

smaller-scale projects attached to existing infrastructure, including irrigation canals and municipal water supply systems.

As Mr. RUSH noted, in 2013, I worked with Representative CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, another westerner, to pass the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act. That bill became law, and it established a process for qualifying conduit hydropower facilities to move forward without requiring a license from FERC.

A lot of people in western Colorado told me that this was one of the most important bills that they had ever seen come out of Congress, only demonstrating that all politics is local. Even though maybe it didn't seem so important to some people here at the time, 83 hydropower projects have been successfully promoted using the new process, including 23 projects in Colorado. This progress is encouraging, but there is even more we can do.

The Colorado government estimates that existing agricultural irrigation conduits in our State could support an additional 30 megawatts of hydropower, and municipal water supply systems could support another 20 to 25 megawatts. But to realize this potential, we need to listen to the advice that the Energy and Commerce Committee has heard on how to make the process as simple and flexible as possible.

We have heard testimony from FERC that the existing comment period is rarely used for comments that have a bearing on determining whether the project qualifies under the statute. In response, the bill we are considering today would shorten the comment period from 45 to 30 days to avoid unnecessary delays.

Second, FERC suggested lifting the megawatt cap on qualifying conduit projects. The amount of energy demonstrated by a hydroelectric project is not a good indication of its environmental impact. In fact, any project built on existing conduit infrastructure will have little to no environmental impact because it is using water that has already been diverted from its natural course.

The bill would not change the requirement in existing law that the project be built on a conduit that is primarily intended for non-power generating uses, further limiting the potential for any environmental impact.

Together, these two changes will open the door to more conduit hydropower projects without compromising important environmental protections.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to emphasize that bill shows what Congress can accomplish when we work together in a bipartisan manner to address our country's needs now and in the future. I urge everyone to support it.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment briefly on the remarks by my two colleagues.

This is an important bill, and for those of us who have always supported all of the above, whether it be renewable or safe nuclear, all those different things, hydro is part of that mix.

I would just note that I had a question yesterday morning. I did a big Farm Bureau breakfast in my district, and the question about hydropower came up. Just like my friend from Colorado talks about the most important bill in Colorado, this is an important bill.

It is also important that we work together to get this bill done so that the Senate can follow suit. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan legislation.

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 Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2786, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXTENDING DEADLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF A HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2828) to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2828

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 12569, the Commission shall, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the Commission's procedures under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for up to three consecutive 2-year periods from the date of the expiration of the extension originally issued by the Commission under that section.

(b) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall reinstate the license effective as of the date of its expiration and the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of such expiration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2828, introduced by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE). This bill will authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, to extend the time period during which a licensee is required to commence construction of a hydroelectric project.

Back on July 9, 2013, FERC issued a license for the Public Utility District Number 1 of Okanogan County, Washington's proposed 9-megawatt Enloe hydroelectric project. This project will be located at the existing Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River near the city of Oroville, Washington.

The license requires the licensee to commence construction of the project within 2 years of the issuance date of the license, or by July 9, 2015. At the licensee's request, FERC has already granted the maximum allowable 2-year extension, thus making the construction deadline July 9, 2017.

Development of the Enloe project has experienced setbacks that have complicated the licensee's ability to meet the deadline. This bill, H.R. 2828, would authorize FERC to reinstate the license and issue up to three consecutive 2-year extensions to commence construction.

This bill is consistent with prior congressional actions and FERC's longstanding policy limiting the maximum allowable extension to 10 years from the issuance date of the license.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us sponsored by the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. NEWHOUSE) would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend, up to 6 years, the date by which the licensee for the Enloe Dam hydropower project, No. 12569, is required to commence construction. This is necessary because the project's licensee is not likely to commence construction by the designated deadline.

Under the Federal Power Act, Mr. Speaker, FERC is unable to further extend that deadline administratively, so action by the Congress is required. In the event the license expires before this legislation is enacted, the bill contains language reinstating the license as of its date of expiration.

□ 1330

FERC has no objection, Mr. Speaker, to this piece of legislation, and neither do I, and I hope that my colleagues will support the passage of H.R. 951.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues again to support this bill, on a bipartisan basis, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, my legislation would provide a much-needed “commencement of construction” extension to the FERC permit for the Enloe Dam Hydroelectric Project located in my Central Washington district.

The Enloe Project is located at the existing Enloe Dam in the Similkameen River Valley, which is situated approximately four miles upriver of the City of Oroville. The original dam was constructed by BLM in 1920 for power generation but operations ceased in 1958 when the Bonneville Power Administration extended a high-voltage transmission line into the Okanogan Valley.

