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 DIGEST

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Mills

SB No. 585

Proposed law requires public hearings before issuing permits to drill or operate a new solution-mined cavern or expand or convert an existing solution-mined cavern in Iberia Parish. Requires the commissioner of conservation to promulgate rules for the public hearing.

Proposed law requires public notice on three separate days within a period of 30 days prior to the public hearing.

Proposed law requires the applicant, at least 30 days prior to the public hearing, to submit a report to the commissioner of conservation, the Iberia Parish governing authority, and Save Lake Peigneur, Inc. The report is to provide a baseline analysis of groundwater in the area of a permitted activity including both the water level and salt content; a plan for monitoring the groundwater in the area for levels and salt during the activity permitted; a geologic analysis of the integrity of the salt dome; and the results of an analysis of testing that attempts to determine the source and composition of the foaming or bubbling appearing in Lake Peigneur.

Proposed law prohibits the issuance of permits in Iberia Parish prior to Jan. 31, 2016.

Proposed law provides that these requirements are not applicable to any activity or operation related to safety, maintenance, inspection, testing, or regulatory compliance.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 30:4(N))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the engrossed bill.

1. Removes Vermilion Parish from the bill.
2. Bifurcates permits for activities related to "new" caverns and permits for activities related to "existing" caverns.
3. Prohibits issuance of a permit until after the public hearing and requires the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations for the public hearing.
4. Requires the applicant, at least 30 days prior to the public hearing, to submit a report to the commissioner of conservation, the Iberia Parish governing authority, and Save Lake Peigneur, Inc. The report is to provide a baseline analysis of groundwater in the area of a permitted activity including both the water level and salt content; a plan for monitoring the groundwater in the area for levels and salt during the activity permitted; a geologic analysis of the integrity of the salt dome; and the results of an analysis of testing that attempts to determine the source and composition of the foaming or bubbling appearing in Lake Peigneur.
5. Prohibits the issuance of permits in Iberia Parish prior to Jan. 31, 2016.
6. Provides that these requirements are not applicable to any activity or operation related to safety, maintenance, inspection, testing, or regulatory compliance.