

## IDAPA 20 – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

### Real Estate Services Bureau

#### 20.03.16 – Rules Governing Oil and Gas Leasing on Idaho State Lands

##### **Who does this rule apply to?**

- Applicants for oil and gas leases on state-owned lands
- Lessees and operators of oil and gas leases on state-owned lands

##### **What is the purpose of this rule?**

*This rule sets procedures for leasing state-owned lands for the exploration and extraction of oil and gas resources.*

##### **What is the legal authority for the agency to promulgate this rule?**

*This rule implements the following statutes passed by the Idaho Legislature:*

Public Lands -

Department of Lands:

- [Section 58-104\(1\)\(6\) and 58-104\(9\), Idaho Code](#) – State Land Board — Powers and Duties
- [Section 58-105, Idaho Code](#) – Director
- [Section 58-127, Idaho Code](#) – Fees

Appraisal, Lease, and Sale of Lands:

- [Section 58-307, Idaho Code](#) – Term of Lease – Application for Renewal – Allowance for Improvements

Mines and Mining -

Mineral Rights in State Lands:

- [Title 47, Chapter 7, et seq., Idaho Code](#) – Mineral Rights in State Lands
- [Title 47, Chapter 8, et seq., Idaho Code](#) – Oil and Gas Leases on State and School Lands

Idaho Administrative Procedure Act:

- [Title 67, Chapter 52, et seq., Idaho Code](#) – Idaho Administrative Procedure Act

##### **Who do I contact for more information on this rule?**

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## 20.03.16 – RULES GOVERNING OIL AND GAS LEASING ON IDAHO STATE LANDS

### 000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.

This Chapter is adopted under the legal authorities of Sections 58-104(1), 58-104(6), 58-104(9), 58-105, and 58-127, Idaho Code; Section 58-307, Idaho Code; Title 47, Chapter 7, Idaho Code; Title 47, Chapter 8, Idaho Code; and Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code. (3-18-22)

### 001. TITLE AND SCOPE.

**01. Title.** These rules are titled IDAPA 20.03.16, “Rules Governing Oil and Gas Leasing on Idaho State Lands.” (3-18-22)

**02. Scope.** These rules apply to the exploration and extraction of oil and gas resources situated in state-owned mineral lands. (3-18-22)

**03. Other Laws.** In addition to these rules, the lessee must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations. The violation of any applicable law, rule or regulation constitutes a breach of any lease issued in accordance with these rules. (3-18-22)

### 002. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.

**01. Appeal to Board.** All decisions of the Director are appealable to the Board. An aggrieved party desiring to take such an appeal must, within thirty (30) days after notice of the Director’s decision, file with the Director a written notice of appeal setting forth the basis for the appeal. (3-18-22)

**02. Hearing.** The Board will hear the appeal at the earliest practical time or in its discretion appoint a hearing officer to hear the appeal, within sixty (60) days after filing of the notice of appeal. The hearing officer will make findings and conclusions that the Board may accept, reject or modify. The decision of the Board after hearing or upon a ruling concerning the hearing officer’s findings and conclusions is final. (3-18-22)

**03. Judicial Review.** Judicial review of the final decision of the Board will be in accord with the Administrative Procedure Act, Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code, by filing a petition in the district court in Ada County, or the county where the Board heard the appeal and made its final decision, within thirty (30) days after notice of the Board’s decision. Service of the Board’s decision may be by personal service or by certified mail to the lessee. (3-18-22)

### 003. -- 009. (RESERVED)

### 010. DEFINITIONS.

**01. Board.** The Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners or its authorized representative, or where appropriate, the state of Idaho. (3-18-22)

**02. Commission.** The Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. (3-18-22)

**03. Collateral Surety Bond and Corporate Surety Bond.** See Subsections 080.04.a. and 080.04.b. (3-18-22)

**04. Department.** The Idaho Department of Lands. (3-18-22)

**05. Director.** The Director of the Idaho Department of Lands or his authorized representative. (3-18-22)

**06. Discretion.** Exercising authority to make a decision, choice or judgment without being arbitrary, capricious or illegal. (3-18-22)

**07. Exploration.** Activities related to the various geological and geophysical methods used to detect and determine the existence and extent of hydrocarbon deposits. (3-18-22)

**08. Final Board Approval.** Approval of a lease occurs after the lease is signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Director on behalf of the Board after approval of the lease by a majority of the Board. All approved leases must first be signed by the Lessee and then by the above-entitled state officials. (3-18-22)

