

HOUSE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 68

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO REQUEST AN INTERIM COMMITTEE TO ANALYZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LA SEMILLA LIQUID WASTE TRAINING FACILITY, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATIONS TO DESIGNERS, INSTALLERS, CONTRACTORS, BUSINESSES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC REGARDING ON-SITE LIQUID WASTE SYSTEMS, WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND WATER REUSE.

WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred eighty thousand on-site liquid waste systems in New Mexico, discharging about sixty-eight million gallons of sewage effluent per day; and

WHEREAS, discharges from on-site liquid waste systems are the second largest source of ground water contamination in the state; and

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underscored material = new
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1 WHEREAS, on-site liquid waste systems are responsible for
2 approximately sixty-one percent of the water supply well
3 contamination in New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, most areas of population growth in the state are
5 poorly suited for the installation of on-site liquid waste
6 systems; and

7 WHEREAS, discharges from on-site liquid waste systems
8 contain organisms that transmit disease and infection; and

9 WHEREAS, the proposed La Semilla education, demonstration
10 and training facility will be centrally located and will serve
11 the needs of the entire state and potentially the region; and

12 WHEREAS, the proposed La Semilla facility will educate
13 businesses in responding to new liquid waste and wastewater
14 regulations, will train businesses and the general public on
15 wastewater reuse and will demonstrate to the public and
16 businesses cost-effective and environmentally friendly
17 technologies; and

18 WHEREAS, the proposed La Semilla facility will be used to
19 provide hands-on demonstrations of current, new and emerging
20 technologies, as well as continuing practical updated
21 training, and will provide a venue for the public to see new
22 technologies and methods of energy, resource and water and
23 wastewater management; and

24 WHEREAS, the La Semilla facility has been conceptually
25 supported by the university of New Mexico, the New Mexico

1 institute of mining and technology and New Mexico state
2 university as a facility where these schools may conduct
3 research and demonstrate new and advanced technologies in on-
4 site liquid waste treatment, wastewater treatment, wastewater
5 reuse and energy and resource management; and

6 WHEREAS, on-site liquid waste systems can be an
7 economical and environmentally sound waste treatment option
8 for rural areas and small communities as long as they are
9 properly designed, installed and maintained; and

10 WHEREAS, the success of on-site liquid waste systems
11 depends on well-trained and educated designers and installers;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, there is currently no facility in New Mexico to
14 educate and train on-site liquid waste system designers and
15 installers; and

16 WHEREAS, the commissioner of public lands has executed a
17 one hundred year lease with the federal department of energy
18 for use of the state lands known as La Semilla, located
19 adjacent to Mesa del Sol, for use as a buffer to uses on the
20 adjoining Kirtland air force base lands; and

21 WHEREAS, the department of energy lease payments provide
22 the required compensation for use of the state land; and

23 WHEREAS, the lease with the department of energy provides
24 for additional uses that are consistent with the La Semilla
25 master plan;

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