

## CHAPTER 151

Original Senate File No. 222

### STATE GEOLOGIST-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

AN ACT to create W.S. 9-248.1, 9-248.2 and 36-74.1; and to amend W.S. 9-252(b) relating to the state geologist and geological survey; providing for the definition of "geology", "geologist" and "professional geologist"; providing for all reports containing geological information to be approved by a professional geologist; providing for clarification of the state geologist's authority relating to mineral deposits; providing for the issuance of all mineral exploration leases to be contingent upon submission of subsurface log reports to the state geologist; and providing for an effective date.

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

**Section 1.** W.S. 9-248.1, 9-248.2 and 36-74.1 are created to read:

#### **9-248.1. Definitions.**

(a) As used in W.S. 9-248.1 through 9-266:

(i) "Geology" means the science which treats of the earth in general, the earth's processes and its history, investigation of the earth's crust and the rocks and other materials which compose it, and the applied science of utilizing knowledge of the earth's history, processes, constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases and other materials for the use of mankind;

(ii) "Geologist" means a person who is a graduate of an institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency, with a minimum of thirty (30) semester or forty-five (45) quarter hours of course work in geology; and

(iii) "Professional geologist" means a geologist as defined in W.S. 9-248.1(a)(ii) and who has had an additional five (5) years in aggregate of post baccalaureate geological training or experience, no more than two (2) years of which may have been in post graduate study.

**9-248.2. Reports containing geological information.** Any report required by law or by rule and regulation and prepared as a result of or based on geological data or geological interpretation, or which contains information relating to geology as defined by W.S. 9-248.1(a)(i), and is to be presented to or prepared for the state, any agencies or political subdivisions thereof, shall be prepared or approved by a geologist or professional geologist as defined by W.S. 9-248.1(a), provided however that the requirements of W.S. 9-248.2 shall not apply to state agency forms or exploratory mineral drill hole data defined under W.S. 36-74.1 or to any report required by law or rule or regulation to be filed with the oil and gas conservation commission.

**36-74.1. Same; subsurface reports contingent upon issuance of mineral exploration lease; report to be confidential.**

(a) Contingent upon the leasing of any state or state school lands for coal, uranium or other mineral exploration, the board of land commissioners shall

require copies of all electrical, gamma-ray neutron, resistivity or other types of subsurface log reports to be submitted to the office of the state geologist within three (3) years after completion of drilling. All copies thereof will become the property of the state to be retained within the permanent files of the Wyoming geological survey for the exclusive use of the staff, as required by law for evaluation purposes. Reports received by the oil and gas conservation commission shall qualify for this provision.

(b) All subsurface log reports will be held confidential for a period of seven (7) years after received by the state geologist or until the expiration of the lease, whichever is the lesser period of time. If the lease is being held by production, all reports will be held confidential until the lease is terminated.

**Section 2.** W.S. 9-252(b) is amended to read:

**9-252. Duties generally; report; records to be kept; publication of reports, maps, etc.**

(b) The state geologist shall:

(i) Perform all other acts as are provided by the laws of Wyoming relating to mineral deposits;

(ii) Make valuation surveys, investigations, appraisements and reports on the mineral resources of the state;

(iii) Have authority to designate and supervise mining operations on state and school lands in the interest of economic development;

(iv) Have authority to cooperate with the United States government, departments of the state of Wyoming, University of Wyoming or private corporations in the matter of geological, topographic, soil and mineral surveys, also industrial investigations and examinations that may bring about further economic development of the mineral resources of the state. The cooperative activities of his office may be accomplished on whatever basis he may determine but in no case shall the cost to the state exceed fifty percent (50%) thereof;

(v) As required by W.S. 9-21, report to the governor covering the activities of his office and include therein suggestions as to the enactment of laws relating to the mineral resources of the state;

(vi) Keep in his office full and complete records of all work done by him or under his supervision, all of which shall be the property of the state; and

(vii) Publish all reports, maps and data as he considers advisable and of public interest, and distribute the reports, maps and data to the public upon request either free or at a price he deems reasonable.

**Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

Approved March 2, 1977.