

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2306

To authorize construction of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System  
in the State of Montana, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 1997

Mr. HILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize construction of the Fort Peck Reservation  
Rural Water System in the State of Montana, 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 “Fort Peck Reservation  
5       Rural Water System Act of 1997”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8               (1) there are insufficient water supplies avail-  
9       able to residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reserva-  
10      tion in Montana, and the water systems that are

1 available do not meet minimum health and safety  
2 standards and therefore pose a threat to public  
3 health and safety;

4 (2) the United States has a trust responsibility  
5 to ensure that adequate and safe water supplies are  
6 available to meet the economic, environmental, water  
7 supply, and public health needs of the Fort Peck In-  
8 dian Reservation; and

9 (3) the best available, reliable, and safe rural  
10 and municipal water supply to serve the needs of the  
11 Fort Peck Indian Reservation is the Missouri River.

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

13 (1) to ensure a safe and adequate municipal,  
14 rural, and industrial water supply for the residents  
15 of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana;  
16 and

17 (2) to assist the citizens of Roosevelt, Sheridan,  
18 Daniels, and Valley Counties, Montana, outside the  
19 Fort Peck Indian Reservation, in developing safe  
20 and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water  
21 supplies.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) COUNTIES WATER SYSTEM.—The term  
25 “Counties Water System” means the Roosevelt,

1 Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties Rural Water  
2 System authorized by section 5.

3 (2) FORT PECK TRIBE.—The term “Fort Peck  
4 tribe” means the Assiniboine Indian Tribe or the  
5 Sioux Indian Tribe within the Fort Peck Indian  
6 Reservation.

7 (3) FORT PECK WATER SYSTEM.—The term  
8 “Fort Peck Water System” means the Fort Peck  
9 Reservation Rural Water System authorized by sec-  
10 tion 4.

11 (4) PICK-SLOAN.—The term “Pick-Sloan”  
12 means the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program  
13 authorized by section 9 of the Act of December 22,  
14 1944 (58 Stat. 891, chapter 665) (commonly known  
15 as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”).

16 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 **SEC. 4. FORT PECK RESERVATION RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**

19 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall plan, de-  
20 sign, construct, operate, maintain, and replace a munici-  
21 pal, rural, and industrial water system, to be known as  
22 the “Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System”, as gen-  
23 erally described in the report entitled “Technical Report  
24 for the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System” and  
25 dated July 1995.

1 (b) COMPONENTS.—The Fort Peck Water System  
2 shall consist of—

3 (1) pumping and treatment facilities located  
4 along the Missouri River near Poplar, Montana;

5 (2) pipelines extending from the Missouri River  
6 near Poplar, Montana, throughout the Fort Peck In-  
7 dian Reservation;

8 (3) facilities to allow for future interconnections  
9 to areas outside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation,  
10 including the communities of Plentywood, Scobey,  
11 Flaxville, and Culbertson, Montana;

12 (4) distribution and treatment facilities to serve  
13 the needs of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, in-  
14 cluding—

15 (A) water systems in existence on the date  
16 of enactment of this Act that may be pur-  
17 chased, improved, and repaired in accordance  
18 with the cooperative agreement under sub-  
19 section (c); and

20 (B) water systems owned by individual  
21 tribal members and other residents of the Fort  
22 Peck Indian Reservation;

23 (5) appurtenant buildings and access roads;

24 (6) all property and property rights necessary  
25 for the facilities described in this subsection;

1           (7) electrical power transmission and distribu-  
2           tion facilities necessary for services to Fort Peck  
3           Water System facilities; and

4           (8) such other pipelines, pumping plants, and  
5           facilities as the Secretary determines to be appro-  
6           priate to meet the water supply, economic, public  
7           health, and environmental needs of the Fort Peck  
8           Indian Reservation, including water storage tanks,  
9           water lines, and other facilities for the Fort Peck  
10          tribes and the villages, towns, and municipalities in  
11          the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

12          (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

13               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter  
14               into a cooperative agreement with the Fort Peck  
15               Tribal Executive Board for planning, designing, con-  
16               structing, operating, maintaining, and replacing the  
17               Fort Peck Water System.

18               (2) MANDATORY PROVISIONS.—The cooperative  
19               agreement under paragraph (1) shall specify, in a  
20               manner that is acceptable to the Secretary and the  
21               Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board—

22                       (A) the responsibilities of each party to the  
23                       agreement for—

24                               (i) needs assessment, feasibility, and  
25                               environmental studies;

- 1 (ii) engineering and design;
- 2 (iii) construction;
- 3 (iv) water conservation measures; and
- 4 (v) administration of contracts relat-
- 5 ing to performance of the activities de-
- 6 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv);

7 (B) the procedures and requirements for  
8 approval and acceptance of the design and con-  
9 struction; and

10 (C) the rights, responsibilities, and liabil-  
11 ities of each party to the agreement.

