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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/2007

SPONSOR Stewart LAST UPDATED _____ HB 1196

SHORT TITLE NM TECH Water Resource Assessment Coordination Center SB _____

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$75.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Department of Higher Education (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill1196 appropriates \$75,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech) to pay for a Water Resource Assessment Coordination Center. Any unexpended funds will revert to the General Fund at the end of FY08.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75,000 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by NM Tech to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for review and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

The New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, established by legislation in 1927,

is a service and research division of NM Tech. It acts as the geological survey center for the State of New Mexico with these main goals:

- Conduct research and interact with State and Federal agencies and industry to facilitate prudent exploitation of the state's geological resources.
- Distribute accurate information to scientists, decision makers, and the New Mexico public regarding the state's geologic infrastructure, mineral and energy resources, and geohydrology (including water quantity and quality).
- Create accurate, up-to-date maps (using GIS) of the state's geology and resource potential.
- Provide timely information on potential geologic hazards, including earthquakes, volcanic events, soils-and subsidence-related problems, and flooding.
- Act as a repository for cores, well cuttings and a wide variety of geological data. Provide convenient physical and internet access for New Mexicans to such resources.
- Provide public education and outreach through college teaching and advising, a Mineral Museum, and teacher- and student-training programs.
- Staff serve on a number of boards and commissions within the state and the region concerned with various geoscience-related issues.

A number of agencies exist statewide that deal directly with water resource issues. They include the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, the Office of Water Management, Los Alamos National Labs, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts through New Mexico State University just to name a few. At this time there is no coordination of the research and planning efforts of these agencies and as such, our statewide water system remains disparate and lacks a cost effective model according to a representative from NM Tech.

The specific purpose of this appropriation is to provide planning money for coordination of all water research in the state including:

- Future water delivery production for aquifers.
- Create a statewide atlas of water resources.
- Design a more efficient and cost-effective water plan for the state.
- Develop a proposal and a plan for integrating processes to present to the state.
- Travel and administrative cost of organizing all parties.

The Bureau of Geology and Mining Resources was selected to spearhead this effort because of all the agencies involved have no regulatory mission.

GM/mt