S. 687

To enhance the benefits of the national electric system by encouraging and supporting State programs for renewable energy sources, universal electric service, affordable electric service, and energy conservation and efficiency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 1, 1997

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

A BILL

To enhance the benefits of the national electric system by encouraging and supporting State programs for renewable energy sources, universal electric service, affordable electric service, and energy conservation and efficiency, 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 "Electric System Public
- 5 Benefits Protection Act of 1997".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds that—

- 1 (1) the generation of electricity is unique in its 2 combined influence on the Nation's security, envi-3 ronmental quality, and economic efficiency;
 - (2) the generation and sale of electricity has a direct and profound impact on interstate commerce;
 - (3) the Federal Government and the States have a joint responsibility for the maintenance of public purpose programs affected by the national electric system;
 - (4) notwithstanding the public's interest in and enthusiasm for programs that enhance the environment, encourage the efficient use of resources, and provide for affordable and universal service, the investments in those public purposes by existing means continues to decline;
 - (5) the Nation's dependence on foreign sources of fossil fuels is contrary to our national security; alternative, sustainable energy sources must be pursued as the Nation moves into the 21st century;
 - (6) emissions from electric power generating facilities are today the largest industrial source responsible for persistent public health and environmental problems; and

| 1 | (7) consumers have a right to certain informa- |
|----|--|
| 2 | tion in order to make objective choices on their elec- |
| 3 | tric service providers. |
| 4 | SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS. |
| 5 | In this Act: |
| 6 | (1) Administrator.—The term "Adminis- |
| 7 | trator" means the Administrator of the Environ- |
| 8 | mental Protection Agency. |
| 9 | (2) Board.—The term "Board" means the Na- |
| 10 | tional Electric System Public Benefits Board estab- |
| 11 | lished under section 4. |
| 12 | (3) Commission.—The term "Commission" |
| 13 | means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. |
| 14 | (4) Fund.—The term "Fund" means the Na- |
| 15 | tional Electric System Public Benefits Fund estab- |
| 16 | lished by section 5. |
| 17 | (5) Renewable energy.—The term "renew- |
| 18 | able energy" means electricity generated from wind, |
| 19 | organic waste (excluding incinerated municipal solid |
| 20 | waste), or biomass or a geothermal, solar thermal, |
| 21 | or photovoltaic source. |
| 22 | (6) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means |
| 23 | the Secretary of Energy. |

| 1 | SEC. 4. NATIONAL ELECTRIC SYSTEM PUBLIC BENEFITS |
|----|---|
| 2 | BOARD. |
| 3 | (a) Establishment.—The Secretary shall establish |
| 4 | a National Electric System Public Benefits Board to carry |
| 5 | out the functions and responsibilities described in this sec- |
| 6 | tion. |
| 7 | (b) Membership.—The Board shall be composed |
| 8 | of— |
| 9 | (1) 1 representative of the Commission ap- |
| 10 | pointed by the Commission; |
| 11 | (2) 2 representatives of the Secretary appointed |
| 12 | by the Secretary; |
| 13 | (3) 2 persons nominated by the national organi- |
| 14 | zation representing State regulatory commissioners |
| 15 | and appointed by the Secretary; |
| 16 | (4) 1 person nominated by the national organi- |
| 17 | zation representing State utility consumer advocates |
| 18 | and appointed by the Secretary; |
| 19 | (5) 1 person nominated by the national organi- |
| 20 | zation representing State energy offices and ap- |
| 21 | pointed by the Secretary; |
| 22 | (6) 1 person nominated by the national organi- |
| 23 | zation representing energy assistance directors and |
| 24 | appointed by the Secretary; and |
| 25 | (7) 1 representative of the Environmental Pro- |
| 26 | tection Agency appointed by the Administrator. |

