

**§ 541f. Disbursement of moneys**

All moneys received under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States and distributed in the same manner as provided in section 191 of this title and sections 437, 438, and 439<sup>1</sup> of title 48.

(Aug. 11, 1955, ch. 795, § 7, 69 Stat. 681.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 437, 438, and 439 of title 48, referred to in text, were repealed by Pub. L. 86-252, § 1, Sept. 9, 1959, 73 Stat. 490.

**§ 541g. Rules and regulations**

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

(Aug. 11, 1955, ch. 795, § 8, 69 Stat. 681.)

**§ 541h. Savings provision**

Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to amend or repeal any provisions of chapter 12 of this title, or any right granted thereunder.

(Aug. 11, 1955, ch. 795, § 9, 69 Stat. 681.)

**§ 541i. Withdrawal of lands from entry; expiration of claims**

Twenty years after August 11, 1955, all lands subject to the provisions of section 541 of this title shall be withdrawn from all forms of entry under this chapter. All claims made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall expire at that time, except for (1) claims for which patent has already been issued, and (2) claims on which application for patent has already been made and on which patent is subsequently issued: *Provided*, That, if the President shall so provide by Executive order, the provisions of this section shall not become effective until thirty years after August 11, 1955.

(Aug. 11, 1955, ch. 795, § 10, 69 Stat. 681.)

**CHAPTER 13—CONTROL OF COAL-MINE FIRES**

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**§ 551. Declaration of policy**

It is recognized that outcrop and underground fires in coal formations involve serious wastage of the fuel resources of the Nation, and constitute a menace to the health and safety of the public and to surface property. It is therefore declared to be the policy of the Congress to provide for the control and extinguishment of outcrop and underground coal fires and thereby to

prevent injuries and loss of life, protect public health, conserve natural resources, and to preserve public and private surface property.

(Aug. 31, 1954, ch. 1156, § 1, 68 Stat. 1009.)

## COAL FORMATIONS

Pub. L. 102-486, title XXV, § 2504(d)(1), (2), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3105, 3106, provided that:

“(1) In furtherance of the purposes of the Act of August 31, 1954 (30 U.S.C. 551-558) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, shall, upon application by a State, enter into a cooperative agreement with any such State that has an approved abandoned mine reclamation program pursuant to section 405 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 [30 U.S.C. 1235] to undertake the activities referred to in section 3(b) of the Act of August 31, 1954 (30 U.S.C. 553(b)). The Secretary shall immediately enter into such cooperative agreement upon application by a State. Any such cooperative agreement shall not be subject to review or approval by the Appalachian Regional Development Commission.

“(2) For the purposes of the cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to paragraph (1), the requirements of section 5 of the Act of August 31, 1954 (30 U.S.C. 555) are hereby waived.”

**§ 552. Definitions**

As used in this chapter:

“Coal” means any of the recognized classifications and ranks of coal, including anthracite, bituminous, semibituminous, subbituminous, and lignite.

“Outcrop” means any place where a formation is visible or substantially exposed at the surface.

“Formation” means any vein, seam, stratum, bed, or other naturally occurring deposit.

“Coal mine” means any underground, surface, or strip mine from which coal is obtained.

“State” means any State or Territory of the United States, or any political subdivision thereof.

“Person” means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, business trust, legal representative, or any organized group of persons.

(Aug. 31, 1954, ch. 1156, § 2, 68 Stat. 1009.)

**§ 553. Duties of Secretary; surveys, research, etc.; projects**

The Secretary of the Interior, in order to effectuate the policy declared in section 551 of this title, is hereby authorized—

(a) to conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the causes and extent of outcrop and underground fires in coal formations and the methods for control or extinguishment of such fires; to publish the results of any such surveys, investigations, and researches; and to disseminate information concerning such method; and

(b) to plan and execute projects for control or extinguishment of fires in coal formations.

(Aug. 31, 1954, ch. 1156, § 3, 68 Stat. 1009.)

**§ 554. Lands subject to chapter**

The acts authorized in section 553 of this title may be performed—

(a) on lands owned or controlled by the United States or any of its agencies, with the

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