



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 14, 2010

S. 3404
Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Act of 2010

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on August 5, 2010*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 3404 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to maintain the structural integrity of the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel, located one mile north of Leadville, Colorado. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO does not anticipate that any costs would be incurred under the bill beyond what the bureau will spend under current law to repair and maintain the tunnel over the next several years. The bill also would authorize the Secretary, if necessary, to seek reimbursements from private or public entities for the cost of expanding and operating the water treatment plant associated with the Leadville Tunnel to handle any increased water volumes.

Under the bill and subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also would be authorized to pay for any additional improvements to the tunnel and water treatment plant as well as any increase in associated operations and maintenance costs if such improvements are required as part of EPA's plan to clean up the California Gulch, a Superfund site located near the tunnel. Under current law, any costs to treat and manage contaminated water from the California Gulch would stem from an existing federal responsibility; therefore, this provision would not result in additional federal outlays.

Enacting S. 3404 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 3404 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aurora Swanson. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.