| 1 | (c) Chairperson.—The Secretary shall select a |
|----|--|
| 2 | member of the Board to serve as Chairperson of the |
| 3 | Board. |
| 4 | (d) Manager.— |
| 5 | (1) Appointment.—The Board shall by con- |
| 6 | tract appoint an electric systems public benefits |
| 7 | manager for a term of not more than 3 years, which |
| 8 | term may be renewed by the Board. |
| 9 | (2) Compensation.—The compensation and |
| 10 | other terms and conditions of employment of the |
| 11 | manager shall be determined by a contract between |
| 12 | the Board and the individual or the other entity ap- |
| 13 | pointed as manager. |
| 14 | (3) Functions.—The manager shall— |
| 15 | (A) monitor the amounts in the Fund; |
| 16 | (B) receive, review, and make rec- |
| 17 | ommendations to the Board regarding applica- |
| 18 | tions from States under section 5(b); and |
| 19 | (C) perform such other functions as the |
| 20 | Board may require to assist the Board in carry- |
| 21 | ing out its duties under this Act. |
| 22 | SEC. 5. NATIONAL ELECTRIC SYSTEM PUBLIC BENEFITS |
| 23 | FUND. |
| 24 | (a) Establishment — |

| 1 | (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish an |
|----|---|
| 2 | account or accounts at 1 or more financial institu- |
| 3 | tions, which account or accounts shall be known as |
| 4 | the "National Electric System Public Benefits |
| 5 | Fund", consisting of amounts deposited in the fund |
| 6 | under subsection (c). |
| 7 | (2) Status of fund.—The wires charges col- |
| 8 | lected under subsection (c) and deposited in the |
| 9 | Fund— |
| 10 | (A) shall constitute electric system reve- |
| 11 | nues and shall not constitute funds of the Unit- |
| 12 | ed States; |
| 13 | (B) shall be held in trust by the manager |
| 14 | of the Fund solely for the purposes stated in |
| 15 | subsection (b); and |
| 16 | (C) shall not be available to meet any obli- |
| 17 | gations of the United States. |
| 18 | (b) Use of Fund.— |
| 19 | (1) Funding of public purpose pro- |
| 20 | GRAMS.—Amounts in the Fund shall be used by the |
| 21 | Board to provide matching funds to States for the |
| 22 | support of State public purpose programs relating |
| 23 | to— |
| 24 | (A) renewable energy sources; |
| 25 | (B) universal electric service; |

| 1 | (C) affordable electric service; |
|----|--|
| 2 | (D) energy conservation and efficiency; or |
| 3 | (E) research and development in areas de- |
| 4 | scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (D). |
| 5 | (2) Distribution.— |
| 6 | (A) In general.—Except for amounts |
| 7 | needed to pay costs of the Board in carrying |
| 8 | out its duties under this section, the Board |
| 9 | shall instruct the manager of the Fund to dis- |
| 10 | tribute all amounts in the Fund to States to |
| 11 | fund public purpose programs under paragraph |
| 12 | (1). |
| 13 | (B) Fund share.— |
| 14 | (i) In general.—Subject to clause |
| 15 | (iii), the Fund share of a public purpose |
| 16 | program funded under paragraph (1) shall |
| 17 | be 50 percent. |
| 18 | (ii) Proportionate reduction.— |
| 19 | To the extent that the amount of matching |
| 20 | funds requested by States exceeds the |
| 21 | maximum projected revenues of the Fund, |
| 22 | the matching funds distributed to the |
| 23 | States shall be reduced by an amount that |
| 24 | is proportionate to each State's annual |
| | |

