

**IDAPA 20
TITLE 03
CHAPTER 15**

20.03.15 - THE ISSUANCE OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE LEASES

000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.

This Chapter is adopted under the legal authorities of Sections 58-104(1), 58-104(6), 58-104(9), 58-105, and 58-127, Idaho Code; Section 58-307, Idaho Code; Title 47, Chapter 7, Idaho Code; Title 47, Chapter 16, Idaho Code; and Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code. (3-21-12)

001. TITLE AND SCOPE.

01. Title. These rules will be cited as IDAPA 20.03.15, "Rules Governing Geothermal Leasing on Idaho State Lands." (3-21-12)

02. Scope. These rules apply to the exploration and extraction of any and all geothermal resources situated in state-owned mineral lands. (3-21-12)

03. Other Laws. Operators engaged in the leasing, exploration, and extraction of state owned geothermal resources must comply with all applicable laws and rules of the State of Idaho including, but not limited to, the following: (3-21-12)

a. Idaho water quality standards and waste water treatment requirements established in Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code; IDAPA 58.01.02, "Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements"; and IDAPA 58.01.11, "Ground Water Quality Rule," administered by the IDEQ. (3-21-12)

b. Requirements and procedures for hazardous and solid waste management, as established in Title 39, Chapter 44, Idaho Code, and rules promulgated thereunder including, IDAPA 58.01.05, "Rules and Standards for Hazardous Waste" and IDAPA 58.01.06, "Solid Waste Management Rules," administered by the IDEQ.

c. Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act, Title 42, Chapter 38, Idaho Code, and applicable rules as promulgated and administered by the IDWR. (3-21-12)

002. WRITTEN INTERPRETATIONS.

The Idaho Department of Lands maintains written interpretations of its rules which may include, but may not be limited to, written procedures manuals and operations manuals and other written guidance, which pertain to the interpretation of the rules of this chapter. Copies of interpretations, subject to the exemptions in Title 9, Chapter 3, Idaho Code, Sections 9-340A through 9-340H, are available for public inspection and copying at the director's office of the Idaho Department of Lands, 300 North 6th Street, Suite 103, Boise, Idaho. (3-21-12)

003. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.

Any person aggrieved by any final agency action will be entitled to judicial review pursuant to the provisions of Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code, IDAPA 20.01.01, and Title 47, Chapter 16, Idaho Code. (3-21-12)

004. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.

There are no documents that have been incorporated by reference into this rule. (3-21-12)

005. OFFICE -- OFFICE HOURS -- MAILING ADDRESS AND STREET ADDRESS.

The principal place of business of the Idaho Department of Lands is 300 North 6th Street, Suite 103, Boise, Idaho and it is open from 8 a.m. To 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. The mailing address is: Idaho Department of Lands, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0050. The telephone number of the office is (208) 334-0200 and the fax number is (208) 334-2339. (3-21-12)

006. PUBLIC RECORDS ACT COMPLIANCE.

The rules contained herein have been promulgated according to the provisions of Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code, and are public records. (3-21-12)

007. -- 009. (RESERVED)

010. DEFINITIONS.

- 01. Associated By-Products or By-Product:** (3-21-12)
a. Any mineral or minerals (exclusive of oil, hydrocarbon gas, and helium), which are found in solution or developed in association with geothermal resources; or (3-21-12)
- b.** Demineralized or mineralized water. (3-21-12)
- 02. Available State Lands.** All state lands except those state lands already leased. (3-21-12)
- 03. Board.** The Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners or its designee. (3-21-12)
- 04. Completion.** A well is considered to be completed thirty (30) days after drilling operations have ceased and the drill rig is removed from the premises or thirty (30) days after the initial production or injection test has been completed, whichever occurs last. (3-21-12)
- 05. Department.** The Idaho Department of Lands or its designee. (3-21-12)
- 06. Director.** The head of the Idaho Department of Lands or his designee. (3-21-12)
- 07. Direct Use.** The use of geothermal resources for space heating of buildings, recreation, greenhouse warming, aquaculture, or industrial applications where geothermal heat is used in place of other energy inputs. (3-21-12)
- 08. Electrical Generation.** The use of geothermal resources to either directly generate electricity or to heat a secondary fluid and use it to generate electricity. (3-21-12)
- 09. Field.** A geographic area overlying a geothermal system with one (1) or more geothermal reservoirs. (3-21-12)
- 10. Geothermal Resources.** The natural heat energy of the earth, the energy, in whatever form, which may be found in any position and at any depth below the surface of the earth present in, resulting from, or created by, or which may be extracted from, such natural heat, and all minerals in solution or other products obtained from the material medium of any geothermal resource. When used without restriction, it includes associated by-products.(9-3-91)
- 11. Lease.** A lease covering the geothermal resources and associated by-products in state lands. (9-3-91)
- 12. Lessee.** The person to whom a geothermal lease has been issued and his successor in interest or assignee. It also means any agent of the lessee or an operator holding authority by or through the lessee. (9-3-91)
- 13. Market Value.** The most probable price at a specified date, in cash, or on terms reasonably equivalent to cash, for which the property or commodity should bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, the buyer and seller each acting prudently and knowledgeably, and assuming the price is not affected by undue stimulus. (3-21-12)
- 14. Motorized Earth-Moving Equipment.** Backhoes, bulldozers, front-loaders, trenchers, core drills, drill rigs, power augers, and other similar equipment. (3-21-12)

15. Operator. The person having control or management of operations on the leased lands or a portion thereof. The operator may be the lessee, designated operator, or agent of the lessee, or holder of rights under an approved operating agreement. (9-3-91)

16. Overriding Royalty. An interest in the geothermal resource produced at the surface free of any cost of production. It is a royalty in addition to the royalty reserved to the state. (9-3-91)

17. Person. Any natural person, corporation, association, partnership, receiver, trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, fiduciary, or other representatives of any kind, and includes any government or any political subdivision of any agency thereof. The masculine gender, in referring to a person, includes the feminine and the neuter genders. (3-21-12)

18. Record Title. The publicly recorded lease which is the evidence of right that a person has to the possession of the leased property. (9-3-91)

