108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 212

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2003

Referred to the Committee on Resources

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the High Plains Aquifer States in conducting a Hydrogeologic Characterization, Mapping, and Modeling Program for the High Plains Aquifer, 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 "High Plains Aquifer

5 Hydrogeologic Characterization, Mapping, and Modeling

6 Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term "Association" means the Association of American State Geologists.

(2) COUNCIL.—The term "Council" means the Western States Water Council.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(4) HIGH PLAINS AQUIFER.—The term "High Plains Aquifer" is the groundwater reserve depicted as Figure 1 in the United States Geological Survey Professional Paper 1400–B, titled "Geohydrology of the High Plains Aquifer in Parts of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming."

(5) HIGH PLAINS AQUIFER STATES.—The term "High Plains Aquifer States" means the States of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

(6) REVIEW PANEL.—The term "Review Panel" means the panel provided for by section 3(d).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary, through the United States Geological Survey, and in cooperation with the

1 High Plains Aquifer States, shall establish and carry out

2 the High Plains Aquifer Comprehensive Hydrogeologic

3 Program, to characterize, map, and model the High Plains

4 Aquifer. The Program shall undertake at the most de-

5 tailed levels determined to be appropriate on a state-by-

6 state basis, characterization, mapping and modeling of the

7 hydrogeological configuration of the High Plains Aquifer.

8   (b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Program are

9 to:

10   (1) provide for the hydrogeologic characteriza-

11   tion, mapping and modeling of the High Plains Aq-

12   uifer through a cooperative partnership effort be-

13   tween the U.S. Geological Survey and the High

14   Plains Aquifer States;

15   (2) coordinate Federal, State, and local data,

16   maps, and models into an integrated physical char-

17   acterization of the High Plains Aquifer;

18   (3) support State and local activities with sci-

19   entific and technical specialists; and

20   (4) undertake activities and provide technical

21   capabilities not available at the State and local levels

22   as may be requested by a Governor of a High Plains

23   Aquifer State within such state.

24   (c) REQUESTS FROM GOVERNORS.—The Governor of

25 a High Plains Aquifer State may submit a proposal to

1 the Secretary requesting the Secretary to undertake activi-

2 ties and provide financial and technical capabilities not

3 available at the State and local levels to carry out the pur-

4 poses of the Program.

5 (d) REVIEW PANEL.—Not later than six months after

6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-

7 tablish a Review Panel to: (1) evaluate the proposals sub-

8 mitted for funding under subsection (f); and (2) review

9 and coordinate Program priorities. In performing its func-

10 tions, the Review Panel shall consult with the Association

11 and the Council.

12 (e) COMPOSITION AND SUPPORT.—The Review Panel

13 shall be comprised of: (1) five representatives of the

14 United States Geological Survey, at least two of which

15 shall be hydrologists or hydrogeologists; and (2) one rep-

16 resentative who is knowledgeable regarding hydrogeologic

17 data and information from each of the High Plains Aqui-

18 fer States that elects to participate in the Program. Each

19 representative of a High Plains Aquifer State shall be rec-

20 ommended by the Governor of such State. The Secretary

21 shall provide technical and administrative support to the

22 Review Panel. Expenses for the Review Panel shall be paid

23 from Program funds other than those referred to in sub-

24 section (f).

1 (f) FUNDING.—Fifty percent of the funds appro-
2 priated to carry out this Program shall be allocated equal-
3 ly by the Secretary for the participation of State and local
4 agencies and institutions of higher education within each
5 of the High Plains Aquifer States that elects to participate
6 in the Program. Grants may be made by the Secretary
7 from the funds described in this subsection based on pro-
8 posals that have been recommended by the Governor and
9 reviewed by the Review Panel. Proposals for multistate ac-
10 tivities must be recommended by the Governors of all the
11 affected States.

12 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

13 (a) REPORT ON PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—One
14 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every
15 3 years thereafter through fiscal year 2011, the Secretary
16 shall include a report on the Program in the annual budg-
17 et documents for the Department of the Interior. The ini-
18 tial report submitted by the Secretary shall contain a Pro-
19 gram plan developed with the concurrence of the Review
20 Panel.

21 (b) REPORT ON HIGH PLAINS AQUIFER.—No later
22 than four years after the date of enactment of this Act
23 and upon completion of the Program in fiscal year 2011,
24 the Secretary shall submit an interim and final report, re-

1 spectively, to the Governors of the High Plains Aquifer

2 States on the status of the High Plains Aquifer.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4   There are authorized to be appropriated such sums

5 as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2003

6 through 2011 to carry out this Act.

    Passed the Senate April 7, 2003.

    Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,

                              Secretary.