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Northwest Energy Security Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Water Resources Development

Introduced: Jan 22, 2025

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Jan 22, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/182>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Jan 22, 2025
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jan 22, 2025
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jan 22, 2025
Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY]	R · WY		Jan 22, 2025
Sen. Sheehy, Tim [R-MT]	R · MT		Jan 22, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 22, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Water Resources Development

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 626	Identical bill	Jan 23, 2025: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Northwest Energy Security Act

This bill requires Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) operations to be consistent with the preferred alternative in a 2020 environmental impact statement (EIS) decision that focuses on the operations, maintenance, and configuration of dams in the system rather than wild fish restoration. The system includes dams in the Columbia and Snake rivers in Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho.

Specifically, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must operate the FCRPS consistent with the *Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision* dated September 2020. Thus, Reclamation, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the Army Corps must follow the EIS rather than the 2023 Resilient Columbia Basin Initiative—and a supplemental EIS proposed in 2024—that focus on wild fish restoration in the Columbia Basin.

The EIS decision may be amended if each agency determines that (1) changes are necessary for public safety or electrical grid reliability, or (2) certain requirements in the decision are no longer necessary.

Further, the bill requires statutory authorization for any structural modification, action, study, or engineering plan that (1) restricts FCRPS hydroelectric dam generation; or (2) limits navigation on the Snake River in Washington, Oregon, or Idaho.

