

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Western Area Power
5 Administration Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PILOT**
2 **PROJECT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
5 Western Area Power Administration (referred to in this
6 section as the “Administrator”) shall establish a pilot
7 project, as part of the continuous process improvement
8 program and to provide increased transparency for cus-
9 tomers, to publish on a publicly available website of the
10 Western Area Power Administration, a database of the fol-
11 lowing information, beginning with fiscal year 2008, relat-
12 ing to the Western Area Power Administration:

13 (1) By power system and in a consistent for-
14 mat, rates charged to customers for power and
15 transmission service.

16 (2) By power system, the amount of capacity or
17 energy sold.

18 (3) By region, a detailed accounting, at the
19 functional level and the budget activity level, of all
20 expenditures, capital costs, and staffing costs, in-
21 cluding—

22 (A) indirect costs, including overhead
23 costs;

24 (B) direct charges and direct allocations;

25 (C) the number of contract staff;

1 (D) costs related to independent consult-
2 ants;

3 (E) the number of full-time equivalents;
4 and

5 (F) charges to the region from the head-
6 quarters office of the Western Area Power Ad-
7 ministration for all annual and capital costs.

8 (4) For the headquarters office of the Western
9 Area Power Administration, a detailed accounting at
10 the functional level and the budget activity level, of
11 all expenditures and capital costs, including—

12 (A) indirect costs, including overhead
13 costs;

14 (B) direct charges and direct allocations;

15 (C) the number of contract staff;

16 (D) costs related to independent consult-
17 ants;

18 (E) the number of full-time equivalents;

19 (F) a summary of any expenditures de-
20 scribed in this paragraph, with the total
21 amount paid by each region and power system;
22 and

23 (G) expenses incurred on behalf of other
24 Federal agencies or programs or third parties
25 for the administration of programs not related

1 to the marketing, transmission, or wheeling of
2 Federal hydropower resources, including—

3 (i) indirect costs, including overhead
4 costs;

5 (ii) direct charges and allocations;

6 (iii) the number of contract staff; and

7 (iv) the number of full-time equiva-
8 lents.

9 (5) Capital expenditures, including—

10 (A) capital investments delineated by the
11 year in which each investment is placed into
12 service; and

13 (B) the sources of capital for each invest-
14 ment.

15 (b) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
17 after the end of each fiscal year in which the pilot
18 project is being carried out under this section, the
19 Administrator shall make available on a publicly
20 available website—

21 (A) updates to documents made available
22 on the date of the initial publication of the in-
23 formation on the website under subsection (a);

1 (B) an identification of the magnitude of
2 annual changes in the information published on
3 the website under subsection (a);

4 (C) a description of the reasons for the
5 changes identified under subparagraph (B);

6 (D) subject to paragraph (2), the total
7 amount of the unobligated balances retained by
8 the Western Area Power Administration at the
9 end of the prior fiscal year within each mar-
10 keting area and headquarters by—

11 (i) purpose or function;

12 (ii) source of funding;

13 (iii) anticipated program allotment;

14 and

15 (iv) underlying authority for each
16 source of funding; and

17 (E) the anticipated level of unobligated
18 balances that the Western Area Power Adminis-
19 tration expects to retain at the end of the fiscal
20 year in which the annual summary is published,
21 as delineated by each of the categories de-
22 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) of subpara-
23 graph (D).

24 (2) LIMITATION.—Amounts in the Upper Colo-
25 rado River Basin Fund established by section 5(a)

1 of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as
2 the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43
3 U.S.C. 620d(a)), shall not considered to be an unob-
4 ligated balance retained by the Western Area Power
5 Administration for purposes of paragraph (1)(D).

6 (c) TERMINATION.—The pilot project under this sec-
7 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the
8 date of enactment of this Act.