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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/2020

SPONSOR Woods/Ingle LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Curry & Roosevelt Water Well Testing SB 275

ANALYST Wan

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$700.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Environment Department (NMED)

Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

No Response Received

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 275 appropriates \$700 thousand from the general fund to NMED for expenditure in FY21 and FY22 for the purpose of water well testing in Curry and Roosevelt counties to assess drinking and agricultural water resources potentially affected by a contamination plume associated with Cannon Air Force Base.

SB275 appropriates \$600 thousand for up to one thousand well water tests, as approved by the well owner(s), on a quarterly basis. NMED would test for the presence of various per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to help determine the proximity, progress, and intensity of a PFAS plume known to be present east and southeast of Cannon Air Force Base. The bill directs NMED to update testing information and report quarterly to the legislative finance committee, appropriate interim legislative committee, NMED, DOH, impacted municipal and county governments, and residents of Curry and Roosevelt counties.

The remaining \$100 thousand is appropriated to NMED for public communications, outreach, and administrative costs needed to support the well testing program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$700 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY22 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to NMED, “The US Environmental Protection Agency approved a new PFAS analytical method in December 2019; costs for sample analysis using the new method can range from \$275 to \$550 per water sample. Additionally, there is only one lab in New Mexico accredited to analyze PFAS in a water sample, though additional labs are in the process of pursuing accreditation.” NMED also states that the appropriation will help the agency provide essential sampling data to protect public health and facilitate NMED’s ability to provide important information to lawmakers, community leaders, and individuals that are affected by this contamination.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The appropriation in SB275 relates to appropriations in the House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 2&3. The budget for the Water Protection Program of NMED includes a general fund appropriation of \$200 thousand for drinking water analysis related to PFAS contamination. Section 5 of HB2 includes a special appropriation of \$1 million for ongoing litigation and protection planning for this contamination.

CW/sb