

S 306

Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Feb 13, 2013

Current Status: By Senator Wyden from Committee on Energy and Natural Resources filed written report. Report No. 113-

Latest Action: By Senator Wyden from Committee on Energy and Natural Resources filed written report. Report No. 113-35. (Jun 3, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/306>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]

Party: Republican • **State:** WY • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Feb 13, 2013
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Feb 13, 2013
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Feb 13, 2013
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Apr 16, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Reported By	May 13, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 2	Related bill	Nov 17, 2014: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 601.
113 HR 1963	Related bill	Jul 31, 2014: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 518.
113 HR 678	Identical bill	Aug 9, 2013: Became Public Law No: 113-24.

Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act - Amends the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Bureau of Reclamation) to contract for the development of small conduit hydropower at Bureau facilities.

Defines: (1) "small conduit hydropower" as 5 megawatts or less; and (2) "conduit" as a tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance.

Requires that power privilege leases be offered first to an irrigation district or water users association operating or receiving water from the applicable transferred or reserved conduit.

Defines: (1) reserved conduit as any conduit included in project works whose care, operation, and maintenance has been reserved by the Secretary (through the Bureau); and (2) transferred conduit as any conduit included in project works whose care, operation, and maintenance has been transferred to a legally organized water users association or irrigation district.

Requires the Secretary, if the irrigation district or water users association elects not accept a lease of power privilege offer, to offer it to other parties.

Directs the Bureau to apply its categorical exclusion process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to small conduit hydropower development, except with respect to siting of associated transmission facilities on federal lands.

(A "categorical exclusion" under NEPA is a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a federal agency in implementing environmental regulations and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.)

Makes the Bureau's Power Resources Office the lead office for such small conduit hydropower policy and procedure-setting activities. (Thus excludes such activities from the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC].)

Declares that nothing in this Act shall: (1) obligate specified power administrations to purchase or market the power produced by such facilities; (2) alter or impede the delivery and management of water for original project purposes; (3) alter or affect any existing agreements for conduit hydropower development projects or disposition of revenues; or (4) alter or affect any existing preliminary permit, license, or exemption issued by FERC or any project for which an application has been filed with FERC as of the date of the enactment of this Act. Deems water used for conduit hydropower generation to be incidental to use of water for the original project purposes.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 3, 2013:** By Senator Wyden from Committee on Energy and Natural Resources filed written report. Report No. 113-35.
- **May 13, 2013:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Wyden with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **May 13, 2013:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 68.
- **May 8, 2013:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Apr 23, 2013:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-24.
- **Feb 13, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 13, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.