

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3500

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to annually submit to Congress a report on the status of ongoing hydropower relicensing applications.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. DAINES) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to annually submit to Congress a report on the status of ongoing hydropower relicensing applications.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hydropower Licensing
5 Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL LICENSING STATUS REPORT.**

7 Part I of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 792 et
8 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 37. ANNUAL LICENSING STATUS REPORT.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of enactment of this section, and annually there-
4 after, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report
5 on the status of—

6 “(1) the licensing process for each new license,
7 and for each subsequent license for which sections
8 14 and 15 have been waived, for which the existing
9 licensee has notified the Commission under section
10 15(b)(1) at least 3 years prior to submission of the
11 report that the existing licensee intends to file an
12 application for the new license or subsequent license,
13 but the new license or subsequent license has not yet
14 been issued under section 15; and

15 “(2) the licensing process for each original li-
16 cense under section 4(e) for which a citizen, associa-
17 tion, corporation, State, Indian Tribe, or municipi-
18 pality has notified the Commission, pursuant to ap-
19 plicable regulations, at least 3 years prior to submis-
20 sion of the report that the citizen, association, cor-
21 poration, State, Indian Tribe, or municipality in-
22 tends to file an application for the original license,
23 but the original license has not yet been issued
24 under section 4(e).

25 “(b) INCLUSIONS.—Each report submitted under
26 subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the licensing

1 process for each new license and subsequent license de-
 2 scribed in that subsection and the licensing process for
 3 each original license described in that subsection—

4 “(1) the date the notice of intent described in
 5 that subsection was provided to the Commission;

6 “(2) any docket number assigned with respect
 7 to the licensing process;

8 “(3) whether any application for the new li-
 9 cense, subsequent license, or original license, as ap-
 10 plicable, has been filed;

11 “(4) information regarding the status of the ap-
 12 plication, including the date the Commission antici-
 13 pates the Commission will issue the original license,
 14 subsequent license, or new license, as applicable;

15 “(5) the date of any upcoming proceeding or
 16 other meeting relating to the original license, subse-
 17 quent license, or new license, as applicable; and

18 “(6) a description of any ongoing or completed
 19 actions required of the existing licensee, citizen, as-
 20 sociation, corporation, State, Indian Tribe, munici-
 21 pality, Commission, any fish and wildlife agency re-
 22 ferred to in section 15(b)(3), and any other applica-
 23 ble agency.

24 “(c) DISAGGREGATION OF INFORMATION BY LICENSE
 25 TYPE.—The information included in each report sub-

1 mitted under subsection (a) shall be disaggregated by
2 whether the information relates to a new license, or a sub-
3 sequent license, issued under section 15 or an original li-
4 cense issued under section 4(e).”.

○