- 09. Lease.** A written agreement between the Department and a person containing the terms and conditions upon which the Person will be authorized to use state lands. (3-18-22)
- 10. Legal Subdivision.** See Subsection 071.04. (3-18-22)
- 11. Lessee.** The person to whom a lease has been issued and his successor in interest or assignee(s). More than one (1) person may be entered as an applicant on the application form but only one (1) person shall be designated in the application for lease or assignment as the lessee of record with sole responsibility for the lease under these rules. (3-18-22)
- 12. Lessor.** The Board on behalf of the state of Idaho. (3-18-22)
- 13. Motorized Exploration Equipment.** The equipment used in exploration that may appreciably disturb or damage the land or resources thereon as defined in Section 47-703(a), Idaho Code. (3-18-22)
- 14. Natural Gas Plant Liquids.** Hydrocarbon compounds in raw gas that are separated as liquids at gas processing plants, fractionating plants, and cycling plants. Includes ethane, liquefied petroleum gases (propane and the butanes), and pentanes plus any heavier hydrocarbon compounds. Component products may be fractionated or mixed. (3-18-22)
- 15. Oil and Gas.** Oil and gas means oil or gas, or both. (3-18-22)
- 16. Person.** (3-18-22)
- a.** An individual of legal age; (3-18-22)
- b.** Any firm, association or corporation that is qualified to do business in the state of Idaho; (3-18-22)
- c.** Or any public agency or governmental unit, including without limitation, municipalities. (3-18-22)
- 17. Production in Paying Quantities.** That gross income from oil and/or gas produced and saved (after deduction of taxes and royalty) that exceeds the cost of operation. (3-18-22)
- 18. State Lands.** Lands, including the beds of navigable waters within Idaho in which the title to mineral rights is owned by the state of Idaho, that are under the jurisdiction and control of the Board or any other state agency. (3-18-22)
- 19. Tract.** An expanse of land representing the surface expression of the underlying mineral estate, which includes oil and gas rights owned by the State, that: (3-18-22)
- a.** May be identified by its public land survey system of rectangular surveys that subdivides and describes land in the United States in the public domain and is regulated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management; (3-18-22)
- b.** Is of no particular size; (3-18-22)
- c.** Is a maximum size of six hundred forty (640) acres or one section, unless otherwise determined by the Director; (3-18-22)
- d.** May be irregular in form; (3-18-22)
- e.** Is contiguous; (3-18-22)
- f.** May lie in more than one township or one section; (3-18-22)
- g.** May have a boundary defined entirely or in part by natural monuments such as streams, divides, or straight lines connecting prominent features of topography; (3-18-22)

- h.** May include the mineral estate beneath navigable waters of the State; and (3-18-22)
- i.** May be combined with other tracts to form a lease. (3-18-22)

**011. -- 014. (RESERVED)**

**015. CONTROL OF STATE LANDS.**

The Director will regulate and supervise pursuant to law and these rules all state lands within the custody and control of the Board. State lands subject to the custody and control of other state agencies will be regulated and supervised by the respective agency in accord with state laws and rules; provided that any lease for oil and gas thereon complies with these rules. (3-18-22)

**016. WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS.**

At any time prior to final Board approval of a lease, the Board reserves the right to withdraw state lands entirely from oil and gas leasing if consistent with its constitutional and statutory duties and in the state's best interests. (3-18-22)

**017. -- 019. (RESERVED)**

**020. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AND LESSEES.**

Any person who is not then in default of any contract with the state of Idaho or any department or agency thereof is a qualified applicant and lessee. No member of the Board or employee of the Department may take or hold such lease. (3-18-22)

**021. EXPLORATION.**

**01. Written Permit Required.** Any appreciable surface disturbing activity, including, but not limited to, motorized exploration on state lands is prohibited except by written permit for exploration for a period of time as determined by the Director. This permit is in addition to any permit required by the Commission. (3-18-22)

**02. Permit Conditions.** The permit will contain such conditions as the Director determines will protect the existing surface uses and resources of the state. The permit applicant must pay in advance the fee required by Section 120. (3-18-22)

**022. LEASE ACQUISITION PROCESS.**

**01. Acquiring a Lease.** A lease may be acquired for the exclusive right and privilege to explore for and produce oil and gas by oral auction, online auction, or such other method of competitive bidding authorized by the Board, in its discretion, determined to be in the best interest of the state, and will be awarded to the winning bidder at close of auction. The winning bidder at auction will be issued the lease by the Department on the first day of the month following Final Board Approval. The Board and Department reserve the right to reject any or all nominations or bids, and expressly disclaim any liability for inconvenience or loss caused by errors that may occur concerning lease offerings. (3-18-22)

**02. Lease Provisions. (3-18-22)**

**a. Advance Annual Rental.** The Lessee must pay to the state of Idaho an advance annual rental for each lease of three dollars (\$3) per acre with a minimum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per lease. (3-18-22)

**b. Diligent Drilling.** Diligent and continuous drilling operations means no delay or cessation of drilling for a period greater than one hundred twenty (120) days, unless extended in writing by the Director. The Director must receive a written request for an extension at least ten (10) days prior to the expiration of the one hundred twenty (120) day period. (3-18-22)

**c. Notification at End of Lease Period.** The Lessee must notify the Director in writing prior to the expiration of the final year of his lease that drilling or reworking operations has commenced and will extend beyond the expiration date of the lease. Advance Annual Rental, in the amount required by Section 022 for any additional and

each succeeding year, must be received by the Department prior to the expiration date and entitles the Lessee to hold the lease only as long as drilling or rework operations are pursued in accord with these rules. There will be no refund of unused rental. (3-18-22)

**d.** Abandonment. During any additional or succeeding year of any lease, cessation of production for a period of six (6) months is considered as abandonment. The lease will then automatically terminate at its next anniversary date unless the Director determines that such cessation of production is justified or the well meets the requirements of a shut in well under Subsection 022.02.e. (3-18-22)

