

INDIAN LANDS
[30 U.S.C. 1300]

SEC. 710. (a) The Secretary is directed to study the question of the regulation of surface mining on Indian lands which will achieve the purpose of this Act and recognize the special jurisdictional status of these lands. In carrying out this study the Secretary shall consult with Indian tribes. The study report shall include proposed legislation designed to allow Indian tribes to elect to assume full regulatory authority over the administration and enforcement of regulation of surface mining of coal on Indian lands.

(b) The study report required by subsection (a) together with drafts of proposed legislation and the view of each Indian tribe which would be affected shall be submitted to the Congress as soon as possible but not later than January 1, 1978.

(c) On and after one hundred and thirty-five days from the enactment of this Act, all surface coal mining operations on Indian lands shall comply with requirements at least as stringent as those imposed by subsections 515(b)(2), 515(b)(3), 515(b)(5), 515(b)(10), 515(b)(13), 515(b)(19), and 515(d) of this Act and the Secretary shall incorporate the requirements of such provisions in all existing and new leases issued for coal on Indian lands.

(d) On and after thirty months from the enactment of this Act, all surface coal mining operations on Indian lands shall comply with requirements at least as stringent as those imposed by sections 507, 508, 509, 510, 515, 516, 517, and 519 of this Act and the Secretary shall incorporate the requirements of such provisions in all existing and new leases issued for coal on Indian lands.

(e) With respect to leases issued after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall include and enforce terms and conditions in addition to those required by subsections (c) and (d) as may be requested by the Indian tribe in such leases.

(f) Any change required by subsection (c) or (d) of this section in the terms and conditions of any coal lease on Indian lands existing on the date of enactment of this Act, shall require the approval of the Secretary.

(g) The Secretary shall provide for adequate participation by the various Indian tribes affected in the study authorized in this section and not more than \$700,000 of the funds authorized in section 712(a) shall be reserved for this purpose.

(h) The Secretary shall analyze and make recommendations regarding the jurisdictional status of Indian Lands outside the exterior boundaries of Indian reservations: Provided, That nothing in this Act shall change the existing jurisdictional status of Indian Lands.

(i) The Secretary shall make grants to the Navajo, Hopi, Northern Cheyenne, and Crow tribes to assist such tribes in developing regulations and programs for regulating surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands, except that nothing in this subsection may be construed as providing such tribes with the authorities set forth under section 503. Grants made under this subsection shall be used to establish an office of surface mining regulation for each such tribe. Each such office shall --

- (1) develop tribal regulations and program policies with respect to surface mining;
- (2) assist the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement established by section 201 in the inspection and enforcement of surface mining activities on Indian lands, including, but not limited to, permitting, mine plan review, and bond release; and
- (3) sponsor employment training and education in the area of mining and mineral resources.

Note: Subsection 710(i) added October 24, 1992.