12 (3) OPTIONAL PROVISIONS.—The cooperative  
13 agreement under paragraph (1) may include provi-  
14 sions relating to the purchase, improvement, and re-  
15 pair of water systems in existence on the date of en-  
16 actment of this Act, including systems owned by in-  
17 dividual tribal members and other residents of the  
18 Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

19 (4) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may termi-  
20 nate a cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) if  
21 the Secretary determines that—

22 (A) the quality of construction does not  
23 meet all standards established for similar facili-  
24 ties constructed by the Secretary; or

1 (B) the operation and maintenance of the  
2 Fort Peck Water System does not meet condi-  
3 tions acceptable to the Secretary that are ade-  
4 quate to fulfill the obligations of the United  
5 States to the Fort Peck tribes.

6 (5) TRANSFER.—On execution of a cooperative  
7 agreement under paragraph (1), in accordance with  
8 the cooperative agreement, the Secretary may trans-  
9 fer to the Fort Peck tribes, on a nonreimbursable  
10 basis, funds made available for the Fort Peck Water  
11 System under section 7.

12 (d) SERVICE AREA.—The service area of the Fort  
13 Peck Water System shall be—

14 (1) the area within the boundaries of the Fort  
15 Peck Indian Reservation; and

16 (2) the service area of the Counties Water Sys-  
17 tem described in section 5(d).

18 (e) CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.—The compo-  
19 nents of the Fort Peck Water System shall be planned  
20 and constructed to a size sufficient to meet the municipal,  
21 rural, and industrial water supply requirements of the  
22 service area of the Fort Peck Water System described in  
23 subsection (d).

24 (f) TITLE TO FORT PECK WATER SYSTEM.—Title to  
25 the Fort Peck Water System shall be held in trust by the

1 United States for the Fort Peck tribes and shall not be  
2 transferred unless a transfer is authorized by an Act of  
3 Congress enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

4 (g) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—The Secretary shall not obligate funds for  
5 construction of the Fort Peck Water System until—

7 (1) the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)  
8 are met with respect to the Fort Peck Water System;  
9 and  
10

11 (2) a final engineering report for the Fort Peck  
12 Water System is approved by the Secretary.

13 (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
14 provide such technical assistance as is necessary to enable  
15 the Fort Peck tribes to plan, design, construct, operate,  
16 maintain, and replace the Fort Peck Water System, including  
17 operation and management training.

18 (i) APPLICATION OF INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION  
19 ACT.—Planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance,  
20 and replacement of the Fort Peck Water System  
21 within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation shall be subject  
22 to the Indian Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 450f et  
23 seq.).

24 (j) USE OF PICK-SLOAN POWER.—



1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Fort Peck Water Sys-  
2       tem shall use power from Pick-Sloan for operation.  
3       The use of the power shall be considered to be a  
4       project use pumping requirement of Pick-Sloan.

5           (2) RESERVATION OF POWER.—Power identi-  
6       fied for future project use pumping shall be reserved  
7       for and made available for the purpose authorized by  
8       paragraph (1).

9           (3) RATE.—The rate for project use power  
10      made available under paragraph (2) shall be the  
11      wholesale firm power rate for Pick-Sloan (Eastern  
12      Division) in effect at the time at which the power is  
13      sold.

14          (4) ADDITIONAL POWER.—

15           (A) IN GENERAL.—If power in addition to  
16      that made available under paragraph (2) is re-  
17      quired to meet the pumping requirements of the  
18      service area of the Fort Peck Water System de-  
19      scribed in subsection (d), the Administrator of  
20      the Western Area Power Administration may  
21      purchase the necessary additional power under  
22      such terms and conditions as the Administrator  
23      determines to be appropriate.

24           (B) RECOVERY OF EXPENSES.—Expenses  
25      associated with power purchases under subpara-

graph (A) shall be recovered through a separate power charge, sufficient to recover the expenses, applied to the Fort Peck Water System.

**SEC. 5. ROOSEVELT, SHERIDAN, DANIELS, AND VALLEY  
COUNTIES RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**

**(a) PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION.—**

**(1) AUTHORIZATION.—**The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with appropriate non-Federal entities to provide Federal funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties Rural Water System in Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties, Montana, outside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

**(2) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—**

**(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—**The Federal share of the cost of the planning, design, and construction of the Counties Water System shall be not more than 75 percent.

**(B) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—**Federal funds made available to carry out this section may be obligated and expended only through a cooperative agreement described in subsection (c).

