939.

§§ 4f to 4o. Transferred

Codification
Sections 4f to 4o were transferred to sections 451 to 460, respectively, of this title, and subsequently repealed by Pub. L. 91–173, title V, § 509, Dec. 30, 1969, 83 Stat. 803.

§ 5. Reports of investigations
The Director of the United States Bureau of Mines shall prepare and publish, subject to the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, under the appropriations made from time to time by Congress, reports of inquiries and investigations, with appropriate recommendations of the bureau, concerning the nature, causes, and prevention of accidents, and the improvement of conditions, methods, and equipment, with special reference to health, safety, and prevention of waste in the mining, quarrying, metallurgical, and other mineral industries; the use of explosives and electricity, safety methods and appliances, and rescue and first-aid work in said industries; the causes and prevention of mine fires; and other subjects included under the provisions of sections 1, 3, and 5 to 7 of this title.


Change of Name
§ 6. Personal interest of director and members of Bureau in mines

In conducting inquiries and investigations authorized under sections 1, 3, and 5 to 7 of this title neither the director nor any member of the United States Bureau of Mines shall have any personal or private interest in any mine or the products of any mine under investigation, or shall accept employment from any private party for services in the examination of any mine or private mineral property, or issue any report as to the valuation or the management of any mine or other private mineral property. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing the temporary employment by the United States Bureau of Mines, at a compensation not to exceed $10 per day, in a consulting capacity or in the investigation of special subjects, of any engineer or other expert whose principal professional practice is outside of such employment by said bureau.


Change of Name


§ 7. Fees for tests or investigations

For tests or investigations authorized by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of sections 1, 3, and 5 to 7 of this title, except those performed for the Government of the United States or State governments within the United States, a fee sufficient in each case to compensate the United States Bureau of Mines for the entire cost of the services rendered shall be charged, according to a schedule prepared by the Director of the United States Bureau of Mines and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, who shall prescribe rules and regulations under which such tests and investigations may be made. All moneys received from such sources shall be paid into the Treasury to the credit of miscellaneous receipts.


Amendments

1932—Act June 30, 1932, substituted “Secretary of Commerce” for “Secretary of the Interior” and changed a reasonable fee to be charged to a fee sufficient to compensate for entire cost of services rendered.

Change of Name


Effective Date of 1932 Amendment

Amendment by act June 30, 1932, effective July 1, 1932, see section 314 of that act.
§ 8. Additional mining experiment stations and mine safety stations authorized

The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to establish and maintain in the several important mining regions of the United States and the Territory of Alaska, as Congress may appropriate for the necessary employees and other expenses, under the United States Bureau of Mines and in accordance with the provisions of sections 1, 3, and 5 to 7 of this title, ten mining experiment stations and seven mine safety stations, movable or stationary, in addition to those established prior to March 3, 1915, the province and duty of which shall be to make investigations and disseminate information with a view to improving conditions in the mining, quarrying, metallurgical, and other mineral industries, safeguarding life among employees, preventing unnecessary waste of resources, and otherwise contributing to the advancement of these industries. Not more than three mining experiment stations and mine safety stations authorized in this section shall be established in any one fiscal year under the appropriations made therefor.


Change of Name


Title 30 - Acceptance of lands from States

§ 9. Acceptance of lands from States

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept lands, buildings, or other contributions from the several States offering to cooperate in carrying out the purposes of section 8 of this title.


Transfer of Functions

See note set out under section 1 of this title.

§ 10. Headquarters of mine rescue cars; site for experimental work; leases and donations

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept any suitable land or lands, buildings, or improvements that may be donated for the headquarters of mine rescue cars and construction of necessary railway sidings and housing for the same, or as the site of an experimental mine and plant for studying explosives, and to enter into leases for periods not exceeding ten years, subject to annual appropriations by Congress.

(June 5, 1920, ch. 235, § 1, 41 Stat. 912; Ex. Ord. No. 6611, Feb. 22, 1934.)
Transfer of Functions
See note set out under section 1 of this title.

