

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 961

AN ACT

To promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, and for other purposes.

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To promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Reliance on sound science.

TITLE I—SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT MONITORING NETWORK

- Sec. 101. Establishment of monitoring network.
- Sec. 102. Data collection and storage responsibilities.
- Sec. 103. Relationship to existing sediment and nutrient monitoring.
- Sec. 104. Collaboration with other public and private monitoring efforts.
- Sec. 105. Reporting requirements.
- Sec. 106. National Research Council assessment.

TITLE II—COMPUTER MODELING AND RESEARCH

- Sec. 201. Computer modeling and research of sediment and nutrient sources.
- Sec. 202. Use of electronic means to distribute information.
- Sec. 203. Reporting requirements.

TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 302. Cost-sharing requirements.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) The terms “Upper Mississippi River Basin”
9 and “Basin” mean the watershed portion of the
10 Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River basins,
11 from Cairo, Illinois, to the headwaters of the Mis-
12 sissippi River, in the States of Minnesota, Wis-
13 consin, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The designation
14 includes the Kaskaskia watershed along the Illinois

1 River and the Meramec watershed along the Mis-
2 souri River.

3 (2) The terms “Upper Mississippi River Stew-
4 ardsip Initiative” and “Initiative” mean the activi-
5 ties authorized or required by this Act to monitor
6 nutrient and sediment loss in the Upper Mississippi
7 River Basin.

8 (3) The term “sound science” refers to the use
9 of accepted and documented scientific methods to
10 identify and quantify the sources, transport, and
11 fate of nutrients and sediment and to quantify the
12 effect of various treatment methods or conservation
13 measures on nutrient and sediment loss. Sound
14 science requires the use of documented protocols for
15 data collection and data analysis, and peer review of
16 the data, results, and findings.

17 **SEC. 3. RELIANCE ON SOUND SCIENCE.**

18 It is the policy of Congress that Federal investments
19 in the Upper Mississippi River Basin must be guided by
20 sound science.

21 **TITLE I—SEDIMENT AND NUTRI-**
22 **ENT MONITORING NETWORK**

23 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF MONITORING NETWORK.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—As part of the Upper Mis-
25 sissippi River Stewardship Initiative, the Secretary of the

1 Interior shall establish a sediment and nutrient moni-
2 toring network for the Upper Mississippi River Basin for
3 the purposes of—

4 (1) identifying and evaluating significant
5 sources of sediment and nutrients in the Upper Mis-
6 sissippi River Basin;

7 (2) quantifying the processes affecting mobiliza-
8 tion, transport, and fate of those sediments and nu-
9 trients on land and in water;

10 (3) quantifying the transport of those sediments
11 and nutrients to and through the Upper Mississippi
12 River Basin;

13 (4) recording changes to sediment and nutrient
14 loss over time;

15 (5) providing coordinated data to be used in
16 computer modeling of the Basin, pursuant to section
17 201; and

18 (6) identifying major sources of sediment and
19 nutrients within the Basin for the purpose of tar-
20 geting resources to reduce sediment and nutrient
21 loss.

22 (b) ROLE OF UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SUR-
23 VEY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out this
24 title acting through the office of the Director of the United
25 States Geological Survey.

1 **SEC. 102. DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE RESPONSIBILITIES.**
2

3 (a) GUIDELINES FOR DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish guidelines for the effective design of data collection activities regarding sediment and nutrient monitoring, for the use of suitable and consistent methods for data collection, and for consistent reporting, data storage, and archiving practices.

10 (b) RELEASE OF DATA.—Data resulting from sediment and nutrient monitoring in the Upper Mississippi River Basin shall be released to the public using generic station identifiers and hydrologic unit codes. In the case of a monitoring station located on private lands, information regarding the location of the station shall not be disseminated without the landowner's permission.

17 (c) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—Data resulting from sediment and nutrient monitoring in the Upper Mississippi River Basin is not subject to the mandatory disclosure provisions of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, but may be released only as provided in subsection (b).

23 **SEC. 103. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT MONITORING.**
24

25 (a) INVENTORY.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of the Interior shall inventory the

1 sediment and nutrient monitoring efforts, in existence as
2 of the date of the enactment of this Act, of Federal, State,
3 local, and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of cre-
4 ating a baseline understanding of overlap, data gaps and
5 redundancies.

6 (b) INTEGRATION.—On the basis of the inventory,
7 the Secretary of the Interior shall integrate the existing
8 sediment and nutrient monitoring efforts, to the maximum
9 extent practicable, into the sediment and nutrient moni-
10 toring network required by section 101.

11 (c) CONSULTATION AND USE OF EXISTING DATA.—
12 In carrying out this section, the Secretary of the Interior
13 shall make maximum use of data in existence as of the
14 date of the enactment of this Act and of ongoing programs
15 and efforts of Federal, State, tribal, local, and nongovern-
16 mental entities in developing the sediment and nutrient
17 monitoring network required by section 101.

