

HOUSE BILL 452

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales and Carlos R. Cisneros

AN ACT

RELATING TO UTILITIES; CREATING A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE  
RECENT NATURAL GAS SHUT-DOWN AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS; MAKING AN  
APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**SECTION 1. NATURAL GAS EMERGENCY INVESTIGATION TASK  
FORCE--POWERS AND DUTIES--AGENCY COOPERATION.--**

A. The "natural gas emergency investigation task  
force" is created and shall be composed of the following  
members:

(1) the secretary of finance and  
administration;

(2) the secretary of homeland security and  
emergency management;

(3) the chair of the public regulation

.185106.2

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 commission or another commissioner designated by the chair; and

2 (4) the adjutant general.

3 B. The secretary of finance and administration  
4 shall serve as chair of the task force.

5 C. The task force shall:

6 (1) investigate how and why New Mexico  
7 consumers lost natural gas service in early February 2011;

8 (2) investigate the economic and social  
9 impacts of the loss;

10 (3) investigate the adequacy of the state's  
11 and local governments' response to the emergency;

12 (4) determine how to safeguard deliverability  
13 and operational efficiency in the natural gas pipeline system  
14 to prevent undue hardship on New Mexico natural gas consumers;

15 (5) invite representatives of federal agencies  
16 that regulate interstate pipelines and transportation of  
17 natural gas to assist in the task force's duties;

18 (6) invite a representative of the federal  
19 emergency management agency to assist in the task force's  
20 duties;

21 (7) invite other experts to assist the task  
22 force as necessary;

23 (8) recommend state or federal legislation  
24 necessary to address the task force's concerns; and

25 (9) address other matters related to the

.185106.2

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 natural gas emergency that the chair of the task force deems  
2 necessary.

3 D. State agencies and legislative committees shall  
4 assist the task force as needed.

5 E. The task force shall report its findings and  
6 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate interim  
7 legislative committees by August 1, 2011 and shall post its  
8 report on the public regulation commission web site upon  
9 completion.

10 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Fifty thousand dollars  
11 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
12 department of finance and administration for expenditure in  
13 fiscal years 2011 and 2012 to pay the expenses of the natural  
14 gas emergency investigation task force. Any unexpended or  
15 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2012  
16 shall revert to the general fund.

17 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public  
18 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.