

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 3/22/2011

LRB Number	11-1236/1	Introduction Number	AB-0043	Estimate Type	Original
Description Removal of abandoned dams					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill directs the Department to consider the results dam removal will have on the safety, health and welfare of the persons who will be affected by the removal.

Removals of large dams require preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA provides a format for assessing the anticipated effects of dam removal, which include the results that the removal will have on safety, health and welfare. Small dam removals do not necessarily require an EA, but staff typically perform a similar review process to decide on permit conditions.

The procedures for evaluating a dam removal application differ based on how the dam was authorized; however, prior to the removal, all projects provide an opportunity for a public information hearing or a contested case hearing to be conducted for individuals who may be affected by the project. The Department can place conditions on the removal to address individual's concerns and to mitigate the impact on safety, life, health or property.

Since the bill reinforces current practice by the Department in handling dam removal cases, it has no fiscal effect.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The legislation emphasizes criteria that are already used by staff when evaluating dam removal applications; therefore, the immediate and long-term fiscal impacts should be minimal.