19. Reservoir or Pool. A porous, permeable geologic layer containing geothermal resources. (3-21-12)

20. Shut In. To close the valves at the wellhead so that the well stops flowing or producing. Also describes a well on which the valves have been closed. (3-21-12)

21. State Lands. Without limitation, lands in which the title to the mineral rights are owned by the state of Idaho and are under the jurisdiction and control of the Board or under the jurisdiction and control of any other state body or agency, having been obtained from any source and by any means whatsoever, including the beds of navigable waters of the state of Idaho. (9-3-91)

22. Waste. Any physical loss of geothermal resources including, but not limited to: (3-21-12)

a. Underground loss of geothermal resources resulting from inefficient, excessive, or improper use, or dissipation of geothermal energy, or of any geothermal resource pool, reservoir, or other source; or the locating, spacing, constructing, equipping, operating, or producing of any well in a manner which results, or tends to result in reducing the quantity of geothermal energy to be recovered from any geothermal area in the state;

b. The inefficient above-ground transporting and storage of geothermal energy; and the locating, spacing, equipping, operating, or producing of any well or injection well in a manner causing or tending to cause unnecessary or excessive surface loss or destruction of geothermal energy; the escape into the open air from a well of steam or hot water in excess of what is reasonably necessary in the efficient development or production of a well. (3-21-12)

011. ABBREVIATIONS.

01. IDAPA. Idaho Administrative Procedure Act. (3-21-12)

02. IDEQ. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. (3-21-12)

03. IDWR. Idaho Department of Water Resources. (3-21-12)

012. -- 019. (RESERVED)

020. APPLICABILITY.

01. Other Geothermal Resources. These rules apply to all geothermal resources where other rules and regulations are silent or where the geothermal resource is otherwise regulated. (9-3-91)

02. Exclusions. These rules do not apply to the application and leasing of other mineral resources covered by Title 47, Chapter 7, Idaho Code, nor the application and leasing of oil and gas resources covered by Title 47, Chapter 8, Idaho Code. (9-3-91)

021. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AND LESSEES.

Any person as defined in Subsection 010.17 of this rule, is qualified to lease the geothermal resources in state lands or take or hold an interest therein unless the Board first determines, after notice and hearing, for good cause shown, that a person is disqualified from leasing or taking or holding an interest in geothermal resources in state lands. No member of the Board, the director, or employee of the department may take or hold any such lease or interest in state lands.(3-21-12)

022. LEASE AWARD THROUGH AUCTION.

01. Auctions Required. Except for requests to the Board as described in Subsection 022.02 of these rules, all leases must be awarded through a public action. Collusion between bidders is a violation of these rules and may result in the department voiding the auction results and cancelling any leases that were issued.

(3-21-12)

02. Leasing Additional Lands. Leases may be issued without going to auction in any of the following situations: (3-21-12)

a. A tract that was offered at auction but not awarded is available for application and leasing for one (1) year following the auction. (3-21-12)

b. An existing geothermal lessee who is in production and paying royalties to the state may request that the board issue them additional geothermal leases for unleased state lands located adjacent to the producing leases and in the same geothermal field as the leased lands. (3-21-12)

c. A person who has leased private and federal lands that adjoin or encompass state lands may request that the board issue them geothermal leases for any unleased and adjoining state lands located in the same geothermal field. The request will not be unreasonably denied. (3-21-12)

023. -- 029. (RESERVED)

030. TERM.

01. Lease Term. All leases may be for a term of up to forty-nine (49) years from the effective date of the lease. (3-21-12)

02. Diligence in Utilization. Lessee will use due diligence to market or utilize geothermal resources in paying quantities. If leased land is capable of producing geothermal resources in paying quantities, but production is shut-in, the lease will continue in force upon payment of rentals for the duration of the lease term or two (2) years after shut-in, whichever is shorter. If the Department determines that the lessee is proceeding diligently to acquire a contract to sell or to utilize the production or is progressing with installations needed for production, the lease may continue in force for one (1) additional year if rental payments are kept current. The Department will continue to review a shut-in lease every year until production and payment of royalties takes place, or the lease is terminated for lessee's lack of due diligence or surrendered by the lessee. (3-21-12)

03. Yearly Reporting. A report of all exploration, development, and production activities must be submitted to the department at the close of each lease year. (3-21-12)

031. LEASE EXPIRATION.

Prior to lease expiration, the lessee will have the first right of refusal for a new lease of up to forty-nine (49) years upon such terms and conditions as the department deems appropriate after notice and an opportunity to negotiate a new lease. (3-21-12)

032. -- 034. (RESERVED)

035. RENTALS.

01. Advance Annual Rental. Lessee will pay to the state of Idaho in advance each year an annual rental. The annual rental for the first year of the term will be due and payable and will be received in the offices of the department in Boise, together with a lease agreement executed by lessee within thirty (30) days of the date of notice of approval or award. The department will notify the applicant or his representative designated in the application to lease by certified or registered mail of the Board's approval of a lease and specify the exact amount of rental due thereon. Failure to return an executed lease together with the first year rental within thirty (30) days will result in automatic rejection of the application without further action of the Department or Board. Second year and subsequent rental payments must be received in the office of the department in Boise on or before the anniversary date of the lease.(3-21-12)

02. Amount. Annual rentals will be set by the Board through competitive bidding, negotiation, fixed amounts, formulas, or some other method. (3-21-12)

036. ROYALTIES.

01. Royalty Payments. The lessee will cause to be paid to the state of Idaho royalties on the value of geothermal production from the leased premises. The royalty rate will be established by the Board based on the market value of the geothermal resources produced from the lands under lease. The royalties specified in geothermal leases will be fixed in any manner by the state board of land commissioners, including but not limited to competitive bidding, negotiation, fixed amounts, or formulas. Royalty rates may be adjusted through the term of the lease in order to keep pace with market values. When leases are issued, the following guidelines will be used for royalty rates not subject to competitive bidding: (3-21-12)

a. A royalty of between five percent (5%) and twenty percent (20%) of the amount or value of geothermal resources, or any other form of heat or energy excluding electrical power generation, derived from production under the lease and sold or utilized by the lessee or reasonably susceptible to sale or utilization by the lessee; (3-21-12)

b. A royalty of between two percent (2%) and fifteen percent (15%) of the amount or value of any associated by-product derived from production under the lease and sold or utilized or reasonably susceptible of sale or utilization by the lessee, including commercially demineralized water. (3-21-12)

c. A royalty of between two percent (2%) and five percent (5%) of gross receipts for sale of electrical power. (3-21-12)

