

Calendar No. 262

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1931

[Report No. 116–142]

To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2019

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

OCTOBER 23, 2019

Reported by Ms. MURKOWSKI, without amendment

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Western Area Power
3 Administration Transparency Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PILOT**
5 **PROJECT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
8 Western Area Power Administration (referred to in this
9 section as the “Administrator”) shall—

10 (1) establish a pilot project, as part of the con-
11 tinuous process improvement program and to pro-
12 vide increased transparency for customers—

13 (A) to make available a database of infor-
14 mation relating to the Western Area Power Ad-
15 ministration in accordance with paragraph (2);
16 and

17 (B) to provide annual updates to the data-
18 base in accordance with subsection (b); and

19 (2) publish on a publicly available website of
20 the Western Area Power Administration, a database
21 of the following information, beginning with fiscal
22 year 2008, relating to the Western Area Power Ad-
23 ministration:

24 (A) By power system and in a consistent
25 format, rates charged to customers for power
26 and transmission service.

1 (B) By power system, the amount of ca-
2 pacity or energy sold.

3 (C) By region, an accounting, at the task
4 level, budget activity level, organizational code
5 level, and object class level, of all expenditures,
6 including—

7 (i) indirect costs, including overhead
8 costs;

9 (ii) direct charges and direct alloca-
10 tions;

11 (iii) costs related to contract staff;

12 (iv) costs related to independent con-
13 sultants;

14 (v) the number of full-time equiva-
15 lents;

16 (vi) charges to the region from the
17 headquarters office of the Western Area
18 Power Administration for all annual and
19 capital costs; and

20 (vii) expenses incurred on behalf of
21 other Federal agencies or programs or
22 third parties for the administration of pro-
23 grams not related to the marketing, trans-
24 mission, or wheeling of Federal hydro-
25 power resources within the Western Area

1 Power Administration marketing area, in-
2 cluding—

3 (I) indirect costs, including over-
4 head costs;

5 (II) direct charges and alloca-
6 tions;

7 (III) costs related to contract
8 staff; and

9 (IV) the number of full-time
10 equivalents.

11 (D) For the headquarters office of the
12 Western Area Power Administration, an ac-
13 counting, at the task level, budget activity level,
14 organizational code level, and object class level,
15 of all expenditures, including—

16 (i) indirect costs, including overhead
17 costs;

18 (ii) direct charges and direct alloca-
19 tions;

20 (iii) costs related to contract staff;

21 (iv) costs related to independent con-
22 sultants;

23 (v) the number of full-time equiva-
24 lents;

(vi) a summary of any expenditures described in this paragraph, with the total amount paid by each region and power system; and

(vii) expenses incurred on behalf of other Federal agencies or programs or third parties for the administration of programs not related to the marketing, transmission, or wheeling of Federal hydro-power resources within the Western Area Power Administration marketing area, including—

(I) indirect costs, including overhead costs;

(II) direct charges and allocations;

(III) costs related to contract staff; and

(IV) the number of full-time equivalents.

(E) Capital expenditures for each project, including—

(i) capital investments delineated by the year in which each investment is placed into service; and

1 (ii) the sources of capital for each in-
2 vestment.

3 (b) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
5 after the end of each fiscal year in which the pilot
6 project is being carried out under this section, the
7 Administrator shall make available on a publicly
8 available website—

9 (A) updates to documents made available
10 on the date of the initial publication of the in-
11 formation on the website under subsection
12 (a)(2);

13 (B) an identification of the annual changes
14 in the information published on the website
15 under subsection (a)(2);

16 (C) the reasons for the changes identified
17 under subparagraph (B);

18 (D) subject to paragraph (2), the total
19 amount of the unobligated balances retained by
20 the Western Area Power Administration at the
21 end of the prior fiscal year within each project
22 and headquarters by—

23 (i) purpose or function;

24 (ii) source of funding;

1 (iii) anticipated program allotment;

2 and

3 (iv) underlying authority for each

4 source of funding; and

5 (E) the anticipated level of unobligated

6 balances that the Western Area Power Adminis-

7 tration expects to retain at the end of the fiscal

8 year in which the annual summary is published,

9 as delineated by each of the categories de-

10 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) of subpara-

11 graph (D).

12 (2) LIMITATION.—Amounts in the Upper Colo-

13 rado River Basin Fund established by section 5(a)

14 of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as

15 the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43

16 U.S.C. 620d(a)), shall not be considered to be an

17 unobligated balance retained by the Western Area

18 Power Administration for purposes of paragraph

19 (1)(D).

20 (c) TERMINATION.—The pilot project under this sec-

21 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the

22 date of enactment of this Act.

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