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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Vigil	DATE TYPED:	02/21/00	HB	HM 23
SHORT TITLE:	Problems with Domestic Wells			SB	
				ANALYST:	Pickering

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
		Minimal			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HJM 74 Relates to SJM 60

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the State Engineer / Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 23 requests the State Engineer to report the number, general location, and impact to streams and interstate compacts of domestic wells in the interim Water and Natural Resources Committee. Also, the memorial requires the engineer to provide examples of domestic wells used for fisheries, aesthetic or other purposes inconsistent with the intent of Section 72-12-1 NMSA 1978. Additionally, the engineer is charged with providing proposed regulations related to capping and/or plugging of abandoned wells.

Significant Issues

HB 23 calls for the State Engineer to evaluate domestic wells as they currently exist, including accumulated impacts to stream systems

FISCAL / ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

OSE reported minimal impact in the form of some additional study and research. However, most of the data should be obtainable from existing agency files.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

HM 23 duplicates HJM 74/aHAGC and relates to SJM 60.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

According to the agency, HM 23 makes the assumption that the engineer is aware of all illegal uses of domestic wells, which is not the case. Consequently, OSE contends that it could prepare a high level report

as mandated by the memorial; however, it would show a generalized, rather than specified, representation of the impact of domestic wells in certain critical basins.

RWP/gm