

# Senate Bill 190

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski for State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Modifies legislative findings related to geothermal resources. Clarifies requirement to obtain water pollution control facilities permit. Clarifies application of provisions to certain wells. Requires certain wells to be plugged and decommissioned.

Clarifies permit requirements for prospect wells and geothermal wells. Increases fee provisions related to prospect wells and geothermal wells. Requires circulation of application to drill prospect wells and geothermal wells to certain public agencies. Establishes liability of operator of prospect wells. Clarifies liability of operators of geothermal wells. Requires applicant for permit for prospect wells and geothermal wells to provide bond or alternate form of financial security.

Clarifies grounds for issuance of permit for geothermal well. Requires plugging and decommissioning of geothermal well in conformance with plan. Expands powers of governing board of State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in cases of unlawful abandonment of geothermal well. Establishes requirements related to plugging and decommissioning of geothermal well.

Clarifies rulemaking authority of governing board of State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries; creating new provisions; amending ORS 522.015, 522.019, 522.025, 522.045, 522.055, 522.065, 522.075, 522.085, 522.115, 522.125, 522.135, 522.145, 522.155, 522.165, 522.175, 522.205, 522.215, 522.225, 522.245, 522.305, 522.355, 522.365 and 522.915; repealing ORS 522.235; and declaring an emergency.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 1.** ORS 522.015 is amended to read:

522.015. (1) The Legislative Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The people of the State of Oregon have a direct and primary interest in the development of geothermal resources situated in this state.

(b) The State of Oregon, through the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, shall control the drilling, redrilling and deepening of wells for the discovery and production of geothermal resources so that such wells will be constructed, operated, maintained, **plugged** and *[abandoned]* **decommissioned** in the manner necessary to safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the people of this state, to safeguard the air, water and other natural resources of this state, and to encourage the maximum economic recovery of geothermal resources therefrom.

(2) It is the policy of the Legislative Assembly that this chapter be administered:

(a) To prevent damage to and waste of geothermal resources;

(b) To prevent interference with or damage to waters used or to be used for beneficial purposes

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 that may result from improper drilling, operation, maintenance, **plugging** or *[abandonment]* **decom-**  
 2 **missioning** of geothermal or prospect wells;

3 (c) To supervise the drilling, operation, maintenance, **plugging** and *[abandonment]* **decommis-**  
 4 **sioning** of geothermal or prospect wells in a manner permitting the operator to utilize all methods  
 5 known to the industry for the purpose of increasing the ultimate economic recovery of geothermal  
 6 resources, that are suitable, and consistent with protection of the air, water and other natural re-  
 7 sources of the state; and

8 (d) To provide for the development, management and production of geothermal resources in a  
 9 manner that minimizes state involvement, enhances resource recovery, prevents waste, maximizes  
 10 economic development and protects correlative rights of the resource owners.

11 **SECTION 2.** ORS 522.019 is amended to read:

12 522.019. (1)(a) In order to accomplish the policy of ORS 522.015 all geothermal fluids derived  
 13 from geothermal resources shall be reinjected into the same reservoir from which withdrawn unless  
 14 it is determined by the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries that these policies and  
 15 the public interest require other disposal of the fluids.

16 (b) Subject to the determination in paragraph (a) of this subsection, injection into other reser-  
 17 vairs or disposal by other means may be allowed by the department in specific instances where it  
 18 is shown that such action is consistent with the policies cited in this section. Disposal by other  
 19 means may include any secondary use of geothermal fluid after the primary use of such fluid for  
 20 electrical power generation or for other direct application of the heat or other associated energy  
 21 contained in such fluids or for by-product extraction. Secondary uses may include, but shall not be  
 22 limited to, use of condensate resulting from electrical power plant operations for plant-cooling pur-  
 23 poses, or use of such geothermal fluid for agricultural, commercial or industrial purposes.

24 (2) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries shall adopt rules *[which govern]*  
 25 **governing** the disposal by reinjection or other means of geothermal fluids derived from *[geothermal*  
 26 *resources from]* wells **that are intended for generation of power or that have a bottom hole**  
 27 **temperature** of 250 or more degrees Fahrenheit *[bottom hole temperature or wells 2,000 or more feet*  
 28 *deep]*. The rules shall include standards whereby contamination may be determined, construction  
 29 standards for reinjection wells, testing procedures for identifying aquifers, standards and procedures  
 30 for determining whether adjacent aquifers are being degraded by the reinjection process, guidelines  
 31 for conservation of the resource, criteria for evaluating reservoirs or zones for geothermal fluid  
 32 disposal and requirements for prior approval of all geothermal fluid reinjection proposals.