**e.** Suspension of Production. The Director may grant a suspension of production not to exceed one (1) year upon a written application showing that the lessee is unable to market oil or gas from a well located on the leased premises capable of oil and gas production in paying quantities due to a lack of suitable production facilities or a suitable market for the oil or gas and such conditions are outside the reasonable control of lessee and the lease is not being otherwise maintained in force and effect. If such well is shut in and the Director approves the application for suspension of production requirements prior to the expiration or termination of the lease, then the lease will be extended in accordance with the terms of Section 47-801, Idaho Code, for a period of one (1) year if the lessee timely submits an application in a form approved by the Director and, upon approval of said application, pays a shut-in royalty in the amount equal to double the annual rental provided for by these rules for each well capable of producing oil or gas in paying quantities. The lessee must remit the shut-in royalty payment while the lease is otherwise maintained in force and effect. Payment of shut-in royalty after the expiration or other termination of the lease will not revive or extend the lease. The Lessee may request continuation of this suspension of production, provided such request is received in writing by the Director at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the period of suspension. (3-18-22)

**03. Nominating a Tract for Auction.** A tract may be nominated for auction either by application to the Department at least ninety (90) days prior to a Department-defined close of auction date, or by Department nomination at least ninety (90) days prior to a Department- defined close of auction date. Any qualified person may nominate a tract for lease auction by submitting a nomination to the Department, and paying the nomination fee in an amount determined by the Board, during regular business hours on the Department nomination form. Each nominated tract must be a maximum size of six hundred forty (640) acres or one section. The nominating person may propose that multiple tracts be included in a single lease. Each nomination for a tract for auction is deemed an offer by the nominating person to lease the tract for the advance annual rental amount as defined in Subsection 022.02 above. (3-18-22)

**04. Withdrawing a Tract for Auction.** Any person nominating a tract for auction may withdraw their nomination if a request for such withdrawal is received by the Department at least ten (10) business days prior to the opening date of auction. The nomination fee will not be refunded. (3-18-22)

**05. Auction Conditions.** The Department will determine the conditions associated with the auction including, but not limited to, the following: when or if a tract will be offered for auction; whether the tract is to be removed from the auction; whether multiple tracts will be combined in a single lease at the discretion of the Department; and any disclaimers, additional information, and any other such terms and conditions associated with the auction of the tracts. Any such terms and conditions, disclaimers, and additional information will be posted on the Department's website. (3-18-22)

**06. Lease Information for Auction.** For each lease to be auctioned, the Department will provide on the website the following: a lease number designated by the Department; the legal description; the lease length; the number of acres; a minimum bid per acre; a lease template; any lease stipulations; any other lease information; a specific date designated for the beginning and ending dates that a bidder may conduct due diligence; a specific date designated for the opening of auction; and a close of auction date. A notice of lease auction will be published at least once per week for the four (4) consecutive weeks prior to the date of auction in a newspaper in general circulation in the county in which the nominated lease is located and in a newspaper in general circulation in Ada County. (3-18-22)

**07. Auction Procedure.** The Department will determine the procedures associated with the auction, including, but not limited to place of auction, time of auction, and bidder registration procedure. Additional auction procedures are as follows. (3-18-22)

- a.** Bid Increments. The minimum bid increment is one dollar (\$1). (3-18-22)
- b.** Winning Bid. At close of auction, the winning bid for a Lessee is the number of dollars bid multiplied by the number of acres in the lease, with fractions of an acre rounded up to the next whole acre. If, at close of auction, a bid for a lease has not been submitted by a bidder, then the lease will be awarded to the nominating applicant. The entry of a bid constitutes an enforceable contractual obligation. (3-18-22)
- c.** Amount Due. The amount due for a lease is the winning bid, plus the first year's annual rental amount as per Subsection 022.02, plus the nomination fee. If the winning bid was submitted by the nominator of the tract(s), then the nomination fee will already have been submitted to the Department and will not be included in the amount due. The nominator will be refunded the nomination fee if they are not the winning bidder. (3-18-22)
- d.** Transfer of Funds. Unless otherwise required in the notice of auction, the winning bidder for each lease has five (5) full business days after close of auction to complete the transfer of funds to the Department. Failure of the winning bidder to transfer funds within the period specified constitutes a breach of contract, and the state may pursue any action or remedy at law or in equity against the winning bidder. (3-18-22)
- 08. Execution of Lease.** The completed lease will be executed by the winning bidder within thirty (30) days from the date of mailing after close of auction, or if personally delivered to the applicant or his agent by the Department, within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt. An individual who executes a lease on behalf of another Person must submit a power of attorney outlining such delegated authority. (3-18-22)

**023. -- 044. (RESERVED)**

**045. ROYALTIES.**

- 01. Royalty Payments.** Unless otherwise specified by the Board, the lessee will pay to the state of Idaho in money or in kind to the state at its option a royalty of no less than twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) of the oil and/or gas or natural gas plant liquids produced and saved. The lessee will make payments in cash unless written instructions for payment in kind are received from the state. Royalty is due on all production from the leased premises except that consumed for the direct operation of the producing wells and that lost through no fault of the lessee. (3-18-22)
- 02. Royalty Not Reduced.** Where royalties are paid in cash, costs of marketing, transporting and processing oil and/or gas or natural gas plant liquids or all of them produced are borne entirely by the lessee, and such cost will not reduce the lessor's royalty directly or indirectly. If the Director elects to take royalty in kind, the state will reimburse the lessee for reasonable additional storage and transportation costs. (3-18-22)
- 03. Oil, Gas, and Natural Gas Plant Liquids Royalty Calculation and Reporting.** All royalty owed to the lessor hereunder and not paid in kind at the election of the lessor will be paid to the lessor in the following manner: (3-18-22)
- a.** Payment of royalty on production of oil is due and must be received by the lessor on or before the 65th day after the month of production; (3-18-22)
- b.** Payment of royalty on production of gas and natural gas plant liquids is due and must be received by the lessor on or before the 95th day after the month of production; (3-18-22)
- c.** All royalty payments must be completed in the form and manner approved by the Department including, but not limited to, the gross amount and disposition of all oil, gas, and natural gas plant liquids produced and the market value of the oil, gas, and natural gas plant liquids; (3-18-22)
- d.** Lessee must maintain, and make available to the lessor upon request, copies of all documents, records or reports confirming the gross production, disposition and market value, including gas meter readings, pipeline receipts, gas line receipts and other checks or memoranda of the amount produced and put into pipelines, tanks, or pools and gas lines or gas storage, and any other reports or records that the lessor may require to verify the

