

19. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE
LABRADOR OF IDAHO OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10
MINUTES

Paul R. Sabey

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**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 7
OFFERED BY MR. LABRADOR OF IDAHO**

At the end of title XVII add the following:

**1 Subtitle D—Promotion of Timely
2 Exploration for Geothermal Re-
3 sources**

4 SEC. 17801. SHORT TITLE.

5 This subtitle may be cited as the “Exploring for Geo-
6 thermal Energy on Federal Lands Act”.

**7 SEC. 17802. GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION NOTICE AND EX-
8 CLUSION.**

9 (a) DEFINITION OF GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION
10 TEST PROJECT.—In this section the term “geothermal ex-
11 ploration test project” means the drilling of a well to test
12 or explore for geothermal resources on lands leased by the
13 Department of the Interior for the development and pro-
14 duction of geothermal resources, that—

15 (1) is carried out by the holder of the lease;

16 (2) causes—

17 (A) less than 5 acres of soil or vegetation
18 disruption at the location of each geothermal
19 exploration well; and

1 (B) not more than an additional 5 acres of
2 soil or vegetation disruption during access or
3 egress to the test site;

4 (3) is developed—

5 (A) no deeper than 2,500 feet;

6 (B) less than 8 inches in diameter;

7 (C) in a manner that does not require off-
8 road motorized access other than to and from
9 the well site along an identified off-road route
10 for which notice is provided to the Secretary of
11 the Interior under subsection (c);

12 (D) without construction of new roads
13 other than upgrading of existing drainage cross-
14 ings for safety purposes; and

15 (E) with the use of rubber-tired digging or
16 drilling equipment vehicles;

17 (4) is completed in less than 45 days, including
18 the removal of any surface infrastructure from the
19 site; and

20 (5) requires the restoration of the project site
21 within 3 years to approximately the condition that
22 existed at the time the project began, unless the site
23 is subsequently used as part of energy development
24 on the lease.

1 (b) NEPA EXCLUSION.—Section 102(2)(C) of the
2 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
3 4332(2)(C)) shall not apply with respect to a project that
4 the Secretary of the Interior determines under subsection
5 (c) is a geothermal exploration test project.

6 (c) NOTICE OF INTENT; REVIEW AND DETERMINA-
7 TION.—

8 (1) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NOTICE.—A
9 leaseholder intending to carry out a geothermal ex-
10 ploration test project shall provide notice to the Sec-
11 retary of the Interior not later than 30 days prior
12 to the start of drilling under the project.

13 (2) REVIEW OF PROJECT.—The Secretary shall
14 by not later than 10 days after receipt of a notice
15 of intent under paragraph (1) from a leaseholder—

16 (A) review the project described in the no-
17 tice and determine whether it is a geothermal
18 exploration test project under subsection (a);
19 and

20 (B) notify the leaseholder—

21 (i) that under subsection (b) of this
22 section, section 102(2)(C) of the National
23 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
24 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) does not apply to the
25 project; or

1 (ii) that section 102(2)(C) of the Na-
2 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969
3 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) applies to the
4 project, including clear and detailed find-
5 ings on any deficiencies in the project that
6 preclude the application of subsection (b)
7 of this section to the project.

8 (3) OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY.—If the Sec-
9 retary provides notice under paragraph (2)(B)(ii)
10 that section 102(2)(C) of the National Environ-
11 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C))
12 applies to the project, the Secretary shall provide the
13 leaseholder an opportunity to remedy the deficiencies
14 described in the notice prior to the date the lease-
15 holder intended to start of drilling under the project.

