

Union Calendar No. 217

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2295

[Report No. 114–285]

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to identify and designate National Energy Security Corridors for the construction of natural gas pipelines on Federal land, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR (for himself and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

OCTOBER 6, 2015

Additional sponsors: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROTHFUS

OCTOBER 6, 2015

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 13, 2015]

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to identify and designate National Energy Security Corridors for the construction of natural gas pipelines on Federal land, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “National Energy Secu-*
5 *rity Corridors Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY**
7 **CORRIDORS ON FEDERAL LANDS.**

8 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing*
9 *Act (30 U.S.C. 185) is amended as follows:*

10 *(1) In subsection (b)—*

11 *(A) by striking “(b)(1) For the purposes of*
12 *this section ‘Federal lands’ means” and inserting*
13 *the following:*

14 *“(b)(1) For the purposes of this section ‘Federal*
15 *lands’—*

16 *“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B),*
17 *means”;*

18 *(B) by striking the period at the end of*
19 *paragraph (1) and inserting “; and” and by*
20 *adding at the end of paragraph (1) the following:*

21 *“(B) for purposes of granting an application for*
22 *a natural gas pipeline right-of-way, means all lands*
23 *owned by the United States except—*

24 *“(i) such lands held in trust for an Indian*
25 *or Indian tribe; and*

1 “(i) lands on the Outer Continental
2 Shelf.”.

3 (2) By redesignating subsection (b), as so
4 amended, as subsection (z), and transferring such sub-
5 section to appear after subsection (y) of that section.

6 (3) By inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(b) NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY CORRIDORS.—

9 “(1) DESIGNATION.—In addition to other au-
10 thorities under this section, the Secretary shall—

11 “(A) identify and designate suitable Federal
12 lands as National Energy Security Corridors (in
13 this subsection referred to as a ‘Corridor’), which
14 shall be used for construction, operation, and
15 maintenance of natural gas transmission facili-
16 ties; and

17 “(B) incorporate such Corridors upon des-
18 ignation into the relevant agency land use and
19 resource management plans or equivalent plans.

20 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating Federal
21 lands for designation as a National Energy Security
22 Corridor, the Secretary shall—

23 “(A) employ the principle of multiple use to
24 ensure route decisions balance national energy
25 security needs with existing land use principles;

1 “(B) seek input from other Federal counter-
2 parts, State, local, and tribal governments, and
3 affected utility and pipeline industries to deter-
4 mine the best suitable, most cost-effective, and
5 commercially viable acreage for natural gas
6 transmission facilities;

7 “(C) focus on transmission routes that im-
8 prove domestic energy security through increas-
9 ing reliability, relieving congestion, reducing
10 natural gas prices, and meeting growing demand
11 for natural gas; and

12 “(D) take into account technological inno-
13 vations that reduce the need for surface disturb-
14 ance.

15 “(3) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall estab-
16 lish procedures to expedite and approve applications
17 for rights-of-way for natural gas pipelines across Na-
18 tional Energy Security Corridors, that—

19 “(A) ensure a transparent process for re-
20 view of applications for rights-of-way on such
21 corridors;

22 “(B) require an approval time of not more
23 than 1 year after the date of receipt of an appli-
24 cation for a right-of-way; and

1 “(C) require, upon receipt of such an appli-
2 cation, notice to the applicant of a predictable
3 timeline for consideration of the application,
4 that clearly delineates important milestones in
5 the process of such consideration.

6 “(4) STATE INPUT.—

7 “(A) REQUESTS AUTHORIZED.—The Gov-
8 ernor of a State may submit requests to the Sec-
9 retary of the Interior to designate Corridors on
10 Federal land in that State.

11 “(B) CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS.—After
12 receiving such a request, the Secretary shall re-
13 spond in writing, within 30 days—

14 “(i) acknowledging receipt of the re-
15 quest; and

16 “(ii) setting forth a timeline in which
17 the Secretary shall grant, deny, or modify
18 such request and state the reasons for doing
19 so.

20 “(5) SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CORRIDORS.—In
21 implementing this subsection, the Secretary shall co-
22 ordinate with other Federal Departments to—

23 “(A) minimize the proliferation of duplica-
24 tive natural gas pipeline rights-of-way on Fed-
25 eral lands where feasible;

1 “(B) ensure Corridors can connect effec-
2 tively across Federal lands; and

3 “(C) utilize input from utility and pipeline
4 industries submitting applications for rights-of-
5 way to site corridors in economically feasible
6 areas that reduce impacts, to the extent prac-
7 ticable, on local communities.

8 “(6) NOT A MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—Designa-
9 tion of a Corridor under this subsection, and incorpo-
10 ration of Corridors into agency plans under para-
11 graph (1)(B), shall not be treated as a major Federal
12 action for purpose of section 102 of the National En-
13 vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

14 “(7) NO LIMIT ON NUMBER OR LENGTH OF COR-
15 RIDORS.—Nothing in this subsection limits the num-
16 ber or physical dimensions of Corridors that the Sec-
17 retary may designate under this subsection.

18 “(8) OTHER AUTHORITY NOT AFFECTED.—Noth-
19 ing in this subsection affects the authority of the Sec-
20 retary to issue rights-of-way on Federal land that is
21 not located in a Corridor designated under this sub-
22 section.

23 “(9) NEPA CLARIFICATION.—All applications
24 for rights-of-way for natural gas transmission facili-
25 ties across Corridors designated under this subsection

1 *shall be subject to the environmental protections out-*
2 *lined in subsection (h).”.*

3 ***(b) APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE DESIGNATION***
4 ***OF CORRIDORS.***—*Any application for a right-of-way under*
5 *section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185) that*
6 *is received by the Secretary of the Interior before designa-*
7 *tion of National Energy Security Corridors under the*
8 *amendment made by subsection (a) of this section shall be*
9 *reviewed and acted upon independently by the Secretary*
10 *without regard to the process for such designation.*

11 ***(c) DEADLINE.***—*Within 2 years after the date of the*
12 *enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall*
13 *designate at least 10 National Energy Security Corridors*
14 *under the amendment made by subsection (a) in contiguous*
15 *States referred to in section 368(b) of the Energy Policy*
16 *Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15926(b)).*

17 ***SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.***

18 *The Secretary of the Interior shall promptly notify the*
19 *Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Represent-*
20 *atives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*
21 *of the Senate of each instance in which any agency or offi-*
22 *cial of the Department of the Interior fails to comply with*
23 *any schedule established under section 15(c) of the Natural*
24 *Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717n(c)).*

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