

the next following section; the application to be accompanied by a filing fee of \$10.

17. Upon receipt of such application and the payment of \$100, the Conservation Commissioner shall direct the Engineer of the Conservation Department to survey the land described. Said Engineer shall make an actual survey of the land at the expense of the applicant, establishing the location of the land by metes and bounds; and within thirty days thereafter file with the Conservation Commissioner a copy, under oath, of his field notes and plat. If the expense of said survey exceeds the amount of deposit, the applicant shall pay the difference, but in case the deposit is greater than the expense, then the Conservation Department shall refund the applicant the difference between the cost of survey and the amount deposited.

18. All applications made under this sub-title shall be approved or rejected by the Conservation Commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Public Works, within ninety days after the receipt thereof. No such application made under this sub-title shall be approved by the Conservation Commissioner unless and until the same has been approved by the Board of Public Works of Maryland. And whenever the existence of any mineral or rare earth deposit under the public navigable waters of the Chesapeake Bay is brought to the attention of the Conservation Commissioner by an applicant, preference is to be given to the discoverer of the deposit as against any other applicant within the discretion of the Board of Public Works. All such permits or leases shall contain such regulations, covering operations thereunder for the purpose of extracting minerals or rare earths, including the number of acres permissible under one permit, as well as the number of permits to anyone person, firm, association or corporation, as shall seem necessary to the Conservation Commissioner and the Board of Public Works for the protection of navigation channels and all other interests of the State.

No permit or lease shall be granted under the provisions of this sub-title for the removal or extracting of minerals or rare earths within 300 yards of mean low water mark without the written permission of the riparian owner or owners, nor within 300 yards of any charted natural oyster bar or leased bottom. No one permit or lease shall be made for more than 500 acres and no leased area under the provisions of this sub-title shall be within 600 yards of any other such leased area.