

local communities. The bill was introduced by our colleague, Representative LINCOLN of Arkansas. There is a need for congressional action, since the construction deadline for one of the projects ran out last week.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is the first of eight bills that we will consider this afternoon that deal with hydroelectric projects, and as the gentleman from Colorado mentioned, there has not been any objection to any of these bills.

The Federal Power Act allows the licensee 2 years to begin construction of a hydroelectric project once the license is issued and can extend that deadline but may do so only once and only for 2 years. However, there are many obstacles that make it difficult for projects to commence construction during either the initial license time frame or the extension time frame.

Perhaps the most frequent reason for delay is the lack of a power purchase agreement, for without such an agreement it is unlikely a project could get financed. Because of the limitations set in the Federal Power Act, the House has had a long bipartisan tradition of moving noncontroversial license extensions, and I am pleased we are continuing that tradition today with the gentleman from Colorado and myself and our subcommittee by taking up these bills that were reported, as I said, without dissent by the Committee on Commerce, and so I would ask that the first bill, H.R. 657, be considered.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 657.

The question was taken.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 657, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

EXTENDING THE TIME FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN FERC LICENSED HYDRO PROJECTS

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 680) to extend the time for construction of certain FERC licensed hydro projects.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 680

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION.

Notwithstanding the limitations of section 13 of the Federal Power Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee or licensees for FERC projects numbered 4244 and 10648 (and after reasonable notice), is authorized in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of such section 13 and the Commission's procedures under such section, to extend the time required for commencement of construction for each of such projects for up to a maximum of 3 consecutive 2-year periods. This section shall take effect for the projects upon the expiration of the extension (issued by the Commission under such section 13) of the period required for commencement of construction of each such project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER].

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SCHAEFER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, this bill would extend deadlines for construction of two projects in New York with a capacity of 9.7 and 10.2 megawatts for up to 6 years, which would extend the deadline to up to 10 years after the date the licenses were issued. Adirondack Hydro Development Corp. is licensee for one of the projects, and general partner of the other. To date, the company has invested \$2 million in development of the projects. The licensee has not been able to begin construction because it has not been able to obtain a power sales contract needed to secure financing. Construction and operation of the projects offers substantial benefits to the community, including an estimated 180 jobs, a payroll expenditure of \$18 million, and a further \$20 million spent on local purchases of materials. This legislation was introduced by our colleague, Representative SOLOMON of New York. The construction deadline for one of these projects is January 16, 1996, so time is running short.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Colorado has explained the substance of the bill. It was reported out of our

Subcommittee on Power and Energy and the full Committee on Commerce without objection. It is based on construction not having commenced for lack of a power-purchase agreement. I support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 680.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 680, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

EXTENDING FEDERAL POWER ACT DEADLINE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN OHIO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1011) to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Ohio.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1011

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.

Notwithstanding the time limitations of section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee for FERC Project No. 9423 (and after reasonable notice), is authorized, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of such section 13 and the Commission's procedures under such section, to extend the time required for commencement of construction for the project for up to a maximum of 3 consecutive 2-year periods. This section shall take effect for the project upon the expiration of the extension (issued by the Commission under section 13) of the period required for commencement of construction of such project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER].

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SCHAEFER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1011 would extend the deadline for construction of a 1,500-megawatt pumped-storage project in Ohio for up to 6 years, which would extend the deadline to up to 10 years after the date the license was issued. The licensee is Summit Energy Storage, Inc., which has been unable to commence construction because they have not obtained a power sales contract necessary to finance construction. To date, the licensee has invested more than \$20 million in project development. The bill was introduced by our colleague, Representative SAWYER of Ohio. The deadline for commencement of construction ran out on April 11, 1995, and the license is subject to termination by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, so it is appropriate that we act on this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, this bill, which relates to hydroelectric projects in Ohio, was reported out of the subcommittee and the full committee without a dissenting vote. I urge support for the legislation.

