

LFC Requester:

Davidson

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)***SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION***{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}***Date Prepared:** 01/23/2026*Check all that apply:***Bill Number:** SB 66Original  Correction Amendment  Substitute **Sponsor:** Steinborn, Pinto, Charley,  
Shendo**Short** Abandoned Uranium Mine  
Cleanup**Agency Name****and Code**NMED-667**Number:****Person Writing** Miori Harms**Phone:** 505-372-8887 **Email** Miori.harms@env.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	50,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>				50,000.0		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 66 (SB66) appropriates \$50 million from the General Fund to the Department of Environment for use in FYs 2027 through 2029 to assess and clean up abandoned or neglected contaminated sites, including abandoned uranium mining sites, across the state that do not have viable responsible parties to fund and conduct cleanup actions. Unexpended balances at end of FY 2029 shall revert to the General Fund.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

The appropriation of \$50 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY29 shall revert to the general fund.

Analysis from NMED estimates the agency could use 98 percent of the fund for assessing and cleaning up contaminated sites and the remaining 2 percent to hire personnel to facilitate this work. As an example, analysis pointed to one site with contaminated soil and groundwater which has estimated cleanup costs around \$5.3 million.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

NMED notes the timeline for expenditure of the \$50 million appropriation, between FY27 through FY29, may be too compressed as certain cleanup projects can last several years.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Site cleanups can vary substantially due to complexity and scope of cleanup. Some sites can be remediated in months while some remediation activities can stretch on for years.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Neglected contaminated sites and abandoned uranium mines are also present on sovereign nation's land. Funding mechanisms to address sites on sovereign nation land will need to be developed as no mechanism currently exists.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

The Executive Budget Recommendation includes a \$10 million General Fund appropriation to support the neglected and contaminated sites work to the neglected and contaminated sites fund and a \$10 million General Fund appropriation to support abandoned uranium mine cleanup to the uranium mining reclamation revolving fund. The \$50 million appropriation is a significant investment that will support NMED's estimate of approximately \$300 million necessary to address the 350+ sites in New Mexico. This appropriation will provide support to establish and inform future appropriations.

Amendments to the Water Quality Act included in SB21 (2025) established the Water Quality

Control Commission's authority to adopt rules for state-led response, investigation, and remediation of water pollution and soil contamination. The legislation also created a non-reverting neglected and contaminated sites fund dedicated to this cleanup work which is unfunded.

The Uranium Mine Reclamation Revolving Fund was created in 2022 to address uranium mine cleanup, but the balance remains at \$0. SB66 will appropriate funds from the General Fund and allow for more flexibility and less restriction of a short timeline, supporting larger cleanup initiatives.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Legislative expectations for spending allocations to uranium and non-uranium cleanup sites are not defined in the bill but may be helpful guidance for the agency.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Current abandoned uranium mine cleanup projects, 15 in total, will cease operations. The current funding for these projects expires on June 30, 2026, and the projects will be limited to only completing work that can leave a site in a stable condition.

NMED notes the State has approximately 50 uranium mine sites which are not on private, state, and/or federal cleanup plans. These sites have the potential to pose a risk to human and environmental health if not attended to through immediate cleanup efforts. Analysis also notes there are dozens of former legacy uranium mines on tribal lands which also remain unaddressed and could pose additional risk to human and environmental health. New Mexico has more than 350+ neglected and contaminated non-uranium sites across the state. Without this funding, the threat to human health and the environment will continue.

## **AMENDMENTS**