

DECISION PACKAGE PROPOSALS 2007 BIENNIUM

DIVISION: CARDD DP # 2315

REPORTING LEVEL: 5706-23-01-01

NEW PROPOSAL PRESENT LAW ADJUSTMENT

TITLE: Coal Bed Methane Protection Program-Language

EPP REQUEST DESCRIPTION:

DNRC requests a language appropriation contingent upon the Coal Bed Methane Protection Program 76-15-904 (5) and 76-15-905 (7).

"During the 2007 biennium, up to \$1 million of funds currently in or to be deposited in the Coal Bed Methane Protection Account is appropriated to the department for use by conservation districts in the case of an emergency for private landowners or water right holders who qualify for compensation; and for Conservation District services provided under the program."

SUPPORT JUSTIFICATION:

76-15-904, MCA establishes the Coal Bed Methane Protection Account (02694) whereby at the beginning of each fiscal year, there must be deposited a total of \$400,000 of the proceeds from the distribution of oil and natural gas production taxes, as provided in 15-36-324. Money must be used to compensate landowners and water right holders for damages attributable to coal bed methane development. Money deposited in the fund and earnings of the fund may not be expended until after June 30, 2005. For fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2005, principal and earnings may be expended on in the case of an emergency.

Money in the account must be appropriated to the department for use by conservation districts that have private landowners or water right holders who qualify for compensation as provided in 76-15-905.

IS THERE AN ALTERNATE FUNDING SOURCE? YES NO
IS THERE PENDING LEGISLATION BEHINE THIS? YES NO

