

LFC Requester: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Check all that apply:*

Original  Amendment \_\_\_\_\_  
Correction  Substitute \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Feb. 10, 2025  
Bill No: SB 316  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Sen. George Munoz  
Short Title: Uranium Waste Disposal  
Agency Name and Code: EMNRD 521  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Person Writing: David Ennis  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:**

Conflicts with SB 276 Uranium Mining Reclamation Revolving Fund.

**Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:**

Conflicts with \$2 million appropriation from the general fund into the Uranium Reclamation Revolving Fund proposed by SB 276.

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE****BILL SUMMARY**

SB 316 prohibits reclamation of uranium waste from the mining, milling or processing of uranium ore on any lands in New Mexico except on federal lands and to a hazardous waste level of environmental protection.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No fiscal impact for EMNRD.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

SB 316 prohibits reclamation of uranium waste left behind at the approximately 261 abandoned or neglected uranium mines and 8 former uranium mills on any land in New Mexico that isn't federally managed land. SB 316 directly conflicts with SB 276, which proposes appropriation of \$2M from the general fund into the Uranium Reclamation Revolving Fund for EMNRD and NMED to reclaim approximately 261 abandoned or neglected uranium mines in New Mexico. SB 316 would negate, or at least greatly limit, the ability for the State of New Mexico to utilize money granted in SB 276 to reclaim abandoned or neglected uranium mines because many of these abandoned mines are on private land. If SB 316 is passed, reclaiming uranium waste on private land would be prohibited. Any abandoned uranium mines that are located on federal lands would be required under SB 316 to be designed to hold "hazardous waste" which is an advanced level of engineering control that would greatly increase cost to the State of New Mexico.

SB 316 would prohibit reclamation of uranium waste rock at the Quivira Mine on the Navajo Nation. EPA Region 9 recently announced a preferred alternative to transport uranium waste rock from the Quivira Mine to private land owned and operated by the Northwest New Mexico Solid Waste Authority's Red Rock disposal site near Thoreau, New Mexico. This alternative is not allowed under SB 316.

Section 1(A) of SB316 states "Uranium tailings and uranium waste from mining, milling, or processing of uranium ore in New Mexico shall only be disposed of in federally managed underground depositories...." It is important to note that there are currently no federal underground depositories for uranium mine waste.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

SB 316 would greatly diminish the ability for the EMNRD Mining and Minerals Division FTE

Uranium Coordinator position to initiate and implement reclamation of the approximate 261 abandoned uranium mines in New Mexico. The Uranium Coordinator position was created by the New Mexico State Legislature HB 164 in 2022 to lead the charge for abandoned uranium mine cleanup.

SB 316 undermines uranium mine reclamation by imposing land use restrictions (federal land only) and by imposing extremely high environmental standards by having to design to a hazardous waste level of environmental protectiveness.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Conflicts with SB 276 (2025 proposed legislation) and HB 164 (2022 passed legislation).

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

## **ALTERNATIVES**

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

If SB 316 is not passed, EMNRD and NMED will continue to implement reclamation of abandoned uranium mine waste on all private, state and federal lands in New Mexico.

## **AMENDMENTS**