

Trend: Increasing Transparency & Streamlining Governance of Federal Power Regulation

Increasing transparency and citizen engagement with federal power regulatory bodies, including the Department of Energy and its Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and federally-held corporations such as the Tennessee Valley Authority.

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WHAT IT DOES

In 2017, the following bills were introduced in the 115th Congress:

- [H.R.660 - Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act](#)
Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4] (Introduced 01/24/2017)
"To establish the United States Commission on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and for other purposes."
Current Status: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 103 on 06/02/2017.
- [S.216 - Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act](#)
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY] (Introduced 01/24/2017)
"To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets."
Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 127 on 06/08/2017.
- [H.R.587 - Fair RATES Act](#)
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4] (Introduced 01/17/2017)
"To amend the Federal Power Act to provide that any inaction by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that allows a rate change to go into effect shall be treated as an order by the Commission for purposes of rehearing and court review."
Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 01/24/2017.
- [S. 186 - Fair RATES Act](#)
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA] (Introduced 01/23/2017)
"This bill amends the Federal Power Act to permit a party to seek a rehearing and subsequent judicial review of any rate change filed by a public utility that takes effect without the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issuing an order making such change effective. (Public utilities must give FERC and the public a 60-day notice before a proposed rate change can take effect.)"
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 01/23/2017.
- [S. 613 - Ratepayer Fairness Act](#)
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ] (Introduced 03/13/2017)
"To amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to provide for the consideration by State regulatory authorities and nonregulated electric utilities of whether subsidies should be provided for the deployment, construction, maintenance, or operation of a customer-side technology."
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 03/13/2017.

- [S.930 - Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act](#)
Sponsor: Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ] (Introduced 04/25/2017)
"To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes."
Current Status: Hearings held in the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power on 06/14/2017.
- [H.R.2371 - Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act](#)
Sponsor: Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4] (Introduced 05/04/2017)
"To amend the Federal Power Act to establish an Office of Public Participation and Consumer Advocacy."
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 05/25/2017.
- [S.1009 - Natural Gas Consumer Protection Act](#)
Sponsor: Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] (Introduced 05/02/2017)
To amend the Natural Gas Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Secretary of Energy to consider the following factors in making a public interest determination under that Act: (1) the need for natural gas to be exported, and (2) the potential impacts of natural gas exports on US national security, national gas prices, domestic employment, and domestic demand for natural gas.
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 05/02/2017.
- [H.R.2656 - Public Engagement at FERC Act](#)
Sponsor: Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9] (Introduced 05/25/2017)
"To amend the Federal Power Act to establish an Office of Public Participation and Consumer Advocacy."
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy on 05/26/2017.
- [S.1240 - Public Engagement at FERC Act](#)
Sponsor: Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] (Introduced 05/25/2017)
"To amend the Federal Power Act to establish an Office of Public Participation and Consumer Advocacy."
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 05/25/2017

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