
S 1017

A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to improve the siting of interstate electric transmission facilities, and for other purposes.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Apr 21, 2015

Current Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-65.

Latest Action: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-65. (May 14, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1017>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 14, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

This bill amends the Federal Power Act to declare U.S. policy regarding the national interstate electricity transmission system, and to ensure that high-priority regional transmission (HPRT) projects are in the public interest.

The bill prohibits a project developer from seeking a certificate for construction without first seeking authorization under applicable state law.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) may authorize HPRT project construction found to be required by public convenience and necessity if the state:

- fails to approve the project,
- rejects the project application,
- has no authority to approve the project siting, or
- authorizes the project subject to conditions that unreasonably interfere with an HPRT project.

FERC is designated the lead agency to coordinate both federal authorizations and related environmental reviews for an HPRT project.

FERC shall: (1) coordinate the federal authorization and related environmental review process with any Indian tribe, multistate entity, or state agency responsible for separate permitting or environmental review of a project; and (2) ensure timely and efficient review and permit decisions.

FERC must incorporate into the certificate certain mitigation measures recommended by federal and state agencies, including affected Indian tribes.

Excludes from coverage by this Act Alaska, Hawaii, and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

Actions Timeline

- **May 14, 2015:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-65.
- **Apr 21, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 21, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.