consumption of electricity compared to the

| 1 | Nation's aggregate annual consumption of |
|----|--|
| 2 | electricity. |
| 3 | (iii) Additional state funding.— |
| 4 | A State may apply funds to public purpose |
| 5 | programs in addition to the amount of |
| 6 | funds applied for the purpose of matching |
| 7 | the Fund share. |
| 8 | (3) Program Criteria.—The Board shall rec- |
| 9 | ommend eligibility criteria for public benefits pro- |
| 10 | grams funded under this section for approval by the |
| 11 | Secretary. |
| 12 | (4) APPLICATION.—Not later than August 1 of |
| 13 | each year beginning in 1999, a State seeking match- |
| 14 | ing funds for the following year shall file with the |
| 15 | Board, in such form as the Board may require, an |
| 16 | application— |
| 17 | (A) certifying that the funds will be used |
| 18 | for an eligible public purpose program; and |
| 19 | (B) stating the amount of State funds ear- |
| 20 | marked for the program. |
| 21 | (c) Wires Charge.— |
| 22 | (1) Determination of needed funding.— |
| 23 | Not later than August 1 of each year, the Board |
| 24 | shall determine and inform the Commission of the |
| 25 | aggregate amount of wires charges that it will be |

1 necessary to have paid into the Fund to pay match-2 ing funds to States and pay the operating costs of 3 the Board in the following year. 4 (2) Imposition of wires charge.— (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Decem-6 ber 15 of each year, the Commission shall im-7 pose a nonbypassable, competitively neutral 8 wires charge to be paid directly into the Fund 9 by the operator of the wire on electricity carried 10 through the wire, this electricity to be measured 11 as it exits the busbar at a generation facility, 12 and which impacts on interstate commerce. 13 (B) AMOUNT.—The wires charge shall be 14 set at a rate equal to the lesser of— 15 (i) 2 mills per kilowatt-hour; or 16 (ii) a rate that is estimated to result 17 in the collection of an amount of wires 18 charges that is as nearly as possible equal

(3) DEPOSIT IN THE FUND.—The wires charge shall be paid by the operator of the wire directly into the Fund at the end of each month during the calendar year for distribution by the electric systems public benefits manager under section 4.

mined under paragraph (1).

to the amount of needed funding deter-

19

20

21

22

23

24

1 (4) Penalties.—The Commission may assess
2 against a wire operator that fails to pay a wires
3 charge as required by this subsection a civil penalty
4 in an amount equal to not more than the amount of
5 the unpaid wires charge.

(d) Auditing.—

- (1) In general.—The Fund shall be audited annually by a firm of independent certified public accountants in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- (2) Access to records.—Representatives of the Secretary and the Commission shall have access to all books, accounts, reports, files, and other records pertaining to the Fund as necessary to facilitate and verify the audit.

(3) Reports.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—A report on each audit shall be submitted to the Secretary, the Commission, and the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall submit the report to the President and Congress not later than 180 days after the close of the fiscal year.
- (B) REQUIREMENTS.—An audit report shall—

| 1 | (i) set forth the scope of the audit |
|----|---|
| 2 | and |
| 3 | (ii) include— |
| 4 | (I) a statement of assets and li |
| 5 | abilities, capital; and surplus or defi |
| 6 | cit; |
| 7 | (II) a statement of surplus o |
| 8 | deficit analysis; |
| 9 | (III) a statement of income and |
| 10 | expenses; |
| 11 | (IV) any other information that |
| 12 | may be considered necessary to keep |
| 13 | the President and Congress informed |
| 14 | of the operations and financial condi |
| 15 | tion of the Fund; and |
| 16 | (V) any recommendations with |
| 17 | respect to the Fund that the Sec |
| 18 | retary or the Commission may have. |
| 19 | SEC. 6. RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARDS. |
| 20 | (a) Definition of Generation Facility.—In this |
| 21 | section, the term "covered generation facility" means a |
| 22 | nonhydroelectric facility that generates electric energy fo |
| 23 | sale. |
| 24 | (b) Required Renewable Energy.—Of the total |
| 25 | amount of electricity sold by covered generation facilitie |

```
during a calendar year, the amount generated by renew-
 1
 2
    able energy sources shall be not less than—
 3
             (1) 2.5 percent in 2000;
 4
             (2) 3.0 percent in 2001;
 5
             (3) 3.5 percent in 2002;
 6
             (4) 4.0 percent in 2003;
 7
             (5) 4.5 percent in 2004;
 8
             (6) 5.0 percent in 2005;
 9
             (7) 6.0 percent in 2006;
10
             (8) 7.0 percent in 2007;
11
             (9) 8.0 percent in 2008;
12
             (10) 9.0 percent in 2009;
13
              (11) 10.0 percent in 2010;
14
             (12) 11.0 percent in 2011;
15
             (13) 12.0 percent in 2012;
16
             (14) 13.0 percent in 2013;
17
             (15) 14.0 percent in 2014;
18
             (16) 15.0 percent in 2015;
19
             (17) 16.0 percent in 2016;
20
             (18) 17.0 percent in 2017;
21
             (19) 18.0 percent in 2018;
22
             (20) 19.0 percent in 2019; and
23
             (21) 20.0 percent in 2020 and each year there-
24
         after.
25
         (c) Renewable Energy Credits.—
```