02. Calculation of Value. The value of geothermal production from the leased premises for the purpose of computing royalties shall be the following: (9-3-91)

a. The total consideration accruing to the lessee from the sale thereof in cases where geothermal resources are sold by the lessee to another party in an arms-length transaction; or (9-3-91)

b. The value of the end product attributable to the geothermal resource produced from a particular lease where geothermal resources are not sold by the lessee before being utilized, but are instead directly used in manufacturing power production, or other industrial activity; or (9-3-91)

c. The value of all renewable energy credits or similar incentives based on a proportionate share of the leased lands in the entire project area qualifying for the credits. (3-21-12)

d. When a part of the resource only is utilized by the lessee and the remainder sold, the sum of Paragraphs 036.02.a. through 036.02.c. of this rule. (3-21-12)

03. Due Date. Royalties will be due and payable monthly in the office of the department in Boise on or before the last day of the calendar month following the month in which the geothermal resources and/or their associated by-products are produced and utilized or sold. (9-3-91)

04. Utilization of Geothermal Resources. The lessee must file with the Department within thirty (30) days after execution a copy of any contract for the utilization of geothermal resources from the lease. Reports of sales or utilization by lessee and royalty for each productive lease must be filed each month once production begins, even though production may be intermittent, unless otherwise authorized by the Department. Total volumes of geothermal resources produced and utilized or sold, including associated by-products, the value of production, and the royalty due the state of Idaho must be shown. This report is due on or before the last day of the month following the month in which production was obtained and sold or utilized, together with the royalties due the state of Idaho. (3-21-12)

05. Measurement. The lessee will measure or gauge all production in accordance with methods approved by the Department. The quantity and quality of all production will be determined in accordance with the standard practices, procedures and specifications generally used in industry. All measuring equipment must be tested consistent with industry practice and, if found defective, the Department will determine the quantity and quality of production from the best evidence available. (3-21-12)

06. By-Product Testing. The lessee will periodically furnish the Department the results of periodic tests showing the content of by-products in the produced geothermal resources. Such tests will be taken as specified by the Department and by the method of testing approved by him, except that tests not consistent with industry practices will be conducted at the expense of the state of Idaho. (3-21-12)

07. Commingling. The Department may authorize a lessee to commingle production from wells on his State lease(s) with production from non-state lands. Department approval of commingling will not be unreasonably withheld, and will consider the following: (3-21-12)

- a. The operator's economic necessity of commingling; (3-21-12)
- b. The type of geothermal use proposed for the commingled waters; and (3-21-12)
- c. Sufficient measurement and accounting of all the commingled waters to ensure that the department is appropriately compensated by royalties. (3-21-12)

037. -- 039. (RESERVED)

040. SIZE OF A LEASABLE TRACT.

01. Surface Area. Geothermal leases are not limited in surface area. The Board will determine the surface area of a lease after consultation with other state agencies and prospective lessees. The probable extent of a geothermal reservoir, the surface area needed for a viable project, and other relevant factors will be used to help determine lease surface area. (3-21-12)

02. Navigable Water Courses. Geothermal resources leases may be issued for state lands underlying navigable water courses in Idaho. Such lands are considered "state lands" and will be leased in accordance with these rules. Operations in the beds of navigable water courses will not be authorized except in extraordinary circumstances and then only with express written approval of the Board upon such conditions and security as the Department deems appropriate. (3-21-12)

041. -- 044. (RESERVED)

045. LESSEE DESIGNATION OF OPERATOR OR AGENT.

01. Designation of Operator. In all cases where exploration, development, or production operations are not conducted by the lessee but are to be conducted under authority of an unapproved operating agreement or other arrangement, a designation of operator will be submitted to the department prior to commencement of such operations. Such a designation will be accepted as authority of the operator or his local representative to act for the lessee and to sign any papers or reports required under these rules. All changes of address and any termination of the authority of the operator will be immediately reported, in writing, to the department. (3-21-12)

02. Agent for Service. When required by the department, lessee will designate a local representative empowered to receive service of civil or criminal process, and notices and orders of the department issued pursuant to these rules. (3-21-12)

046. -- 049. (RESERVED)

050. LAND SURFACE USE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

01. Use and Occupancy. (3-21-12)

a. Lessee will be entitled to use and occupy only so much of the surface of the leased lands as may be required for all purposes reasonably incident to exploration for, drilling for, production and marketing or geothermal resources and associated by-products produced from the leased lands, including the right to construct and maintain thereon all works, buildings, plants, waterway, roads, communication lines, pipelines, reservoirs, tanks, pumping stations or other structures necessary to the full enjoyment and development thereof, consistent with a plan of operations and amendments thereto, as approved by the Department. (3-21-12)

b. Uses occurring on the leased area related to exploration, development, production, or marketing of geothermal resources and associated by-products produced from off-lease lands may require the lessee to pay additional rent. (3-21-12)

02. Supervision. Uses of state lands within the jurisdiction and control of the Board are subject to the supervision of the Department. Other state lands are subject to the supervision of the appropriate state agency consistent with these rules. (3-21-12)

03. Entry by Department. The Department will be permitted at all reasonable times to go in and upon the leased lands and premises, during the term of a lease, to inspect the operations and the products obtained from the leased premises and to post any notice that the Department may deem fit and proper. (3-21-12)

04. Public Access. During operations, the lessee will regulate public access and vehicular traffic to protect human life, wildlife, livestock and property from hazards associated with the operations. For this purpose, the lessee will provide warning, fencing, flagmen, barricades, well and hole coverings and other safety measures as appropriate. Restrictions on access must be approved by the Department as part of a plan of operations under Section 055. (3-21-12)