33 (3) **In addition to the permit required by ORS 522.115, an operator of a geothermal well**  
 34 **must obtain** a water pollution control facilities permit *[shall be obtained]* from the Department of  
 35 Environmental Quality under ORS 468B.050 before reinjection *[is commenced.]* **of any geothermal**  
 36 **fluid unless the permit requirement has been waived by** the Department of Environmental  
 37 Quality *[may, by agreement with the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, waive this*  
 38 *requirement for reinjection into the reservoir from which the fluid came where adequate standards and*  
 39 *tests have been adopted to insure the fluid and its residues are uncontaminated]*. **Nothing in this**  
 40 **chapter limits the authority of the Department of Environmental Quality to regulate the**  
 41 **subsurface injection of fluids pursuant to ORS 468B.195, 468B.196 and 468B.197.**

42 **SECTION 3.** ORS 522.025 is amended to read:

43 522.025. (1) The provisions of this chapter **apply to any well that is used to produce**  
 44 **geothermal resources to generate power, any well with a bottom hole temperature of at least**  
 45 **250 degrees Fahrenheit and any prospect well.** *[relating to the location and drilling of any well for*

1 *the production of geothermal resources do not apply to any wells producing geothermal resources on*  
 2 *July 1, 1975, or wells, other than prospect wells, drilled to a depth no greater than 2,000 feet where:]*

3 *[(a) The geothermal fluids produced are of less than 250 degrees Fahrenheit bottom hole temper-*  
 4 *ature; or]*

5 *[(b) Such fluids have been appropriated pursuant to ORS 537.505 to 537.795 and 537.992.]*

6 *[(2) The provisions of this chapter relating to regulation of production of geothermal resources from*  
 7 *a geothermal reservoir apply only to wells with a bottom hole temperature of at least 250 degrees*  
 8 *Fahrenheit.]*

9 *[(3)]* **(2)** If the bottom hole temperature of a well that **is not used to generate power** was ini-  
 10 tially at least 250 degrees Fahrenheit *[falls]* **and then falls** below 250 degrees Fahrenheit, the State  
 11 Geologist and the Water Resources Director, after consulting with the well owner, shall determine  
 12 the agency with regulatory responsibility for that specific well. This determination shall be docu-  
 13 mented in writing and shall supersede a determination made under subsection (1) *[or (2)]* of this  
 14 section.

15 **SECTION 4.** ORS 522.045 is amended to read:

16 522.045. Any **geothermal** well drilled under authority of this chapter from which usable  
 17 geothermal resources cannot be derived, or the owner or operator has no intention of deriving us-  
 18 able geothermal resources, **and any prospect well that is not expected to provide information**  
 19 **useful to the development of geothermal resources** shall be plugged and *[abandoned]* **decom-**  
 20 **missioned** as provided in this chapter or, upon the operator's written application to the State De-  
 21 partment of Geology and Mineral Industries and with the concurrence and approval of the Water  
 22 Resources Director, jurisdiction over the well may be transferred to the Water Resources Director  
 23 and, in such case, the well shall no longer be subject to the provisions of this chapter but shall be  
 24 subject to any applicable laws and rules relating to wells drilled for appropriation and use of ground  
 25 waters. If an application is made to transfer jurisdiction, a copy of all logs, records, histories and  
 26 descriptions shall be provided to the Water Resources Director by the applicant.

## 27 28 PROSPECT WELLS

29  
30 **SECTION 5.** ORS 522.055 is amended to read:

31 522.055. (1) No person shall engage in drilling a prospect well without first obtaining a permit  
 32 issued under the authority of the State *[Geologist]* **Department of Geology and Mineral Industries**  
 33 and without complying with the conditions of such permit.

34 (2) An application to drill prospect wells shall contain such information as the *[State Department*  
 35 *of Geology and Mineral Industries]* **department** may require, **including but not limited to a plug-**  
 36 **ging and decommissioning plan**, and shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee *[set by the gov-*  
 37 *erning board of the department but not to exceed \$250 to cover all prospect wells included within the*  
 38 *application]* **in the amount determined by the department to be the estimated cost of review**  
 39 **of the proposed prospect wells. The amount of the fee may not exceed \$1,000 per five prospect**  
 40 **wells.** A permit **to drill** shall remain valid for one year from the date it is issued.

41 (3) An unused permit may be extended by the *[State Geologist]* **department** for a reasonable  
 42 period not to exceed one year beyond the initial one-year period, upon receipt of a written request  
 43 from the permittee before the expiration date of the permit. The request shall be accompanied by a  
 44 nonrefundable fee **of \$500.** *[set by the board not to exceed \$250.]*

45 *[(4) The permittee shall provide an annual nonrefundable fee set by the board not to exceed \$500*

1 on or before the anniversary of the issuance date of each active permit.]

2 [(5) All moneys paid to the department under this section shall be deposited with the State Treas-  
 3 urer and are continuously appropriated to the department for the administration of chapter 552, Oregon  
 4 Laws 1975.]

