

in Prince George's County even though such land is already devoted to a public use under authority of law, provided that the exercise of such rights does not materially interfere with such public use.

695E.

In any eminent domain proceedings pursuant to Sections 695B and 695C of this subheading, the owner of the land shall be compensated for the right to utilize geological strata being taken by eminent domain for the underground storage of gas, and for any commercially recoverable oil, or gas not owned by the gas storage company, in such strata.

695F.

In any eminent domain proceedings pursuant to Section 695B of this subheading, the owner or owners in fee of the land shall have the right by unanimous election in their answer to have the jury make, after evidence is presented, alternate inquisitions assessing (a) the fair value of the underground storage rights, and (b) the fair value of the fee simple ownership, including all improvements. On the tenth day following the date of the verdicts, the court shall enter a judgment of condemnation on the inquisition for the fair value of the underground storage rights, unless on or before said tenth day all of such owners shall join in an irrevocable election, filed in writing in the case, to have a judgment of condemnation entered on the inquisition for the fee simple title to the property including all improvements, in which case the court shall forthwith enter a judgment of condemnation for the fee simple title to the property. Unless all persons having an interest in the fee simple title shall join in the election hereinabove provided for, the court shall enter judgment of condemnation on the inquisition for the underground storage rights. In the event the property owners should elect to have a judgment of condemnation entered on the inquisition for the fee simple title to the property, said owners shall be entitled to defer final settlement for a period of time not to exceed six months from the date of the aforementioned election; however, nothing herein contained shall prevent the gas storage company from utilizing underground storage rights during such time, subsequent to the inquisition. The property owners shall have the duty, during said period prior to final settlement, to maintain their property in reasonable condition, normal wear and tear excepted.

695G.

The right to utilize geological strata for the underground storage of gas, acquired by any gas storage company by eminent domain under Sections 695B or 695C of this subheading, shall be subject to the right of the owner of the land or of other rights or interests therein, to penetrate such strata for the purpose of exploring for or recovering gas not owned by the gas storage company, water, oil, or other minerals from other strata. If such owner shall desire to penetrate the underground gas storage reservoir in order to recover such gas, water, oil, or other minerals from a lower stratum, he may do so provided he gives the gas storage company sufficient written notice thereof to permit the taking of proper precautions. The gas storage company, after receiving such notice, at its expense and responsibility, shall supervise such penetration to assure that such penetration will be made in such manner as will not hamper or im-