

and reclamation requirements before we approve the exploration permit.

(b) These regulations do not apply to:

- (1) Unleased land administered by another Federal agency;
- (2) Unleased geothermal resources whose surface land is managed by another Federal agency;
- (3) Privately owned land; or
- (4) Casual use activities.

**§ 3250.11 What types of operations may I propose when I send BLM my exploration permit application?**

(a) You may propose any activity fitting the definition of “exploration operations” in 43 CFR 3200.1. Submit Form 3200-9, Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations, together with the information required under 43 CFR 3251.12, and BLM will review your proposal.

(b) The exploration operations regulations do not address drilling wells intended for production or injection, which are covered in subpart 3260 of this part, or geothermal resources utilization, which is covered in subpart 3270 of this part.

**§ 3250.12 What general standards apply to my exploration operations?**

Your exploration operations must:

- (a) Meet all operational and environmental standards;
- (b) Protect public health, safety and property;
- (c) Prevent unnecessary impacts to surface and subsurface resources; and
- (d) Be conducted in a manner consistent with the principles of multiple use; and
- (e) Comply with the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4.

**§ 3250.13 What orders or instructions may BLM issue me?**

(a) Geothermal resource operational orders, for detailed requirements that apply nationwide;

(b) Notices to lessees, for detailed requirements on a statewide or regional basis;

(c) Other orders and instructions specific to a field or area;

(d) Permit conditions of approval; and

(e) Verbal orders which will be confirmed in writing.

**Subpart 3251—Exploration Operations: Getting a Permit**

**§ 3251.10 Do I need a permit before I start my exploration operations?**

Yes, do not start any exploration operations before we have approved your exploration permit.

**§ 3251.11 May I conduct exploration operations on my lease, someone else’s lease or unleased land?**

You may request a permit to explore any BLM-managed public lands open to geothermal leasing, even if we already leased the lands to another person. Your exploration will not give you exclusive rights. If you wish to conduct operations on your lease, you may do so after we have approved your exploration permit. If the lands are already leased, your operations may not unreasonably interfere with or endanger those other operations or other authorized uses, or cause unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.

**§ 3251.12 What does BLM need to approve my exploration permit?**

To conduct exploration operations on BLM-managed lands, your application must:

(a) Include a complete and signed exploration permit which describes the lands you wish to explore;

(b) For operations other than temperature gradient wells, describe your exploration plans and procedures, including the approximate starting and ending dates for each phase of operations;

(c) For temperature gradient wells, describe your drilling and completion procedures, and include, for each well or for several wells you propose to drill in an area of geologic and environmental similarity:

(1) A detailed description of the equipment, materials, and procedures you will use;

(2) The depth of the well;

(3) The casing and cementing program;

(4) The circulation media (mud, air, foam, etc.);

(5) A description of the logs that you will run;