| 1 | (1) Identification of energy sources.— |
|---|---|
| 2 | The Commission shall establish standards and pro- |
| 3 | cedures under which a covered generation facility |
| 4 | shall certify to a purchaser of electricity— |
| 5 | (A) the amount of the electricity that is |

- (A) the amount of the electricity that is generated by a renewable energy source; and
- (B) the amount of the electricity that is generated by a source other than a renewable energy source.
- (2) Issuance of renewable energy credits.—Not later than April 1 of each year, beginning in the year 2001, the Commission shall issue to a covered generation facility 1 renewable energy credit for each megawatt-hour of electricity sold by the covered generation facility in the preceding calendar year that was generated by a renewable source.
- (3) Submission of Renewable energy credits.—Not later than July 1 of each year, a covered generation facility shall submit credits to the Commission in an amount equal to the total number of megawatt-hours of electricity sold by the covered generation facility in the preceding year multiplied by the applicable renewable energy source requirement under subsection (a).
- (4) Use of renewable energy credits.—

| 1 | (A) Time for use.—A renewable energy |
|----|--|
| 2 | credit shall be used for the calendar year for |
| 3 | the renewable energy credit is issued. |
| 4 | (B) Permitted Uses.—Until July 1 of |
| 5 | the year in which a renewable energy credit was |
| 6 | issued, a covered generation facility may— |
| 7 | (A) use the renewable energy credit to |
| 8 | make a submission to the Commission under |
| 9 | paragraph (3); or |
| 10 | (B) on notice to the Commission, sell or |
| 11 | otherwise transfer a renewable energy credit to |
| 12 | another covered generation facility. |
| 13 | (d) Recordkeeping.—The Commission shall main- |
| 14 | tain records of all renewable energy credits issued and all |
| 15 | credits sold or exchanged. |
| 16 | (e) Penalties.—The Commission may bring an ac- |
| 17 | tion in United States district court to impose a civil pen- |
| 18 | alty on any person that fails to comply with subsection |
| 19 | (a). A person that fails to comply with a requirement to |
| 20 | submit renewable energy credits under subsection $(b)(3)$ |
| 21 | shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than 3 times |
| 22 | the estimated national average market value (as deter- |
| 23 | mined by the Commission) for the calendar year concerned |
| 24 | of that quantity of renewable energy credits. |

