

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6344

As of January 23, 1998

Title: An act relating to the transportation impacts of low-level radioactive waste.

Brief Description: Transporting low-level radioactive waste.

Sponsors: Senators Brown, Morton and Rasmussen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Agriculture & Environment: 1/28/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Staff: Vic Moon (786-7469)

Background: There is a large uranium mine next to the Spokane Indian reservation just outside the city of Spokane. The site of the uranium milling operation has been reclaimed and the reclamation of the rest of the site is in progress. The authority to direct reclamation of uranium and thorium mills is under the Department of Health.

Summary of Bill: The Department of Health shall not approve a plan for reclamation, closure or decommissioning of uranium or thorium mills or tailing facilities, nor approve a license or license renewal if the plan for such renewal is based on a reclamation, closure or decommissioning that involves the receipt, storage or permanent impoundment or disposal of radioactive materials that come from radioactive waste outside of the state.

The authority of counties affected by the transportation of low-level radioactive is expanded to recover reasonable fees to plan for and respond to the movement of such waste.

When the transportation of low-level radioactive waste from outside the state into a county within the state is authorized, any county may assess county impact fees to cover the costs reasonably necessary for the county to prepare for and respond to the movement of such waste. County impact fees may be imposed by the counties on the persons responsible for transporting the waste only after the county conducts a hearing on the potential transportation and safety impacts and the extent to which the state plan for authorizing transportation addresses the impacts on the county.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.