

Union Calendar No. 533

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4444

[Report No. 116-649]

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. COX of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. BUCK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

DECEMBER 15, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PILOT**
7 **PROJECT.**

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

18 (1) By power system and in a consistent for-
19 mat, rates charged to customers for power and
20 transmission service.

21 (2) By power system, the amount of capacity or
22 energy sold.

23 (3) By region, a detailed accounting, at the
24 functional level and the budget activity level, of all

1 expenditures, capital costs, and staffing costs, in-
2 cluding—

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

5 (B) direct charges and direct allocations;

6 (C) the number of contract staff;

7 (D) costs related to independent consult-
8 ants;

9 (E) the number of full-time equivalents;
10 and

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

14 (4) For the headquarters office of the Western
15 Area Power Administration, a detailed accounting at
16 the functional level and the budget activity level, of
17 all expenditures and capital costs, including—

18 (A) indirect costs, including overhead
19 costs;

20 (B) direct charges and direct allocations;

21 (C) the number of contract staff;

22 (D) costs related to independent consult-
23 ants;

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

1 (F) a summary of any expenditures de-
2 scribed in this paragraph, with the total
3 amount paid by each region and power system;
4 and

5 (G) expenses incurred on behalf of other
6 Federal agencies or programs or third parties
7 for the administration of programs not related
8 to the marketing, transmission, or wheeling of
9 Federal hydropower resources, including—

10 (i) indirect costs, including overhead
11 costs;

12 (ii) direct charges and allocations;

13 (iii) the number of contract staff; and

14 (iv) the number of full-time equiva-
15 lents.

16 (5) Capital expenditures, including—

17 (A) capital investments delineated by the
18 year in which each investment is placed into
19 service; and

20 (B) the sources of capital for each invest-
21 ment.

22 (b) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
24 after the end of each fiscal year in which the pilot
25 project is being carried out under this section, the

1 Administrator shall make available on a publicly
2 available website—

3 (A) updates to documents made available
4 on the date of the initial publication of the in-
5 formation on the website under subsection (a);

6 (B) an identification of the magnitude of
7 annual changes in the information published on
8 the website under subsection (a);

9 (C) a description of the reasons for the
10 changes identified under subparagraph (B);

11 (D) subject to paragraph (2), the total
12 amount of the unobligated balances retained by
13 the Western Area Power Administration at the
14 end of the prior fiscal year within each mar-
15 keting area and headquarters by—

16 (i) purpose or function;

17 (ii) source of funding;

18 (iii) anticipated program allotment;

19 and

20 (iv) underlying authority for each
21 source of funding; and

22 (E) the anticipated level of unobligated
23 balances that the Western Area Power Adminis-
24 tration expects to retain at the end of the fiscal
25 year in which the annual summary is published,

1 as delineated by each of the categories de-
2 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) of subpara-
3 graph (D).

4 (2) LIMITATION.—Amounts in the Upper Colo-
5 rado River Basin Fund established by section 5(a)
6 of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as
7 the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43
8 U.S.C. 620d(a)), shall not considered to be an unob-
9 ligated balance retained by the Western Area Power
10 Administration for purposes of paragraph (1)(D).

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

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