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1011, a bill I introduced this year to give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the authority to grant an extension of as much as 6 extra years for the construction of the Summit Pumped Storage Project in Norton, OH. I appreciate the assistance of Chairman SCHAEFER and Ranking Member PALLONE in bringing this legislation to the floor.

If constructed, the Summit facility would be capable of producing as much as 1,500 megawatts of electricity during hours of peak energy demand. The project itself would burn no fossil fuels, relying instead on hydroelectric generation to provide peak-load power. A 2.8 billion-gallon reservoir would partially empty into a network of abandoned limestone mines, passing through huge turbines on the way. The water would then be pumped back into the reservoir during the hours when electricity is cheapest.

Without H.R. 1011, this unique hydroelectric project will never be built. FERC, which granted the original construction license and a subsequent 2-year extension, is unable under existing law to grant any further extensions. Passage of this legislation will allow FERC to consider up to three 2-year license extensions. This legislation does not relieve the Summit project from the statutory and regulatory requirements it has previously had to meet. The licensing standards remain the same, and FERC will have the final word on the Summit project's eligibility to qualify.

Mr. Speaker, the Summit project enjoys strong support in northeastern Ohio, including the city of Norton, the mayor, and residents and businesses throughout the area. It is a project that will create hundreds of jobs for skilled workers throughout the region and will enhance ongoing economic development initiatives that are enormously important to Norton and the surrounding area.

Again, I'd like to express my thanks to the subcommittee for its work. I urge passage of H.R. 1011.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1011.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1011, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATION FOR A FERC-ISSUED HYDROELECTRIC LICENSE

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1014) to authorize extension of time limitation for a FERC-issued hydroelectric license, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1014

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding the time limitation of section 13 of the Federal Power Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee for FERC Project No. 3701, is authorized, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of section 13 and the Commission's procedures under such section, to extend the time required for the licensee to commence the construction of such project for up to a maximum of 3 consecutive 2-year periods. This section shall take effect for the project upon the expiration of the extension (issued by the Commission under section 13) of the period required for commencement of construction of such project. If the license for FERC Project 3701 should expire prior to the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission is authorized and directed to reinstate effective June 1, 1995, the license previously issued for such project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER].

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would extend the deadline for construction of a 13.6-megawatt project in Washington for up to 6 years, which would extend the deadline for up to 10 years after the

date the license was issued. The licensee is Yakima Tieton Irrigation District, which has been unable to being project construction due to the lack of a power sales contract. To date, the licensee has paid more than \$380,000 for studies, investigations, and licensing of these project. The bill was introduced by our colleague, Representative HASTINGS of Washington. The deadline for commencement of construction ran out on May 31, 1995, but H.R. 1014 provides for reinstatement of the license upon enactment, as well as extension of the construction deadline.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1014. There was no objective to this bill relating to the project in Washington State.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington [Mr. HASTINGS], the author of the legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1014. I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Colorado, Chairman SCHAEFER, and the subcommittee's ranking member, Mr. PALLONE, for their expeditious handling of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1014 is a non-controversial bill that merely extends the time limitation for a FERC-issued hydroelectric license for the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District.

Located on the Tieton River in Yakima County, WA, the proposed project which began in the late 1970's calls for construction of a 13.6 megawatt hydroelectric project at the existing Tieton Dam.

In recent years, the irrigation district has entered into serious negotiations with Benton and Franklin County Public Utility Districts [PUD's] on a power purchase agreement.

These efforts culminated last year in meetings between the irrigation district, PUD's, underwriters, and bond counsel to discuss a formal memorandum of understanding [MOU].

It was determined, however, that a number of additional tasks must be completed before construction starts. The PUD's came to the conclusion that it was not feasible or realistic to meet these requirements by May 31, 1995, the most recent FERC deadline. Consequently, they have sought an extension for start of construction.

Project supporters tell me that if this deadline can be extended, a power purchase agreement could be worked out so that construction can be started as early as next fall.

H.R. 1014 simply extends the FERC deadline for completion of this license to May 31, 2001. When completed and