

19. Immediately after the approval of the application by the Board of Public Works of Maryland, the Conservation Commissioner shall execute and deliver to the applicant an exclusive permit or lease to dredge for or otherwise recover rare earths and minerals from the lands approved in the application. This permit or lease shall be exclusive in its nature and while it remains in force no other permit or lease shall be granted covering the same land. The permit or lease shall run for not more than five years unless approved by the General Assembly of Maryland; provided, that, upon the expiration of any permit or lease, such permit or lease may be extended from time to time at the discretion of the Conservation Commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Public Works until the next session of the General Assembly of Maryland, upon such terms and conditions as may then be prescribed by law. Any person, firm, association or corporation who has been granted a permit or lease shall pay a rental of \$5.00 per acre in advance for a five year permit or lease and such sum as royalty per gross ton for the ensuing year as may be fixed by the Conservation Commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Public Works, at the time the permit or lease is issued and shall be subject to yearly changes, in the discretion of the Conservation Commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Public Works; provided, that at the same time the yearly statement is rendered, in accordance with the provision therefor in Section 14 of this Article, the Conservation Commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Public Works, shall yearly fix the royalty per gross ton for the ensuing calendar year.

20. The Conservation Commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Public Works is hereby authorized to prepare, make, execute and deliver all papers, instruments and documents and to do any and all things necessary to carry out the provisions of this sub-title.

21. The Legislature shall have the right to change from time to time the royalty per ton of minerals or rare earths, and such change shall apply to all persons, firms, associations or corporations holding permits or leases hereunder. Nothing in this sub-title shall be held to invalidate or curtail in any way the rights of riparian owners as set forth in Section 480 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1924 Edition), or any other Act or Acts protecting the rights of riparian owners, or apply to the taking of sand or gravel.