

HOUSE BILL NO. 436

INTRODUCED BY HARP, GAGE, THOMAS, C. SMITH,
JONES, STOBIE, KEATING

IN THE HOUSE

January 21, 1983	Introduced and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.
January 28, 1983	Committee recommend bill do pass as amended. Report adopted.
January 29, 1983	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
February 1, 1983	Second reading, do pass.
February 2, 1983	Considered correctly engrossed.
February 3, 1983	Third reading, passed. Transmitted to Senate.

IN THE SENATE

February 4, 1983	Introduced and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.
March 10, 1983	Committee recommend bill be concurred in. Report adopted.
March 14, 1983	Second reading, concurred in.
March 16, 1983	Third reading, concurred in. Ayes, 48; Noes, 0.

IN THE HOUSE

March 16, 1983	Returned to House.
March 17, 1983	Sent to enrolling.
	Reported correctly enrolled.

1 House BILL NO. 436
 2 INTRODUCED BY HARP Off Thomas Smith
 3 Stebie Heating
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION
 5 82-11-125, MCA, TO REMOVE THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTS OF
 6 STRATIGRAPHIC TEST WELLS FILED WITH THE BOARD OF OIL AND GAS
 7 CONSERVATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."
 8

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Section 82-11-125, MCA, is amended to read:

11 "82-11-125. Availability of cores or chips, cuttings,
 12 and bottom-hole temperatures to board. (1) An owner drilling
 13 a well for gas or oil shall make available to the board at
 14 its field offices representative cores or chips, when
 15 available, the cuttings from the well, and the bottom-hole
 16 temperatures of the wells, in order to facilitate the
 17 discovery of geothermal potential. However, cores, chips, or
 18 cuttings need not be so made available for a period of 6
 19 months following completion or abandonment of the wells. The
 20 board may, however, relieve the owner of a well of the
 21 obligation to furnish cores, chips, or cuttings when, in the
 22 opinion of the board, the furnishing thereof would be unduly
 23 burdensome for the owner; however, the owner desiring relief
 24 must apply to and receive permission from the board to not
 25 so furnish.

1 (2) The owner of a stratigraphic test well drilled for
 2 the purpose of obtaining lithologic information useful in
 3 potential oil and gas operations, as such well is defined by
 4 the board's rules, shall within ~~6 months~~ 3 years from the
 5 date of the cessation of the drilling of the well make
 6 available to the board complete sets of sample cuttings and
 7 representative cores or chips and well logs of the wells,
 8 which logs shall include among other information the size of
 9 casing used, the type and depth of water if any located, and
 10 bottom-hole temperatures for geothermal purposes. The
 11 ~~cuttings, cores, chips, and logs shall be impounded and kept~~
 12 ~~secure and confidential by the board until such time that~~
 13 ~~the board desires to use the same; however, the board may~~
 14 ~~not use the logs, chips, cores, and cuttings from~~
 15 ~~stratigraphic test wells until a period of 3 years from the~~
 16 ~~date of their impounding by the board has elapsed, unless~~
 17 ~~the owner of the stratigraphic test well consents to their~~
 18 ~~use by the board prior to the expiration of the 3-year~~
 19 ~~period. The board, during the period of impoundment for any~~
 20 ~~cores, cuttings, chips, or logs from any stratigraphic test~~
 21 ~~well, may not give any person access to the cores, chips,~~
 22 ~~cuttings, or logs, and it may not disclose any information~~
 23 ~~relating thereto or derived therefrom.~~ The board shall
 24 require and the owner of a stratigraphic test well shall
 25 furnish, prior to the commencement of drilling of the well,

1 a good and sufficient surety bond, to be approved prior to
2 the commencement of the drilling, conditioned upon the
3 proper plugging of the well prior to abandonment, the amount
4 of the bond to be determined by the estimated depth as in
5 the board's rules provided for oil and gas wells; and i
6 prior to abandonment, the wells shall be plugged by the
7 owner thereof or by the surety should the owner be in
8 default, the plugging to conform to the standards set down
9 and determined by the board.

10 ~~{3}--Notwithstanding---subsection---{2}r---bottom-hole~~
11 ~~temperatures-furnished-to-the-board-by--stratigraphic--test~~
12 ~~well-owners-shall-be--public-information-immediately-upon~~
13 ~~filling-with-the-boards"~~

14 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. This act is
15 effective on passage and approval.

-End-

Approved by Committee
on Natural Resources

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a well for gas or oil shall make available to the board at
its field offices representative cores or chips, when
available, the cuttings from the well, and the bottom-hole
temperatures of the wells, in order to facilitate the
discovery of geothermal potential. However, cores, chips, or
cuttings need not be so made available for a period of 6
months following completion or abandonment of the wells. The
board may, however, relieve the owner of a well of the
obligation to furnish cores, chips, or cuttings when, in the
opinion of the board, the furnishing thereof would be unduly
burdensome for the owner; however, the owner desiring relief

must apply to and receive permission from the board to not
so furnish.

