

CHAPTER 65

Original Senate File No. 137

MINING MAPS UPON MINE ABANDONMENT

AN ACT to amend W.S. 30-59(d) and 30-131 relating to mines and minerals; providing for mining maps filed with the mine inspector upon abandonment of underground mines to be held confidential for two years; providing for the filing of a mining map with the coal mine inspector by the owner of a coal mine upon abandonment of any coal mine; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. W.S. 30-59(d) and 30-131 are amended to read:

30-59. Regulations for abandonment of mine.

(d) Within thirty (30) days after abandonment or closing down of any underground mine, the owner or operator shall file with the inspector of mines a map showing all pertinent data as of the date of closing or abandonment in the form as hereafter prescribed. The map and all data shown thereon shall be confidential and not open for public inspection until a period of two (2) consecutive years have elapsed without resumption of mining activity, unless release thereof has been authorized in writing by the owner or unless need because of safety reasons is shown by an adjoining operator or other interested party.

30-131. Maps of mines to be made; biannual revision; care and custody; corrections by state inspector; copies; abandonment of mine.

(a) The owner, operator or superintendent of every coal mine shall make an accurate map or plan of the coal mine on a scale not exceeding two hundred (200) feet to the inch. The map or plan shall exhibit all openings or excavations, shafts, tunnels, slopes, planes, gangways, entries, cross headings, rooms, etc., and shall show the direction of the air currents therein, shall accurately delineate the boundary line between the mine and adjoining mines and show its relation and proximity thereto. The map shall be prepared with reference to the legal subdivision or subdivisions in which the mine is located, and shall show thereon the lines of such legal subdivision or subdivisions.

(b) The coal map, plan or true copy thereof shall be kept at the mine by the owner, operator or superintendent for the use of the state inspector of coal mines, and for the inspection of any miner working in the mine whenever the miner has cause to fear that the place where he is working is becoming dangerous by reason of its proximity to other workings which may contain water or dangerous gases.

(c) The owner, operator or superintendent of every coal mine shall once every six (6) months, accurately place on a map or plan of the coal mine, a plan of the excavations made of all working places or other parts of the coal mine during the preceding six (6) months. The operator or the superintendent shall then furnish the state inspector of coal mines with a true and correct copy of this map and at the end of every six (6) months thereafter the state inspector shall return the copy to the operator or superintendent, who shall place thereon

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all extensions made, all portions of the mine worked out or abandoned during the preceding six (6) months and the part or parts in proximity to the boundary line.

(d) All coal maps or plans of mines in the state which are furnished to the state inspector of coal mines shall be the property of the state of Wyoming, shall remain in the care of the state inspector of coal mines, shall be transferred by him to his successor in office, and in no case shall any copy of these maps be made without the consent of the owner or operator. If the state inspector of coal mines finds or has good reason to believe that any map or plan of any coal mine made or furnished is materially inaccurate or imperfect, he is authorized to cause a correct plan or map of the coal mine to be made at the expense of the owner or operator thereof, the cost of which shall be recovered from the owner or operator in the name of the state of Wyoming as other debts are recoverable by law. However, if the map or plan which is claimed to be inaccurate proves to be correct, the expense of making the test survey shall be paid by the state of Wyoming from any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

(e) Within thirty (30) days after abandonment of any coal mine, the owner, operator or superintendent shall file with the inspector of coal mines a map showing all pertinent information as of the date of abandonment. The map and all information thereon shall be held in confidence and not disclosed to the public for two (2) years after the date of abandonment, unless the owner authorizes in writing the release thereof or the need for safety reasons is shown by an adjoining operator or other interested party.

Section 2. This act is effective May 27, 1977.

Approved February 23, 1977.