CONFIDENTIAL

LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015

Bill Number: H.489 Sec.21 **Name of Bill:** An act relating to revenue

Agency/ Dept: ANR/DEC **Author of Bill Review:** _____

Date of Bill Review: 5/28/2015 **Related Bills and Key Players:** _____

Status of Bill: (check one): _____Upon Introduction _____As passed by 1st body x As passed by both

Recommended Position:

X Support _____Oppose _____Remain Neutral _____Support with modifications identified in #8 below

Analysis of Bill

1. **Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** *Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.* The bill includes DEC's fee increases for FY2016 in addition to two small policy issues: delegation of approval of wastewater connections to municipal systems to municipalities and language clarifying the definition of a commercial hauler as it related to solid waste hauling and the need to obtain a license.

2. **Is there a need for this bill?** *Please explain why or why not.* Yes. This bill adds over 900K to the Department's annual budget.

3. **What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?**

   Most of these fees are increases and restructuring to existing fees. They will be absorbed easily into existing programs. One significant change is that the dam safety program will now be collecting annual dam operating fees to cover a portion of the cost of regular inspections.

   The fees generated by this bill will add 902K to the Department's budget. This revenue will go towards supporting our base programs to make up for the reduction in general funds in FY16 and beyond.

4. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** The DEC portion of fees included in H.489 should not have a significant impact on other state departments. Departments that own facilities regulated as public water supplies may be slightly impacted by some of the increased operating and construction permit fees. There are a number of state owned dams that will have to pay the annual operating fees.

5. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** (*for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)*
   There will be fiscal impacts to a variety of entities regulated by the Department – including municipalities, developers, solid waste haulers, industrial activities, dam owners and homeowners. Operating fees for community water supplies will see an increase that could be significant for larger systems.
   Throughout the legislative process, we did not receive any direct opposition from outside entities.

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to laura.gray@state.vt.us and jessica.mishaan@state.vt.us

6. **Other Stakeholders:**

   6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?

   6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why? Municipalities and water suppliers may oppose the increase to operating and construction fees. Dam owners will not be pleased about paying a fee ranging from $200 to $1000 depending on the hazard class of the Dam. Some industrial facilities will have to pay annual registration fees, which have previously not been assessed.

7. **Rationale for recommendation:** *Justify recommendation stated above.* The fee increases included in H.489 are equitable and necessary to shift an increased percentage of costs to run regulatory programs to the entities receiving the service through the assessment of fees.

8. **Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill***: Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

9. **Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission?**

Commissioner has reviewed this document: _____ ***Date:*** 6/1/15

Secretary has reviewed this document: _____ ***Date:*** 6/1/15

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to laura.gray@state.vt.us and jessica.mishaan@state.vt.us