

HR 3680

Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Water Resources Development

Introduced: Dec 15, 2011

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power. (Jan 3, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/3680>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]

Party: Republican • State: WA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Dec 15, 2011
Rep. Inslee, Jay [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Dec 16, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 16, 2011
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 3, 2012
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 20, 2011
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 16, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Water Resources Development

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 5892	Related bill	Jul 10, 2012: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
112 S 629	Related bill	May 18, 2011: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 55.

Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2011 - Amends the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) to increase from 5,000 to 10,000 kilowatts the size of small hydroelectric power projects which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) may exempt from its license requirements.

Amends the Federal Power Act to revise the limitation on the maximum installation capacity of conduit hydroelectric facilities that are eligible for an exemption from licensing requirements.

Waives license requirements for any conduit hydroelectric facility that: (1) uses only the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit, (2) has an installed capacity that does not exceed 5 megawatts, and (3) is not currently licensed or exempted from license requirements.

Redefines "conduit" to specify any tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity.

Authorizes FERC to: (1) grant an exemption from license requirements only to conduit hydroelectric facilities on non-federal land that have an installed capacity not exceeding 40 megawatts, and (2) extend the term of a preliminary permit once for up to 2 additional years if it finds that the permittee has carried out activities in good faith and with reasonable diligence.

Directs FERC to: (1) investigate the feasibility of the issuance of a license for hydropower development at nonpowered dams and closed loop pumped storage projects during a two-year period, and (2) hold workshops and develop hydropower pilot projects.

Directs the Secretary of Energy (DOE) to study: (1) the potential megawatts of hydropower that may be obtained from U.S. conduits; and (2) land well-suited for pumped storage sites and located near existing or potential sites of intermittent renewable resource development, such as wind farms.

Directs the President to report to certain congressional committees on actions taken by DOE to implement the memorandum of understanding on hydropower entered into on March 24, 2010.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 3, 2012:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power.
- **Dec 20, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.
- **Dec 16, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- **Dec 16, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.
- **Dec 15, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 15, 2011:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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.