05. Other Uses. Operations under other leases or uses on the same lands shall not unreasonably interfere with or endanger operations under leases issued under these rules nor shall operations under these rules unreasonably interfere with or endanger operations under any lease, license, claim, permit or other authorized use pursuant to the provisions of any other Idaho law. (9-3-91)

06. Distance from Residence. No well may be drilled within two hundred (200) feet of any house or barn on the premises, without the written consent of the Department and its surface lessees, grantees or contract purchasers. (3-21-12)

07. Fences. Lessee will not at any time fence any watering place upon leased lands where the same is the only accessible and feasible watering place upon the lands within a radius of one (1) mile without first having secured the written consent of the Department. (3-21-12)

08. Timber Removal. Lessee must not unreasonably interfere with the removal of timber purchased prior to or subsequent to the issuance of a lease. Lessee may remove any timber required for ingress or egress or necessary for operations. Any timber cut or removed by lessee must be paid for by lessee on a current stumpage price basis as determined by the Department. (3-21-12)

09. Grazing. A geothermal resources lease shall not be construed to prohibit the leasing of the leased lands by the Board to other persons for grazing and agricultural purposes, or for the mining of minerals or for oil and

gas development; provided, however, that the lessee under a geothermal resources lease shall have paramount right as against grazing and agricultural lessees to the use of so much of the surface of the land as shall be necessary for the purposes of the lease. All lessees shall have the right of ingress and egress at all times during the term of the lease.(9-3-91)

10. Disposal of Leased Land. The Board reserves the right to sell or otherwise dispose of the surface of the lands embraced with a lease, insofar as said surface is not necessary for the use of the lessee in the exploration, development and production of the geothermal resources and associated by-products, but any sale of surface rights made subsequent to execution of a lease will be subject to all the terms and provisions of that lease during the life thereof. (3-21-12)

11. Damage. Lessee shall pay to the Board, its surface lessees or grantees or contract purchasers, for any damage done to the surface of said lands and improvements thereon, including without limitation growing crops, by reason of lessee's operations. (9-3-91)

051. -- 053. (RESERVED)

054. EXPLORATION UNDER THE LEASE.

01. Diligent Exploration. Lessees must perform diligent exploration and development activities in the first five (5) years of the initial lease term. Diligent exploration includes seismic, gravity, and other geophysical surveys, geothermometry studies, drilling temperature gradient wells, or similar activities that seek to determine the presence or extent of geothermal resources. This exploration may occur off-lease if it is being done on the same geothermal field. Failure to perform diligent exploration as described may result in lease cancellation. (3-21-12)

02. Casual Exploration. At any time after formal approval by the Board of a lease application, lessee may enter upon the leased lands for casual exploration or inspection without notice to the department. As an express condition of an application to lease and of the right of casual inspection without notice, lessee agrees to the indemnity conditions provided in Section 102 of these rules without a formally executed lease. (3-21-12)

03. Plan Required. Lessee must submit a plan of operations to the department before any exploration using motorized equipment or before otherwise engaging in operations which may lead to an appreciable disturbance or damage to lands, timber, other resources, or improvements on or adjacent to the leased lands. The proposed activities may not start until the department approves the plan and the applicable preconditions in Sections 100 and 101 of these rules have been satisfied. The plan of operations may be amended as needed with department approval. The plan must include: (3-21-12)

- a.** Well drilling information such as the proposed location of each well including a layout showing the position of the mud tanks, reserve pits, etc.; (3-21-12)
- b.** Existing and planned access, access controls, and lateral roads; (3-21-12)
- c.** Location and source of water supply (if needed) and road building material; (3-21-12)
- d.** Location of camp sites, air-strips, buildings, pipelines, and other supporting facilities; (3-21-12)
- e.** Other areas of potential surface disturbance; (3-21-12)
- f.** The topographic features of the land and the drainage patterns; (3-21-12)
- g.** Methods for disposing of waste material; (3-21-12)
- h.** A narrative statement describing the proposed measures to be taken for protection of the environment, including, but not limited to the prevention or control of: (3-21-12)

- i. Fires; (3-21-12)
 - ii. Soil loss and erosion; (3-21-12)
 - iii. Pollution of surface and ground waters; (3-21-12)
 - iv. Damage to fish and wildlife or other natural resources; (3-21-12)
 - v. Air and noise pollution; and (3-21-12)
 - vi. Hazards to public health and safety during lease activities. (3-21-12)
- i.** All pertinent information or data which the department may require to support the plan of operations for the utilization of geothermal resources and the protection of the environment; (3-21-12)
 - j.** An estimate of reasonable reclamation costs for reclamation performed by an outside party. This estimate will form the basis for the bond required in Section 100 of these rules; and (3-21-12)
 - k.** A map or maps of sufficient scale to depict the information required in Paragraphs a. through j. of this Subsection. (3-21-12)

055. PRODUCTION UNDER THE LEASE.

01. Diligent Development of Lease and Production. Lessee must develop the geothermal resources on their lease area within the first ten (10) years of the initial lease term and start production. Development of the lease area requires wells to be drilled and other necessary infrastructure to be built. Production on the lease area means that geothermal fluids are being used and royalties are being paid to the state. Failure to develop the lease and start production as described may result in lease cancellation unless the lessee applies to the department for an extension and the extension is granted. (3-21-12)

02. Best Practices. All operations will conform to the best practice and engineering principles in use in the industry. Operations must be conducted in such a manner as to protect the natural resources on the leased lands, including without limitation geothermal resources, and to result in the maximum ultimate recovery of geothermal resources with a minimum of waste, and be consistent with the principles of the use of the land for other purposes and of the protection of the environment. Lessee must promptly remove from the leased lands or store, in an orderly manner, all scraps or other materials not in use and not reasonably incident to the operation.

