



Groundwater contamination from liquid waste, primarily from poorly installed or malfunctioning septic systems, is a serious problem in New Mexico. The Legislature, two years ago, passed legislation allowing the Department of Environment to promulgate liquid waste treatment rules to address the problem. The Environmental Improvement Board passed these rules in November 2001.

A significant part of the problem is that consumers and even contractors are not adequately informed on the proper operation or installation of these systems. In fact, during the debate before the EIB, some contractors testified that in New Mexico, there is no certification requirement placed on contractors specific to septic systems.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$530.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund.

**MFV/njw**