

Public Law 87-287

AN ACT

September 22, 1961  
[S. 2224]

To grant minerals, including oil, gas, and other natural deposits, on certain lands in the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana, to certain Indians, and for other purposes.

Indians.  
Northern Cheyenne Reservation,  
Mont.  
Minerals grant.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 3 of the Act of June 3, 1926 (44 Stat. 690), as amended by the Act of July 24, 1947 (61 Stat. 418), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. (a) The coal or other minerals, including oil, gas, and other natural deposits, on said reservation are hereby reserved for the benefit of the tribe and may be leased with the consent of the Indian council for mining purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Act of May 11, 1938 (52 Stat. 347; 25 U.S.C. 396 a-f), under such rules, regulations, and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe: *Provided,* That at the expiration of fifty years from the date of the approval of this Act, the coal or other minerals, including oil, gas, and other natural deposits, of said allotments shall become the prop-

70 Stat. 774.  
25 USC 396 a-396g.

erty of the respective allottees or their heirs or devisees, subject to any outstanding leases, regardless of any prior conveyance by such allottee, heirs, or devisees of the land overlying such minerals, oil, gas, or other natural deposits and regardless of the form of reference in such conveyance, or lack of reference, to the minerals, oil, gas, or other natural deposits reserved by this Act.

“(b) Title to the minerals so granted shall be held by the United States in trust for the Indian owners, except that if upon the expiration of said fifty years the entire Indian interests in the minerals within any allotment or parcel thereof is granted by this Act to a person or persons who at that time hold an unrestricted title to the lands overlying such minerals, oil, gas, or other natural deposits, then the Secretary of the Interior shall by fee patent transfer to such person or persons the unrestricted fee simple title to such minerals, oil, gas, or other natural deposits, which title shall vest in such person or persons as of the date of the patent.

“(c) The unallotted lands of said tribe of Indians shall be held in common, subject to the control and management thereof as Congress may deem expedient for the benefit of said Indians.”

Approved September 22, 1961.