| 1 | (f) Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of |
|----|---|
| 2 | 1978.— |
| 3 | (1) Repeal of cogeneration and small |
| 4 | POWER PRODUCTION PROVISION.—Effective January |
| 5 | 1, 2000, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act |
| 6 | of 1978 is amended by striking section 210 (16 |
| 7 | U.S.C. 824a-3). |
| 8 | (2) Existing contracts.—The amendment |
| 9 | made by paragraph (1) shall not affect the contin- |
| 10 | ued validity and enforceability of contracts entered |
| 11 | into under section 210 of the Public Utility Regu- |
| 12 | latory Policies Act of 1978 before the date of enact- |
| 13 | ment of this Act. |
| 14 | (3) Continued Jurisdiction.—Notwithstand- |
| 15 | ing the amendment made by paragraph (1), the |
| 16 | Commission shall retain jurisdiction to— |
| 17 | (A) ensure the continued status of qualify- |
| 18 | ing small power production facilities under sec- |
| 19 | tion 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Poli- |
| 20 | cies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a-3); and |
| 21 | (B) continue exemptions granted under |
| 22 | subsection (e) of that section before the date of |
| 23 | enactment of this Act. |
| 24 | (g) Powers.—The Commission may promulgate |
| 25 | such regulations, conduct such investigations, and take |

| 1 | such other actions as are necessary or appropriate to im- |
|----|---|
| 2 | plement and obtain compliance with this section and regu- |
| 3 | lations promulgated under this section. |
| 4 | SEC. 7. EMISSIONS STANDARDS AND ALLOCATIONS. |
| 5 | (a) Definitions.—In this section: |
| 6 | (1) COVERED GENERATION FACILITY.—The |
| 7 | term "covered generation facility" means an electric |
| 8 | generation facility (other than a nuclear facility) |
| 9 | with a nameplate capacity of 15 megawatts or great- |
| 10 | er that uses a combustion device to generate elec- |
| 11 | tricity for sale. |
| 12 | (2) Cogeneration.—The term "cogeneration" |
| 13 | means a process of simultaneously generating elec- |
| 14 | tricity and thermal energy in which a portion of the |
| 15 | energy value of fuel consumed is recovered as heat |
| 16 | that is used to meet heating or cooling loads outside |
| 17 | the generation facility. |
| 18 | (3) POLLUTANT.—The term "pollutant" |
| 19 | means— |
| 20 | (A) nitrogen oxide; |
| 21 | (B) sulfur dioxide; |
| 22 | (C) carbon dioxide; |
| 23 | (D) mercury; or |
| 24 | (E) any other substance that the Adminis- |
| 25 | trator may identify by regulation as a substance |

1 the emission of which into the air from a com-2 bustion device used in the generation of elec-3 tricity endangers public health or welfare. 4 (b) Nationwide Emissions Standards.— (1) Schedule.—Not later than July 1, 1999, 5 6 the Administrator shall promulgate a final regula-7 tion that establishes a schedule of limits on the 8 amount of each pollutant that all covered generation 9 facilities in the aggregate nationwide shall be per-10 mitted to emit in each calendar year beginning in 11 calendar year 2000. 12 (2) Limit.—The nationwide emissions standard 13 for calendar year 2005 and each year thereafter es-14 tablished under paragraph (1) shall be not greater 15 than— 16 (A) for nitrogen oxide, 1,660,000 tons; 17 (B) for sulfur dioxide, 3,580,000 tons; and 18 (C) for carbon dioxide, 1,914,000,000 19 tons. 20 (3) Adjustment.—The Administrator may ad-21 just the schedule established under paragraph (1), 22 within the limits established by paragraph (2), if the 23 Administrator determines that an adjustment would 24 be in the best interests of the public health and wel-

fare.

| 1 | (c) Generation Performance Standard.— |
|----|---|
| 2 | (1) Annual Determination.— |
| 3 | (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October |
| 4 | 1 of each year, the Administrator, in consulta- |
| 5 | tion with the Commission, shall determine the |
| 6 | generation performance standard for nitrogen |
| 7 | oxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide emis- |
| 8 | sions per megawatt-hour of electric production |
| 9 | by covered generation facilities for the next cal- |
| 10 | endar year. |
| 11 | (B) Method.—The Administrator shall |
| 12 | determine by regulation the method to be used |
| 13 | in determining an estimate under subparagraph |
| 14 | (A). |
| 15 | (2) FORMULA.—The generation performance |
| 16 | standard shall be determined by dividing the annual |
| 17 | nationwide emissions standard as established under |
| 18 | subsection (b) by the Administrator's estimate of the |
| 19 | nationwide megawatt-hour production for the next |
| 20 | calendar year by all covered generation facilities. |
| 21 | (d) Individual Emissions Allocation.—The |
| 22 | amount of each pollutant that a covered generation facility |
| 23 | shall be permitted to emit during a calendar year shall |
| 24 | be equal to— |

