

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3109

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to initiate a rule-making to reform the interregional transmission planning process, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to initiate a rulemaking to reform the interregional transmission planning process, 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 “Interregional Trans-
5 mission Planning Improvement Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. RULEMAKING TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS**
2 **OF INTERREGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLAN-**
3 **NING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regu-
6 latory Commission shall initiate a rulemaking to con-
7 sider—

8 (1) the effectiveness of existing planning proc-
9 esses for identifying transmission projects across re-
10 gions that provide economic, reliability, operational,
11 and public policy benefits, taking into consideration
12 the public interest, the integrity of markets, and the
13 protection of consumers;

14 (2) changes to the processes described in para-
15 graph (1) to ensure that efficient, cost-effective, and
16 broadly beneficial transmission solutions are selected
17 for construction, taking into consideration—

18 (A) the public interest;

19 (B) the integrity of markets;

20 (C) the protection of consumers;

21 (D) the broad range of benefits that inter-
22 regional transmission provides;

23 (E) the need for single projects to secure
24 approvals based on a comprehensive assessment
25 of the multiple benefits provided;

1 (F) that projects that meet interregional
2 benefit criteria should not be subject to subse-
3 quent reassessment by regional entities;

4 (G) the importance of synchronization of
5 planning processes in neighboring regions, such
6 as using a joint model on a consistent timeline
7 with a single set of needs, input assumptions,
8 and benefit metrics;

9 (H) that evaluation of long-term scenarios
10 should align with the expected life of a trans-
11 mission asset;

12 (I) that transmission planning authorities
13 should allow for the identification and joint
14 evaluation of alternatives proposed by stake-
15 holders;

16 (J) that interregional planning should be
17 done regularly and not less frequently than
18 once every 3 years; and

19 (K) the elimination of arbitrary project
20 voltage, size, or cost requirements for inter-
21 regional solutions; and

22 (3) cost allocation methodologies that reflect
23 the multiple benefits provided by interregional solu-
24 tions.

1 (b) TIMING.—Not later than 18 months after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regu-
3 latory Commission shall promulgate a final rule to com-
4 plete the rulemaking initiated under subsection (a).

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