<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE 30 - MINERAL LANDS AND MINING</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 17 - EXPLORATION PROGRAM FOR DISCOVERY OF MINERALS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ 641. Establishment and maintenance of program for exploration; financial assistance</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ 642. Exploration contracts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ 643. “Exploration” defined</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ 644. Advice and assistance by Government departments and agencies; expenditure of funds</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ 646. Authorization of appropriations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TITLE 30—MINERAL LANDS AND MINING

Chap. ...Sec.
1. United States Bureau of Mines ...1
2. Mineral Lands and Regulations in General ...21
3. Lands Containing Coal, Oil, Gas, Salts, Asphaltic Materials, Sodium, Sulphur, and Building Stone ...71
3A. Leases and Prospecting Permits ...181
4. Lease of Gold, Silver, or Quicksilver Deposits When Title Confirmed by Court of Private Land Claims ...291
5. Lease of Oil and Gas Deposits in or Under Railroads and Other Rights-of-Way ...301
6. Synthetic Liquid Fuel Demonstration Plants [Omitted] ...321
7. Lease of Mineral Deposits Within Acquired Lands ...351
8. Development of Lignite Coal Resources ...401
9. Rare and Precious Metals Experiment Station ...411
10. Coal Mine Safety [Repealed] ...451
11. Mining Claims on Lands Subject to Mineral Leasing Laws ...501
12. Multiple Mineral Development of the Same Tracts ...521
12A. Entry and Location on Coal Lands on Discovery of Source Material ...541
13. Control of Coal-Mine Fires ...551
14. Anthracite Mine Drainage and Flood Control ...571
15. Surface Resources ...601
16. Mineral Development of Lands Withdrawn for Power Development ...621
17. Exploration Program for Discovery of Minerals ...641
18. Coal Research and Development ...661
19. Lead and Zinc Stabilization Program [Omitted] ...681
20. Conveyances to Occupants of Unpatented Mining Claims ...701
21. Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety [Repealed] ...721
22. Mine Safety and Health ...801
23. Geothermal Resources ...1001
24. Geothermal Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration ...1101
25. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation ...1201
26. Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources ...1401
27. Geothermal Energy ...1501
28. Materials and Minerals Policy, Research, and Development ...1601
29. Oil and Gas Royalty Management ...1701
30. National Critical Materials Council ...1801
31. Marine Mineral Resources Research ...1901
32. Methane Hydrate Research and Development ...2001
CHAPTER 17—EXPLORATION PROGRAM FOR DISCOVERY OF MINERALS

Sec.

641. Establishment and maintenance of program for exploration; financial assistance.
642. Exploration contracts.
643. “Exploration” defined.
644. Advice and assistance by Government departments and agencies; expenditure of funds.
645. Repealed.
646. Authorization of appropriations.

§ 641. Establishment and maintenance of program for exploration; financial assistance

The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed, in order to provide for discovery of additional domestic mineral reserves, to establish and maintain a program for exploration by private industry within the United States, its Territories and possessions for such minerals, excluding organic fuels, as he shall from time to time designate, and to provide Federal financial assistance on a participating basis for that purpose.

(Pub. L. 85–701, § 1, Aug. 21, 1958, 72 Stat. 700.)

Congressional Declaration of Policy

The recital clause of Pub. L. 85–701, which preceded section 1, provided: “That it is declared to be the policy of the Congress to stimulate exploration for minerals within the United States, its Territories and possessions.”

§ 642. Exploration contracts

(a) Terms and conditions; interest rates

In order to carry out the purposes of this chapter, and subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary is authorized to enter into exploration contracts with individuals, partnerships, corporations, or other legal entities which shall provide for such Federal financial participation as he deems in the national interest. Such contracts shall contain terms and conditions as the Secretary deems necessary and appropriate, including terms and conditions for the repayment of the Federal funds made available under any contract together with interest thereon, as a royalty on the value of the production from the area described in the contract. Interest shall be calculated from the date of the loan. Such interest shall be at rates which

(1) are not less than the rates of interest which the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the Department of the Interior would have to pay if it borrowed such funds from the Treasury of the United States, taking into consideration current average yields on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with maturities comparable to the terms of the particular contracts involved and

(2) plus 2 per centum per annum in lieu of recovering the cost of administering the particular contracts.

(b) Deposit of royalty payments

Royalty payments received under subsection (a) of this section shall be covered into the miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury.

(c) Certification of exploration projects; payment of royalties; time limitation on payment; royalty agreements

When in the opinion of the Secretary an analysis and evaluation of the results of the exploration project disclose that mineral production from the area covered by the contract may be possible he shall so
Section 643 - Exploration defined

As used in this chapter, the term “exploration” means the search for new or unexplored deposits of minerals, including related development work, within the United States, its Territories and possessions, whether conducted from the surface or underground, using recognized and sound procedures including standard geophysical and geochemical methods for obtaining mineralogical and geological information.

(Pub. L. 85–701, § 3, Aug. 21, 1958, 72 Stat. 701.)

§ 644. Advice and assistance by Government departments and agencies; expenditure of funds

Departments and agencies of the Government are authorized to advise and assist the Secretary of the Interior, upon his request, in carrying out the provisions of this chapter and may expend their funds for such purposes, with or without reimbursement, in accordance with such agreements as may be necessary.

(Pub. L. 85–701, § 4, Aug. 21, 1958, 72 Stat. 701.)


§ 646. Authorization of appropriations

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, from any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 85–701, § 6, Aug. 21, 1958, 72 Stat. 701.)