

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-17

**CONTINUING THE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

WHEREAS, energy production, generation, transmission, and conservation are vital to Idaho; and

WHEREAS, mineral acquisition, production and exploration are key contributors to Idaho 's economy; and

WHEREAS, stable, reliable and cost-competitive long-term energy supplies are critical to the wellbeing and future of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of state government to coordinate energy and mineral planning and policy development for Idaho.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state do hereby order:

1. The continuation of the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources within the Executive Office of the Governor; and

2. The term "energy" as used in this Executive Order shall include, but is not limited to, electricity, oil, natural gas, bioenergy, nuclear energy, renewable energy, and transportation fuels.

3. The term "mineral" as used in this Executive Order shall include, but is not limited to, naturally occurring, inorganic, metallic, non-metal or solid energy substances that are leasable, salable or locatable.

4. The Governor shall appoint an administrator ("Administrator") to lead the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources ("Office"). The Administrator shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall be subject to confirmation by the Idaho Senate. The Administrator shall be the official in Idaho designated to oversee energy and mineral coordination, planning, and policy, and to fulfill the duties provided in this Executive Order.

5. Employees of the Office shall be non-classified for the purpose of Chapter 53, Title 67 of the Idaho Code.

6. The duties, powers and authorities of the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources shall include:

a. Serve as Idaho 's clearinghouse and first point of contact for energy and mineral information, including addressing policy inquires and providing information regarding issues;

b. Coordinating the state 's energy and mineral planning efforts;

c. Advising the Governor, the Legislature, and other public officials of the state's energy requirements, supply, transmission, management, conservation, and efficiency efforts;

d. Coordinating and cooperating with federal agencies, state agencies, and local governments on issues concerning the state 's energy requirements, supply, transmission, management, conservation, and efficiency efforts;

e. Advising the Governor, the Legislature, and other public officials on mineral exploration, production, planning, and policy development;

- f. *Coordinating and cooperating with federal agencies, state agencies, and local governments on issues concerning the state's mineral supply and management;*
- g. *Serving as the state cooperating agency for energy and mineral projects subject to the National Environmental Policy Act;*
- h. *Coordinating state comments on all documents and processes involving energy and mineral projects;*
- i. *Coordinating, supporting, and overseeing the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance;*
- j. *Assisting state agencies, local governments, and stakeholders to secure funding where available for energy conservation projects and renewable energy resource opportunities;*
- k. *Administering energy loan programs and other forms of financial assistance for eligible projects;*
- l. *Entering into other agreements or contracts which are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Executive Order and other duties as may be directed by the Governor.*
7. *The Office may accept private contributions, state or federal funds, funds from other public agencies or any other sources. The money shall be expended solely for the purposes provided in the Executive Order and accounted for as provided by law.*
8. *All orders, regulations, contracts, and licenses which are in effect at the time of this Executive Order is signed shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified or terminated.*
9. *The duties, responsibilities and authority of this Executive Order shall not alter any existing responsibilities, jurisdiction or planning functions of State agencies established by State law. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to provide or imply any regulatory authority by the office over activities that are subject to the jurisdiction of another State agency including the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, the Idaho Division of Building Safety, the Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.*



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho in Boise on this 19th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE