

enhance their health, comfort and quality of life. An existing organization known as the New Mexico Sustainable Energy Collaborative (NMSEC) is already active in this area and could possibly serve as the entity rendering the assistance envisioned in the bill.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150.0 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

EMNRD reports it is already facilitating the activities of the NMSEC.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

EMNRD reports the term “services” on line 19 is not defined. It is therefore unclear whether the appropriation could be used for establishment of a revolving loan fund for the purchase of sustainable energy equipment; for creation of a program for lease or lease-purchase of sustainable energy equipment; or for similar initiatives that may not traditionally be considered “services.” Such mechanisms have significant potential to facilitate the provision of sustainable energy to the targeted population. The term “sustainable energy” on line 21 also is not defined, but is generally construed to include energy produced from solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass resources.

LT/prr