

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2929

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review the decisions of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation affecting cost allocation under system support resources agreements.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 2014

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

A BILL

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review the decisions of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation affecting cost allocation under system support resources agreements.

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 “Providing Opportuni-
5 ties to Work for Energy Reliability Act” or the “POWER
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REVIEW OF DECISIONS OF NORTH AMERICAN ELEC-**
 2 **TRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION AFFECT-**
 3 **ING COST ALLOCATION UNDER SYSTEM SUP-**
 4 **PORT RESOURCES AGREEMENTS.**

5 Section 205 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.
 6 824d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(g) REVIEW OF DECISIONS OF NORTH AMERICAN
 8 ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION AFFECTING COST
 9 ALLOCATION UNDER SYSTEM SUPPORT RESOURCES
 10 AGREEMENTS.—

11 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

12 “(A) SYSTEM SUPPORT RESOURCES
 13 AGREEMENT.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘system
 15 support resources agreement’ means an
 16 agreement between the owner of a system
 17 support resources unit and a transmission
 18 organization that provides for—

19 “(I) operation of the system sup-
 20 port resources unit for a period past
 21 the date on which the owner of the
 22 system support resources unit pro-
 23 poses to suspend the operation of, or
 24 retire, the system support resources
 25 unit;

1 “(II) the payments to be made to
2 the owner of the system support re-
3 sources unit for the continued oper-
4 ation; and

5 “(III) the manner in which the
6 costs for the continued operation will
7 be recovered.

8 “(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘system
9 support resources agreement’ includes the
10 associated rate schedule, or any other allo-
11 cation of costs, for an agreement described
12 in clause (i).

13 “(B) SYSTEM SUPPORT RESOURCES
14 UNIT.—The term ‘system support resources
15 unit’ means a generating unit that has been
16 designated by a transmission organization as a
17 system support resources unit on—

18 “(i) an application to the transmission
19 organization by the owner of the unit to
20 retire or suspend operation of the unit; and

21 “(ii) a determination by the trans-
22 mission organization that the operation of
23 the unit is necessary to operate the trans-
24 mission system consistent with applicable
25 reliability standards.

1 “(C) TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The
 2 term ‘transmission organization’ has the mean-
 3 ing given the term in section 215(a).

4 “(2) REVIEW BY COMMISSION.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
 6 review any decision by the North American
 7 Electric Reliability Corporation to approve a
 8 new balancing authority that would alter cost
 9 allocations under an existing system support re-
 10 sources agreement.

11 “(B) SUSPENSION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—
 12 The new balancing authority described in sub-
 13 paragraph (A) shall not take effect until ap-
 14 proved by the Commission.

15 “(3) COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.—Prior to
 16 issuing a decision under paragraph (4), the Commis-
 17 sion shall publish a cost-benefit analysis of the pro-
 18 posed decision described in paragraph (2)(A), includ-
 19 ing the likely financial impact of the decision on
 20 ratepayers.

21 “(4) DECISION BY COMMISSION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission
 23 shall—

1 “(i) review a decision of the North
2 American Electric Reliability Corporation
3 described in paragraph (2)(A); and

4 “(ii) issue a decision that approves,
5 disapproves, or modifies the decision of the
6 North American Electric Reliability Cor-
7 poration.

8 “(B) DISAPPROVAL.—The Commission
9 shall disapprove a decision of the North Amer-
10 ican Electric Reliability Corporation described
11 in paragraph (2)(A) if the Commission deter-
12 mines that the decision would result in unjust,
13 unreasonable, unduly discriminatory, or other-
14 wise unlawful rates for ratepayers.”.

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