

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1835

To authorize the Secretary of Energy to purchase certain essential mineral rights and resolve natural resource damage liability claims.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 2005

Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Energy to purchase certain essential mineral rights and resolve natural resource damage liability claims.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ROCKY FLATS ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY**

4 **SITE.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

6 (1) ESSENTIAL MINERAL RIGHT.—The term
7 “essential mineral right” means a right to mine
8 sand and gravel at Rocky Flats, as depicted on the
9 map.

12 (4) NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE LIABILITY
13 CLAIM.—The term “natural resource damage liability
14 claim” means a natural resource damage liability
15 claim under subsections (a)(4)(C) and (f) of section
16 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response,
17 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C.
18 9607) arising from hazardous substances releases at
19 or from Rocky Flats that, as of the date of enact-
20 ment of this Act, are identified in the administrative
21 record for Rocky Flats required by the National Oil
22 and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency
23 Plan prepared under section 105 of that Act (42
24 U.S.C. 9605).

5 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Energy.

12 (b) PURCHASE OF ESSENTIAL MINERAL RIGHTS.—

21 (A) the owner of the essential mineral
22 right is a willing seller; and

23 (B) the Secretary purchases the essential
24 mineral right for an amount that does not ex-
25 ceed fair market value

12 (B) the payment by the Secretary to the
13 Trustees of \$10,000,000; or

14 (C) the purchase by the Secretary of any
15 portion of the mineral rights under paragraph
16 (1) for—

17 (i) consideration in an amount less
18 than \$10,000,000; and

19 (ii) a payment by the Secretary to the
20 Trustees of an amount equal to the dif-
21 ference between—

22 (I) \$10,000,000; and

23 (II) the amount paid under
24 clause (i).

25 (5) USE OF FUNDS.—

11 (B) CONDITION.—Any expenditure of
12 funds under this paragraph shall be made joint-
13 ly by the Trustees.

14 (C) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—The Trustees
15 may use the funds received under paragraph
16 (4) in conjunction with other private and public
17 funds.

23 (7) ROCKY FLATS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REF-
24 UGE.—

(A) TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001 (16 U.S.C. 668dd note; Public Law 107-107) is amended.

5 (i) in section 3175

6 (I) by striking subsections (b)
7 and (f); and

8 (II) by redesignating subsections
9 (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (b),
10 (c), and (d), respectively; and

11 (ii) in section 3176(a)(1), by striking
12 “section 3175(d)” and inserting “section
13 3175(c)”.

14 (B) BOUNDARIES.—Section 3177 of the
15 Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of
16 2001 (16 U.S.C. 668dd note; Public Law 107–
17 107) is amended by striking subsection (c) and
18 inserting the following:

19 "(c) COMPOSITION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
21 graph (2), the refuge shall consist of land within the
22 boundaries of Rocky Flats, as depicted on the
23 map—

1 “(B) dated July 25, 2005; and

2 “(C) available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the United States Fish and
3 Wildlife Service and the Department of Energy.

4 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The refuge does not include—

5 “(A) any land retained by the Department
6 of Energy for response actions under section
7 3175(c);

8 “(B) any land depicted on the map described in paragraph (1) that is subject to 1 or
9 more essential mineral rights described in section
10 3114(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 over which the
11 Secretary shall retain jurisdiction of the surface
12 estate until the essential mineral rights—

13 “(i) are purchased under subsection
14 (b) of that Act; or

15 “(ii) are mined and reclaimed by the
16 mineral rights holders in accordance with
17 requirements established by the State of
18 Colorado; and

19 “(C) the land depicted on the map described in paragraph (1) on which essential
20 mineral rights are being actively mined as of

1 the date of enactment of this subparagraph
2 until—

3 “(i) the essential mineral rights are
4 purchased; or

5 “(ii) the surface estate is reclaimed by
6 the mineral rights holder in accordance
7 with requirements established by the State
8 of Colorado.

9 “(3) ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND.—Not-
10 withstanding paragraph (2), upon the purchase of
11 the mineral rights or reclamation of the land de-
12 picted on the map described in paragraph (1), the
13 Secretary shall—

14 “(A) transfer the land to the Secretary of
15 the Interior for inclusion in the refuge; and

16 “(B) the Secretary of the Interior shall—
17 “(i) accept the transfer of the land;
18 and

19 “(ii) manage the land as part of the
20 refuge.”.

21 (c) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be ap-
22 propriated to the Secretary for the Rocky Flats Environ-
23 mental Technology Site for fiscal year 2006, \$10,000,000

- 1 shall be made available to the Secretary for the purposes
- 2 described in subsection (b).

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