

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 648 (Delegate Rosso. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Environment - Coal Combustion Flyash

This bill requires a person who operates a coal combustion flyash disposal site to conduct a variety of environmental tests and implement a variety of environmental safeguards, as follows: (1) obtain a national pollution discharge elimination system permit for site effluent that contains coal combustion flyash; (2) conduct a hydrological investigation to identify the presence of any aquifer beneath a coal combustion flyash disposal site; (3) evaluate any potential environmental impacts that the coal combustion flyash disposal site may have on the environment, including drinking water supply and surface water receptors; (4) conduct an inventory of water supply wells within a five-mile radius of the coal combustion flyash site; (5) implement a leachate collection system, and install and maintain a liner as specified; (6) submit a monitoring plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to install and operate a particulate monitoring station at the coal combustion flyash disposal site; (7) limit the amount of exposed coal combustion flyash on the coal combustion flyash site to no more than ten acres at a time; and (8) implement best management practices for handling coal combustion flyash.

MDE may not consider coal combustion flyash to be, or approve it for use as, structural fill. In addition MDE must (1) conduct a study of air quality as it relates to particulate in the vicinity of a coal combustion flyash disposal site to ensure that construction and operation of the site do not contribute to a violation of air quality standards; (2) develop an annual monitoring system for groundwater quality and flow direction on each coal combustion flyash disposal site; and (3) adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase of \$40,800 in FY 2000. Out-year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	40,800	48,500	50,300	52,000	54,000
Net Effect	(\$40,800)	(\$48,500)	(\$50,300)	(\$52,000)	(\$54,000)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Minimal.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Maryland Department of the Environment reports that there are six coal flyash disposal sites that would be affected by the bill. As a result, general fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$40,826 in fiscal 2000, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 1999 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one public health engineer to write additional National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits for major coal flyash disposal facilities, as well as a technical resource for the required water monitoring plan. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. Future year expenditures reflect (1) full salaries with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 1999
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