gross production, disposition and market value; and (3-18-22)

e. Each royalty payment must be accompanied by a check stub, schedule, summary or other remittance advice showing, by the assigned lessor lease number, the amount of royalty being paid on each lease. (3-18-22)

**04. Overriding Royalty.** All assignments of overriding royalty without a working interest made directly by the lessee and not included with an assignment of lease must be filed with the Department with the processing fee within ninety (90) days from the date of execution; provided that it is the lessee's responsibility, and not the Department's, to process such assignments by third parties. Any assignment that creates an overriding royalty exceeds the royalty previously payable to the state by greater than five percent (5%), is deemed a violation of the terms of the lease unless such an assignment expressly provides that the obligation to pay such excess overriding royalty is suspended when the average production of oil per well per day, averaged on a monthly basis, is fifteen (15) barrels or less. (3-18-22)

**046. -- 049. (RESERVED)**

**050. LAND USE, SURFACE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.**

**01. Use and Occupancy.** Notwithstanding other leases for other uses of state lands, the lessee is entitled to use and occupy as much of the surface of the leased lands as may be required for all purposes reasonably incident to exploration, drilling and production and marketing of oil and gas produced from the leased land, including the right to construct and maintain all works, buildings, plants, waterways, roads, communication lines, pipelines, reservoirs, tanks pumping stations or other structures necessary to full enjoyment and development; provided that lessee's operation does not unreasonably interfere with or endanger operations under any lease, license, claim, permit or other authorized, lawful use. (3-18-22)

**02. Prevention of Injury or Damage.** The lessee, its assignees, agents, and/or contractors must take all reasonable precautions to prevent injury or damage to persons, real and personal property and to prevent waste or damage to the oil, gas and other surface and subsurface natural resources and the surrounding environment including but not limited to, vegetation, livestock, fish and wildlife and their natural habitat, streams, rivers, lakes, timber, forest and agricultural resources. The Lessee, his assignees, agents and/or contractors will compensate the Board, his surface lessees, grantees or contract purchasers for any damage resulting by reason of their operations or any damage resulting from their failure to take all reasonable precautions to prevent injury or damage to persons, real and personal property and to prevent waste or damage to the oil, gas and other surface and subsurface natural resources and surrounding environment as set forth above. The lessee, its assignees, agents and/or contractors must comply with all environmental laws, rules and regulations as they pertain to its operation. (3-18-22)

**03. Blowout or Spill.** The lessee must report to the Director any blowout, fire, uncontrolled venting, or oil spill on the leased land within twenty-four (24) hours and confirm this report in writing within ten (10) days. (3-18-22)

**04. Fences.** The lessee may not at any time fence any watering place upon leased lands where it is the only accessible and feasible watering place upon the lands within a radius of one (1) mile, without first having secured the written consent of the Director. (3-18-22)

**05. Timber Removal.** The lessee may not unreasonably interfere with the removal of timber purchased prior or subsequent to the issuance of an oil and gas lease. The lessee may remove any timber required for ingress or egress or necessary for operations. The lessee must pay for any timber cut or removed on a current stumpage price basis as determined by the Director, and proceeds therefrom accrue to the state agency that has custody and control over the leased lands. (3-18-22)

**06. Potable Water Discovery.** If the lessee finds only potable water in any well drilled for exploration or production of oil and gas, and the water is of such quality and quantity as to be valuable and usable for agricultural, domestic, or other purposes, the Board may acquire the well with whatever casing is installed in the well at the fair market value of the casing upon the assumption by its surface lessee, grantee, or contract purchaser of all future liabilities and responsibilities for the well, with the approval of the commission and in compliance with Section 058;

provided that the surface lessee, grantee, or contract purchaser also complies with applicable laws and rules of the Department of Water Resources. (3-18-22)

**07. Reclamation.** The lessee must reclaim all state lands disturbed by its exploration and operations at least consistent with previous use by the surface owner, including segregating and protecting topsoil and regrading to approximate previous contour. If substantial removal of topsoil has occurred as determined by the Director, the lessee will replace the topsoil and revegetate to the extent necessary to minimize erosion. (3-18-22)

**08. Entry by Director.** The Director is permitted at all reasonable times to go in and upon the leased lands and premises to inspect the operations and the products obtained and to post any lawful notice. The Director may at any time require that reasonable tests, surveys, samples, etc., be taken in accord with his instruction, without cost to the state of Idaho, to assure compliance with these rules. The Director may at any reasonable time inspect and copy at his own expense all of lessee's books and records pertaining to a lease under these rules. Upon failure of lessee to take timely, corrective measures ordered by the Director or the Board or the commission, the Director may shut down lessee's operations if he determines they are unsafe or are causing or may cause waste or pollution to oil, gas or other resources; or the Director may terminate the lease and cause damage or unsafe conditions to be repaired or corrected at the expense of the lessee and forfeiture of bond in accordance with these rules. (3-18-22)