5 (4) **The permittee shall provide an annual nonrefundable fee on or before the anniversary  
 6 of the issuance date of each active permit as follows:**

7 (a) **\$1,500 for the first renewal year.**

8 (b) **\$500 for each subsequent renewal year.**

9 (5) **A request by a permittee to extend the period for completion of drilling a prospect  
 10 well shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$500.**

11 (6) **A request by a permittee to transfer a permit issued under this section shall be ac-  
 12 companied by a nonrefundable fee of \$500.**

13 (7) **All moneys received by the department under this section shall be paid into the State  
 14 Treasury and deposited in the General Fund to the credit of the Geology and Mineral In-  
 15 dustries Account established by ORS 516.070.**

16 **SECTION 6.** ORS 522.065 is amended to read:

17 522.065. (1) Upon receipt of [an] **a complete** application to drill prospect wells, the [State  
 18 Geologist] **State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries** shall circulate copies of the ap-  
 19 plication to the Water Resources [Director] **Department**, the [Director of the] Department of Envi-  
 20 ronmental Quality, the [Director of the] Department of Land Conservation and Development[,], and  
 21 the [Director of the] Department of State Lands. **The State Department of Geology and Mineral  
 22 Industries may circulate copies to other public agencies that may have an interest in the  
 23 permit application.**

24 (2) Any public agency [desiring to] **receiving a copy of the application as provided in sub-  
 25 section (1) of this section may** suggest conditions under which a permit should be granted [shall  
 26 provide such information to the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries within 15 days  
 27 of receipt of the copy of the application]. **A public agency shall submit any suggested conditions  
 28 to the department within 45 days of the public agency's receipt of the copy of the application.  
 29 The department shall consider any suggested conditions that a public agency submits to the  
 30 department within the 45-day period.**

31 [(3) Except as provided in ORS 522.075, within 30 days of receipt of an application to drill prospect  
 32 wells, the State Geologist shall grant a permit to drill, subject to such conditions as the State Geologist  
 33 may impose. Included among the conditions shall be provision for the proper and safe abandonment  
 34 of each prospect well.]

35 **SECTION 7.** In addition to any other liability imposed by law, the operator of a prospect  
 36 well shall be liable to any person or public agency that sustains damages from failure of the  
 37 operator to comply with:

38 (1) **A condition in a permit requiring the operator to provide for the protection of ground  
 39 water in the area affected by the well; or**

40 (2) **Any rules of the governing board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral  
 41 Industries establishing standards for blowout prevention, equipment and casing design and  
 42 removal, and any other procedures necessary to shut out detrimental substances from strata  
 43 containing ground or surface water usable for beneficial purposes.**

44 **SECTION 8.** ORS 522.075 is amended to read:

45 522.075. [(1) No permit for prospect wells shall be granted until the applicant has filed with the

1 *State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries a bond or alternative form of financial security*  
 2 *acceptable to the department in the sum established by rule by the governing board of the department.*  
 3 *The amount of the bond or security shall be a sum of not less than \$10,000 for each hole to be drilled*  
 4 *or a blanket bond in the amount of not less than \$50,000 for all prospect wells which are included*  
 5 *within the application and to be drilled by the applicant.]*

6 *[(2) The bond or alternative form of financial security shall be conditioned upon compliance with*  
 7 *the requirements of this chapter and rules adopted and orders issued pursuant to this chapter and shall*  
 8 *secure the state against all losses, charges and expenses, including court costs and attorney fees, in-*  
 9 *curring by it in obtaining such compliance.]*

10 *[(3) With the consent of the department, any bond or acceptable alternative form of financial secu-*  
 11 *rity submitted as required by this section may be terminated or canceled. However, the department shall*  
 12 *not consent to the termination or cancellation of any bond or security until the prospect wells covered*  
 13 *by such bond or security have been properly and safely abandoned pursuant to the abandonment plan*  
 14 *required by the permit or another bond or security for the prospect wells has been submitted and ap-*  
 15 *proved by the department.]*

16 *[(4) For those applications concerning prospect wells on federal lands, the department may waive*  
 17 *the requirements of subsections (1) to (3) of this section upon receipt of suitable proof of compliance by*  
 18 *the applicant with federal bond requirements which would, in the opinion of the department, be un-*  
 19 *necessarily duplicated by the requirements of this section.]*

20 **(1) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries may not issue a permit for**  
 21 **a prospect well until the applicant has provided a bond or alternative form of financial se-**  
 22 **curity as specified in rules adopted by the governing board of the State Department of**  
 23 **Geology and Mineral Industries. The amount of the bond or security must be based on the**  
 24 **estimated costs of plugging and decommissioning the well and any other associated expenses**  
 25 **for reclamation of the site of the well.**

26 **(2) The bond or alternative form of financial security must be conditioned upon compli-**  
 27 **ance with the requirements of this chapter and rules adopted and orders issued pursuant to**  
 28 **this chapter and must secure the state against all losses, charges and expenses, including**  
 29 **court costs and attorney fees, incurred by the state in obtaining such compliance.**

30 **(3) With the consent of the department, any bond or acceptable alternative form of fi-**  
 31 **nancial security submitted pursuant to this section may be terminated or canceled. However,**  
 32 **the department may not consent to the termination or cancellation of any bond or security**  
 33 **until each prospect well covered by such bond or security has been properly and safely**  
 34 **plugged and decommissioned pursuant to the plan required by the permit or until another**  
 35 **bond or security for each well has been submitted and approved by the department.**

36 **SECTION 9.** ORS 522.085 is amended to read:

37 522.085. Upon completion of all drilling and testing undertaken pursuant to an application to  
 38 drill prospect wells, the applicant shall file with the State [*Geologist*] **Department of Geology and**  
 39 **Mineral Industries** a report certifying the completion of the [*abandonment*] **plugging and decom-**  
 40 **missioning** plan required by the permit.

