

Bill No.: HB0027 **Effective:** 2/27/2015

LSO No.: 15LSO-0076

Enrolled Act No.: HEA 43

Chapter No.: 60

Prime Sponsor: Joint Minerals, Business & Economic Development Interim Committee

Catch Title: NRC agreement state authorization.

Subject: Authorizes the Governor to Negotiate with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the State of Wyoming to Regulate Uranium Mining Operations.

Summary/Major Elements:

- Currently in Wyoming, the regulation of source materials from uranium mining and milling and the wastes associated with that mining and milling is regulated by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).
- This Act authorizes the Governor to begin negotiations with the NRC to enter into an agreement for the State of Wyoming to assume regulatory authority over uranium mining, milling and waste materials associated with uranium.
- The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is designated in the Act as the lead agency for the regulation of source materials from uranium mining and milling.
- The Governor is authorized to enter a final agreement for the regulation of source materials from uranium mining and milling and the associated wastes from those activities with the NRC. A final agreement would include all necessary components of a program to regulate source materials from uranium mining and milling and the wastes associated with that mining and milling.
- Requires the DEQ to develop and adopt a fee structure which accounts for the full cost of the regulatory program implemented under the Act.

Comments:

- Authorizes the creation of a major new program: Uranium Mining and Milling Regulation.
- The DEQ is authorized to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this Act. Any rules and regulations for the regulation of source materials from uranium mining and milling and the wastes associated with those activities must be as stringent as federal law.
- Appropriates \$920,000 to the DEQ to hire up to 6 additional full-time permanent employees to implement the purposes of the Act.
- Appropriates \$212,524 to the Attorney General's Office to hire 2 additional full-time permanent employees to effectuate the purposes of the Act.