1 (b) COMPONENTS.—The components of the Counties  
2 Water System on which Federal funds may be obligated  
3 and expended under this section shall include—

4 (1) water intake, pumping, treatment, storage,  
5 interconnection, and pipeline facilities;

6 (2) appurtenant buildings and access roads;

7 (3) all property and property rights necessary  
8 for the facilities described in this subsection;

9 (4) electrical power transmission and distribu-  
10 tion facilities necessary for services to Counties  
11 Water System facilities;

12 (5) planning and design services for all facili-  
13 ties; and

14 (6) other facilities and services customary to  
15 the development of rural water distribution systems  
16 in Montana.

17 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, with the con-  
19 currence of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water  
20 System Board, shall enter into a cooperative agree-  
21 ment with appropriate non-Federal entities to pro-  
22 vide Federal assistance for the planning, design, and  
23 construction of the Counties Water System.

1           (2) MANDATORY PROVISIONS.—The cooperative  
2       agreement under paragraph (1) shall specify, in a  
3       manner that is acceptable to the Secretary—

4           (A) the responsibilities of each party to the  
5       agreement for—

6           (i) needs assessment, feasibility, and  
7       environmental studies;

8           (ii) engineering and design;

9           (iii) construction;

10          (iv) water conservation measures; and

11          (v) administration of contracts relat-  
12       ing to performance of the activities de-  
13       scribed in clauses (i) through (iv);

14          (B) the procedures and requirements for  
15       approval and acceptance of the design and con-  
16       struction; and

17          (C) the rights, responsibilities, and liabil-  
18       ities of each party to the agreement.

19       (d) SERVICE AREA.—The service area of the Coun-  
20       ties Water System shall be the area in Montana north of  
21       the Missouri River, south of the border between the Unit-  
22       ed States and Canada, west of the border between the  
23       States of North Dakota and Montana, and east of a north-  
24       south line between the Missouri River and the Canadian  
25       border, which line passes through the westernmost bound-

1 ary of the city of Glasgow, except that the service area  
2 shall not include the area inside the Fort Peck Indian Res-  
3 ervation.

4 (e) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION  
5 FUNDS.—The Secretary shall not obligate funds for con-  
6 struction of the Counties Water System before the date  
7 that is 90 days after the date of submission of a final  
8 engineering report to Congress.

9 (f) INTERCONNECTION OF FACILITIES AND WAIVER  
10 OF CHARGES.—The Secretary may—

11 (1) interconnect the Counties Water System  
12 with the Fort Peck Water System; and

13 (2) provide for the delivery of water to the  
14 Counties Water System, without charge, from the  
15 Missouri River through the Fort Peck Water Sys-  
16 tem.

17 (g) LIMITATION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—The  
18 operation and maintenance expenses associated with water  
19 deliveries to the Counties Water System shall be a non-  
20 Federal responsibility. The Secretary may not obligate or  
21 expend any Federal funds for the operation, maintenance,  
22 or replacement of the Counties Water System.

23 **SEC. 6. WATER RIGHTS.**

24 This Act does not—

1           (1) impair the validity of or preempt any provi-  
2           sion of State water law or any interstate compact  
3           governing water;

4           (2) alter the right of any State to any appro-  
5           priated share of the waters of any body of surface  
6           or ground water, whether determined by any past or  
7           future interstate compact or by any past or future  
8           legislative or final judicial allocation;

9           (3) preempt or modify any Federal or State law  
10          or interstate compact concerning water quality or  
11          disposal;

12          (4) confer on any non-Federal entity the au-  
13          thority to exercise any Federal right to the waters  
14          of any stream or to any ground water resource;

15          (5) affect any right of the Fort Peck tribes to  
16          water, located within or outside the external bound-  
17          aries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, based on  
18          a treaty, compact, executive order, agreement, Act of  
19          Congress, aboriginal title, the decision in *Winters v.*  
20          *United States*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908) (commonly  
21          known as the “Winters Doctrine”), or other law; or

22          (6) validate or invalidate any assertion of the  
23          existence, nonexistence, or extinguishment of any  
24          water right or Indian water compact held by the

1 Fort Peck tribes or by any other Indian tribe or in-  
2 dividual Indian under Federal or State law.

3 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) FORT PECK WATER SYSTEM.—There are author-  
5 ized to be appropriated—

6 (1) over a period of 5 fiscal years,  
7 \$109,000,000 for the planning, design, and con-  
8 struction of the Fort Peck Water System; and

9 (2) such sums as are necessary for the oper-  
10 ation and maintenance of the Fort Peck Water Sys-  
11 tem.

12 (b) COUNTIES WATER SYSTEM.—There are author-  
13 ized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to  
14 carry out section 5.

○