(2) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Purchase Power Drought Fund established under subsection (c).

(3) PURCHASE POWER DROUGHT ADDER.—The term ''purchase power drought adder'' means the special rate component assessed under subsection (b)(1).

(b) SPECIAL RATE COMPONENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator may assess a special rate component to be known as a ''purchase power drought adder'' independent of and in addition to other existing rate components.

(2) COLLECTION OF AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall—

(A) collect amounts from the purchase power drought adder in advance of need; and

(B) deposit those amounts in the Fund for use in accordance with subsection (c)(1).

(3) LIMITATION.—The purchase power drought adder shall not be used to offset or displace other charges made in the normal course of the rate setting process of the Southwestern Power Administration.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish in the Treasury of the United States a separate fund to be known as the ''Purchase Power Drought Fund'', from which the Administrator may use amounts during extended below-average water conditions—

(A) for necessary expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration for purchase power and wheeling; and

(B) to minimize the use, during those conditions, of the continuing fund established by the matter under the heading ''OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY'' in title I of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 825s–1).

(2) DEPOSITS.—The Administrator shall deposit in the Fund the amounts collected from the assessment of the purchase power drought adder under subsection (b) and such amounts shall be available to the Administrator without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Administrator shall expend from the Fund only those amounts collected and deposited in advance.

SA 3136. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 45(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(12) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN QUALIFIED FACILITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of electricity produced at a qualified facility described in paragraph (3) or (7) of subsection (d) and placed in service before the date of the enactment of this paragraph, a taxpayer may elect to apply subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) by substituting 'the period beginning after December 31, 2016, and ending before January 1, 2018' for 'the 10-year period beginning on the date the facility was originally placed in service'.

''(B) LIMITATION.—No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) to any taxpayer making an election under this paragraph with respect to electricity produced and sold at a facility during any period which, when aggregated with all other periods for which a credit is allowed under this section with respect to electricity produced and sold at such facility, is in excess of 10 years.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

SA 3137. Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 302, strike lines 6 through 9 and insert the following:

(2) SECRETARIAL ORDER NOT AFFECTED.—This subtitle shall not apply to any mineral described in Secretarial Order No. 3324, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 3, 2012, in any area to which the order applies.

SA 3138. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 6001. NATIONAL RECREATIONAL PASSES FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 805(b) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) DISABILITY DISCOUNT.—The Secretary shall make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, without charge and for the lifetime of the passholder, to the following:

''(A) Any United States citizen or person domiciled in the United States who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled for purposes of section 7(20)(B)(i) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705(20)(B)(i)), if the citizen or person provides adequate proof of the disability and such citizenship or residency.

''(B) Any veteran with a service-connected disability, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ADJUSTMENT OF ENTRANCE FEES.—The Secretary shall adjust entrance fees applicable to individuals that are not holders of a pass made available under paragraph (2)(B) in a manner so as to maintain total receipts.''.

SA 3139. Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 44___. ENSURING SCIENTIFIC TRANSPARENCY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.

(a) PUBLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTS FOR RULES AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS, AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 530. PUBLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTS FOR RULES AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS, AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENTS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term 'agency action' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

''(2) BACKGROUND INFORMATION.—The term 'background information' means—

''(A) a biographical document, including a curriculum vitae or resume, that details the exhaustive, professional work history, education, and any professional memberships of a person; and

''(B) the amount and date of any Federal grants or contracts received by that person.

''(3) ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT.—The term 'economic assessment' means any assessment prepared by a Federal agency in accordance with section 6(a)(3)(C) of Executive Order 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review).

''(4) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—The term 'environmental assessment' has the meaning given the term in section 1508.9 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(5) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The term 'environmental impact statement' means any environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

''(6) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The term 'publicly available' means published online on—

''(A) a publicly accessible website that allows the submission of comments on proposed regulations and related documents published by the Federal Government;

''(B) a publicly accessible website of the Secretary; and

''(C) the website of the Federal Register.

''(7) RAW DATA.—The term 'raw data' means any computational process or quantitative or qualitative data processed from a source that is relied upon in a scientific product to support a finding or observation.

''(8) RELIED UPON.—The term 'relied upon' means explicitly cited or referenced in a rule, environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or economic assessment.

''(9) RULE.—The term 'rule' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

''(10) SCIENTIFIC METHOD.—The term 'scientific method' means a method of research under which—

''(A) a problem is identified;

''(B) relevant data are gathered;

''(C) a hypothesis is formulated from the data; and

''(D) the hypothesis is empirically tested in a manner specified by documented protocols and procedures.