- 1 (1) the facility's annual generation of mega-2 watt-hours of electricity multiplied by the generation 3 performance standard as established in subsection 4 (c); plus
- (2) the facility's annual generation of thermal 6 energy used to meet heating and cooling loads re-7 sulting from the cogeneration process, which shall be 8 expressed by the Administrator in units of measure-9 ment that provide a reasonable comparison between 10 energy generated in the form of electricity and en-11 ergy generated in the form of thermal energy and then multiplied by the generation performance 12 13 standard as established under subsection (c).
- (e) Ozone Season.—In determining the individual emissions allocation for a covered generation facility under subsection (d), the amount of nitrogen oxide emitted by covered generation facility and the number of megawatt-hours of electricity generated by the covered generation facility during the period May 1 through September 30 of each year shall each be multiplied by 3.

21 (f) Monitoring.—

(1) Establishment of system.—The Administrator shall establish a system for the accurate monitoring of the amount of each pollutant that a covered generation facility emits during a year.

22

23

24

| 1 | (2) Requirements.—The monitoring system |
|---|--|
| 2 | under paragraph (1) shall require— |
| 3 | (A) installation on each combustion device |

(A) installation on each combustion device of a continuous monitoring system for each pollutant; or

(B) use of an alternative mechanism that the Administrator determines will provide data with precision, reliability, accessibility, and timeliness that are equal to or greater than those that would be achieved by a continuous emissions monitoring system.

(g) Emissions Credits.—

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- (1) Comparison of actual combustion device outputs with individual emission allocations.—At the end of each year, the Administrator shall compare the amount of a pollutant emitted by a generation facility during the year with the individual emissions allocation as established under subsection (d) applicable to the covered generation facility for the year.
- (2) Issuance of emissions credits.—Not later than April 1 of each year, the Administrator shall issue to a covered generation facility 1 emissions credit for each ton by which the amount of a pollutant emitted by the covered generation facility

during the preceding year was less than the individual emissions allocation as established under subsection (d) applicable to the covered generation facility.

(3) Submission of emissions credits.—

- (A) In General.—Not later than July 1 of each year, a covered generation facility that emitted a greater amount of a pollutant than the individual emissions allocation applicable to the covered generation facility during the preceding year shall submit to the Administrator 1 emissions credit for each ton by which the amount of the pollutant emitted was greater than the individual emissions allocation as established under subsection (d).
- (B) Penalty.—A covered generation facility that is required to submit an emissions credit under subparagraph (A) that fails to submit the emissions credit shall pay to the Administrator a civil penalty in an amount equal to—
 - (i) \$15,000 for each ton of nitrogen oxide emissions in excess of the individual emissions allocation applicable to the facility under subsection (d) for which a nitro-

