

S 796

Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Apr 2, 2009

Current Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-116.

Latest Action: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-116. (Jul 14, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/796>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM] | D · NM | | May 20, 2009 |
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] | D · OR | | Jul 22, 2009 |
| Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Jul 27, 2009 |
| Sen. Udall, Mark [D-CO] | D · CO | | Nov 3, 2009 |
| Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO] | D · CO | | Dec 9, 2009 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Feb 22, 2010 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Energy and Natural Resources Committee | Senate | Hearings By (full committee) | Jul 14, 2009 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009 - Prohibits the issuance of a federal patent for any mining claim, millsite, or tunnel site (claim or site) unless the Secretary of the Interior determines that: (1) a patent application was filed by September 30, 1994; and (2) all application requirements were fully complied with by such date.

Prescribes a mandatory claim maintenance fee and location fee for each claim or site.

States that failure to perform assessment work, pay a mandatory maintenance or location fee, or file timely notice of location shall: (1) conclusively constitute forfeiture; and (2) make the claim or site null and void.

Subjects production of locatable minerals from any mining claim to a royalty of between 2 % and 5% of the value of the production, not including reasonable transportation, beneficiation, and processing costs.

Authorizes the Secretary to grant royalty relief.

Directs the Secretary to establish a comprehensive inspection, collection, fiscal, and production accounting and auditing system to: (1) determine accurately any royalties, interest, fines, penalties, fees, deposits, and other payments owed; and (2) collect and account for such payments in a timely manner.

Requires a permit to engage in the following activities on federal land: (1) mineral activities that would disturb surface resources, including land, air, water, and fish and wildlife; and (2) exploration and mineral activities that involve more than casual use of the land.

Prescribes requirements for mining permits.

Requires an operator to give the Secretary specified financial assurances before beginning any mineral activities requiring an exploration or mining permit in order to ensure reclamation and restoration of any land or water adversely affected by the activities.

Establishes the Hardrock Minerals Reclamation Fund for the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by past hardrock minerals and mining and related activities in abandoned hardrock mine states, and on Indian land located within the exterior boundaries of abandoned hardrock mine states.

Subjects each operator of a hardrock minerals mining operation to an abandoned mine land reclamation fee.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 14, 2009:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-116.
- **Apr 2, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 2, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S4331-4333)
- **Apr 2, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.