However, since 1958 the dam and its related power-generating facilities have sat dormant and the Okanogan Public Utility District (“District”) is now working on the proposed project to re-energize this infrastructure for hydropower development, as well as to relocate the site to the opposite bank, which offers numerous environmental and construction advantages.

The proposed 9 megawatt hydropower facility has faced several setbacks and regulatory hurdles, which have been addressed but have also delayed progress. However, despite these challenges the District has made considerable progress in fulfilling all of the pre-construction obligations contained in its FERC license.

H.R. 2828 would ensure this critical hydropower project can move forward and provide important renewable energy generation to the region. The Enloe Project makes economic and environmental sense, as it will convert currently untapped energy in existing flow releases into clean, carbon-neutral energy. Additionally, the Project will have a footprint that is roughly half the size of the existing facility but will provide approximately three times the generating capacity of the decommissioned plant.

Completion of the Project will provide Washingtonians and the Pacific Northwest region with a clean, renewable energy resource that generates an estimated 45,000 megawatt hours per year of carbon-free, renewable power. Further, the proposed project will create jobs and needed employment opportunities in a region with an unemployment rate that far exceeds the national average, underscoring the many positive benefits this project will have for the local community, state, and region.

This important legislation will allow for development of this critical hydropower facility to move forward under a realistic regulatory timeline and in a manner consistent with prior congressional actions on similar projects.

By passing this measure and extending the “commencement of construction” deadline for the Enloe Project, Congress can help spur hydropower development in Central Washington and ensure the Project’s many benefits are realized, which will have a lasting impact on the region’s energy supply and economic viability.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2828.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENHANCING STATE ENERGY SECURITY PLANNING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2017

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3050) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide Federal financial assistance to States to implement, review, and revise State energy security plans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3050

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing State Energy Security Planning and Emergency Preparedness Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. STATE ENERGY SECURITY PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 367. STATE ENERGY SECURITY PLANS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Federal financial assistance made available to a State under this part may be used for the implementation, review, and revision of a State energy security plan that assesses the State’s existing circumstances and proposes methods to strengthen the ability of the State, in consultation with owners and operators of energy infrastructure in such State, to—

“(1) secure the energy infrastructure of the State against all physical and cybersecurity threats;

“(2) mitigate the risk of energy supply disruptions to the State and enhance the response to, and recovery from, energy disruptions; and

“(3) ensure the State has a reliable, secure, and resilient energy infrastructure.

“(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—A State energy security plan described in subsection (a) shall—

“(1) address all fuels, including petroleum products, other liquid fuels, coal, electricity, and natural gas, as well as regulated and unregulated energy providers;

“(2) provide a State energy profile, including an assessment of energy production, distribution, and end-use;

“(3) address potential hazards to each energy sector or system, including physical threats and cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities;

“(4) provide a risk assessment of energy infrastructure and cross-sector interdependencies;

“(5) provide a risk mitigation approach to enhance reliability and end-use resilience; and

“(6) address multi-State, Indian Tribe, and regional coordination planning and response, and to the extent practicable, encourage mutual assistance in cyber and physical response plans.

“(c) COORDINATION.—In developing a State energy security plan under this section, the energy office of the State shall, to the extent practicable, coordinate with—

“(1) the public utility or service commission of the State;

“(2) energy providers from the private sector; and

“(3) other entities responsible for maintaining fuel or electric reliability.

“(d) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—A State is not eligible to receive Federal financial assistance under this part, for any purpose, for a fiscal year unless the Governor of such State submits to the Secretary, with respect to such fiscal year—

“(1) a State energy security plan described in subsection (a) that meets the requirements of subsection (b); or

“(2) after an annual review of the State energy security plan by the Governor—

“(A) any necessary revisions to such plan; or

“(B) a certification that no revisions to such plan are necessary.

“(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon request of the Governor of a State, the Secretary may provide information and technical assistance, and other assistance, in the development, implementation, or revision of a State energy security plan.

“(f) SUNSET.—This section shall expire on October 31, 2022.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 365(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6325(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$125,000,000” and inserting “\$90,000,000”; and

(2) by striking “2007 through 2012” and inserting “2018 through 2022”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 363 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6323) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e); and

(B) by striking subsection (e).

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 366(3)(B)(i) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6326(3)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “approved under section 367”.

(3) REFERENCE.—The item relating to “Department of Energy—Energy Conservation” in title II of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1985 (42 U.S.C. 6323a) is amended by striking “sections 361 through 366” and inserting “sections 361 through 367”.

(4) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 367. State energy security plans.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. It really is. This bill, H.R. 3050, is a bipartisan bill introduced by myself and by my good friend and colleague across the aisle, Mr. RUSH. It is bipartisan.

This bill reauthorizes the State Energy Program and it strengthens our