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AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT; DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO COORDINATE EFFORTS ACROSS THE STATE TO CLEAN UP AND RECLAIM FORMER URANIUM MINE AND MILL SITES; PROVIDING DUTIES; DIRECTING THE CREATION OF A URANIUM MINE RECLAMATION COORDINATOR POSITION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT; DIRECTING THE CREATION OF A URANIUM MINE RECLAMATION COORDINATOR POSITION IN THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT; CREATING THE URANIUM MINING RECLAMATION REVOLVING FUND.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. URANIUM MINING RECLAMATION--DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT--DUTIES.--

A. The department of environment shall:

(1) coordinate efforts across the state to clean up and reclaim former uranium mine and mill sites. The energy, minerals and natural resources department; the Indian affairs department; the office of natural resources trustee; the state land office; the department of game and fish; the cultural affairs department; the department of health; the workforce solutions department; the economic development department; and the department of transportation shall work in conjunction with the department of environment to support the department's duties as they relate to the purposes of the

1 respective departments and agencies;

2 (2) develop a strategic plan for the cleanup
3 of uranium mine and mill sites throughout the state,
4 including reclamation goals, time lines for the completion of
5 cleanup activities at specific sites and anticipated funding
6 requirements. The department of environment shall consult
7 with the departments and agencies enumerated in Paragraph (1)
8 of this subsection in the development of the strategic plan
9 and include in the strategic plan the respective agencies'
10 and departments' input;

11 (3) establish an effective mechanism for
12 consultation and coordination with the federal government;
13 Indian nations, tribes and pueblos; communities impacted by
14 uranium mining; and other states on uranium mine and mill
15 reclamation activities;

16 (4) work with the economic development
17 department, workforce solutions department and industry to
18 establish uranium mine and mill reclamation as a target
19 economic development industry in New Mexico, including the
20 creation, coordination and promotion of worker training and
21 business development programs for reclamation activities;

22 (5) develop, maintain and update on a
23 regular basis a centralized repository of uranium mine and
24 mill sites and reclamation activities. The repository shall
25 include, at minimum, the location of uranium mine and mill

1 sites, information about the ownership and legal jurisdiction
2 of each site and each site's cleanup status and shall use any
3 information currently maintained or possessed by the energy,
4 minerals and natural resources department relating to uranium
5 mine and mill sites; and

6 (6) on an annual basis, report to the
7 radioactive and hazardous materials committee on the
8 department of environment's activities in the preceding year.
9 The department of environment shall consult with the
10 departments and agencies enumerated in Paragraph (1) of this
11 subsection and include in the report the activities
12 undertaken by the respective departments and agencies in the
13 preceding year that are related to uranium mine and mill site
14 reclamation.

15 B. The secretary of environment shall create a
16 uranium mine reclamation coordinator position and employ
17 additional staff as needed for the department of environment
18 to carry out the provisions of this section.

19 **SECTION 2. ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
20 **DEPARTMENT--URANIUM MINE RECLAMATION COORDINATOR.--**The
21 secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources shall
22 create a uranium mine reclamation coordinator position and
23 employ additional staff as needed to coordinate the
24 department's uranium mine and mill site reclamation
25 activities and effectively collaborate and engage with the

1 department of environment in carrying out the provisions of
2 Section 1 of this 2022 act.

3 SECTION 3. URANIUM MINING RECLAMATION REVOLVING FUND--
4 CREATED.--

5 A. The "uranium mining reclamation revolving fund"
6 is created in the state treasury. The uranium mining
7 reclamation revolving fund consists of appropriations, gifts,
8 grants, donations and money received by the department of
9 environment or the energy, minerals and natural resources
10 department from the federal government or other state
11 agencies and other sources for conducting uranium mine and
12 mill reclamation activities. Money recovered for the state
13 by or on behalf of the department of environment or the
14 energy, minerals and natural resources department from
15 uranium mine or mill reclamation related litigation or
16 settlements shall be deposited in the uranium mining
17 reclamation revolving fund.

18 B. The uranium mining reclamation revolving fund
19 shall be administered by the department of environment.
20 Money in the fund is subject to appropriation by the
21 legislature. Expenditures may be made from the fund for the
22 department of environment or the energy, minerals and natural
23 resources department to undertake projects to reclaim uranium
24 mine and mill sites, including the acquisition of tools and
25 equipment; expenses incurred by the department of environment

1 or the energy, minerals and natural resources department in
2 planning, supervising and completing uranium mine and mill
3 reclamation projects; and expenses incurred in litigation
4 involving uranium mine or mill sites; provided that money in
5 the fund shall not be used for the operational expenses of
6 the department of environment or the energy, minerals and
7 natural resources department. Disbursements from the fund
8 shall be made by warrant of the secretary of finance and
9 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary
10 of environment or the secretary of energy, minerals and
11 natural resources or their designees.

12 C. Money in the uranium mining reclamation
13 revolving fund shall not revert to the general fund at the end
14 of a fiscal year. _____

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