03. Reclamation. Lessee must reclaim all leased lands disturbed by exploration, development, operation and marketing of geothermal resources in accordance with applicable reclamation procedures contained in Sections 47-1509 and 47-1510, Idaho Code, as now existing and hereafter amended. Lessee must conserve, stockpile, and protect topsoil to enhance reclamation. Lessee must take all necessary steps in the exploration, development, operation, and marketing of geothermal resources to avoid a threat to life or property or an unreasonable risk to subsurface, surface, or atmospheric resources. (3-21-12)

04. Waste and Damage. (3-21-12)

- a.** Lessee must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the following: (3-21-12)
 - i. Waste; (3-21-12)
 - ii. Damage to other natural resources; (3-21-12)
 - iii. Injury or damage to persons, real or personal property; and (3-21-12)
 - iv. Any environmental pollution or damages that may constitute a violation of state or federal laws.

b. The Department may inspect lessee's operations and issue such orders as are necessary to accomplish the purposes in Paragraph 055.04.a. Any significant effect on the environment created by the lessee's operations or failure to comply with environmental standards must be reported to the Department by lessee within twenty-four (24) hours and confirmed in writing within thirty (30) days. (3-21-12)

05. Notice of Production. Lessee must notify the department within sixty (60) days before any geothermal resources are used or removed for commercial purposes. (3-21-12)

06. Shut Downs. The Department is authorized to shut down any operations which it determines are causing, or may imminently cause, pollution of the natural environment or waste of geothermal resources upon failure by lessee to take timely, corrective measures. (3-21-12)

07. Amendments. The plan of operations must be amended by the lessee for the Department's approval to reflect changes in operations on the leased lands, including the installation of works, buildings, plants or structures for the production, marketing or utilization of geothermal resources. (3-21-12)

08. Sampling. When necessary or advisable, the Department will require that adequate samples be taken and tests or surveys be made using techniques consistent with industry practice, without cost to the state of Idaho, to determine the identity and character of formations; the presence of geothermal resources, water or reservoir energy; the quantity and quality of geothermal, water or reservoir energy; the amount and direction of deviation of any well from the vertical; formation, casing and tubing pressures, temperatures, rate of heat and fluid flow, and whether operations are conducted in a manner looking to the protection of the interest of the state of Idaho. Lessee will forward a copy of the results obtained from all geochemical, hydrologic, geologic, and other tests or surveys to the department within thirty (30) days of receiving the results. (3-21-12)

056. WASTE PREVENTION, DRILLING AND PRODUCTION OBLIGATIONS.

01. Waste. All leases 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 and other natural resources found or developed in the leased lands. (9-3-91)

02. Diligence. The lessee must, subject to the right to surrender the lease, diligently drill and produce, or unitize such wells as are necessary to protect the Board from loss by reason of production on other properties. (3-21-12)

03. Prevention of Waste Through Reinjection. Geothermal lessees must return geothermal waters to the geothermal aquifer in a manner that supports geothermal development. (3-21-12)

04. By-Products. Subject to lessee's right to surrender the lease, where the Department determines that production, use or conversion of geothermal resources under a geothermal lease is capable of producing a valuable by-product or by-products, including commercially demineralized or mineralized water contained in or derived from such geothermal resources for beneficial use in accordance with applicable state water laws, the Department may require substantial beneficial production or use thereof, except where the Department, in consultation with the lessee, determines that: (3-21-12)

a. Beneficial production or use of by-products is not in the interest of conservation of natural resources; or (3-21-12)

b. Beneficial production or use of by-products would not be economically feasible for the lessee; or

c. Beneficial production or use of by-products should not be required for other satisfactory reasons.

05. Additional Requirements. The selection of the types and weights of drilling fluids and provisions for controlling fluid temperatures, blowout preventers and other surface control equipment and materials, casing and cementing programs, etc., to be used must be based on sound engineering principles and must take into account apparent geothermal gradients, depths and pressures of the various formations to be penetrated and other pertinent geologic and engineering data and information about the area. In addition, the lessee must do the following: (3-21-12)

- a. Take all necessary precautions to keep all wells under control at all times; (3-21-12)
- b. Utilize trained and competent personnel; (3-21-12)
- c. Utilize properly maintained equipment and materials; and (3-21-12)
- d. Use operating practices which insure the safety of life and property. (3-21-12)

06. Unused Wells. Except as provided in Subsection 070.02 of these rules, the lessee must promptly plug and abandon any well on the leased land that is not used or useful in conformity with regulations promulgated by the IDWR or its successor agency. No production well will be abandoned until its lack of capacity for further profitable production of geothermal resources has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the department and the department has been given an opportunity to either acquire the well permit or assign it to another party. A producible well may be abandoned only after receipt of written approval by the department. Equipment will be removed, and premises at the well site will be restored as near as reasonably possible to its original condition immediately after plugging operations are completed on any well except as otherwise authorized by the department. Drilling equipment must not be removed from any suspended drilling well without taking adequate measures to close the well and protect subsurface resources. Upon failure of lessee to comply with any requirements under this rule, the department is authorized to cause the work to be performed at the expense of the lessee and the surety. (3-21-12)

057. -- 059. (RESERVED)

060. EXPLORATION AND OPERATION RECORDS, CONFIDENTIALITY.

01. Drilling Records. Lessee must keep or cause to be kept and to be filed with the IDWR such careful and accurate well drilling records as are now or may hereafter be required by that department. Lessee must file with the Department, such production records and exploration evidence as required by Sections 030, 036, and 055 of these rules, which records will be subject to inspection by the public at the offices of the department during regular business hours under such conditions as the Department deems appropriate, subject, however, to exemptions from disclosure as set forth in Section 9-340, Idaho Code. As an express condition of the lease, the Department may inspect and copy well drilling records filed with the IDWR at any time after the records are filed. (3-21-12)

02. Continuing Obligations. Lessee's obligations under this rule will continue beyond assignment, surrender, termination or expiration of the lease. Lessee must, within thirty (30) days after assignment, surrender, termination or expiration or such additional time as the Department may grant, file all outstanding data and records required by this rule with the Department. (3-21-12)

03. Well Logs. The confidentiality of well logs is limited to one year from well completion as stated in Section 42-4010(b), Idaho Code. (3-21-12)

061. -- 064. (RESERVED)

065. LESSEE'S RECORDS, RIGHT OF INSPECTION BY DEPARTMENT.

Lessee will permit the Department to examine during reasonable business hours all books, records and other documents and matters pertaining to operations under a lease, in lessee's custody or control, and to make copies of and extracts therefrom. (3-21-12)

