

CHAPTER 93

MINERAL LANDS

93.002	Repealed.	93.223	Mineral lease suspense accounts.
93.003	Iron mining; conditions.	93.2235	Taconite mining grants; appropriations.
93.22	Disposition of payments.		

93.002 [Repealed, 2001 c 161 s 58]

Subdivision 1 was also amended by Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 2, section 103, to read as follows:

"Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The mineral coordinating committee is established to plan for diversified mineral development. The mineral coordinating committee consists of the director of the minerals division of the department of natural resources, the deputy commissioner of the Minnesota pollution control agency, the director of United Steelworkers of America, district 11, or the director's designee, the commissioner of the iron range resources and rehabilitation board, the director of the Minnesota geological survey, the dean of the University of Minnesota institute of technology, the director of the natural resources research institute, and three individuals appointed by the governor for a four-year term, one each representing the iron ore and taconite, the nonferrous metallic minerals, and the industrial minerals industries within the state. The director of the minerals division of the department of natural resources shall serve as chair. A member of the committee may designate another person of the member's organization to act in the member's place. The commissioner of natural resources shall provide staff and administrative services necessary for the committee's activities. Notwithstanding section 15.059, subdivision 5, or other law to the contrary, the committee expires June 30, 2003.

The mineral coordinating committee is encouraged to solicit and receive advice from representatives of the United States Geological Survey and the United States Environmental Protection Agency."

93.003 IRON MINING; CONDITIONS.

Legal authority to mine and process iron ore, a basic irreplaceable natural resource of the people of the state of Minnesota, is subject to the conditions of this section. When the owner or operator of an iron mine or related production or beneficiation facilities determines to discontinue the operation of the mine or facilities for any reason it shall maintain the mine or facilities in salable operating condition for at least two years after it discontinues operation in order to allow the state of Minnesota and other interested public and private bodies to seek a new owner and operator. The requirement imposed by this section is a preliminary and permanent requirement on the right of an owner to commence or continue the operation of an iron mine or related facilities. This requirement is enforceable on all owners and operators and successors of owners and operators and shall be enforced by the state in any action in bankruptcy or other litigation that may affect it.

History: 2001 c 30 s 1

93.22 DISPOSITION OF PAYMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** All payments under sections 93.14 to 93.285 shall be made to the department of natural resources and shall be credited according to this section.

(a) If the lands or minerals and mineral rights covered by a lease are held by the state by virtue of an act of Congress, payments made under the lease shall be credited to the permanent fund of the class of land to which the leased premises belong.

(b) If a lease covers the bed of navigable waters, payments made under the lease shall be credited to the permanent school fund of the state.

(c) If the lands or minerals and mineral rights covered by a lease are held by the state in trust for the taxing districts, payments made under the lease shall be distributed annually on the first day of September as follows:

(1) 20 percent to the general fund; and

(2) 80 percent to the respective counties in which the lands lie, to be apportioned among the taxing districts interested therein as follows: county, three-ninths; town or city, two-ninths; and school district, four-ninths.

(d) Except as provided under this section and except where the disposition of payments may be otherwise directed by law, all payments shall be paid into the general fund of the state.

Subd. 2. **Taconite lease revenue.** Notwithstanding subdivision 1, from July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2006, payments made under state taconite leases shall be distributed as follows:

(1) if the lands or minerals and mineral rights covered by a lease are held by the state by virtue of a school, swamp, or internal improvement land grant of Congress, payments made under the lease shall be distributed annually on September 1 to the school fund mineral lease suspense account created under section 93.223, subdivision 1; and

(2) if the lands or minerals and mineral rights covered by a lease are held by the state by virtue of a university land grant of Congress, payments made under the lease shall be distributed annually on September 1 to the university mineral lease suspense account created under section 93.223, subdivision 2.

History: *1Sp2001 c 6 art 1 s 1*

93.223 MINERAL LEASE SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS.

Subdivision 1. **School fund mineral lease suspense account.** The school fund mineral lease suspense account is created as an account in the state treasury for mineral lease money deposited according to section 93.22, subdivision 2, clause (1). Interest earned on money in the account accrues to the account. After money is annually deposited in the account under section 93.22, subdivision 2, clause (1), the commissioner of finance shall certify 20 percent of the payments made during the preceding fiscal year as costs for the administration and management of mineral leases on permanent school fund lands. The commissioner of finance shall transfer the certified amount from the school fund mineral lease suspense account to the general fund. The balance remaining in the account after the certification is annually transferred to the permanent school fund.

Subd. 2. **University fund mineral lease suspense account.** The university fund mineral lease suspense account is created as an account in the state treasury for mineral lease money deposited according to section 93.22, subdivision 2, clause (2). Interest earned on money in the account accrues to the account. After money is annually deposited in the account under section 93.22, subdivision 2, clause (2), the commissioner of finance shall certify 20 percent of the payments made during the preceding fiscal year as costs for the administration and management of mineral leases on permanent university fund lands. The commissioner of finance shall transfer the certified amount from the university fund mineral lease account to the general fund. The balance remaining in the account is annually transferred to the permanent university fund.

History: *1Sp2001 c 6 art 1 s 2*

93.2235 TACONITE MINING GRANTS; APPROPRIATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Commissioner.** The commissioner shall establish a program to award grants to taconite mining companies for:

- (1) taconite pellet product improvements;
- (2) value-added production of taconite iron ore; or
- (3) cost-savings production improvements at Minnesota taconite plants.

An amount equal to the sum of money transferred to the general fund under section 93.223, subdivision 1, is annually appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner for the purposes of this section.

Subd. 2. **Coleraine laboratory.** The director of the Coleraine laboratory shall establish a program to award grants for the purpose of transferring technology from the Coleraine laboratory to taconite mining companies for:

- (1) taconite pellet product improvements;

- (2) value-added production of taconite iron ore; or
- (3) cost-savings production improvements at Minnesota taconite plants.

An amount equal to the sum of money transferred to the general fund under section 92.223, subdivision 2, is annually appropriated from the general fund to the board of regents of the University of Minnesota for the purposes of this section.

History: *1Sp2001 c 6 art 1 s 3*