**09. Other Uses.** Subject to Subsection 050.01, the Director may issue leases for other uses of state lands leased under these rules. All lessees have the right of reasonable ingress and egress at all times during the term of the lease. (3-18-22)

**10. Disposal of Leased Lands.** The Board reserves the right to sell or otherwise dispose of the surface of the leased lands; provided that any sale of surface rights made subsequent to execution of the lease is subject to all terms and provisions of the oil and gas lease during its life including extensions and continuations under Section 040. (3-18-22)

**051. DILIGENT EXPLORATION REQUIRED.**

The lessee must perform diligent exploration during the entire term of a lease. Diligent exploration means that the lessee provides continuing efforts as a reasonably prudent operator toward achieving production, including, without limitation, performing geological and geophysical surveys and/or the drilling of a test well. (3-18-22)

**052. -- 054. (RESERVED)**

**055. OPERATIONS UNDER THE LEASE.**

**01. Best Practices.** The lessee will at all times conduct exploration, development, drilling and all operations as a reasonably prudent operator and conform to the best practice and engineering principles in use in the oil and gas industry. (3-18-22)

**02. Compliance with Rules.** The lessee will comply with all rules of the oil and gas commission, including amendments promulgated pursuant to Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code, and any violations of the commission's rules or other applicable state laws and rules may constitute a violation of the lease under these rules. (3-18-22)

**03. Designation of Operator.** In all cases where operations are not conducted by the lessee but are to be conducted under authority of an approved operating agreement, assignment or other arrangement, a designation of operator must be submitted to the Director prior to commencement of operations. Such a designation authorizes the operator or his local representative to act for the lessee and to sign any papers or reports required under these rules. The lessee must immediately report to the Director all changes of address and termination of the authority of the operator. (3-18-22)

**04. Legal Representative.** When required by the Director, the lessee must designate a local representative empowered to receive service of civil or criminal process and notices and orders of the Director issued pursuant to these rules. (3-18-22)

**05. Diligence.** The lessee will, subject to the right to surrender the lease, diligently drill and produce

such wells as are necessary to protect the Board from loss by reason of production on other properties, or with the consent of the Director, compensate the Board for failure to drill and produce any such well. All wells under lease must be drilled, maintained and operated to produce the maximum amount of oil and/or gas that can be secured without injury to the well. (3-18-22)

**06. Loss Through Waste or Failure to Produce.** The Director will determine the value of production accruing to the Board where there is loss through waste or failure to drill and produce production wells on the leased lands and the compensation due to the Board as reimbursement for such loss. Payment for such losses must be made within sixty (60) days after the date of billing. The value of production resulting from a loss through waste or failure to take corrective measures to protect a well is calculated at ninety percent (90%) of the last year's actual production royalty or a minimum royalty of five dollars (\$5) per acre or fraction thereof, whichever is greater. (3-18-22)

**07. By-Products.** Where production, use or conversion of oil and gas under a lease, is susceptible of producing a valuable by-product or by-products, including, without limitation, commercially demineralized water, carbon dioxide or helium, the lessee must submit to the Director all available information concerning the potential by-product. The Department may conduct tests or studies at its expense and may issue reasonable orders to produce and preserve such by-product. (3-18-22)

**08. Geothermal Information.** Prior to abandoning any well, the lessee must submit to the Director all available information concerning geothermal resource potential. The Department may conduct tests or studies at its expense prior to the abandoning of any well to determine geothermal resource potential. Except as provided in Subsection 040.05, the lessee must promptly plug and abandon any well on the leased land that is not used or useful, in accord with these rules and the rules of the commission, and any applicable rules and regulations of the Department of Water Resources. When drilling in a known geothermal resources area, the applicant may need a geothermal resource well permit from the Department of Water Resources. (3-18-22)

**056. WATER RIGHTS.**

The lessee will comply with all state laws and rules regulating the appropriation of water rights. No water rights developed or obtained by the lessee in conjunction with operations under a lease may be sold, assigned or otherwise transferred without written approval of the Director. Upon surrender, termination or expiration of the lease, the lessee must take all actions required by the Director to assign to the Board all water rights, including applications and permits, subject to applicable laws regarding the transfer or assignment of permits to appropriate water. (3-18-22)

**057. -- 059. (RESERVED)**

**060. ASSIGNMENTS.**

**01. Prior Written Approval.** No lease assignment is valid until approved in writing by the Director, and no assignment takes effect until the first day of the month following its approval. (3-18-22)

**02. Qualified Assignee.** A lease may be assigned to any person qualified to hold a state lease, provided that in the event an assignment partitions leased lands between two (2) or more persons, neither the assigned nor the retained part created by the assignment may contain less than forty (40) acres or a government lot, whichever is less. (3-18-22)

**03. Responsibilities.** In an assignment of the complete interest of the leasehold, the assignor and his surety continue to comply with the lease and these rules until the effective date of the assignment. After the effective date of any assignment, the assignee and his surety are bound by the lease and these rules to the same extent as if the assignee were the original lessee, notwithstanding any conditions in the assignment to the contrary; however, the assignor-lessee remains liable for rentals and royalties due and damages accruing prior to the effective date of the assignment. (3-18-22)