066. -- 069. (RESERVED)

070. WATER RIGHTS.

01. Water Rights. Lessee must comply with all laws of the state of Idaho, including the rules and regulations of the IDWR, regulating the appropriation of the public waters of Idaho to beneficial uses. No water right developed or obtained by lessee in conjunction with operations under this lease will be sold, assigned or otherwise transferred without written approval of the Department. Upon surrender, termination or expiration of the lease, lessee

must take all actions required by the Department to assign to the Board all water rights, including applications, permits and licenses. Lessee will enjoy the right of use of any private waters upon the leased lands during the term of the lease, but not thereafter. (3-21-12)

02. Potable Water Discovery. All leases issued under these rules will be subject to the condition that, where the lessee finds only potable water of no commercial value as a geothermal resource in any well drilled for exploration or production of geothermal resources, and when the water is of such quality and quantity as to be valuable and usable for agricultural, domestic, or other purpose, the Board, or where appropriate, the surface lessee, grantee or contract purchaser, will have the right to acquire the well with whatever casing is installed in the well at the fair market value of the casing, and upon the assumption of all future liabilities and responsibilities for the well, with the approval of the director of the IDWR. (3-21-12)

071. -- 074. (RESERVED)

075. ASSIGNMENTS.

01. Prior Written Approval. A total or partial assignment of a lease must be approved in writing by the department. Approval will not be unreasonably withheld and will only be effective after written approval is given. An assignee must accept, and the assignor must release, all responsibility for improvements, operations, and obligations under the lease before the department approves the assignment. An assignment will take effect immediately upon approval of the assignment. (3-21-12)

02. Full or Partial. A lease may be assigned as to all or part of the acreage included therein to any person qualified to hold a state lease, provided that neither the assigned nor the retained part created by the assignment shall contain less than forty (40) acres. No undivided interest in a lease of less than ten percent (10%) shall be created by assignment. (9-3-91)

03. Overriding Royalty Disclosure. Overriding royalty interests created by an assignment are subject to the requirements in Section 080 of these rules. (3-21-12)

04. Responsibility. In an assignment of the complete interest in all of the lands in a lease the assignor and his surety shall continue to be responsible for performance of any and all obligations under the lease until the effective date of the assignment. After the effective date of any assignment, the assignee and his surety shall be bound by the terms of the lease to the same extent as if the assignee were the original lessee, any conditions in the assignment to the contrary notwithstanding. (9-3-91)

05. Segregation of Assignment. An assignment of the record title of the complete interest in a portion of the lands in a lease shall clearly segregate the assigned and retained portions. After the effective date, the assignor is released and discharged from any obligations thereafter accruing with respect to the assigned lands. Such segregated leases shall continue in full force and effect for the primary term of the original lease or as further extended pursuant to the terms of these rules. (9-3-91)

06. Joint Principal. Where an assignment does not segregate the record title to the lease, the assignee, if the assignment so provides, may become a joint principal on the bond with the assignor. The application must also be accompanied by a consent of assignor's surety to remain bound under the bond of record, if the bond, by its terms, does not contain such consent. If a party to the assignment has previously furnished a statewide bond, no additional showing by such party is necessary as to the bond requirement. (9-3-91)

07. Form of Assignment. An assignment must be a good and sufficient legal instrument, properly executed and acknowledged, and should clearly set forth the serial number of the lease, the land involved, the name and address of the assignee, the interest transferred and the consideration. A fully executed copy of the instrument of assignment must be filed with the application for approval. An assignment must effect or concern only one (1) lease or a portion thereof, except for good cause shown. (9-3-91)

08. Application. The application for approval of an assignment must be on forms provided by the

department or exact copies thereof. It must be accompanied by a signed statement by the assignee either (1) that he is the sole party in interest in the assignment, or (2) setting forth the names and qualifications of the other parties taking an interest in the lease. Where the assignee is not the sole party in interest, separate statements must be signed by each of the other parties and by the assignee setting forth the nature and extent of the interest of each party and the nature of the agreement between them. In addition, it shall be declared which party in interest will be the party of record for purpose of receiving all communications and other notices from the lessor. If payments out of production are reserved, a statement must be submitted stating the details as to the amount, method of payment, and other pertinent items. These separate statements must be filed in the office of the department in Boise, not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing of the application for approval. (9-3-91)

09. Denial. Unless the lease account is in good standing at the time the assignment is reached for action, the request for approval of the assignment will be denied, and the lease shall be subject to termination in accordance with these rules. (9-3-91)

076. -- 079. (RESERVED)

080. OVERRIDING ROYALTY INTERESTS.

01. Statements. An overriding royalty interest, or any similar interest whereby an agreement is made to pay a percentage based on production, must be disclosed at the time of assignment or transfer by filing a statement of such interest with the Department. Assignees must meet the requirements of Section 021 of these rules. All assignments of overriding royalty interests without a working interest and otherwise not contemplated by Section 075 of these rules, must be filed with the department within ninety (90) days from the date of execution. (3-21-12)

02. Maximum Amount. No overriding royalty on the production of geothermal resources created by an assignment contemplated by Section 075 of these rules or otherwise will exceed five percent (5%) nor will an overriding royalty, when added to overriding royalties previously created, exceed five percent (5%). (3-21-12)

03. Conformance with Rules. The creation of an overriding royalty interest that does not conform to the requirements of this rule shall be deemed a violation of the lease terms, unless the agreement creating overriding royalties provides for a prorated reduction of all overriding royalties so that the aggregate rate of overriding royalties does not exceed five percent (5%). (9-3-91)

04. Director's Authority. In addition to the foregoing limitations, any agreement to create or any assignment creating royalties or payments out of production from the leased lands shall be subject to the authority of the director, after notice and hearing, to require the proper parties thereto to suspend or modify such royalties or payments out of production in such manner as may be reasonable when and during such periods of time as they may constitute an undue economic burden upon the reasonable operations of such lease. (9-3-91)

081. -- 084. (RESERVED)