41  
 42 **GEOTHERMAL WELLS**  
 43

44 **SECTION 10.** ORS 522.115 is amended to read:

45 522.115. (1) No person shall engage in the drilling or operating of any geothermal well without

1 first obtaining a permit issued under the authority of the State [*Geologist*] **Department of Geology**  
2 **and Mineral Industries**, and without complying with the conditions of such permit.

3 (2) An application for a permit shall contain:

4 (a) The location and elevation of the floor of the proposed derrick.

5 (b) The number or other designation approved by the [*State Department of Geology and Mineral*  
6 *Industries*] **department** by which the well shall be known.

7 (c) The applicant's estimate of the depths to be drilled.

8 (d) The nature and character of the geothermal resource sought.

9 **(e) A plugging and decommissioning plan.**

10 [(e)] **(f)** Such other information as the governing board of the **State Department of Geology and**  
11 **Mineral Industries** by rule may require.

12 (3) An application for a permit shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of **\$2,000**. [*set by*  
13 *the board not to exceed \$250.*]

14 [(4) *The permittee shall provide an annual nonrefundable fee set by the board not to exceed \$500*  
15 *on or before the anniversary of the issuance date of each active permit.*]

16 [(5) *All fees collected by the department under this section shall be deposited with the State*  
17 *Treasurer and are continuously appropriated to the department for the administration of chapter 552,*  
18 *Oregon Laws 1975.*]

19 **(4) The permittee shall provide an annual nonrefundable renewal fee on or before the**  
20 **anniversary of the issuance date of each active permit as follows:**

21 **(a) \$1,500 for the first renewal year.**

22 **(b) \$500 for each subsequent renewal year.**

23 **(5) A request by a permittee to modify a permit shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable**  
24 **fee of \$1,500.**

25 **(6) A request by a permittee to extend the period for completion of drilling a geothermal**  
26 **well shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$500.**

27 **(7) A request by a permittee to transfer a permit issued under this section shall be ac-**  
28 **companied by a nonrefundable fee of \$500.**

29 **(8) A request by a permittee to plug and decommission a geothermal well shall be ac-**  
30 **companied by a nonrefundable fee of \$1,000.**

31 **(9) All moneys received by the department under this section shall be paid into the State**  
32 **Treasury and deposited in the General Fund to the credit of the Geology and Mineral In-**  
33 **dustries Account established by ORS 516.070.**

34 **SECTION 11.** ORS 522.125 is amended to read:

35 522.125. (1) Upon receipt of [*an*] **a complete** application for a permit to drill or operate a  
36 geothermal well, the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries shall circulate copies of  
37 the application to the Water Resources [*Director*] **Department**, the State **Department of** Fish and  
38 Wildlife [*Director*], the [*Director of the*] Department of Environmental Quality, the State Parks and  
39 Recreation [*Director*] **Department**, the [*Director of the*] Department of Land Conservation and De-  
40 velopment, [*the Director of*] the State Department of Energy, the [*Director of the*] Department of  
41 State Lands and the governing body of the county and the geothermal heating district in which the  
42 well will be located. **The department may circulate copies to other public agencies that have**  
43 **an interest in the application.**

44 (2) Any public agency [*desiring to*] **receiving a copy of the application as provided in sub-**  
45 **section (1) of this section may** suggest conditions under which a permit should be granted [*shall*

1 *provide such information to the department within 30 days of receipt of the copy of the application].*  
 2 **A public agency shall submit any suggested conditions to the department within 45 days of**  
 3 **the public agency's receipt of the copy of the application. The department shall consider any**  
 4 **suggested conditions that a public agency submits to the department within the 45-day pe-**  
 5 **riod.**

6 **SECTION 12.** ORS 522.135 is amended to read:

7 522.135. (1) Within [45] **90** days after receipt of [*the*] **a complete** application, the State  
 8 [*Geologist*] **Department of Geology and Mineral Industries** shall by order issue[,], **or deny[,]** **the**  
 9 **permit** [*suspend, modify, revoke or not renew a permit pursuant to this chapter and ORS chapter 183*  
 10 *except that appeal of any order issued pursuant to this section shall be made to the governing board*  
 11 *of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries before any appeal under ORS 183.480 is*  
 12 *allowed*].

