



## INFORMATION ABOUT MINERAL CLAUSES IN CONTRACT FORMS

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*This form contains general information about mineral estates in published contract forms.*

**1. INTRODUCTION:** Historically, buyers and sellers of property near urban areas have not been concerned about the conveyance or retention of mineral interests. Mineral interests for such properties may have been severed in the past or the value of the mineral interests may have been relatively insignificant. There has historically been little risk that the owner of the mineral interests under property near urban areas could or would access the surface of the property to drill or excavate for minerals (perhaps, because the property was too small to support such activity or because such activity may have been heavily regulated by a city). In recent years, the discovery of large mineral deposits near urban areas and advances in drilling technologies have led to increased exploration and drilling activities in and near urban areas. In turn, buyers and sellers of property in urban and suburban areas have raised questions as to whether it is best to convey or retain all or part of the mineral interests in a particular sale.

**2. WHO OWNS THE MINERALS?** Owners of property in or near urban areas typically are not aware of the precise extent of the mineral interests they may own. One may own all or only a portion of the mineral interests. Further, the mineral interests may have been leased. Determining who owns the mineral interests, whether the mineral interests have been leased, and who holds rights under any leases requires an expert (such as an oil and gas attorney) to review the chain of title and formulate an informed opinion.

**3. CONTRACT FORMS:** The residential contract forms promulgated by the Texas Real Estate Commission and the commercial contract forms published by the Texas Association of REALTORS® provide that the seller will convey to the buyer all of the seller’s rights associated with the property, including all mineral interests and any rights held under any mineral leases by the seller. If a seller wishes to reserve all or a part of the mineral interests and rights held by the seller in a residential transaction, the seller **must** use the Texas Real Estate Commission’s *Addendum for Reservation of Oil, Gas, And Other Minerals* (TREC No. 44-2, TAR No. 1905). If the addendum is not attached to the sales contract, the seller conveys to the buyer all of the mineral interests and rights held by the seller at the time of the transaction. In a farm & ranch transaction, the seller may use the TREC promulgated form, but may also use any addendum prepared by an attorney or by either party.  
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**4. RESOURCES:** One may find information related to mineral estates and mineral leases through many sources, including but not limited to: (a) the Real Estate Research Center ([www.recenter.tamu.edu](http://www.recenter.tamu.edu)); and (b) the Railroad Commission of Texas ([www.rrc.state.tx.us](http://www.rrc.state.tx.us)). There are many other useful sources that one can access via the Internet through most Internet search engines.

The undersigned acknowledge receipt of this notice.

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