**04. Segregation of Assignment.** If an assignment partitions leased lands between two (2) or more persons, it must clearly segregate the assigned and retained portions of the leasehold. Resulting segregated leases continue in full force and effect for the balance of the ten-year term of the original lease or as further extended pursuant to these rules. (3-18-22)

**05. Joint Principal.** Where an assignment does not segregate the record title to the lease, the assignee, if the assignment so provides, may become a joint principal on the bond with the assignor. The application must be accompanied by a consent of assignor's surety to remain bound under the bond of record, if the bond by its terms does not contain such consent. If a party to the assignment has previously furnished a statewide bond, no additional showing by such party is necessary as to the bond requirement. (3-18-22)

**06. Form of Assignment.** An assignment is a valid legal instrument, properly executed and acknowledged, setting forth the number of the lease, a legal description of the land involved, the name and address of the assignee, the interest transferred and the consideration. A fully executed copy of the instrument of assignment must be filed with the application for approval pursuant to Subsection 060.07. An assignment may affect or concern more than one (1) lease. (3-18-22)

**07. Application.** The application for approval of an assignment must be submitted in duplicate on forms of the Department or exact copies of such forms. The "lessee/assignee of record" must be designated in accordance with Subsection 010.11. If payments out of production are reserved, a statement must be submitted stating the amount, method of payment, and other pertinent items. The statement must be filed with the Department no later than fifteen (15) days after the filing of the application for approval. (3-18-22)

**08. Denial.** The Director may deny an application for assignment if the lessee or the assignee is delinquent in payment of rentals or royalties or otherwise has violated these rules. (3-18-22)

**09. Fee.** All applications for approval of assignment must be accompanied by the fee required by Section 120. (3-18-22)

**061. -- 069. (RESERVED)**

**070. SURRENDER - RELINQUISHMENT.**

**01. Procedure.** The lessee may surrender its lease or any surveyed subdivision of the area covered by such lease, by filing a written relinquishment with the Department, provided that a partial relinquishment does not reduce the remaining acreage in the lease to less than forty (40) acres or a government lot, whichever is less. The Director may waive the minimum acreage provision of this rule if he finds it is justified on the basis of exploratory and development data derived from activity on the leasehold. (3-18-22)

**02. Effective Date.** A relinquishment takes effect thirty (30) days after it is received by the Department. Thereafter the lessee is relieved of liability under these rules except for the continued obligation of the lessee and his surety to:

- a.** Make payments of all accrued rentals and royalties; (3-18-22)
- b.** Place all wells on the land to be relinquished in condition for suspension of operations or abandonment; (3-18-22)
- c.** Comply with all rules of the commission for plugging of abandoned wells; (3-18-22)
- d.** Comply with applicable laws and rules of the Department of Water Resources; and (3-18-22)
- e.** Reclaim the surface and natural resources in accord with these rules. (3-18-22)

**03. Partial Surrender.** In the event of a partial surrender of the land covered by such lease, the annual rental thereafter payable will be reduced proportionately. (3-18-22)

**071. TERMINATION - CANCELLATION OF LEASE.**

**01. Cause.** Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Director may terminate the lease for any substantial violation of these rules, the lease, or the rules of the commission, ninety (90) days after notice of the violation has been given to lessee by personal service or by certified mail to the lessee, unless: (3-18-22)

a. The violation has been corrected; or (3-18-22)

b. The violation is one that cannot be corrected within the notice period and the lessee has in good faith commenced within the notice period to correct the violation and proceeds diligently to complete corrective action within a time period set by the Director. If sent by certified mail, such notice will be deemed served upon mailing. (3-18-22)

**02. Surrender After Termination.** Upon the expiration or termination of the lease, the lessee will quietly and peaceably surrender possession of the premises to the state. Thereafter, lessee's obligations under these rules that have accrued prior to the date of expiration or termination continue in full force and effect. (3-18-22)

**03. Other Wells.** Default by the lessee in the performance of any of the conditions or provisions of the lease concerning a well or wells on any legal subdivision of the leasehold do not affect the right of the lessee to continue the possession or operation of any other well or wells, situated upon any other legal subdivision of the leasehold. The term "legal subdivision" as herein used means a subdivision as established by the United States land survey that most nearly approximates in size the area allocated to one well under any approved well spacing program; provided that if no special program has been approved, "legal subdivision" means the parcel upon which such well is located, but in any event not less than forty (40) acres surrounding such well. Where such a default involving one (1) or more wells results in cancellation, and the lessee has other wells on the lease not in default, such cancellation will result in the division of the defaulting acreage from the lease and resultant reduction in the size of the lease held by the lessee. (3-18-22)

**04. Equipment Removal.** Upon the expiration of the lease, or its earlier termination or surrender pursuant to these rules, the lessee must, within a period of ninety (90) days, remove from the premises all materials, tools, appliances, machinery, structures. Equipment subject to removal but not removed within the ninety (90) day period or any extension that may be granted because of adverse climatic conditions during that period, may, at the option of the Director, become property of the state of Idaho, or the Director may cause the property to be removed at the lessee's expense. (3-18-22)

