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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Tsosie DATE TYPED 3/10/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Home Radioactivity Testing Funding SB SJM 19

ANALYST Ford

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SJM 33

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Indian Affairs (DIA)

Environment Department (NMED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 19 makes a number of findings related to uranium mining sites in New Mexico Indian country at Shiprock and Ambrosia Lake and calls upon the New Mexico congressional delegation to introduce and support legislation providing for testing and monitoring of individual homes and small business sites in a 30 mile radius of Shiprock and Ambrosia Lake uranium mines. Further, the resolution requests this federal legislation to give meaningful notification to residents of the area of eligibility for testing and remediation.

Significant Issues

According to the findings of the resolution, major uranium mining sites were active at Shiprock and Ambrosia Lake, including small “mom and pop” uranium-related businesses. Some of these small operations were not included in the remediation and site clean-up conducted under the federal Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978. In addition, notification to individuals of the remediation and site clean-up was minimal. Thus, homes and small businesses in the

area may still be contaminated, which poses significant health dangers.

The Department of Indian Affairs writes:

“Many Navajo and non-Navajo residents in the Four Corners area of New Mexico face significant problems stemming from uranium development in the area. Exposure to uranium and tailings may result in long term health effects such as cancer and lung disease. In fact, during the late 1970s Navajo uranium miners and their families began to associate the cases of lung diseases to their work in underground uranium mines in the 1940s-1960s. Medical and environmental data confirmed this association.

“To address the concerns of uranium mines, Congress passed the Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 for remediation and site clean up. Then in 1990, Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, providing for compensation to former miners and their survivors who contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases as a result of their exposure to radiation during employment in underground uranium mines during the 1950 and 1960s.”

TECHNICAL ISSUES

NMED suggests that references to “mining” be replaced by “milling.”

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Joint Memorial 19 duplicates Senate Joint Memorial 33.

EF/rs:lg