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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/14

SPONSOR Cote LAST UPDATED _____ HM 72

SHORT TITLE Location of High-Power Transmission Line SB _____

ANALYST Weber

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA)
Public Regulation Commission (PRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 72 reports that the United States Department of Defense and the military services have renewable energy mandates similar to those in many western states and are supportive of renewable and alternative energy initiatives and efforts to strengthen the national grid. White Sands missile range is also extremely supportive of these initiatives and is home to a four and four-tenths megawatt solar array, the largest renewable energy project in the United States army to date. White Sands is the largest overland defense test range in the United States and provides unique testing environments that cannot be replicated elsewhere. White Sands provides about nine thousand jobs in New Mexico and contributes \$2,300,000 a day to the south central New Mexico.

The United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management is requested to assure the Department of Defense that a high-power transmission line to be built in New Mexico near White Sands missile range will be located along existing transmission and utility corridors so as not to affect our nation's security.

Copies of this memorial are to be transmitted to the United States Secretary of the Interior, the director of the Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico congressional delegation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal implications were identified.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

RETA reports that the SunZia transmission project has been under development since 2008 and is planned to be approximately 515 miles of two single-circuit 500 kV transmission lines and associated substations that interconnect SunZia with numerous 345 kV lines in both NM and AZ. In 2009, the Department of Interior issued a notice to begin the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SunZia transmission project. Through the EIS process, a number of proposed routes have been studied, but several have been identified by White Sands Missile Range as having a potential negative impact on the military missions. As an effort to address these potential impacts, M.I.T Lincoln Laboratory has been requested to perform a study to evaluate the concerns raised by White Sands Missile Range. Once the study has been published is should provide additional information for BLM's consideration.

ANA/jl