§ 11. Omitted

Codification
Section, act May 9, 1938, ch. 187, § 1, 52 Stat. 329, providing that purchase of supplies and equipment or procurement of services for Bureau of Mines might be made in open market without compliance with section 5 of former Title 41, Public Contracts, where amount involved did not exceed $100, was a provision of Interior Department appropriation act and was discontinued in acts subsequent to 1938 appropriation act.


Section, act Aug. 13, 1946, ch. 961, 60 Stat. 1057, related to preservation of technical and economic records of domestic sources of ores of metals and minerals. See sections 2103, 2908, and 3102 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents.

§ 13. Research laboratory for utilization of anthracite coal; establishment and maintenance

The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the United States Bureau of Mines, is authorized and directed to establish, equip, and maintain a research laboratory in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania to conduct researches and investigations on the mining, preparation, and utilization of anthracite coal and to develop new scientific, chemical, and technical uses and new and extended markets and outlets for anthracite coal and its products. Such laboratory shall be planned as a center for information and assistance in matters pertaining to conserving resources for national defense; to the more efficient mining, preparation, and utilization of anthracite coal; and pertaining to safety, health, and sanitation in mining operations and other matters relating to problems of the anthracite industry.

(Dec. 18, 1942, ch. 764, § 1, 56 Stat. 1056.)

Transfer of Functions
For provisions relating to closure and transfer of functions of the United States Bureau of Mines, see note set out under section 1 of this title.

Authorization of Appropriations
Section 5 of act Dec. 18, 1942, provided that: “In order to carry out the purposes of this Act [sections 13 to 16 of this title] there is authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of (a) $450,000 for the erection and equipment of a building or buildings, including plumbing, lighting, heating, general service, and experimental equipment and apparatus, the necessary roads, walks, and ground improvement, and land for the site of the building if no land is donated; and (b) $175,000 annually for the maintenance and operation of the experimental station, including personal services, supplies, equipment, and expenses of travel and subsistence.”

§ 14. Acquisition of land; cooperation with other agencies

For the purpose of sections 13 to 16 of this title the Secretary, acting through the United States Bureau of Mines, is authorized to acquire land and interests therein, and to accept in the name of the United States donations of any property, real or personal, and to utilize voluntary or uncompensated services at such laboratory. The Secretary is authorized and directed to cooperate with other
departments or agencies of the Federal Government, States, and State agencies and institutions, counties, municipalities, business or other organizations, corporations, associations, universities, scientific societies, and individuals, upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe.

(Dec. 18, 1942, ch. 764, § 2, 56 Stat. 1057.)

Section, act Dec. 18, 1942, ch. 764, § 3, 56 Stat. 1057, related to reports to Congress of expenditures and donations to laboratory established under sections 13 to 16 of this title.

§ 16. Research laboratory for utilization of anthracite coal; establishment of advisory committee; composition; functions; appointment
The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the United States Bureau of Mines, may, in his discretion, create and establish an advisory committee composed of not more than six members to exercise consultative functions, when required by the Secretary, in connection with the administration of sections 13 to 16 of this title. The said committee shall be composed of representatives of anthracite coal mine owners, of representatives of anthracite coal mine workers and the public in equal number. The members of said committee shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior without regard to the civil-service laws.

(Dec. 18, 1942, ch. 764, § 4, 56 Stat. 1057.)

Transfer of Functions
For provisions relating to closure and transfer of functions of the United States Bureau of Mines, see note set out under section 1 of this title.

Transfer of Functions
For provisions relating to closure and transfer of functions of the United States Bureau of Mines, see note set out under section 1 of this title.

Termination of Advisory Committees
Advisory committees in existence on Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period following Jan. 5, 1973, unless, in the case of a committee established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such committee is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a committee established by the Congress, its duration is otherwise provided by law. Advisory committees established after Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of their establishment, unless, in the case of a committee established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such committee is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a committee established by the Congress, its duration is otherwise provided for by law. See section 14 of Pub. L. 92–463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 776, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.