

which the minerals have been reserved to the United States shall not be developed or produced except under geothermal leases made pursuant to this chapter. If the Secretary of the Interior finds that such development is imminent, or that production from a well heretofore drilled on such lands is imminent, he shall so report to the Attorney General, and the Attorney General is authorized and directed to institute an appropriate proceeding in the United States district court of the district in which such lands are located, to quiet the title of the United States in such resources, and if the court determines that the reservation of minerals to the United States in the lands involved included the geothermal resources, to enjoin their production otherwise than under the terms of this chapter: *Provided*, That upon an authoritative judicial determination that Federal mineral reservation does not include geothermal resources the duties of the Secretary of the Interior to report and of the Attorney General to institute proceedings, as hereinbefore set forth, shall cease.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §21, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1572; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(1), (3), (19), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 671, 673.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline, struck out “(b)” before “Geothermal”, substituted “does not include geothermal resources” for “does not include geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources”, and struck out subsec. (a) which read as follows: “Within one hundred and twenty days after December 24, 1970, the Secretary shall cause to be published in the Federal Register a determination of all lands which were included within any known geothermal resources area on December 24, 1970. He shall likewise publish in the Federal Register from time to time his determination of other known geothermal resources areas specifying in each case the date the lands were included in such area; and”.

#### § 1021. Federal exemption from State water laws

Nothing in this chapter shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to its exemption from State water laws.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §22, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1573; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(20), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 673.)

#### AMENDMENTS

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

#### § 1022. Prevention of waste; exclusivity

(a) All leases under this chapter shall be subject to the condition that the lessee will, in conducting his exploration, development, and producing operations, use all reasonable precautions to prevent waste of geothermal resources developed in the lands leased.

(b) Rights to develop and utilize geothermal resources underlying lands owned by the United States may be acquired solely in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §23, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1573; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(1), (21), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 671, 673.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline and substituted “geothermal resources” for “geothermal

steam and associated geothermal resources” in subsecs. (a) and (b).

#### § 1023. Rules and regulations

The Secretary shall prescribe such rules and regulations as he may deem appropriate to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Such regulations may include, without limitation, provisions for (a) the prevention of waste, (b) development and conservation of geothermal and other natural resources, (c) the protection of the public interest, (d) assignment, segregation, extension of terms, relinquishment of leases, development contracts, unitization, pooling, and drilling agreements, (e) compensatory royalty agreements, suspension of operations or production, and suspension or reduction of rentals or royalties, (f) the filing of surety bonds to assure compliance with the terms of the lease and to protect surface use and resources, (g) use of the surface by a lessee of the lands embraced in his lease, (h) the maintenance by the lessee of an active development program, and (i) protection of water quality and other environmental qualities.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §24, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1573; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(22), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 673.)

#### AMENDMENTS

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

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations under this chapter relating to fostering of competition for Federal leases, implementation of alternative bidding systems authorized for award of Federal leases, establishment of diligence requirements for operations conducted on Federal leases, setting of rates for production of Federal leases, and specifying of procedures, terms, and conditions for acquisition and disposition of Federal royalty interests taken in kind, transferred to Secretary of Energy by section 7152(b) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. Section 7152(b) of Title 42 was repealed by Pub. L. 97-100, title II, §201, Dec. 23, 1981, 95 Stat. 1407, and functions of Secretary of Energy returned to Secretary of the Interior. See House Report No. 97-315, pp. 25, 26, Nov. 5, 1981.

#### § 1024. Inclusion of geothermal leasing under certain other laws

As to any land subject to geothermal leasing under section 1002 of this title, all laws which either (a) provide for the disposal of land by patent or other form of conveyance or by grant or by operation of law subject to a reservation of any mineral or (b) prevent or restrict the disposal of such land because of the mineral character of the land, shall hereafter be deemed to embrace geothermal resources as a substance which either must be reserved or must prevent or restrict the disposal of such land, as the case may be. This section shall not be construed to affect grants, patents, or other forms of conveyances made prior to December 24, 1970.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §25, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1573; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(1), (23), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 671, 673.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline and substituted “geothermal resources” for “geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources” in text.