

Union Calendar No. 374

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4475

[Report No. 115–501]

To provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning
and Monitoring System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

JANUARY 9, 2018

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 *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 28, 2017]

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the National Volcano
Early Warning and Monitoring System.

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 Volcano Early*
5 *Warning and Monitoring System Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 (1) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
9 *the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-*
10 *rector of the United States Geological Survey.*

11 (2) *SYSTEM.*—*The term “System” means the Na-*
12 *tional Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring Sys-*
13 *tem established under section 3(a)(1).*

14 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL VOLCANO EARLY WARNING AND MONI-**
15 **TORING SYSTEM.**

16 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—

17 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall establish*
18 *within the United States Geological Survey a system,*
19 *to be known as the “National Volcano Early Warning*
20 *and Monitoring System”, to monitor, warn, and pro-*
21 *tect citizens of the United States from undue and*
22 *avoidable harm from volcanic activity.*

23 (2) *PURPOSES.*—*The purposes of the System*
24 *are—*

1 (A) to organize, modernize, standardize,
2 and stabilize the monitoring systems of the vol-
3 cano observatories in the United States, which
4 include the Alaska Volcano Observatory, Cali-
5 fornia Volcano Observatory, Cascades Volcano
6 Observatory, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory,
7 Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, and other vol-
8 cano observatories established under subsection
9 (d); and

10 (B) to unify the monitoring systems of vol-
11 cano observatories in the United States into a
12 single interoperative system.

13 (3) *OBJECTIVE.*—The objective of the System is
14 to monitor all the volcanoes in the United States at
15 a level commensurate with the threat posed by the vol-
16 canoes by—

17 (A) upgrading existing networks on mon-
18 itored volcanoes;

19 (B) installing new networks on
20 unmonitored volcanoes; and

21 (C) employing geodetic and other compo-
22 nents when applicable.

23 (b) *SYSTEM COMPONENTS.*—

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The System shall include—

1 (A) a national volcano watch office that is
2 operational 24 hours a day and 7 days a week;

3 (B) a national volcano data center; and

4 (C) an external grants program to support
5 research in volcano monitoring science and tech-
6 nology.

7 (2) *MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES.*—Moderniza-
8 tion activities under the System shall include the
9 comprehensive application of emerging technologies,
10 including digital broadband seismometers, real-time
11 continuous Global Positioning System receivers, sat-
12 ellite and airborne radar interferometry, acoustic
13 pressure sensors, and spectrometry to measure gas
14 emissions.

15 (c) *MANAGEMENT.*—

16 (1) *MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—

17 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary shall submit to Congress a 5-year man-
20 agement plan for establishing and operating the
21 System.

22 (B) *INCLUSIONS.*—The management plan
23 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-
24 clude—

1 (i) *annual cost estimates for mod-*
2 *ernization activities and operation of the*
3 *System;*

4 (ii) *annual milestones, standards, and*
5 *performance goals; and*

6 (iii) *recommendations for, and*
7 *progress towards, establishing new, or en-*
8 *hancing existing, partnerships to leverage*
9 *resources.*

10 (2) *ADVISORY COMMITTEE.*—*The Secretary shall*
11 *establish an advisory committee to assist the Sec-*
12 *retary in implementing the System, to be comprised*
13 *of representatives of relevant agencies and members of*
14 *the scientific community, to be appointed by the Sec-*
15 *retary.*

16 (3) *PARTNERSHIPS.*—*The Secretary may enter*
17 *into cooperative agreements with institutions of high-*
18 *er education and State or territorial agencies desig-*
19 *nating the institutions of higher education and State*
20 *or territorial agencies as volcano observatory partners*
21 *for the System.*

22 (4) *COORDINATION.*—*The Secretary shall coordi-*
23 *nate the activities under this Act with the heads of*
24 *relevant Federal agencies, including—*

25 (A) *the Secretary of Transportation;*

1 (B) the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
2 tion Administration;

3 (C) the Administrator of the National Oce-
4 anic and Atmospheric Administration; and

5 (D) the Director of the Federal Emergency
6 Management Administration.

7 (d) VOLCANO OBSERVATORY IN PACIFIC U.S. TERRI-
8 TORIES.—

9 (1) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Not later than 180
10 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary shall conduct a study to assess the feasibility
12 of establishing volcano observatories in Guam, the
13 Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa to
14 monitor volcanic activity across the western and
15 southern Pacific Ocean along the Ring of Fire, in-
16 cluding underwater volcanic activity in such region.

17 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult
18 with appropriate territorial and local entities in con-
19 ducting the study.

20 (3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—If the study re-
21 quired by paragraph (1) determines that such observ-
22 atories are feasible, then the Secretary, subject to the
23 availability of appropriations, may enter into cooper-
24 ative agreements under subsection (c)(3) with institu-
25 tions of higher education or territorial agencies to es-

1 *tablish such volcano observatories as part of the Na-*
2 *tional Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring Sys-*
3 *tem.*

4 *(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—In each of fiscal years 2018*
5 *through 2024, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-*
6 *port that describes the activities carried out under this Act.*

7 **SEC. 4. FUNDING.**

8 *(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
9 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out*
10 *this Act \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through*
11 *2024.*

12 *(b) EFFECT ON OTHER SOURCES OF FEDERAL FUND-*
13 *ING.—Amounts made available under this section shall sup-*
14 *plement, and not supplant, Federal funds made available*
15 *for other United States Geological Survey hazards activities*
16 *and programs.*

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