

HR 2064

Western Waters and Farm Lands Protection Act

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: May 3, 2005

Current Status: Executive Comment Requested from Interior.

Latest Action: Executive Comment Requested from Interior. (May 13, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/2064>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Udall, Mark [D-CO-2]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CO • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Natural Resources Committee | House | Referred to | May 13, 2005 |
| Transportation and Infrastructure Committee | House | Referred to | May 4, 2005 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Western Waters and Farm Lands 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; and (2) submit water management plans along with their lease applications.

Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require state permits for pollution discharge of waters extracted from a subsurface formation in connection with oil or gas, including coalbed methane.

Prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from authorizing exploration and drilling operations on lands where title to oil and gas resources is 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. Permits the Secretary to authorize such operations, subject to certain conditions, in the absence of an agreement with the surface estate owner or owners.

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 Indian tribes addressing environmental problems caused by abandoned wells on other lands.

Actions Timeline

- **May 13, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.
- **May 13, 2005:** Executive Comment Requested from Interior.
- **May 4, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **May 3, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **May 3, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **May 3, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E856-857)
- **May 3, 2005:** 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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