**072. -- 079. (RESERVED)**

**080. BOND REQUIREMENTS.**

**01. Minimum Bond.** Prior to entry with motorized exploration equipment upon leased lands, the surface of which has been sold or leased, the lessee must submit to the Director a corporate surety bond or collateral bond in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in favor of the state of Idaho conditioned upon the payment of all damages to the surface that result from the lessee's operation. Prior to entry upon the leased land with drilling equipment or prior to commencing any construction in preparation for drilling upon leased lands, the lessee must submit to the Director a corporate security bond or collateral bond in the amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) in favor of the state of Idaho bond will be conditioned upon compliance with the lease, these rules, the removal of all materials, etc. per Subsection 071.04, and the payment of all damages to the land surface and all improvements thereon, including crops, which result from the lessee's operation, regardless of whether the lands under this lease have been sold or leased by the Board for any other purpose. This bond is in addition to the drilling bond pursuant to commission rules. This rule notwithstanding, the oil and gas lessee may be required on a case-by-case basis to post a bond in excess of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to protect a surface lessee's or surface owner's interests pursuant to Section 47-708, Idaho Code. (3-18-22)

**02. Statewide Bond.** In lieu of the aforementioned bonds, the lessee may furnish a good and sufficient "statewide" bond conditioned as above in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in favor of the state of Idaho to cover all lessee's leases and operations carried on under these rules. (3-18-22)

**03. Period of Liability.** The period of liability of any bond is not be terminated until all obligations under the lease and these rules have been fulfilled and the bond is released in writing by the Director. (3-18-22)

**04. Form of Performance Bond.** (3-18-22)

**a.** Corporate surety bond means an indemnity agreement executed by or for the lessee and a corporate surety licensed to do business in the state of Idaho on an oil and gas lease bond form supplied by the Department conditioned in accord with Subsection 080.01, and payable to the state of Idaho. (3-18-22)

**b.** Collateral bond means an indemnity agreement executed by or for the lessee and payable to the state of Idaho, pledging cash deposits, negotiable bonds of the United States, state or municipalities, or negotiable certificates of deposit of any bank doing business in the United States. Collateral bonds are subject to the following conditions: The Department obtains possession and deposits such with the state treasurer. The Department will value collateral at its current market value, not face value. Certificates of deposit are made payable to the "State of Idaho or the lessee." Amount of an individual certificate may not exceed the maximum amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation or their successors. Banks issuing such certificates waive all rights of set-off or liens that they have of may have against such certificates. Any such certificates are automatically renewable. The certificate of deposit must be of sufficient amount to ensure that the Department would be able to liquidate such certificates prior to maturity, upon forfeiture, for the amount of the required bond including any penalty for early withdrawal. (3-18-22)

**05. Bond Cancellation.** Any surety company or indemnitor canceling a bond must give the Department at least sixty-days' (60) notice prior to cancellation. The Department will not release a surety or indemnitor from liability under existing bonds until the lessee has submitted to the Department an acceptable replacement bond. Such replacement bond must cover any liability accrued against the bonded principal on the lease covered by the previous bond. (3-18-22)

**06. Surety License.** If the license to do business in Idaho of any surety is suspended or revoked, the lessee must find a substitute for such surety within thirty (30) days after notice by the Department. If the lessee fails to secure a substitute surety, he must cease operation upon the lease. The substitute surety must be licensed to do business in Idaho. (3-18-22)

**07. Form.** All bonds furnished must be on the Department bond form or exact copy of it. (3-18-22)

**081. -- 089. (RESERVED)**

**090. UNIT OR COOPERATIVE PLANS OF DEVELOPMENT OR OPERATION.**

**01. Unit Plan.** For the purpose of properly conserving the natural resources of any oil and gas pool, field or like area, the lessee may, with the written consent of the Director, commit the leased lands to a unit, cooperative or other plan of development or operation with other state, federal, Indian, or privately-owned lands. (3-18-22)

**02. Contents.** An agreement to unitize must: describe the separate tracts comprising the unit; disclose the apportionment of the production of royalties and costs to the several parties; the name of the operation; and contain adequate provisions for the protection of the interests of all parties, including the state. The agreement must: be signed by or in behalf of those persons or entities having effective control of the geologic structure; submitted to the Director with the application to unitize; and effective only after approval by the Director. (3-18-22)

**03. Interested Parties.** The owners of any right, title or interest in the oil and gas resources to be developed or operated under an agreement may be regarded as interested parties to a proposed unitization agreement. Signature of a party with only an overriding royalty interest in unnecessary. (3-18-22)

**04. Collective Bond.** In lieu of separate bonds for each lease committed to a unit agreement, the unit operator may furnish and maintain a collective corporate surety bond or a collateral bond conditioned upon faithful performance of the duties and obligations of the agreement, the lease subject to the agreement and these rules. The liability under the bond will be for such amount the Director determines to be adequate to protect the interests of the state. If the unit operator is changed, a new bond or consent of surety to the change in principal under the existing bond must be filed within thirty (30) days of assignment. (3-18-22)

**05. Lease Modification.** The terms of any lease included in any cooperative or unit plan of development or operation may be modified by the Director with approval of the lessee, except that a unit agreement

must have final approval by the Director for a state cooperative plan or the final approval by the secretary of interior for a federal cooperative plan prior to extending any lease into its eleventh year and each year thereafter. A lease so extended expires two (2) years after the unit plan expires provided the lessee continues to pay the annual rental as outlined in Subsection 041.03. (3-18-22)

**06. Rentals.** Rentals and royalties on leases so extended are at the rates specified in these rules. Advanced rental must be paid on or before the extended lease's anniversary date. Any unused portion of annual rental will not be refunded. (3-18-22)