13 [*(2) The State Geologist may issue the permit if, after receipt of comments from the agencies re-*  
 14 *ferred to in ORS 522.125, the State Geologist determines that issuance thereof would be consistent with*  
 15 *the purposes set forth in ORS 468A.010, 468B.015 and 537.525, rules adopted pursuant to ORS*  
 16 *468B.030, and the purposes of this chapter.*]

17 **(2) The department may issue the permit if, after receipt of comments from the agencies**  
 18 **referred to in ORS 522.125, the department determines that issuance of the permit would be**  
 19 **consistent with the provisions of this chapter, ORS chapters 468A, 468B and 537, any rule**  
 20 **adopted under this chapter by the governing board of the State Department of Geology and**  
 21 **Mineral Industries and any rule adopted under ORS chapter 468 or 468B by the Environ-**  
 22 **mental Quality Commission.**

23 (3) If the [*State Geologist*] **department** issues a permit pursuant to this section, the [*State*  
 24 *Geologist*] **department** shall impose such conditions as [*the State Geologist*] **the department** con-  
 25 siders necessary to carry out the [*purposes set forth in ORS 468A.010, 468B.015 and 537.525, rules*]  
 26 **provisions of this chapter, ORS chapters 468A, 468B and 537, any rule adopted under this**  
 27 **chapter by the governing board of the department and any rule** adopted [*pursuant to ORS*  
 28 *468B.030, and the purposes of this chapter*] **under ORS chapter 468 or 468B by the Environmental**  
 29 **Quality Commission.** The [*State Geologist*] **department** shall include in the permit a statement that  
 30 issuance [*thereof*] **of the permit** does not relieve any person from any obligation to [*obtain a permit*  
 31 *under*] **comply with ORS [468B.030 or] 468B.035, 468B.050 or 468B.195 or any other applicable**  
 32 **state or federal environmental laws.**

33 [*(4) The State Geologist shall incorporate into the permit requirements:*]

34 [*(a) Any conditions made by the Water Resources Director necessary to comply with the purposes*  
 35 *set forth in ORS 537.525; and*]

36 [*(b) Any conditions made by the Department of Environmental Quality necessary to comply with*  
 37 *the purposes set forth in ORS 468A.010 and 468B.015.*]

38 [(5)] **(4) [A] Drilling, redrilling or deepening [operation] must begin within one year after the**  
 39 **date of permit issuance or the permit shall expire. However, the [State Geologist] department may**  
 40 **extend the unused permit for a reasonable period not to exceed one year beyond the initial one-year**  
 41 **period upon receipt of a written request from the permittee before the expiration date of the permit.**  
 42 **The request shall be accompanied by [a] the nonrefundable fee [set by the board not to exceed**  
 43 **\$250.] specified in ORS 522.115.**

44 [(6) *Nothing in chapter 552, Oregon Laws 1975, shall be construed to excuse an operator of a*  
 45 *geothermal well from complying with the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act*

1 amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500) or ORS 468B.035 or to dilute the authority of the Department  
2 of Environmental Quality to issue National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems Permits.]

3 [(7) All fees collected by the department under this section shall be deposited with the State  
4 Treasurer and are continuously appropriated to the department for the administration of chapter 552,  
5 Oregon Laws 1975.]

6 **SECTION 13.** ORS 522.145 is amended to read:

7 522.145. [(1) Except as waived by rule of the governing board of the State Department of Geology  
8 and Mineral Industries, no permit shall be granted until:]

9 [(a) The applicant has filed with the department a bond or security acceptable to the department  
10 in the sum established by rule by the board. The amount of the bond or security shall be a sum of not  
11 less than \$25,000 for each well to be drilled; or]

12 [(b) The applicant to drill more than one geothermal well has filed with the department a bond or  
13 acceptable alternative form of financial security in the sum established by rule by the board. The  
14 amount of the bond or security shall be a sum of not less than \$150,000 for all wells to be drilled.]

15 [(2) The bond or acceptable alternative form of financial security shall be conditioned upon com-  
16 pliance with the requirements of this chapter and rules adopted and orders issued pursuant to this  
17 chapter and shall secure the state against all losses, charges and expenses, including court costs and  
18 attorney fees, incurred by it in obtaining such compliance.]

19 [(3) With the consent of the department, any bond or acceptable alternative form of financial secu-  
20 rity acceptable to the department submitted as required by this section may be terminated or canceled.  
21 However, the department shall not consent to the termination or cancellation of any bond or security  
22 until each geothermal well covered by such bond or security has been:]

23 [(a) Lawfully abandoned as a dry hole; or]

24 [(b) Properly completed, has ceased production and been lawfully abandoned.]

25 [(4) For those applications concerning geothermal wells on federal lands, the department may waive  
26 the requirements of subsections (1) to (3) of this section upon receipt of suitable proof of compliance by  
27 the applicant with federal bond requirements which would, in the opinion of the department, be un-  
28 necessarily duplicated by the requirements of this section.]

29 **(1) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries may not issue a permit for  
30 a geothermal well until the applicant has provided a bond or alternative form of financial  
31 security as specified in rules adopted by the governing board of the State Department of  
32 Geology and Mineral Industries. The amount of the bond or security must be based on the  
33 estimated costs of plugging and decommissioning the well and any other associated expenses  
34 for reclamation of the site of the well.**

35 **(2) The bond or alternative form of financial security must be conditioned upon compli-  
36 ance with the requirements of this chapter and rules adopted and orders issued pursuant to  
37 this chapter and must secure the state against all losses, charges and expenses, including  
38 court costs and attorney fees, incurred by the state in obtaining such compliance.**

39 **(3) With the consent of the department, any bond or acceptable alternative form of fi-  
40 nancial security submitted pursuant to this section may be terminated or canceled. However,  
41 the department may not consent to the termination or cancellation of any bond or security  
42 until each geothermal well covered by such bond or security has been properly and safely  
43 plugged and decommissioned pursuant to the plan required by the permit or until another  
44 bond or security for each well has been submitted and approved by the department.**

45 **SECTION 14.** ORS 522.155 is amended to read:



1 522.155. [(1)] In addition to any other liability [of] **imposed by law**, the operator of a geothermal  
 2 well[, *the operator*] shall be liable to any person or public agency that sustains damages from failure  
 3 of the operator to comply with:

4 (1) A condition in a permit requiring the operator to provide for the protection of ground water  
 5 in the area affected by the well[.]; **or**

6 (2) **Any rules** of the governing board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Indus-  
 7 tries [*shall adopt by rule*] **establishing** standards for blowout prevention, equipment and casing de-  
 8 sign and removal, and any other procedures necessary to shut out detrimental substances from  
 9 strata containing ground or surface water usable for beneficial purposes.

10 **SECTION 15.** ORS 522.165 is amended to read:

11 522.165. (1) **A permittee must make a request to modify a permit before changing** the lo-  
 12 cation, number or designation specified for any geothermal well **or before undertaking to alter in**  
 13 **any manner the casing of a geothermal well.** [*in a permit issued pursuant to ORS 522.135 shall*  
 14 *not be changed without first obtaining written consent from the State Department of Geology and*  
 15 *Mineral Industries.*]

16 [(2) *No operator shall alter in any manner the casing of a geothermal well without notifying the*  
 17 *department and obtaining its approval.*]

18 (2) **A request to modify a permit under this section shall be accompanied by the**  
 19 **nonrefundable fee specified in ORS 522.115.**

20 **SECTION 16.** ORS 522.175 is amended to read:

21 522.175. (1) No person shall abandon a geothermal well without first [*obtaining approval of*]  
 22 **plugging and decommissioning the well in conformance with a plugging and decommissioning**  
 23 **plan approved by** the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries **and complying with**  
 24 **the provisions of ORS 522.245.**

25 (2) [*A geothermal well shall be considered lawfully abandoned when the operator has conformed*  
 26 *to ORS 522.245 and to rules adopted by*] The governing board of the department **shall adopt rules**  
 27 designed to:

28 (a) Protect underground and surface water usable for beneficial purposes from pollution result-  
 29 ing from infiltration or addition of any [*deleterious*] **detrimental** substance;

30 (b) Prevent the escape of all fluids to the surface;

31 (c) Close the surface aperture of the well; and

32 (d) Remove all surface equipment except that necessary to maintain permanent closure of the  
 33 well.

34 [(3) *When the operator has violated subsection (1) or (2) of this section or ORS 522.225, or when*  
 35 *the department has issued a written disapproval of abandonment, the board may proceed against the*  
 36 *operator and surety of the operator as provided for in ORS 522.145 and may bring suit pursuant to*  
 37 *ORS 522.810.*]

38 **SECTION 17.** ORS 522.205 is amended to read:

39 522.205. (1) Except as excluded from the provisions of this section by rule of the governing board  
 40 of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, any prospective operator of a  
 41 geothermal well shall notify the department in such form as the department may direct of the pur-  
 42 chase, assignment, transfer, conveyance or exchange of [*such*] **the** well within [15] **45** days of the  
 43 purchase and shall accompany such notice with an application for transfer of the permit for the  
 44 particular well. The **application must include the transfer** fee [*for transfer of a permit is \$25*]  
 45 **specified in ORS 522.115.**

1 (2) Any buyer of land on which a geothermal well is located shall notify the department of the  
 2 purchase, assignment, transfer, conveyance or exchange of the land upon which such well is situated  
 3 within [15] 45 days of such purchase.

4 **SECTION 18.** ORS 522.215 is amended to read:

5 522.215. (1) No operator shall suspend drilling or operation of a geothermal well without ob-  
 6 taining permission from the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

7 (2) The department may authorize an operator to suspend for a specific period operations or  
 8 remove equipment from an uncompleted geothermal well upon such terms as the department may  
 9 specify, upon written application of the operator and an affidavit showing good cause therefor.

10 (3) Within a period of six months from the ending date specified for such suspension, the oper-  
 11 ator may make written application for an extension of suspension[,] and file it with an affidavit  
 12 showing good cause for such an extension. Upon a finding that the extension is merited, the gov-  
 13 erning board of the department may extend the suspension for an additional specific period.

