

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2371

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, 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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Western Area Power
3 Administration Transparency Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PILOT**
5 **PROJECT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
8 Western Area Power Administration (referred to in this
9 section as the “Administrator”) shall establish a pilot
10 project, as part of the continuous process improvement
11 program and to provide increased transparency for cus-
12 tomers, to publish on a publicly available website of the
13 Western Area Power Administration, a database of the fol-
14 lowing information, beginning with fiscal year 2008, relat-
15 ing to the Western Area Power Administration:

16 (1) By power system and in a consistent for-
17 mat, rates charged to customers for power and
18 transmission service.

19 (2) By power system, the amount of capacity or
20 energy sold.

21 (3) By region, a detailed accounting, at the
22 functional level and the budget activity level, of all
23 expenditures, capital costs, and staffing costs, in-
24 cluding—

25 (A) indirect costs, including overhead
26 costs;

1 (B) direct charges and direct allocations;
2 (C) the number of contract staff;
3 (D) costs related to independent consult-
4 ants;
5 (E) the number of full-time equivalents;
6 and
7 (F) charges to the region from the head-
8 quarters office of the Western Area Power Ad-
9 ministration for all annual and capital costs.

10 (4) For the headquarters office of the Western
11 Area Power Administration, a detailed accounting at
12 the functional level and the budget activity level, of
13 all expenditures and capital costs, including—

14 (A) indirect costs, including overhead
15 costs;
16 (B) direct charges and direct allocations;
17 (C) the number of contract staff;
18 (D) costs related to independent consult-
19 ants;
20 (E) the number of full-time equivalents;
21 (F) a summary of any expenditures de-
22 scribed in this paragraph, with the total
23 amount paid by each region and power system;
24 and

1 (G) expenses incurred on behalf of other
2 Federal agencies or programs or third parties
3 for the administration of programs not related
4 to the marketing, transmission, or wheeling of
5 Federal hydropower resources, including—

6 (i) indirect costs, including overhead
7 costs;

8 (ii) direct charges and allocations;

9 (iii) the number of contract staff; and

10 (iv) the number of full-time equiva-
11 lents.

12 (5) Capital expenditures, including—

13 (A) capital investments delineated by the
14 year in which each investment is placed into
15 service; and

16 (B) the sources of capital for each invest-
17 ment.

18 (b) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
20 after the end of each fiscal year in which the pilot
21 project is being carried out under this section, the
22 Administrator shall make available on a publicly
23 available website—

1 (A) updates to documents made available
2 on the date of the initial publication of the in-
3 formation on the website under subsection (a);

4 (B) an identification of the magnitude of
5 annual changes in the information published on
6 the website under subsection (a);

7 (C) a description of the reasons for the
8 changes identified under subparagraph (B);

9 (D) subject to paragraph (2), the total
10 amount of the unobligated balances retained by
11 the Western Area Power Administration at the
12 end of the prior fiscal year within each mar-
13 keting area and headquarters by—

14 (i) purpose or function;

15 (ii) source of funding;

16 (iii) anticipated program allotment;

17 and

18 (iv) underlying authority for each
19 source of funding; and

20 (E) the anticipated level of unobligated
21 balances that the Western Area Power Adminis-
22 tration expects to retain at the end of the fiscal
23 year in which the annual summary is published,
24 as delineated by each of the categories de-

1 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) of subpara-
2 graph (D).

3 (2) LIMITATION.—Amounts in the Upper Colo-
4 rado River Basin Fund established by section 5(a)
5 of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as
6 the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43
7 U.S.C. 620d(a)), shall not considered to be an unob-
8 ligated balance retained by the Western Area Power
9 Administration for purposes of paragraph (1)(D).

10 (c) TERMINATION.—The pilot project under this sec-
11 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the
12 date of enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives February 7,
2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.