

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5044

To provide for a study of the potential for increasing hydroelectric power production at existing Federal facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

Mr. BURNS (for himself and Mr. NORWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a study of the potential for increasing hydroelectric power production at existing Federal facilities, 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 “Federal Hydroelectric
5 and Environmental Enhancement Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) Federal multi-purpose dams and reservoirs
2 with hydroelectric generation provide necessary
3 power to respective regions, enhance recreational
4 pursuits and help meet various environmental needs;

5 (2) hydroelectric generation is a renewable re-
6 source that plays a significant role in meeting the
7 growing power needs of many communities through-
8 out the Nation;

9 (3) Federal dams along the Savannah River
10 generate electricity for consumers who depend on
11 such power at peak times and provide recreational
12 and environmental benefits to the region;

13 (4) a number of technological advancements
14 have been made at these and other Federal hydro-
15 power facilities to provide even greater protections to
16 fish and other aquatic resources; and

17 (5) the value of these and other Federal hydro-
18 power facilities can be further enhanced to optimize
19 more hydroelectric generation and environmental
20 protection.

21 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON INCREASING ELECTRIC**
22 **POWER PRODUCTION CAPABILITY OF EXIST-**
23 **ING FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior and
25 the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Ad-

1 administrator of each Federal power marketing administra-
2 tion, shall conduct a study of the potential for creating
3 or increasing electric power production capability at exist-
4 ing facilities under their administrative jurisdiction.

5 (b) CONTENT.—The study under this section shall in-
6 clude identification and description in detail of each facil-
7 ity that is capable, with or without modification, of pro-
8 ducing additional hydroelectric power, including esti-
9 mation of the existing potential for the facility to generate
10 hydroelectric power.

11 (c) REPORT.—Each Secretary shall submit to the
12 Congress a report on the findings, conclusions, and rec-
13 ommendations of the study under this section by not later
14 than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act. Each Secretary shall include the following in the re-
16 port:

17 (1) The identifications, descriptions, and esti-
18 mations referred to in subsection (b).

19 (2) A description of activities the Secretary is
20 currently conducting or considering, or that could be
21 considered, to produce additional hydroelectric power
22 from each identified facility.

23 (3) A summary of action that has already been
24 taken by the Secretary to produce additional hydro-
25 electric power from each identified facility.

1 (4) The costs to install, upgrade, or modify
2 equipment or take other actions to produce new or
3 additional hydroelectric power from each identified
4 facility and the level of Federal power customer in-
5 volvement in the Secretary's determination of such
6 costs.

7 (5) The benefits that would be achieved by such
8 installation, upgrade, modification, or other action,
9 including quantified estimates of any additional en-
10 ergy or capacity from each facility identified under
11 subsection (b).

12 (6) A description of actions that are planned,
13 underway, or might reasonably be considered to cre-
14 ate or increase hydroelectric power production by re-
15 placing turbines.

16 (7) The impact of increased hydroelectric power
17 production on irrigation, fish, wildlife, Indian tribes,
18 river health, water quality, navigation, recreation,
19 fishing, and flood control.

20 (8) Any additional recommendations the Sec-
21 retary considers advisable to increase hydroelectric
22 power production from, and reduce costs and im-
23 prove efficiency at, facilities under the jurisdiction of
24 the Secretary.

1 **SEC. 4. STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREASED**
2 **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES IN HYDRO-**
3 **ELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior and
5 the Secretary of the Army shall conduct a study of oper-
6 ational methods and water scheduling techniques at all hy-
7 droelectric power plants under the administrative jurisdic-
8 tion of each Secretary that have an electric power produc-
9 tion capacity greater than 50 megawatts, to—

10 (1) determine whether such power plants and
11 associated river systems are operated so as to opti-
12 mize energy and capacity capabilities; and

13 (2) identify measures that can be taken to im-
14 prove operational flexibility at such plants to achieve
15 such optimization.

16 (b) REPORT.—Each Secretary shall submit a report
17 on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the
18 study under this section by not later than 18 months after
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, including a sum-
20 mary of the determinations and identifications under
21 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a). Each Secretary
22 shall include in the report the impact of optimized hydro-
23 electric power production on irrigation, fish, wildlife, In-
24 dian tribes, river health, water quality, navigation, recre-
25 ation, fishing, and flood control.

1 (c) COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL POWER MAR-
2 KETING ADMINISTRATIONS.—Each Secretary shall coordi-
3 nate with the Administrator of each Federal power mar-
4 keting administration in determining how the value of
5 electric power produced by each hydroelectric power facil-
6 ity that produces power marketed by the administration
7 can be optimized.

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