

SENATE BILL No. 271

By Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy

1-11

1 AN ACT concerning property; relating to ownership of pore space.

2 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

3 Section 1. (a) The ownership of all pore space in all strata below the
4 surface lands and waters of this state is declared to be vested in the several
5 owners of the surface above the strata.

6 (b) A conveyance of the surface ownership of real property shall be a
7 conveyance of the pore space in all strata below the surface of such real
8 property unless the ownership interest in such pore space previously has
9 been severed from the surface ownership or is explicitly excluded in the
10 conveyance. The ownership of pore space in strata may be conveyed in the
11 manner provided by law for the transfer of mineral interests in real
12 property. No agreement conveying mineral or other interests underlying
13 the surface shall act to convey ownership of any pore space in the stratum
14 unless the agreement explicitly conveys that ownership interest.

15 (c) ~~No provision of law, including a lawfully adopted rule of
16 regulation, requiring notice to be given to a surface owner, to an owner of
17 the mineral interest, or to both, shall be construed to require notice to
18 persons holding ownership interest in any pore space in the underlying
19 strata unless the law specifies notice to such persons is required.~~

20 (d) ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed to change or alter the
21 common law as of the effective date of this act, as it relates to the rights
22 belonging to, or the dominance of, the mineral estate. For the purpose of
23 determining the priority of subsurface uses between a severed mineral
24 estate and pore space, the severed mineral estate is dominant regardless of
25 whether ownership of the pore space is vested in the several owners of the
26 surface or is owned separately from the surface.~~

27 (e) ~~All instruments which transfer the rights to pore space under this
28 section shall describe the scope of any right to use the surface estate. [The
29 owner of any pore space right shall have no right to use the surface estate
30 beyond that set out in a properly recorded instrument.]~~

31 (f) ~~Transfers of pore space rights made after the effective date of this
32 act are null and void at the option of the owner of the surface estate if the
33 transfer instrument does not contain a specific description of the location
34 of the pore space being transferred. The description may include, but is not
35 limited to, a subsurface geologic or seismic survey or a meter and bounds~~

To determine

and regardless of whether a severed pore space interest is created prior to a severed mineral estate, **except for the use and acquisition of pore space owned, used or contracted for the underground storage of natural gas.** For purposes of this subsection, a severed mineral estate includes the granting of an oil and gas lease or any other right to explore for, develop or produce oil and gas or any other mineral.

¶ (d)

conveying the pore space

1 ~~description of the surface lying over the transferred pore space. In the~~
2 ~~event a description of the surface is used, the transfer shall be deemed to~~
3 ~~include pore space at all depths underlying the described surface area~~
4 ~~unless specifically excluded. The validity of pore space rights under this~~
5 ~~subsection shall not affect the respective liabilities of any party and such~~
6 ~~liabilities shall operate in the same manner as if the pore space transfer~~
7 ~~were valid.~~

8 ~~(e)~~ Nothing in this section shall alter, amend, diminish or invalidate
9 rights to the use of subsurface pore space that were acquired by contract or
10 lease prior to the effective date of this act.

11 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
12 publication in the statute book.
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