(2) The owner of a stratigraphic test well drilled for
the purpose of obtaining lithologic information useful in
potential oil and gas operations, as such well is defined by
the board's rules, shall within ~~6 months~~ 3 years from the
date of the cessation of the drilling of the well make
available to the board complete sets of sample cuttings and
representative cores or chips and well logs of the wells,
which logs shall include among other information the size of
casing used, the type and depth of water if any located, and
bottom-hole temperatures for geothermal purposes. ~~The
cuttings, cores, chips, and logs shall be impounded and kept
secure and confidential by the board until such time that
the board desires to use the same; however, the board may
not use the logs, chips, cores, and cuttings from
stratigraphic test wells until a period of 3 years from the
date of their impounding by the board has elapsed, unless
the owner of the stratigraphic test well consents to their
use by the board prior to the expiration of the 3-year
period. The board, during the period of impoundment for any
cores, cuttings, chips, or logs from any stratigraphic test
well, may not give any person access to the cores, chips,
cuttings, or logs, and it may not disclose any information
relating thereto or derived therefrom.~~ The board shall

1 require and the owner of a stratigraphic test well shall
2 furnish, prior to the commencement of drilling of the well,
3 a good and sufficient surety bond, to be approved prior to
4 the commencement of the drilling, conditioned upon the
5 proper plugging of the well prior to abandonment, the amount
6 of the bond to be determined by the estimated depth as in
7 the board's rules provided for oil and gas wells--and i
8 prior to abandonment, the wells shall be plugged by the
9 owner thereof or by the surety should the owner be in
10 default, the plugging to conform to the standards set down
11 and determined by the board.

12 ~~{3}--Notwithstanding---subsection---{2}---bottom-hole~~
13 ~~temperatures-furnished-to-the-board-by-stratigraphic-test~~
14 ~~well-owners-shall-be-public-information-immediately-upon~~
15 ~~filing-with-the-boards"~~

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17 effective on passage and approval.

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must apply to and receive permission from the board to not so furnish.

(2) The owner of a stratigraphic test well drilled for the purpose of obtaining lithologic information useful in potential oil and gas operations, as such well is defined by the board's rules, shall within ~~6 months~~ 3 years from the date of the cessation of the drilling of the well make available to the board complete sets of sample cuttings and representative cores or chips and well logs of the wells, which logs shall include among other information the size of casing used, the type and depth of water if any located, and bottom-hole temperatures for geothermal purposes. The ~~cuttings, cores, chips, and logs shall be impounded and kept secure and confidential by the board until such time that the board desires to use the same; however, the board may not use the logs, chips, cores, and cuttings from stratigraphic test wells until a period of 3 years from the date of their impounding by the board has elapsed; unless the owner of the stratigraphic test well consents to their use by the board prior to the expiration of the 3-year period. The board, during the period of impoundment for any cores, cuttings, chips, or logs from any stratigraphic test well, may not give any person access to the cores, chips, cuttings, or logs, and it may not disclose any information relating thereto or derived therefrom.~~ The board shall

1 require and the owner of a stratigraphic test well shall
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4 the commencement of the drilling, conditioned upon the
5 proper plugging of the well prior to abandonment, the amount
6 of the bond to be determined by the estimated depth as in
7 the board's rules provided for oil and gas wells--and
8 prior to abandonment, the wells shall be plugged by the
9 owner thereof or by the surety should the owner be in
10 default, the plugging to conform to the standards set down
11 and determined by the board.

12 ~~(3)--Notwithstanding---subsection---(2),--bottom-hole~~
13 ~~temperatures furnished to the board by stratigraphic test~~
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must apply to and receive permission from the board to not so furnish.

(2) The owner of a stratigraphic test well drilled for the purpose of obtaining lithologic information useful in potential oil and gas operations, as such well is defined by the board's rules, shall within ~~6 months~~ 1 years from the date of the cessation of the drilling of the well make available to the board complete sets of sample cuttings and representative cores or chips and well logs of the wells, which logs shall include among other information the size of casing used, the type and depth of water if any located, and bottom-hole temperatures for geothermal purposes. ~~The cuttings, cores, chips, and logs shall be impounded and kept secure and confidential by the board until such time that the board desires to use the same; however, the board may not use the logs, chips, cores, and cuttings from stratigraphic test wells until a period of 3 years from the date of their impounding by the board has elapsed, unless the owner of the stratigraphic test well consents to their use by the board prior to the expiration of the 3-year period. The board, during the period of impoundment for any cores, cuttings, chips, or logs from any stratigraphic test well, may not give any person access to the cores, chips, cuttings, or logs, and it may not disclose any information relating thereto or derived therefrom.~~ The board shall

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