''(11) SCIENTIFIC PRODUCT.—The term 'scientific product' means any product that—

''(A) employs the scientific method for inventorying, monitoring, experimenting, studying, researching, and modeling purposes;

''(B) is relied upon by the Secretary in development of any rule, environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or economic assessment; and

''(C) is not protected under copyright laws.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) make publicly available on the date of the publication of any draft, final, emergency, or supplemental rule under this Act,

or any related environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or economic assessment, each scientific product the Secretary relied upon in developing the rule, environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or economic assessment; and

''(2) for those scientific products receiving Federal funds, also make publicly available—

''(A) the raw data used for the federally funded scientific product; and

''(B) background information of the authors of the scientific study.

''(c) COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), failure to comply with the publication requirements of subsection (b)—

''(A) with respect to draft or supplemental rules, environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, or economic assessments shall extend by 1 day the notice and comment period for each day of noncompliance; or

''(B) with respect to final or emergency rules, shall delay the effective date of the final rule by 60 days plus an additional day for each day of noncompliance.

''(2) WITHDRAWAL.—If the Secretary fails to comply with the publication requirements of subsection (b) for more than 180 days after the date of publication of any rule, or any related environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or economic assessment, under this Act, the Secretary shall withdraw the rule, environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or economic assessment.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 529 the following:

''Sec. 530. Publication of scientific products for rules and related environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, and economic assessments.''.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Section 702 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1292) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsection (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this Act authorizes the Secretary to take any action by rule, interpretive rule, policy, regulation, notice, or order that duplicates any action taken under an Act referred to in subsection (a) (including regulations and rules).

''(d) DEFERENCE TO IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND STATE AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out this Act (including rules, interpretive rules, policies, regulations, notices, or orders), the Secretary—

''(1) shall defer to the determinations of an agency or State authority implementing an Act referred to in subsection (a) with respect to any agency action under the jurisdiction of the agency or State authority, as applicable; and

''(2) shall not make any determination regarding any agency action subject to an Act referred to in subsection (a).''.

SA 3140. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part IV of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

SEC. 30____. POLICIES RELATING TO BIOMASS ENERGY.

To support the key role that forests in the United States can play in addressing the energy needs of the United States, the Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall jointly—

(1) ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy—

(A) is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(B) recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management; and

(2) establish clear and simple policies for the use of biomass as an energy solution, including policies that—

(A) reflect the carbon-neutrality of forest bioenergy;

(B) recognize biomass as a renewable energy source;

(C) encourage private investment throughout the biomass supply chain, including in—

(i) working forests;

(ii) harvesting operations;

(iii) forest improvement operations;

(iv) bioenergy;

(v) wood products; and

(vi) paper manufacturing;

(D) encourage forest management to improve forest health; and

(E) recognize State initiatives to use biomass.

SA 3141. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

Subtitle I—Wind Energy

SEC. 3801. INTERAGENCY RAPID RESPONSE TEAM FOR WIND ENERGY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an interagency rapid response team, to be known as the ''Interagency Rapid Response Team for Wind Energy'' (referred to in this section as the ''Team''), to expedite and improve the permitting process for wind generation on Federal land and non-Federal land.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Team shall be comprised of representatives from—

(1) the Department;

(2) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

(3) the Department of the Interior;

(4) the Department of Defense;

(5) the Department of Agriculture;

(6) the Department of Commerce;

(7) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(8) the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation;

(9) the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(10) the Council on Environmental Quality.

(c) DUTIES.—The Team shall—

(1) establish clear timelines for the review of projects;

(2) facilitate coordination and unified environmental documentation among wind project applicants, Federal agencies, States, and Indian tribes involved in the siting and permitting processes; and

(3) regularly notify all participating members of the Team involved in any specific permit of—

(A) any outstanding agency action that is required with respect to the permit; and

(B) any approval or required comment that has exceeded statutory or agency timelines for completion, including an identification of any Federal agency, department, or field office that has not met the applicable timeline.

(d) POINT OF CONTACT.—The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall provide a unified point of contact for—

(1) resolving interagency or intraagency issues or delays with respect to wind permitting; and

(2) receiving and resolving complaints from parties with outstanding or in-process applications relating to wind permitting.

SA 3142. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 253, strike lines 21 through 25 and insert the following:

Defense;

''(10) to identify and support opportunities to pair hydrokinetic generation with existing hydroelectric dam facilities operated by the Corps of Engineers; and

''(11) to support in-water technology development with international partners using existing cooperative procedures (including memoranda of understanding)—

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to S. 2415, a bill to implement integrity measures to strengthen the EB–5 Regional Center Program in order to promote and reform foreign capital investment and job creation in American communities; dated January 28, 2016.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 28, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 28, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Helping Americans Prepared for Retirement: Increasing Access, Participation and Coverage in Retirement Savings Plans.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 28, 2016, at 10 a.m.