

**§ 229a. Water struck while drilling for oil and gas****(a) Acquisition; condition in lease**

All prospecting permits and leases for oil or gas made or issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to the condition that in case the permittee or lessee strikes water while drilling instead of oil or gas, the Secretary of the Interior may, when such water is of such quality and quantity as to be valuable and usable at a reasonable cost for agricultural, domestic, or other purposes, purchase the casing in the well at the reasonable value thereof to be fixed under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary.

**(b) Prior leases**

In cases where water wells producing such water have heretofore been or may hereafter be drilled upon lands embraced in any prospecting permit or lease heretofore issued under this chapter, the Secretary may in like manner purchase the casing in such wells.

**(c) Disposition**

The Secretary may make such purchase and may lease or operate such wells for the purpose of producing water and of using the same on the public lands or of disposing of such water for beneficial use on other lands, and where such wells have heretofore been plugged or abandoned or where such wells have been drilled prior to the issuance of any permit or lease by persons not in privity with the permittee or lessee, the Secretary may develop the same for the purposes of this section: *Provided*, That owners or occupants of lands adjacent to those upon which such water wells may be developed shall have a preference right to make beneficial use of such water.

**(d) Revolving fund**

The Secretary may use so much of any funds available for the plugging of wells, as he may find necessary to start the program provided for by this section, and thereafter he may use the proceeds from the sale or other disposition of such water as a revolving fund for the continuation of such program, and such proceeds are hereby appropriated for such purpose.

**(e) Operations under lease not restricted**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict operations under any oil or gas lease or permit under any other provision of this chapter.

(Feb. 25, 1920, ch. 85, § 40, as added June 16, 1934, ch. 557, 48 Stat. 977; amended Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2792.)

## AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-579 struck out proviso relating to reservation of land as a water hole under section 300 of title 43.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2792, provided that the amendment made by section 704(a) is effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976.

## SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-579 not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., exist-

ing on Oct. 21, 1976, see section 701 of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of Title 43, Public Lands.

**§§ 230 to 233. Repealed. June 22, 1948, ch. 605, § 3, 62 Stat. 576**

Section 230, act Mar. 4, 1923, ch. 249, § 1, 42 Stat. 1448, authorized permits and leases for certain United States citizens and corporations in Oklahoma.

Section 231, act Mar. 4, 1923, ch. 249, § 2, 42 Stat. 1448, required applications for permits and leases to be made not later than sixty days after Mar. 4, 1923.

Section 232, act Mar. 4, 1923, ch. 249, § 3, 42 Stat. 1448, limited amount of land any one person or corporation could be granted.

Section 233, act Mar. 4, 1923, ch. 249, § 4, 42 Stat. 1448, provided for payment of royalties to United States.

## SAVINGS PROVISION

Act June 22, 1948, ch. 605, § 3, 62 Stat. 576, provided that the repeal of these sections is subject to existing valid rights.

**§ 233a. Permits or leases of certain lands in Oklahoma; retention of royalties**

The Secretary of the Interior is directed to retain in his custody until otherwise directed by law the 12½ per centum and other royalties heretofore or hereafter received by him in pursuance of section 233<sup>1</sup> of this title.

(Mar. 4, 1925, ch. 550, § 2, 43 Stat. 1302.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 233 of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by act June 22, 1948, ch. 605, § 3, 62 Stat. 576.

## CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of act Feb. 25, 1920, ch. 85, 41 Stat. 437, known as the Mineral Leasing Act, which comprises this chapter.

**§§ 234 to 236. Repealed. June 22, 1948, ch. 605, § 3, 62 Stat. 576**

Section 234, act Mar. 4, 1923, ch. 249, § 5, 42 Stat. 1449, provided for application of other laws to leases and permits granted under sections 230 to 233 and 234 to 236 of this title, and for disposition of lands and deposits remaining unappropriated and undisposed of.

Section 235, act Mar. 4, 1923, ch. 249, § 6, 42 Stat. 1449, prohibited interference with certain lands in possession of receivers appointed by the Supreme Court.

Section 236, act Mar. 4, 1923, ch. 249, § 7, 42 Stat. 1450, authorized promulgation of rules and regulations necessary to accomplish purposes of sections 230 to 233 and 234 to 236 of this title.

## SAVINGS PROVISION

Act June 22, 1948, ch. 605, § 3, 62 Stat. 576, provided that the repeal of these sections is subject to existing valid rights.

**§ 236a. Lands in naval petroleum reserves and naval oil-shale reserves; effect of other laws**

Nothing in sections 185, 221,<sup>1</sup> 223, 223a,<sup>1</sup> and 226 of this title and this section shall be construed as affecting any lands within the borders of the naval petroleum reserves and naval oil-shale reserves or agreements concerning operations thereunder or in relation to the same, but the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized, with

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

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