

Section 5. Section 84-1303, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:
 "84-1303. Payment of annual license tax. Such annual license tax shall be paid in quarterly installments for the quarters ending, respectively, March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, and December 31st in each year, beginning with the quarter ending March 31, 1921, and the amount of the license tax due for each such quarter shall be paid to the state treasurer within thirty days after the end of each such quarter *provided that one-half (1/2) of the amounts reported to the state treasurer by the bureau of mines and geology as being the reasonable value of reclamation work performed by a licensee on lands on which strip mining has been conducted shall be credited to such licensee on the first quarterly payment of the license tax due after such report is received, and on such subsequent quarterly payments until the licensee has received credit for the full amount thus reported.*"

Approved: March 1, 1967.

STATE OF MONTANA COAL LEASE

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10. PROTECTION OF THE SURFACE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND IMPROVEMENTS. The lessee agrees to take such reasonable steps as may be needed to prevent operations from unnecessarily: (1) causing or contributing to soil erosion or damaging any forage and timber growth thereon; (2) polluting the waters of springs, streams, wells, or reservoirs; (3) damaging crops, including forage, timber, or improvements of a surface owner; or (4) damaging range improvements whether owned by the lessor or by its grazing permittees or lessees; and upon any partial or total relinquishment or the cancellation or expiration of this lease, or at any other time prior thereto when required by the lessor and to the extent deemed necessary by the lessor, to fill any sump holes, ditches and other excavations, remove or cover all debris, and, so far as reasonably possible, restore the stripped area and spoil banks to a condition in keeping with the concept of the best beneficial use, including the removal of structures as and if required. The lessor may prescribe the steps to be taken and restoration to be made with respect to lands of the lessor and improvements thereon.

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STATE OF MONTANA URANIUM MINING LEASE

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3. Lessee shall prospect and explore for uranium with minimum disturbance to the surface of the land, all drill holes shall be securely capped when not in use. In any drilling operations, lessee shall comply with all of the provisions of law governing ground water, especially the provisions of Sections 89-2911 through 89-2936 of the Revised Codes of Montana (1947) and lessee shall at all times exercise due care to avoid contamination of ground waters.

If the lessee wishes to mine uranium it shall first submit a comprehensive plan of its proposed mining operations, including plans for restoration of the surface at the termination of said mining operations, to lessor and thereafter lessor shall have the right, at any time and from time to time, to impose reasonable restrictions on said mining operations for the protection of the land, water, livestock and persons on the premises.

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STATE OF MONTANA,
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS AND INVESTMENTS,
Helena, April 18, 1968.

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: As Commissioner of State Lands for the State of Montana, responsible for the management and development of almost 6,000,000 acres of state owned grant lands, I would like to comment on S. 3132 known as the Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1968.

Federal legislation, at this point of time, is unnecessary and will continue to be so until the states have shown that they are unable to cope with the problem. The problem insofar as the Nation is concerned is presently located mainly in the anthracite coal areas of the Appalachian region and is one of long standing. In Montana the problem is minimal as there are only two strip coal mines in exist-