

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 16, 2007

TO: Honorable Kip Averitt, Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1459 by Seliger (Relating to indemnification requirements relating to a clean coal project.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend statute and provide that University of Texas at Austin shall monitor, measure, and verify the permanent status of sequestered carbon dioxide and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice may enter into a lease contract with the Texas Railroad Co`mmission or an owner or operator of a clean coal project. It is assumed that any additional costs associated with implementing the lease contracts could be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill would also provide that the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) may represent a state agency that requests representation in a legal proceeding that arises from an escape of migration of carbon dioxide captured or sequestered in connection with a clean coal project.

The OAG indicates that any clean coal project will not be completed until 2013 and the agency does not anticipate that any claim based on escaping or migrating carbon dioxide would be made before or during 2012. However, if a relevant lawsuit is filed prior to the end of 2012, it is anticipated that any costs associated with the litigation could be absorbed within existing resources. Lawsuits that might arise after FY 2012 would likely require some indeterminate amount of additional resources given the highly technical aspects of the project

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 302 Office of the Attorney General, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 580 Water Development Board, 582 Commission on Environmental Quality

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