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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 226

SHORT TITLE: Uranium Mine Cleanup

SPONSOR: Pinto

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/5/26 **ANALYST:** Davidson

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$50,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bill 2

Sources of Information

LFC Files

New Mexico Environment Department analysis (House Bill 333) from the 2025 legislative session

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

New Mexico Environment Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 226

Senate Bill 226 (SB226) appropriates \$50 million from the general fund to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for the purpose of assessing and cleaning up abandoned and neglected contaminated sites, including abandoned uranium mining sites.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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 for an identical bill (House Bill 333) from the 2025 legislative session, estimates the agency will use 97 percent of the fund for assessing and cleaning up contaminated sites and the remaining 3 percent to hire personnel to facilitate this work. NMED analysis pointed to one site with contaminated soil and groundwater which has estimated cleanup costs around \$5 million. The agency also plans to begin cleanup of an abandoned uranium mine with the funds from Senate Bill 226 and estimates this work to cost between \$4 million and \$8 million.

Overall, NMED estimates each individual mine remediation will run between \$4 million and \$12 million depending on site features, whether groundwater contamination is present, and method of remediation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMED analysis for an identical bill (House Bill 333) from the 2025 session, notes the state has over 350 contaminated sites, each with varying degrees of potential impact to human and environmental health. The agency estimates that approximately \$300 million total will be necessary to address all the contaminated sites.

Additionally, agency analysis indicates that contaminated sites and abandoned uranium mines are present on the land of sovereign nations. NMED notes that, “The proper mechanisms to allow expenditure of funding and implementation of the work through cooperative agreements will need to be developed.”

NMED analysis notes the timeline for expenditure of the \$50 million appropriation, between FY27 through FY29, may be too compressed. The agency states that the actualization of funds can take up to 60 days and certain cleanup projects can last several years

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 226 duplicates House Bill 333 from the 2025 legislative session.

Senate Bill 226 relates to a combined \$25 million in nonrecurring appropriations in the House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (General Appropriation Act), to NMED for neglected and contaminated waste sites, including for abandoned uranium mining sites.

AD/cf