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| LFC Requester: | Davidson |
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov

(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 02/05/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB276 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Pinto **Agency Name and Code:** New Mexico Environmental Department 667
Short Title: Uranium Mining Reclamation Revolving Fund **Person Writing:** Jonas Armstrong
Phone: 505-670-9050 **Email:** Jonas.Armstrong2@env.

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|-------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| FY25 | FY26 | | |
| | 2,000 | Nonrecurring | Uranium Mine Reclamation Revolving Fund |
| | | | |

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

| Estimated Revenue | | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|------|------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Total | | 780. | 780. | 2,340. | Recurring | Abandoned Uranium Mine |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------|
| | | | | | | Reclamation Fund |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------|

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the uranium mining reclamation revolving fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent fiscal years for conducting uranium mine and mill reclamation activities. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB276 is a \$2 million appropriation to the Uranium Mining Reclamation Revolving Fund administered by NMED. NMED anticipates adding 2 FTE to create the Uranium Mine Cleanup program, costing \$280 thousand annually for personnel. The Department expects costs of up to \$500 thousand annually for contracted site work (initial assessments, detailed assessments and sampling, reclamation planning, and clean up).

Additional funding sources will need to be identified to effectively implement remediation projects.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Creating, hiring, and training the necessary additional FTE is a significant undertaking for the Department and will require additional administrative support.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB260 appropriates funds into the Water Quality Management Fund for the characterization and remediation of non-uranium neglected contaminate sites as well as abandoned uranium mine sites.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

NMED does not have jurisdictional authority to clean up mines on tribal lands. The mechanism

for addressing sites on tribal land will need to be addressed through Memorandums of Agreement or other means to facilitate work on these sites.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

New Mexico has around 50 uranium mines sites that are not eligible under any current cleanup program on private, state, and federal lands that will continue to pose risk to human health and the environment if left unaddressed for decades more. Former uranium mines on tribal lands increase that count to hundreds of legacy mines in the state that will remain unaddressed, even after decades of impact. There are additional abandoned uranium mines that are technically under federal or other cleanup programs but lack funding to remediate; they will continue to be unfunded and unaddressed, leaving New Mexicans at risk.

AMENDMENTS

None.