

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 2/21/2014

LRB Number	13-1884/2	Introduction Number	AB-0774	Estimate Type	Original
Description Procedures for utility projects that require a permit from the Department of Natural Resources					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

By statute and an inter-agency cooperative agreement, all Department time spent on the review and permitting of utility projects is tracked and quarterly invoices are sent to the PSC , which includes such costs in its billings to utilities. The bill adds process steps with a greater level of written correspondence between the Department and utilities, which could increase staff time spent on project reviews by an indeterminate amount. As such, the amount that would be billed to utilities through the PSC cooperative agreement would likely increase.

The bill would limit Department's involvement in PSC dockets to only environmental and natural resource matters for which the Department has specific regulatory authority. Currently, Department and PSC staff work together and share agency resources to assure full consideration of environmental and natural resource impact matters. Under the bill, PSC would not be able to rely on Department non-regulatory expertise and may have to increase its staff time on project reviews. The PSC may also have to increase the use of intervenor compensation monies to others in order to assure such expertise is included in PSC cases.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications