HR 3698

Western Waters and Surface Owners Protection Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Energy
Introduced: Dec 8, 2003
Current Status: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E431)
Latest Action: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E431) (Mar 23, 2004)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/3698

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Udall, Mark [D-CO-2]
Party: Democratic • **State:** CO • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Udall, Tom [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Dec 8, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 15, 2003
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 9, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 4017	Related bill	**Mar 26, 2004:** Executive Comment Requested from Interior.

Summary (as of Dec 8, 2003)

Western Waters and Surface Owners Protection Act - Amends the Mineral Leasing Act to require operators producing oil or gas (including coalbed methane), to: (1) replace water supplies affected by drilling; (2) reinject water produced by drilling into the aquifer from which it was extracted or one of no better quality; and (3) submit water management plans along with their lease applications.

Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require pollution discharge permits for the production of oil or gas and permit stipulations to minimize adverse effects from the disposal of extracted waters.

Prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from authorizing exploration and drilling operations on lands where title to oil and gas resources are owned by the United States but the surface estate is owned by a non-Federal entity unless: (1) an agreement has been reached with the surface owner (with the possibility of arbitration); or (2) the operator has made a good faith attempt to secure such an agreement and meets other specified requirements.

Requires the Secretary to give surface owners advance notice of lease sales.

Requires operators to meet specified reclamation standards for lands affected by oil or gas production and to post reclamation bonds.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) develop a Federal remediation program for abandoned wells drilled to explore or develop Federally owned minerals or located on Federal lands; and (2) establish a technical assistance program for States and Tribes addressing environmental problems caused by abandoned wells on other lands.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 23, 2004:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E431)
- **Dec 15, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.
- **Dec 15, 2003:** Executive Comment Requested from Interior.
- **Dec 9, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E2533-2534)
- **Dec 9, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Dec 8, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 8, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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