

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The program will be administered by NMSU.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

In its analysis, EMRD listed the following technical questions:

1. The proposed legislation seeks to study the “use” of water, but the term is undefined and could lead to very general study or the study could be focused on a single issue.
2. The phrase “underground” may be considered ambiguous. Limiting the study to oil and gas exploration leaves out an important element: production.

The analysis suggests revising the last clause of the first sentence to read as follows: “ ... producing oil and gas exploration and production.”

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The following information is provided for information only. It is not intended as a commentary on the merits of the bill.

This request was not included in NMSU’s budget request. Consequently, the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education did not recommend this program expansion.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Are funds for conduct of this study available from other sources such as the federal government ?
2. Are there private industries that will benefit from the results of the study ?
3. Have efforts been made to obtain funds from sources other than the Legislature ?

LB/njw