085. UNIT OR COOPERATIVE PLANS OF DEVELOPMENT OR OPERATION.

01. IDWR Approval. Nothing in this rule will excuse the parties to a unit agreement from procuring the approval of the IDWR pursuant to Section 42-4013, Idaho Code, if approval is required. (3-21-12)

02. Unit Plan. For the purpose of conserving the natural resources of any geothermal pool, field or like area, lessees under lease issued by the Board are authorized, with the written consent of the Department, to commit the state lands to unit, cooperative or other plans of development or operation with other state lands, federal lands, privately-owned lands or Indian lands. Departmental consent will not be unreasonably withheld. Applications to unitize, or a copy of the application filed with IDWR, will be filed with the Department who will certify whether such plan is necessary or advisable in the public interest. The Department may require whatever documents or data he or she deems necessary. To implement such unitization, the Board may with the consent of its lessees modify and change any and all terms of leases issued by it which are committed to such unit, cooperative or other plans of development or

operations. (3-21-12)

03. Contents. The agreement must describe the separate tracts comprising the unit, disclose the apportionment of the production of royalties and costs to the several parties, and the name of the operator, and must contain adequate provisions for the protection of the interests of all parties, including the state of Idaho. The agreement should be signed by or in behalf of all interested necessary parties before being submitted to the Department. It will be effective only after approval by the Department. The unit operator must be a person as defined by these rules and he must be approved by the Department. (3-21-12)

04. Lease Modification. Any modification of an approved agreement will require approval of the Department under procedures similar to those cited in Subsection 085.02 of these rules. (3-21-12)

05. Term. The term of all leases included in any cooperative or unit plan of development or operation will be extended automatically for the term of such unit or cooperative agreement, but in no event beyond that time provided in Subsection 030.01 of these rules. Rentals or royalties on leases so extended will be at the rate specified in the lease. (3-21-12)

06. Continuation of Lease. Any lease which will be eliminated from any such cooperative or unit plan of development or operation, or any lease which will be in effect at the termination of any such cooperative or unit plan of development or operation, unless relinquished, will continue in effect for the term of the lease. (3-21-12)

07. Evidence of Agreement. Before issuance of a lease for lands within an approved unit agreement, the lease applicant or successful bidder will be required to file evidence that he has entered into an agreement with the unit operator for the development and operation of the lands in a lease if issued to him under and pursuant to the terms and provisions of the approved unit agreement, or a statement giving satisfactory reasons for the failure to enter into such agreement. If such statement is acceptable, he will be permitted to operate independently, but will be required to perform his operations in a manner which the Department deems to be consistent with the unit operations. (3-21-12)

08. Department of Water Resources. Nothing in this rule shall excuse the parties to a unit agreement from procuring the approval of the department of water resources pursuant to Section 42-4013, Idaho Code, if approval is required. (9-3-91)

086. -- 089. (RESERVED)

090. PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS UPON DISCOVERY OF UNLEASED MINERALS, OIL, GAS AND OTHER HYDROCARBONS.

Any lessee who discovers any minerals or oil, gas or other hydrocarbons on lands leased from the Board for development of geothermal resources will have a preference right to a state lease covering such minerals, or oil, gas or other hydrocarbons, provided the unleased minerals at the time of discovery are not included within a mineral location under Section 47-703, Idaho Code, a mineral lease or mineral lease application of another party, and provided that the oil, gas or other hydrocarbons are not under lease or subject to a pending lease application under Section 47-801, Idaho Code. Any preference-right lease will be issued upon a lease form in current use by the Board. The preference right will continue for a period of sixty (60) days after the discovery of unleased minerals, or oil, gas or other hydrocarbons, provided the lessee must notify the Department within thirty (30) days after the discovery and must make application to lease the unleased minerals or oil, gas or other hydrocarbons, within sixty (60) days after the date of discovery. Nothing herein will require the Board to issue a mineral lease or a lease for oil, gas or other hydrocarbon development. (3-21-12)

091. -- 094. (RESERVED)

095. SURRENDER, TERMINATION, EXPIRATION OF LEASE.

01. Procedure. A lease, or any surveyed subdivision of the area covered by such lease, may be surrendered by the record title holder by filing a written relinquishment in the office of the department in Boise, on a form furnished by the Department, provided that a partial relinquishment does not reduce the remaining acreage in the

lease to less than forty (40) acres. The minimum acreage provision of this section may be waived by the Department where he finds such exception is justified on the basis of exploratory and development data derived from activity on the leasehold. The relinquishment must: (3-21-12)

- a. Describe the lands to be relinquished; (9-3-91)
- b. Include a statement as to whether the relinquished lands had been disturbed and, if so, whether they were restored as prescribed by the terms of the lease; (9-3-91)
- c. State whether wells had been drilled on the lands and, if so, whether they have been plugged and abandoned pursuant to the rules of the IDWR; and (3-21-12)
- d. Furnish a sworn statement that all monies due and payable to workers employed by the record title holder of the interest on the leased premises have been paid. (9-3-91)

02. Continuing Obligations. A relinquishment shall take effect on the date it is filed, subject to the continued obligation of the lessee and his surety: (9-3-91)

- a. To make payments of all accrued rentals and royalties; (9-3-91)
- b. To place all wells on the land to be relinquished in condition for suspension of operations or abandonment; (9-3-91)
- c. To restore the surface resources in accordance with these rules and the terms of the lease; and (9-3-91)
- d. To comply with all other environmental stipulations provided for by these rules or lease. (9-3-91)

03. Failure to Pay Rental or Royalty. The director may terminate a lease for failure to pay rentals or royalties thirty (30) days after mailing a notice of delinquent payment. However, if the time for payment falls upon any day in which the office of the department in Boise is not open, payment received on the next official working day will be deemed to be timely. The termination of the lease for failure to pay the rental will be noted on the official records of the department. Upon termination the lands included in such lease may become subject to leasing as provided by these rules. (3-21-12)

04. Termination for Cause. A lease may be terminated by the Department for any violation of these rules, or the lease terms, sixty (60) days after notice of the violation has been given to lessee by personal service or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of record last appearing in the files of the department, unless: (3-21-12)