14 (4) If, after suspension, operations are not resumed by the operator within six months from the  
 15 ending date specified for the suspension or extension thereof, an intention to abandon and unlawful  
 16 abandonment shall be presumed.

17 (5) Whenever an operator whose operations have been suspended fails to comply with such terms  
 18 as the department may specify in its authorization, the geothermal well shall be presumed unlawfully  
 19 abandoned. A well shall also be deemed unlawfully abandoned, if, without notice to the department,  
 20 any drilling or producing equipment is removed.

21 (6) An unlawful abandonment shall be declared by order of the board, and written notice thereof  
 22 shall be mailed by registered mail or by certified mail with return receipt both to such operator at  
 23 the last-known post-office address of the operator, to the registered agent of the operator, if any,  
 24 and to the operator's sureties.

25 (7) After declaration of unlawful abandonment, the board may proceed against the operator and  
 26 the surety of the operator as provided for in ORS 522.145 and may bring suit pursuant to ORS  
 27 522.810 **or take any other enforcement or recovery action authorized by law.**

28 **SECTION 19.** ORS 522.225 is amended to read:

29 522.225. (1) Before commencing any operation to [*abandon*] **discontinue the use of** a geothermal  
 30 well, the operator shall give notice to the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries of  
 31 the intention to [*abandon*] **plug and decommission** the well and the date upon which the work [*of*  
 32 *abandonment*] will begin.

33 (2) Such notice shall be given at least 24 hours before the commencement of [*abandonment*]  
 34 **plugging and decommissioning** operations and shall indicate:

35 (a) The condition of the well;

36 (b) The proposed method of the [*abandonment*] **plugging and decommissioning** operation; and

37 (c) Any additional information that may be required by the department.

38 **SECTION 20.** ORS 522.245 is amended to read:

39 522.245. (1) A representative of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries may  
 40 be present during any [*abandonment*] operation **to plug and decommission a geothermal well.** If  
 41 the representative determines that the [*abandonment*] **plugging and decommissioning** is satisfac-  
 42 tory, the representative shall approve the [*abandonment*] **plugging and decommissioning** of the  
 43 well.

44 (2) Within [30] 45 days after the completion of [*abandonment*] **the plugging and decommis-**  
 45 **sioning** of any geothermal well, the operator of the well shall make a written report of all work

1 done [*with respect to the abandonment*]. Within [10] **45** days after the receipt of [*such*] **the** report, the  
 2 department shall furnish the operator with a written final approval [*of abandonment*,] **of the plug-**  
 3 **ging and decommissioning** or a written disapproval [*of abandonment*] setting forth the conditions  
 4 upon which the disapproval is based.

5 (3) Failure to [*abandon*] **plug and decommission** in accordance with the approved method [*of*  
 6 *abandonment*], failure to submit to the department any notice or report required by this chapter[,]  
 7 or failure to furnish the department with any required information shall constitute sufficient grounds  
 8 for disapproval of the **plugging and decommissioning and shall constitute unlawful** abandonment  
 9 of [*such*] **the** well.

10 (4) When the department has issued a written disapproval of [*abandonment*] **the plugging and**  
 11 **decommissioning**, the governing board of the department may proceed against the operator and the  
 12 surety of the operator as provided for in ORS 522.145 [*or*] **and** may bring suit pursuant to ORS  
 13 522.810 **or take any other enforcement or recovery action authorized by law.**

14 **SECTION 21.** ORS 522.355 is amended to read:

15 522.355. (1) The operator of any geothermal well shall keep, or cause to be kept, a careful and  
 16 accurate log, core record and history of the drilling of the well.

17 (2) The log referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall show the character and depth of  
 18 each formation encountered in the drilling of the well; the amount, size and weight of casing used;  
 19 and the location, depth and temperature of water-bearing strata, including the temperature, chemical  
 20 composition and other chemical and physical characteristics of fluid encountered from time to time,  
 21 so far as determined.

22 (3) The core record referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall show the depth, character  
 23 and fluid content of cores obtained, so far as determined from the study and analysis thereof.

24 (4) The history referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall show the location and amount  
 25 of sidetracked casings, tools or other material; the depth and quantity of cement in cement plugs;  
 26 the shots of dynamite or other explosives used; the results of production and other tests during  
 27 drilling operations; and completion data.

28 (5) The log referred to in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be kept in the local office  
 29 of the operator and, together with the tour reports of the operator, shall be subject, during business  
 30 hours, to inspection by the governing board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral In-  
 31 dustries, or the department.

32 (6) The operator of any geothermal well shall, in addition to furnishing the log, records, and  
 33 tests required by this section, collect representative drill cuttings. The operator shall additionally,  
 34 in the event cores are taken, collect representative core samples. The drill cuttings and core sam-  
 35 ples shall be filed with the department promptly upon completion or upon its written request, and  
 36 upon [*the abandonment*] **plugging and decommissioning** or upon suspension of operations for a pe-  
 37 riod of at least six months.

