

Locatable Minerals – Annual Maintenance Terms and Definitions

Assessment Year: The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 43 CFR 3830.5 defines the assessment year as 12 consecutive months beginning September 1 each year and ending September 1 the following year.

Maintenance Fee: The current maintenance fee is \$155 for lode claims, mill sites and tunnel sites. For placer claims, the fee is \$155 for every 20 acres or portion thereof. For example, if a placer claim contains 40 acres, the fee required is \$310. If the placer claim contains 20.55 acres, the fee would also be \$310 (\$155 for the first 20 acres and \$155 for the portion in addition to the 20 acres). The fee can be paid through the mail or in person at the BLM state office for the state where the claims or sites are located. Payments can be made with cash, check or credit card. Additionally, in Alaska, payments can be made at the Fairbanks office. A list of the claim names and assigned BLM serial numbers must accompany this payment. The payment deadline is on or before September 1 each year. Electronic payments can be made through the BLM's payment portal at www.blm.gov/payportal.

Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification (Small Miner Waiver – Form 3830-2): For claimants that own 10 or fewer claims and sites nationwide, a small miner waiver may be filed certifying they and all related parties are qualified for the waiver. For claimants filing the waiver, assessment work is also required to be performed for all claims or a notice of intent filed for mill sites and tunnel sites. Regulations at 43 CFR 3835.10 (2) state that the original signatures of the claimants of the mining claims or sites are required on all waiver requests. There is currently no processing fee for filing the waiver. The small miner waiver must be filed on or before September 1 each year.

Affidavit of Assessment: Claimants filing a small miner waiver must perform assessment work on their mining claim. According to regulations at 43 CFR 3836.11, you must expend \$100 in labor or improvements for each claim. Proof of this labor must be filed with the proper BLM office on or before December 30 each year and must include a list of claims and their BLM-assigned serial number. Optional Form 3830-4 may be used for affidavits of assessment filed with the BLM. The regulations state an affidavit of assessment must be an exact legible reproduction or duplicate of the affidavit of assessment work filed or that will be filed in the county (or state) where the claims are located. The current processing fee for filing the affidavit of assessment is \$10 per claim.

Notice of Intent to Hold: Assessment work is not performed on mill sites or tunnel sites; however, claimants filing a small miner waiver for mill sites or tunnel sites are required to file a notice of intent to hold on or before December 30 every year in the proper BLM office. There is no actual form for filing the notice of intent to hold and may be in narrative form stating the intention of the claimant to hold those sites. The notice must include a listing of the sites and their BLM-assigned serial numbers. The processing fee is \$10 for each site.

Note: All forms discussed on this page may be found on the BLM website: <http://www.blm.gov/services/national-operations-center/electronic-forms>