

§ 398. Leases of unallotted lands for oil and gas mining purposes

Unallotted land on Indian reservations other than lands of the Five Civilized Tribes and the Osage Reservation subject to lease for mining purposes for a period of ten years under section 397 of this title may be leased at public auction by the Secretary of the Interior, with the consent of the council speaking for such Indians, for oil and gas mining purposes for a period of not to exceed ten years, and as much longer as oil or gas shall be found in paying quantities, and the terms of any existing oil and gas mining lease may in like manner be amended by extending the term thereof for as long as oil or gas shall be found in paying quantities: *Provided*, That the production of oil and gas and other minerals on such lands may be taxed by the State in which said lands are located in all respects the same as production on unrestricted lands, and the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to cause to be paid the tax so assessed against the royalty interests on said lands: *Provided, however*, That such tax shall not become a lien or charge of any kind or character against the land or the property of the Indian owner.

(May 29, 1924, ch. 210, 43 Stat. 244.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 398a of this title.

§ 398a. Leases of unallotted lands for oil and gas mining purposes within Executive order Indian reservations

Unallotted lands within the limits of any reservation or withdrawal created by Executive order for Indian purposes or for the use or occupancy of any Indians or tribe may be leased for oil and gas mining purposes in accordance with the provisions contained in section 398 of this title.

(Mar. 3, 1927, ch. 299, § 1, 44 Stat. 1347.)

§ 398b. Proceeds from rentals, royalties, and bonuses; disposition

The proceeds from rentals, royalties, or bonuses of oil and gas leases upon lands within Executive order Indian reservations or withdrawals shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the tribe of Indians for whose benefit the reservation or withdrawal was created or who are using and occupying the land, and shall draw interest at the rate of 4 per centum per annum and be available for appropriation by Congress for expenses in connection with the supervision of the development and operation of the oil and gas industry and for the use and benefit of such Indians: *Provided*, That said Indians, or their tribal council, shall be consulted in regard to the expenditure of such money, but no per capita payment shall be made except by Act of Congress.

(Mar. 3, 1927, ch. 299, § 2, 44 Stat. 1347.)

§ 398c. Taxes

Taxes may be levied and collected by the State or local authority upon improvements, output of mines or oil and gas wells, or other

rights, property, or assets of any lessee upon lands within Executive order Indian reservations in the same manner as such taxes are otherwise levied and collected, and such taxes may be levied against the share obtained for the Indians as bonuses, rentals, and royalties, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to cause such taxes to be paid out of the tribal funds in the Treasury: *Provided*, That such taxes shall not become a lien or charge of any kind against the land or other property of such Indians.

(Mar. 3, 1927, ch. 299, § 3, 44 Stat. 1347.)

§ 398d. Changes in boundaries of Executive order reservations

Changes in the boundaries of reservations created by Executive order, proclamation, or otherwise for the use and occupation of Indians shall not be made except by Act of Congress.

(Mar. 3, 1927, ch. 299, § 4, 44 Stat. 1347; Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2792.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-579 struck out proviso relating to nonapplicability of provisions to temporary withdrawals by Secretary of the Interior.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Section 704(a) of Pub. L. 94-579 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-579 not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see Savings Provision note set out under section 1701 of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 398e. Applications for permits to prospect for oil and gas filed under other statutes; disposition

The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to allow any person who prior to May 27, 1924, filed an application for a permit in accordance with the provisions of the Act of February 25, 1920, to prospect for oil and gas upon lands within an Indian reservation or withdrawal created by Executive order who shall show to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Interior that he, or the party with whom he has contracted, has done prior to January 1, 1926, any or all of the following things, to wit, expended money or labor in geologically surveying the lands covered by such application, has built a road for the benefit of such lands, or has drilled or contributed toward the drilling of the geologic structure upon which such lands are located, or who in good faith has either filed a motion for reinstatement or rehearing; or performed any other act which in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior entitles him to equitable relief, to prospect for a period of two years from March 3, 1927, or for such further time as the Secretary of the Interior may deem reasonable or necessary for the full exploration of the land described in his application under the terms and conditions therein set out, and a substantial contribution toward the drilling of