38 **SECTION 22.** ORS 522.365 is amended to read:

39 522.365. (1) Each operator of any geothermal well or the designated agent of the operator shall  
 40 file with the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries a copy of the log, history and core  
 41 record, or any portion thereof, promptly upon completion, or upon the written request of the de-  
 42 partment at any time after the commencement of the work of drilling any geothermal well, and upon  
 43 [*the abandonment*] **plugging and decommissioning** or upon suspension of operations for a period  
 44 of at least six months.

45 (2) For a period of four years after the receipt of any log, history, core record, or any portion

1 thereof, such record shall be exempt from disclosure as a trade secret pursuant to ORS 192.501 un-  
 2 less the operator gives approval to release the data.

3 **SECTION 23.** ORS 522.915 is amended to read:

4 522.915. No person shall:

5 (1) Make or cause to be made any false entry or statement in a report, record, log, account or  
 6 other writing required by this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant thereto;

7 (2) Omit or cause to be omitted from any such report, record, log, account or writing, full, true  
 8 and correct entries as required by this chapter or any rule or order adopted pursuant thereto;

9 (3) Destroy, mutilate, alter or falsify any such report, record, log, account or writing; or

10 (4) Remove from this state the original copy of any such report, record, log, account or writing  
 11 before *[an abandonment]* **the plugging and decommissioning of a geothermal well** has been ap-  
 12 proved pursuant to ORS 522.245 (2).

13  
 14 **RULES**

15  
 16 **SECTION 24.** ORS 522.305 is amended to read:

17 522.305. *[In accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the governing board of the*  
 18 *State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries may make reasonable rules necessary for the ad-*  
 19 *ministration of this chapter.]*

20 (1) **In accordance with the applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the governing board**  
 21 **of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries may adopt rules necessary to**  
 22 **implement the provisions of this chapter. This authority includes, but is not limited to, rules**  
 23 **relating to:**

24 (a) **Establishing procedures for the issuance, modification, transfer, denial, suspension**  
 25 **and revocation of permits;**

26 (b) **Establishing procedures for enforcing permit conditions, for enforcing the require-**  
 27 **ments of this chapter and for enforcing rules adopted to implement the provisions of this**  
 28 **chapter; and**

29 (c) **Establishing civil penalties for violations of this chapter, for violations of rules**  
 30 **adopted to implement the provisions of this chapter and for violations of permits and orders**  
 31 **issued pursuant to this chapter.**

32 (2) **Any final determination made by the State Department of Geology and Mineral In-**  
 33 **dustries in carrying out the provisions of this chapter or in rules adopted thereunder may**  
 34 **be reviewed in the manner provided by the applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183.**

35  
 36 **MISCELLANEOUS**

37  
 38 **SECTION 25.** **The unit captions used in this 2009 Act are provided only for the conven-**  
 39 **ience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any**  
 40 **legislative intent in the enactment of this 2009 Act.**

41 **SECTION 26.** ORS 522.235 is repealed.

42 **SECTION 27.** Section 7 of this 2009 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 522.

43 **SECTION 28.** Except as provided in section 29 of this 2009 Act, the repeal of ORS 522.235  
 44 by section 26 of this 2009 Act, section 7 of this 2009 Act and the amendments to ORS 522.015,  
 45 522.019, 522.025, 522.045, 522.055, 522.065, 522.075, 522.085, 522.115, 522.125, 522.135, 522.145,

1 522.155, 522.165, 522.175, 522.205, 522.215, 522.225, 522.245, 522.305, 522.355, 522.365 and 522.915  
2 by sections 1 to 6 and 8 to 24 of this 2009 Act become operative July 1, 2009.

3 **SECTION 29.** The governing board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral In-  
4 dustries may adopt rules before the operative date specified in section 28 of this 2009 Act or  
5 take any action before that date that is necessary to carry out the repeal of ORS 522.235 by  
6 section 26 of this 2009 Act, section 7 of this 2009 Act and the amendments to ORS 522.015,  
7 522.019, 522.025, 522.045, 522.055, 522.065, 522.075, 522.085, 522.115, 522.125, 522.135, 522.145,  
8 522.155, 522.165, 522.175, 522.205, 522.215, 522.225, 522.245, 522.305, 522.355, 522.365 and 522.915  
9 by sections 1 to 6 and 8 to 24 of this 2009 Act.

10 **SECTION 30.** The repeal of ORS 522.235 by section 26 of this 2009 Act, section 7 of this  
11 2009 Act and the amendments to ORS 522.015, 522.019, 522.025, 522.045, 522.055, 522.065,  
12 522.075, 522.085, 522.115, 522.125, 522.135, 522.145, 522.155, 522.165, 522.175, 522.205, 522.215,  
13 522.225, 522.245, 522.305, 522.355, 522.365 and 522.915 by sections 1 to 6 and 8 to 24 of this 2009  
14 Act apply to all prospect wells and geothermal wells for which a permit has been issued be-  
15 fore, on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act.

16 **SECTION 31.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
17 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect  
18 on its passage.

19 \_\_\_\_\_