

Introduced: 4/1/81
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 443

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to geothermal resources; and provid-
7 ing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 31.05.030(e) is amended by adding a new paragraph to
10 read:

11 (7) the preservation of wells which uncover a geothermal
12 resource or which produce a geothermal fluid in accordance with AS 31.-
13 05.125.

14 * Sec. 2. AS 31.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

15 Sec. 31.05.125. CONSERVATION OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES. (a) The
16 commission may, after consultation with the commissioner of natural
17 resources, exempt a well from well plugging requirements imposed by
18 regulations adopted under AS 31.05.030(d)(3) or 31.05.030(e)(1) and may
19 exempt a well from requirements relating to abandonment of the well
20 imposed by this chapter if

21 (1) the owner of the well transfers to the state his title
22 and interest in the well; or

23 (2) the holder of a permit or lease for a well located on
24 state land relinquishes the permit or lease to the state or exchanges
25 the permit or lease for a geothermal permit or lease issued by the
26 commissioner of natural resources under AS 38.05.181.

27 (b) In this section,

28 (1) "geothermal fluid" means liquids and steam at tempera-
29 tures greater than 120 degrees Celsius naturally present in a stratum,

1 pool, reservoir, or other geologic formation containing geothermal
2 resources;

3 (2) "geothermal resources" means the natural heat of the
4 earth at temperatures greater than 120 degrees Celsius, measured at the
5 point where the highest-temperature resources encountered enter or
6 contact a well or other resource extraction device, and includes

7 (A) the energy, including pressure, in whatever form
8 present in, resulting from, created by, or that may be extracted
9 from that natural heat;

10 (B) the material medium, including the geothermal fluid
11 naturally present, as well as substances artificially introduced
12 to serve as a heat transfer medium; and

13 (C) all dissolved or entrained minerals and gases that
14 may be obtained from the material medium, but excluding hydro-
15 carbon substances and helium.

16 * Sec. 3. AS 31.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

17 Sec. 31.05.036. COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE
18 INFORMATION. (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall adopt
19 regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act
20 (AS 44.62) relating to the collection and submission of information on
21 the temperature gradients and geothermal fluid production character-
22 istics of geothermal fluids discovered in a well drilled in the state.
23 Before adopting or amending regulations under this section, the commis-
24 sioner of natural resources shall consult with the state geologist, the
25 commission, and the Water Resources Board.

26 (b) The information required to be submitted by (a) of this
27 section shall be kept confidential by the commissioner of natural
28 resources for 12 months following its submission unless the owner of
29 the well gives written permission to release the information at an

1 earlier date. If the person required to submit information under (a)
2 of this section makes a written request to the commissioner of natural
3 resources, the commissioner shall keep the information submitted to him
4 under (a) of this section confidential for an additional 12-month
5 period.

6 * Sec. 4. AS 41.06 is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 Sec. 41.06.042. COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE
8 INFORMATION. (a) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accor-
9 dance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) relating to the
10 collection and submission of information on the temperature gradients
11 and geothermal fluid production characteristics of geothermal fluids
12 discovered in a well drilled in the state. Before adopting or amending
13 regulations under this section, the commissioner shall consult with the
14 state geologist, the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and
15 the Water Resources Board.

16 (b) The information required to be submitted by (a) of this
17 section shall be kept confidential by the commissioner for 12 months
18 following its submission unless the owner of the well gives written
19 permission to release the information at an earlier date. If the
20 person required to submit information under (a) of this section makes a
21 written request to the commissioner, the commissioner shall keep the
22 information submitted to him under (a) of this section confidential for
23 an additional 12-month period.

24 * Sec. 5. AS 46.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

25 Sec. 46.15.022. COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE
26 INFORMATION. (a) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accord-
27 ance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) relating to the
28 collection and submission of information on the temperature gradients
29 and geothermal fluid production characteristics of mineral and medicinal

1 water discovered in a water well drilled in the state. Before adopting
2 or amending regulations under this section, the commissioner shall
3 consult with the state geologist, the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation
4 Commission, and the Water Resources Board.

5 (b) The information required to be submitted by (a) of this
6 section shall be kept confidential by the commissioner for 12 months
7 following its submission unless the owner of the well gives written
8 permission to release the information at an earlier date. If the
9 person required to submit information under (a) of this section makes a
10 written request to the commissioner, the commissioner shall keep the
11 information submitted to him under (a) of this section confidential for
12 an additional 12-month period.

13 * Sec. 6. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-

14 070(c).