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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 66

SHORT TITLE: Abandoned Uranium Mine Cleanup

SPONSOR: Steinborn/Pinto/Charley/Shendo

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 1/23/2026 **ANALYST:** Davidson

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$50,000	Nonrecurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Environment Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 66.

Senate Bill 66 (SB66) appropriates \$50 million from the general fund to the Environment Department (NMED) for the purpose of assessing and cleaning up abandoned or 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.

NMED estimates the agency will 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. NMED notes one site with contaminated soil and groundwater has estimated cleanup costs around \$5.3 million.

NMED predicts \$300 million will be needed to clean the more than 350 it has identified as needing remediation. NMED also notes it currently is operating 15 projects related to remediation of abandoned uranium mine cleanup, using previous funding appropriated by the Legislature in the 2025 legislative session.

NMED, in analysis of similar legislation, estimated 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 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 for a prior iteration of the bill indicated that contaminated sites and abandoned uranium mines are present on the land of sovereign nations. NMED noted, “The proper mechanisms to allow expenditure of funding and implementation of the work through cooperative agreements will need to be developed.”

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

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 66 differs from House Bill 333 from the 2025 legislative session only in the fiscal years of the appropriation.

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