18 (d) COORDINATION WITH LONG-TERM ESTUARY AS-
19 SESSMENT PROJECT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
20 carry out this section in coordination with the long-term
21 estuary assessment project authorized by section 902 of
22 the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 (Public Law
23 106–457; 33 U.S.C. 2901 note).

1 **SEC. 104. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND PRI-**
2 **VATE MONITORING EFFORTS.**

3 To establish the sediment and nutrient monitoring
4 network, the Secretary of the Interior shall collaborate,
5 to the maximum extent practicable, with other Federal,
6 State, tribal, local and private sediment and nutrient mon-
7 itoring programs that meet guidelines prescribed under
8 section 102(a), as determined by the Secretary.

9 **SEC. 105. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

10 The Secretary of the Interior shall report to Congress
11 not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment
12 of this Act on the development of the sediment and nutri-
13 ent monitoring network.

14 **SEC. 106. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ASSESSMENT.**

15 The National Research Council of the National Acad-
16 emy of Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive water re-
17 sources assessment of the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

18 **TITLE II—COMPUTER MODELING**
19 **AND RESEARCH**

20 **SEC. 201. COMPUTER MODELING AND RESEARCH OF SEDI-**
21 **MENT AND NUTRIENT SOURCES.**

22 (a) MODELING PROGRAM REQUIRED.—As part of the
23 Upper Mississippi River Stewardship Initiative, the Direc-
24 tor of the United States Geological Survey shall establish
25 a modeling program to identify significant sources of sedi-
26 ment and nutrients in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

1 (b) ROLE.—Computer modeling shall be used to iden-
2 tify subwatersheds which are significant sources of sedi-
3 ment and nutrient loss and shall be made available for
4 the purposes of targeting public and private sediment and
5 nutrient reduction efforts.

6 (c) COMPONENTS.—Sediment and nutrient models
7 for the Upper Mississippi River Basin shall include the
8 following:

9 (1) Models to relate nutrient loss to landscape,
10 land use, and land management practices.

11 (2) Models to relate sediment loss to landscape,
12 land use, and land management practices.

13 (3) Models to define river channel nutrient
14 transformation processes.

15 (d) COLLECTION OF ANCILLARY INFORMATION.—
16 Ancillary information shall be collected in a GIS format
17 to support modeling and management use of modeling re-
18 sults, including the following:

19 (1) Land use data.

20 (2) Soils data.

21 (3) Elevation data.

22 (4) Information on sediment and nutrient re-
23 duction improvement actions.

24 (5) Remotely sense data.

1 **SEC. 202. USE OF ELECTRONIC MEANS TO DISTRIBUTE IN-**
2 **FORMATION.**

3 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Director of the United States Geo-
5 logical Survey shall establish a system that uses the tele-
6 communications medium known as the Internet to provide
7 information regarding the following:

8 (1) Public and private programs designed to re-
9 duce sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mis-
10 sissippi River Basin.

11 (2) Information on sediment and nutrient levels
12 in the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries.

13 (3) Successful sediment and nutrient reduction
14 projects.

15 **SEC. 203. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

16 (a) **MONITORING ACTIVITIES.**—Commencing one
17 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Direc-
18 tor of the United States Geological Survey shall provide
19 to Congress and make available to the public an annual
20 report regarding monitoring activities conducted in the
21 Upper Mississippi River Basin.

22 (b) **MODELING ACTIVITIES.**—Every three years, the
23 Director of the United States Geological Survey shall pro-
24 vide to Congress and make available to the public a
25 progress report regarding modeling activities.

1 **TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF**
2 **APPROPRIATIONS AND RE-**
3 **LATED MATTERS**

4 **SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 (a) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ACTIVI-
6 TIES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the
7 United States Geological Survey \$6,250,000 each fiscal
8 year to carry out this Act (other than section 106). Of
9 the amounts appropriated for a fiscal year pursuant to
10 this authorization of appropriations, one-third shall be
11 made available for the United States Geological Survey
12 Cooperative Water Program and the remainder shall be
13 made available for the United States Geological Survey
14 Hydrologic Networks and Analysis Program.

15 (b) WATER RESOURCE AND WATER QUALITY MAN-
16 AGEMENT ASSESSMENT.—There is authorized to be ap-
17 propriated \$650,000 to allow the National Research Coun-
18 cil to perform the assessment required by section 106.

19 **SEC. 302. COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.**

20 Funds made available for the United States Geologi-
21 cal Survey Cooperative Water Program under section
22 301(a) shall be subject to the same cost sharing require-
23 ments as specified in the last proviso under the heading
24 “UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-SURVEYS, INVES-
25 TIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH” of the Department of the In-

1 terior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002
2 (Public Law 107–63; 115 Stat. 427; 43 U.S.C. 50).

Passed the House of Representatives March 25,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.