| 1 | gen oxide emissions credit has not been |
|----|---|
| 2 | submitted under subparagraph (A); |
| 3 | (ii) \$2,500 for each ton of sulfur diox- |
| 4 | ide emissions in excess of the individual |
| 5 | emissions allocation applicable to the facil- |
| 6 | ity under subsection (d) for which a sulfur |
| 7 | dioxide emissions credit has not been sub- |
| 8 | mitted under subparagraph (A); or |
| 9 | (iii) \$100 for each ton of carbon diox- |
| 10 | ide emissions in excess of the individual |
| 11 | emissions allocation applicable to the facil- |
| 12 | ity under subsection (d) for which a carbon |
| 13 | dioxide emissions credit has not been sub- |
| 14 | mitted under subparagraph (A). |
| 15 | (C) Penalty adjustment.—The Admin- |
| 16 | istrator shall annually adjust the penalty speci- |
| 17 | fied in subparagraph (B) for inflation based on |
| 18 | the Consumer Price Index. |
| 19 | (4) Use of emissions credits.—A covered |
| 20 | generation facility may— |
| 21 | (A) retain an emissions credit from year to |
| 22 | year for future submission to the Administrator |
| 23 | under paragraph (3); or |

| 1 | (B) on notice to the Administrator, sell or |
|----|---|
| 2 | otherwise transfer an emissions credit to an- |
| 3 | other person. |
| 4 | (h) Powers.—The Administrator may promulgate |
| 5 | such regulations, conduct such investigations, and take |
| 6 | such other actions as are necessary to appropriate to im- |
| 7 | plement and obtain compliance with this section and regu- |
| 8 | lations promulgated under this section. |
| 9 | SEC. 8. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS. |
| 10 | (a) Definitions.—In this section: |
| 11 | (1) Emissions data.—The term "emissions |
| 12 | data" means the type and amount of each pollutant |
| 13 | (as defined in section 7(a)) emitted by a generation |
| 14 | facility in generating electricity. |
| 15 | (2) Generation data.—The term "generation |
| 16 | data" means the type of fuel (such as coal, oil, nu- |
| 17 | clear energy, or solar power) used by a generation |
| 18 | facility to generate electricity. |
| 19 | (b) DISCLOSURE SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall es- |
| 20 | tablish a system of disclosure that— |
| 21 | (1) enables retail consumers to knowledgeably |
| 22 | compare retail electric service offerings, including |
| 23 | comparisons based on generation source portfolios, |
| 24 | emissions data, and price terms; and |
| 25 | (2) considers such factors as— |

| 1 | (A) cost of implementation; |
|----|--|
| 2 | (B) confidentiality of information; and |
| 3 | (C) flexibility. |
| 4 | (c) REGULATION.—Not later than March 1, 1999 |
| 5 | the Secretary, in consultation with the Board, and with |
| 6 | the assistance of a Federal interagency task force that in- |
| 7 | cludes representatives of the Commission, the Federal |
| 8 | Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration |
| 9 | and the Environmental Protection Agency, shall promul- |
| 10 | gate a regulation prescribing— |
| 11 | (1) the form, content, and frequency of disclo- |
| 12 | sure of emissions data and generation data of elec- |
| 13 | tricity by generation facilities to electricity whole- |
| 14 | salers or retail companies and by wholesalers to re- |
| 15 | tail companies; |
| 16 | (2) the form, content, and frequency of disclo- |
| 17 | sure of emissions data, generation data, and the |
| 18 | price of electricity by retail companies to ultimate |
| 19 | consumers; and |
| 20 | (3) the form, content, and frequency of disclo- |
| 21 | sure of emissions data, generation data, and the |
| 22 | price of electricity by generation facilities selling di- |
| 23 | rectly to ultimate consumers. |
| 24 | (d) Access to Records.—The Secretary shall have |
| 25 | full access to the records of all generation facilities, elec- |

- 1 tricity wholesalers, and retail companies to obtain any in-
- 2 formation necessary to administer and enforce this sec-
- 3 tion.
- 4 (e) Failure To Disclose.—The failure of a retail
- 5 company to accurately disclose information as required by
- 6 this section shall be treated as a deceptive act in commerce
- 7 under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15
- 8 U.S.C. 45).
- 9 (f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate
- 10 such regulations, conduct such investigations, and take
- 11 such other actions as are necessary or appropriate to im-
- 12 plement and obtain compliance with this section and regu-
- 13 lations promulgated under this section.

 \bigcirc