

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 124

To provide an environmentally sound process for the expeditious consideration and approval of a high-voltage electricity transmission line right-of-way through the Trabuco Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest in the State of California and adjacent lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2005

Mr. ISSA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide an environmentally sound process for the expeditious consideration and approval of a high-voltage electricity transmission line right-of-way through the Trabuco Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest in the State of California and adjacent lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cleveland National
5 Forest Responsible Electricity Transmission Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY,**
2 **CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST AND ADJA-**
3 **CENT PUBLIC LANDS, CALIFORNIA.**

4 (a) ISSUANCE.—Subject to subsection (c), the Sec-
5 retary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture
6 shall issue all necessary grants, easements, permits, plan
7 amendments, and other approvals to allow for the siting
8 and construction of a high-voltage electricity transmission
9 line right-of-way running approximately north to south
10 through the Trabuco Ranger District of the Cleveland Na-
11 tional Forest in the State of California and adjacent lands
12 under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management
13 and the Forest Service. The right-of-way approvals shall
14 provide all necessary Federal authorization from the Sec-
15 retary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture for
16 the routing, construction, operation, and maintenance of
17 a 500 KV transmission line capable of meeting the long-
18 term electricity transmission needs of the region between
19 the existing Valley-Serrano transmission line to the north
20 and the Telega-Escondido transmission line to the south,
21 and for connecting to future generating capacity that may
22 be developed in the region.

23 (b) PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—The Sec-
24 retary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture
25 shall not allow any portion of a transmission line right-
26 of-way corridor identified in subsection (a) to enter any

1 identified wilderness area in existence as of the date of
2 the enactment of this Act.

3 (c) ENVIRONMENTAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RE-
4 VIEW.—

5 (1) DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR OR LOCAL
6 AGENCY.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting
7 through the Bureau of Land Management, shall be
8 the lead Federal agency with overall responsibility to
9 ensure completion of required environmental and
10 other reviews of the approvals to be issued under
11 subsection (a).

12 (2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—For the
13 portions of the corridor on National Forest System
14 land, the Secretary of Agriculture shall complete all
15 required environmental reviews and administrative
16 actions, in coordination with the Secretary of the In-
17 terior.

18 (3) EXPEDITIOUS COMPLETION.—The reviews
19 required for issuance of the approvals under sub-
20 section (a) shall be completed not later than one
21 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 (d) TIME FOR ISSUANCE.—The necessary grants,
23 easements, permits, plan amendments, and other approv-
24 als for the transmission line right-of-way shall be issued

1 within 60 days after the completion of the environmental
2 review under subsection (c).

3 (e) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The trans-
4 mission line right-of-way shall be subject to such terms
5 and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior and the
6 Secretary of Agriculture consider necessary, as a result
7 of the environmental review under subsection (c), to pro-
8 tect the value of historic, cultural, and natural resources
9 under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior
10 or the Department of Agriculture.

11 (f) PREFERENCE AMONG PROPOSALS.—The Sec-
12 retary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture
13 shall give a preference to any application or preapplication
14 proposal for a transmission line right-of-way, as described
15 in subsection (a), that was submitted before December 31,
16 2002, over all other applications and proposals for the
17 same or similar right-of-way submitted on or after that
18 date.

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