**07. Evidence of Agreement.** Before issuance of a lease for lands within an approved unit agreement, the lease applicant must file with the Department evidence that he has entered into an agreement with the unit operator for the development and operation of the lands in a lease, or a statement giving satisfactory reasons for the failure to enter into such agreement. If such statement is acceptable, the applicant will be permitted to operate independently but be required to perform its operations in a manner that the Director deems to be consistent with the unit operations. (3-18-22)

**08. Segregation Prohibited.** A lease may not be segregated if any part thereof is included in a cooperative plan until the pool or field has been defined. Once defined, those areas outside the unit area or pool boundary can be surrendered as provided in Section 070. (3-18-22)

**091. -- 094. (RESERVED)**

**095. LIABILITY INSURANCE; SPECIAL ENDORSEMENTS.**

**01. Liability Insurance Required.** Prior to entry upon the leased lands for any reason other than casual exploration or inspection pursuant to Section 021, the lessee must secure and maintain during the term of this lease, public liability, property damage, and products liability insurance in the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for injury or death for each occurrence; in the aggregate sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for injury or death; and in the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for damages to property and products damages caused by any occupancy, use, operations of any other activity on leased lands carried on by the lessee, its assigns, agents, operators or contractors. The lessee must insure against explosion, blow out, collapse, fire, oil spill and underground hazards and submit evidence of such insurance to the Director. If the land surface and improvements thereon covered by the lease have been sold or leased by the state of Idaho, the owner or lessee of the surface rights and improvements will be an additional named insured. The state of Idaho is a named insured in all instances. This policy or policies of liability insurance must contain the following special endorsement:

“The state of Idaho, the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners, the Director of the Department of Lands, the Department of Lands, (or other state agency exercising custody and control over the lands), and (herein insert name of owner or lessee of surface rights, if applicable) and the officers, employees and agents of each and every of the foregoing are additional insureds under the terms of this policy: Provided, however, these additional insureds shall not be insured hereunder for any primary negligence or misconduct on their part, but such additional insureds shall be insured hereunder for secondary negligence or misconduct, which shall be limited to failure to discover and cause to be corrected the negligence or misconduct of the lessee, its agents, operators or contractors. This insurance policy shall not be canceled without thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Idaho Department of Lands. None of the foregoing additional insureds is liable for the payment of premiums or assessments of this policy.”

No cancellation provision in any insurance policy is in derogation of the continuous duty of the lessee to furnish insurance during the term of this lease. Such policy or policies must be underwritten to the satisfaction of the Director. A signed complete certificate of insurance, with the endorsement required by this paragraph, must be submitted to the Director prior to entry upon the leased land with motorized exploration equipment after award of a lease and may be required prior to such entry under Rule 021. (3-18-22)

**02. Certificate of Insurance.** At least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of any such policy, a signed complete certificate of insurance, with the endorsement required by Subsection 095.01, showing that such insurance coverage has been renewed or extended, must be filed with the Director. (3-18-22)

**096. HOLD HARMLESS.**

The state of Idaho, the Board, the Director, the Department, and any other state agency that may have custody or control of the leased lands, and the owner of the surface rights and improvements, if not the state of Idaho, or state lessee of surface rights, if there be one, the officers, agents and employees of each of the foregoing, are free from any and all liabilities and claims for damages and/or suits for or by reason of death or injury to any person or damage of property of any kind whatsoever, caused by a negligent or otherwise wrongful act or omission of the lessee, its assigns, agents, operators, employees or contractors; and lessee covenants and agrees to indemnify and to save harmless the state of Idaho, the Board, the Director, the Department, or other state agency, or the lessee of surface rights if there be one, and their officers, agents, and employees from all liabilities, charges, expense, including attorney fees, claims, suits or losses caused by a negligent or otherwise wrongful act or omission of the lessee, its assigns, agents, operators, employees or contractors. The lessee's signature to a lease under these rules constitutes express agreement to this rule. (3-18-22)

**097. -- 099. (RESERVED)**

**100. TITLE.**

The state of Idaho does not warrant title to the leased lands or the oil and gas resources that may be discovered thereon; the lease is issued only under such title as the state of Idaho may have as of the effective date of the lease or thereafter acquires. (3-18-22)

**101. IMPOSSIBILITY OF PERFORMANCE.**

Whenever, as a result of any act of God, or law, order or regulation of any governmental agency, it becomes impossible for the lessee to perform or to comply with any obligation under the lease or these rules, other than payment of rentals or royalties, the Director in his discretion, may by written order excuse lessee from damages or forfeiture of the lease, and the lessee's obligations may be suspended and the term of the lease may be extended provided that the Director finds that good cause exists. (3-18-22)

**102. TAXES.**

The lessee pays, when due, all taxes and assessments of any kind lawfully assessed and levied against the lessee's interest or operations under the laws of the state of Idaho. (3-18-22)

**103. -- 119. (RESERVED)**

**120. FEES.**

**01. Exploration Permit.** One hundred dollars (\$100) per linear mile or a minimum of one hundred dollars (\$100) per section. (3-18-22)

**02. Nonrefundable Nomination Fee.** The nomination fee is set by the Board at a minimum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per tract. (3-18-22)

**03. Processing Fee.** The processing fee is set by the Board at a minimum of one hundred dollars (\$100) per each document. (3-18-22)

**04. Fee Adjustment.** The Board may annually adjust these fees without formal rulemaking procedures. (3-18-22)

**121. -- 999. (RESERVED)**