116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1931

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2019

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Western Area Power

5 Administration Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PILOT PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (referred to in this section as the "Administrator") shall—

(1) establish a pilot project, as part of the continuous process improvement program and to provide increased transparency for customers—

(A) to make available a database of information relating to the Western Area Power Administration in accordance with paragraph (2); and

(B) to provide annual updates to the database in accordance with subsection (b); and

(2) publish on a publicly available website of the Western Area Power Administration, a database of the following information, beginning with fiscal year 2008, relating to the Western Area Power Administration:

(A) By power system and in a consistent format, rates charged to customers for power and transmission service.

(B) By power system, the amount of capacity or energy sold.

1 (C) By region, an accounting, at the task
2 level, budget activity level, organizational code
3 level, and object class level, of all expenditures,
4 including—

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

7 (ii) direct charges and direct alloca-
8 tions;

9 (iii) costs related to contract staff;

10 (iv) costs related to independent con-
11 sultants;

12 (v) the number of full-time equiva-
13 lents;

14 (vi) charges to the region from the
15 headquarters office of the Western Area
16 Power Administration for all annual and
17 capital costs; and

18 (vii) expenses incurred on behalf of
19 other Federal agencies or programs or
20 third parties for the administration of pro-
21 grams not related to the marketing, trans-
22 mission, or wheeling of Federal hydro-
23 power resources within the Western Area
24 Power Administration marketing area, in-
25 cluding—

1   (I) indirect costs, including over-

2   head costs;

3   (II) direct charges and alloca-

4   tions;

5   (III) costs related to contract

6   staff; and

7   (IV) the number of full-time

8   equivalents.

9   (D) For the headquarters office of the

10 Western Area Power Administration, an ac-

11 counting, at the task level, budget activity level,

12 organizational code level, and object class level,

13 of all expenditures, including—

14   (i) indirect costs, including overhead

15   costs;

16   (ii) direct charges and direct alloca-

17   tions;

18   (iii) costs related to contract staff;

19   (iv) costs related to independent con-

20   sultants;

21   (v) the number of full-time equiva-

22   lents;

23   (vi) a summary of any expenditures

24   described in this paragraph, with the total

1   amount paid by each region and power sys-

2   tem; and

3   (vii) expenses incurred on behalf of

4   other Federal agencies or programs or

5   third parties for the administration of pro-

6   grams not related to the marketing, trans-

7   mission, or wheeling of Federal hydro-

8   power resources within the Western Area

9   Power Administration marketing area, in-

10   cluding—

11   (I) indirect costs, including over-

12   head costs;

13   (II) direct charges and alloca-

14   tions;

15   (III) costs related to contract

16   staff; and

17   (IV) the number of full-time

18   equivalents.

19   (E) Capital expenditures for each project,

20   including—

21   (i) capital investments delineated by

22   the year in which each investment is placed

23   into service; and

24   (ii) the sources of capital for each in-

25   vestment.

1 (b) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days

3 after the end of each fiscal year in which the pilot

4 project is being carried out under this section, the

5 Administrator shall make available on a publicly

6 available website—

7 (A) updates to documents made available

8 on the date of the initial publication of the in-

9 formation on the website under subsection

10 (a)(2);

11 (B) an identification of the annual changes

12 in the information published on the website

13 under subsection (a)(2);

14 (C) the reasons for the changes identified

15 under subparagraph (B);

16 (D) subject to paragraph (2), the total

17 amount of the unobligated balances retained by

18 the Western Area Power Administration at the

19 end of the prior fiscal year within each project

20 and headquarters by—

21 (i) purpose or function;

22 (ii) source of funding;

23 (iii) anticipated program allotment;

24 and

1   (iv) underlying authority for each

2   source of funding; and

3   (E) the anticipated level of unobligated

4   balances that the Western Area Power Adminis-

5   tration expects to retain at the end of the fiscal

6   year in which the annual summary is published,

7   as delineated by each of the categories de-

8   scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) of subpara-

9   graph (D).

10   (2) LIMITATION.—Amounts in the Upper Colo-

11   rado River Basin Fund established by section 5(a)

12   of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as

13   the "Colorado River Storage Project Act") (43

14   U.S.C. 620d(a)), shall not be considered to be an

15   unobligated balance retained by the Western Area

16   Power Administration for purposes of paragraph

17   (1)(D).

18   (c) TERMINATION.—The pilot project under this sec-

19 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the

20 date of enactment of this Act.

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