

Power Commission and transferred its functions (with certain exceptions) to Secretary of Energy.

§ 1015. Requirement for lessees

Leases under this chapter may be issued only to citizens of the United States, associations of such citizens, corporations organized under the laws of the United States or of any State or the District of Columbia, or governmental units, including, without limitation, municipalities.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §16, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1571; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(16), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 672.)

AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline.

§ 1016. Administration

Administration of this chapter shall be under the principles of multiple use of lands and resources, and geothermal leases shall, insofar as feasible, allow for coexistence of other leases of the same lands for deposits of minerals under the laws applicable to them, for the location and production of claims under the mining laws, and for other uses of the areas covered by them. Operations under such other leases or for such other uses, however, shall not unreasonably interfere with or endanger operations under any lease issued pursuant to this chapter, nor shall operations under leases so issued unreasonably interfere with or endanger operations under any lease, license, claim, or permit issued pursuant to the provisions of any other Act.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §17, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1571; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(17), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 672.)

AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline.

§ 1017. Unit and communitization agreements

(a) Adoption of units by lessees

(1) In general

For the purpose of more properly conserving the natural resources of any geothermal reservoir, field, or like area, or any part thereof (whether or not any part of the geothermal reservoir, field, or like area, is subject to any cooperative plan of development or operation (referred to in this section as a “unit agreement”)), lessees thereof and their representatives may unite with each other, or jointly or separately with others, in collectively adopting and operating under a unit agreement for the reservoir, field, or like area, or any part thereof, including direct use resources, if determined and certified by the Secretary to be necessary or advisable in the public interest.

(2) Majority interest of single leases

A majority interest of owners of any single lease shall have the authority to commit the lease to a unit agreement.

(3) Initiative of Secretary

The Secretary may also initiate the formation of a unit agreement, or require an existing Federal lease to commit to a unit agreement, if in the public interest.

(4) Modification of lease requirements by Secretary

(A) In general

The Secretary may, in the discretion of the Secretary and with the consent of the holders of leases involved, establish, alter, change, or revoke rates of operations (including drilling, operations, production, and other requirements) of the leases and make conditions with respect to the leases, with the consent of the lessees, in connection with the creation and operation of any such unit agreement as the Secretary may consider necessary or advisable to secure the protection of the public interest.

(B) Unlike terms or rates

Leases with unlike lease terms or royalty rates shall not be required to be modified to be in the same unit.

(b) Requirement of plans under new leases

The Secretary may—

(1) provide that geothermal leases issued under this chapter shall contain a provision requiring the lessee to operate under a unit agreement; and

(2) prescribe the unit agreement under which the lessee shall operate, which shall adequately protect the rights of all parties in interest, including the United States.

(c) Modification of rate of prospecting, development, and production

The Secretary may require that any unit agreement authorized by this section that applies to land owned by the United States contain a provision under which authority is vested in the Secretary, or any person, committee, or State or Federal officer or agency as may be designated in the unit agreement to alter or modify, from time to time, the rate of prospecting and development and the quantity and rate of production under the unit agreement.

(d) Exclusion from determination of holding or control

Any land that is subject to a unit agreement approved or prescribed by the Secretary under this section shall not be considered in determining holdings or control under section 1006 of this title.

(e) Pooling of certain land

If separate tracts of land cannot be independently developed and operated to use geothermal resources pursuant to any section of this chapter—

(1) the land, or a portion of the land, may be pooled with other land, whether or not owned by the United States, for purposes of development and operation under a communitization agreement providing for an apportionment of production or royalties among the separate tracts of land comprising the production unit, if the pooling is determined by the Secretary to be in the public interest; and

(2) operation or production pursuant to the communitization agreement shall be treated as operation or production with respect to each tract of land that is subject to the communitization agreement.