- a. The violation has been corrected; or (9-3-91)
- b. The violation is one that cannot be corrected within the notice period and the lessee has in good faith commenced within the notice period to correct the violation and thereafter proceeds diligently to complete the correction. (9-3-91)

05. Equipment Removal. Upon the expiration of the lease, or the earlier termination or surrender thereof pursuant to this rule, the lessee will have the privilege at any time within a period of ninety (90) days thereafter of removing from the premises any materials, tools, appliances, machinery, structures, and equipment other than improvements needed for producing wells. Any materials, tools, appliances, machinery, structures and equipment subject to removal, but not removed within the ninety (90) day period, or any extension thereof that may be granted because of adverse climatic conditions during that period, will, at the option of the Department, become property of the state of Idaho, but the lessee must remove any or all such property where so directed by the Department. (3-21-12)

06. Surrender After Termination. Upon the expiration or termination of a lease, the lessee will quietly and peaceably surrender possession of the premises to the state and deliver to the state a good and sufficient release on

a form furnished by the Department.

(3-21-12)

096. -- 099. (RESERVED)

100. BOND REQUIREMENTS.

01. Minimum Bond. Prior to initiation of operations using motorized earth-moving equipment lessee must furnish a bond. This bond will be in favor of the state of Idaho, conditioned on the payment of all damages to the land surface and all improvements thereon, including without limitation crops on the lands, whether or not the lands under this lease have been sold or leased by the Board for any other purpose; conditioned also upon compliance by lessee of his obligations under this lease and these rules. The Department may require a new bond in a greater amount at any time after operations have begun, upon a finding that such action is reasonably necessary to protect state resources. (3-21-12)

02. Statewide Bond. In lieu of the aforementioned bonds, lessee may furnish a good and sufficient "statewide" bond conditioned as in Subsection 100.01. This bond will cover all lessee's leases and operations carried on under all geothermal resource leases issued and outstanding to lessee by the Board at any given time during the period when the "statewide" bond is in effect. The amount of such bond will be equal to the total of the requirements of the separate bonds being combined into a single bond. (3-21-12)

03. Period of Liability. The period of liability of any bond will not be terminated until all lease terms and conditions have been fulfilled and the bond is released in writing by the Department. (3-21-12)

04. Operator Bond. Where a bond is furnished by an operator, suit may be brought thereon without joining the lessee if he is not a party to the bond. (9-3-91)

101. LIABILITY INSURANCE.

01. Liability Insurance Required. The department will require the lessee to purchase and maintain suitable insurance for the duration of the lease prior to entry upon the leased lands for other than casual exploration or inspection as contemplated by Subsection 054.02 of these rules. (3-21-12)

02. Insurance Certificate Required. No work under this lease will commence prior to the Department's receipt of a certificate, signed by a licensed insurance agent, evidencing existence of insurance as required above. Further, such certificate must reflect that no change or cancellation in such coverage will become effective until after the Department receives written notice of such change or cancellation. (3-21-12)

102. INDEMNITY.

Lessee will expressly agree to indemnify, defend and save harmless the state of Idaho, state Board of land commissioners, the Department of the department of lands, the department of lands, and the owner of the surface rights and improvements, if not the state of Idaho, or state lessee of surface rights, if there be one, the officers, agents and employees of each and every of the foregoing, from and against any and all claims, liability, costs, damages, or expenses including any claims, by the federal government or other damages to the environment or for loss, injury, or damage to persons or property including claims of the employees of the lessee or lessee's agent, operator or contractor which may arise out of the activities conducted on the leased premises by the lessee, its agent, operator, contractor, or employees. (3-21-12)

103. -- 104. (RESERVED)

105. TITLE.

The state of Idaho does not warrant title to the leased lands or the geothermal resources and associated by-products which may be discovered thereon; the lease is issued only under such title as the state of Idaho may have as of the effective date of the lease or thereafter acquire. If the interest owned by the state in the leased lands includes less than the entire interest in the geothermal resources and associated by-products for which royalty is payable, then the royalties provided for in the lease shall be paid to the state only in the proportion which its interest bears to said whole and undivided interest in said geothermal resources and associated by-products for which royalty is payable; provided,

however, that the state is not liable for any damages sustained by the lessee, nor shall the lessee be entitled to or claim any refund of rentals or royalties therefore paid to the state in the event that the state does not own title to said geothermal resources and associated by-products, or if its title thereto is less than whole and entire. (9-3-91)

106. -- 109. (RESERVED)

110. IMPOSSIBILITY OF PERFORMANCE.

Whenever, as a result of any cause beyond lessee's control, including without limitation, fire, flood, windstorms, or other act of God; law, order or regulation of any governmental agency, or inability to secure men, material or transportation, it becomes impossible for lessee to perform or to comply with any obligation under a lease other than payment of rentals, the Department may by written order excuse lessee from damages or forfeiture of the lease and lessee's obligations will be suspended so long as the Department finds that good cause exists; provided, however, that nothing herein will extend the term of the lease. (3-21-12)

111. TAXES.

Lessee shall pay, when due, all taxes and assessments of any kind lawfully assessed and levied against lessee's interests or operations under the laws of the state of Idaho. (9-3-91)

112. RENTAL NOTICES.

Advance notice of rental due is usually sent to the lessee by the department, but failure to receive such notices shall not act to relieve the lessee from the payment of the rental and the lease shall be in default if such payment is not made as provided in these rules. (9-3-91)

113. OUTSTANDING LEASES.

No right to seek, obtain or use geothermal resources has passed or shall pass with any existing or future license, permit or lease of state lands, including without limitation, mineral leases and oil and gas development leases, except upon the issuance of a geothermal resources lease. (9-3-91)

114. -- 119. (RESERVED)

120. FEES.

The following fees shall apply: (9-3-91)

01. Non-Refundable Application Fee for Lease. Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per application. (3-21-12)

02. Application Fee for Approval of Assignment. One hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per lease involved in the assignment. (3-21-12)

03. Late Payment Fee. The greater of the following: (9-3-91)

a. Twenty-five dollars (\$25); or (9-3-91)

b. One percent (1%) per month (or portion thereof) on the unpaid balance. (9-3-91)

121. -- 999. (RESERVED)