

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes.

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 “Guaranteeing Reli-
5 ability through the Interconnection of Dispatchable Power
6 Act” or the “GRID Power Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

1 (1) BULK-POWER SYSTEM.—The term “bulk-
2 power system” has the meaning given the term in
3 section 215(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.
4 824o(a)).

5 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
6 means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

7 (3) DISPATCHABLE POWER.—The term
8 “dispatchable power” means an electric energy gen-
9 eration resource capable of providing known and
10 forecastable electric supply in time intervals nec-
11 essary to ensure grid reliability.

12 (4) GRID RELIABILITY.—The term “grid reli-
13 ability” means the ability of the electric grid to de-
14 liver an adequate, secure, and stable flow of elec-
15 tricity in the quantity and with the quality de-
16 manded by users, taking into account the ability of
17 the bulk-power system to withstand sudden disturb-
18 ances.

19 (5) GRID RESILIENCE.—The term “grid resil-
20 ience” means the ability of the electric grid to adapt
21 to changing physical conditions and withstand and
22 rapidly recover from significant disturbances, includ-
23 ing natural disasters, cyber-attacks, and other un-
24 foreseen events.

1 (6) INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR.—The
2 term “Independent System Operator” has the mean-
3 ing given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power
4 Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

5 (7) REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—
6 The term “Regional Transmission Organization”
7 has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the
8 Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

9 (8) RESOURCE ADEQUACY.—The term “re-
10 source adequacy” means the ability of the electric
11 system to meet the aggregate electrical demand and
12 energy requirements of end-use customers at all
13 times, accounting for scheduled and reasonably ex-
14 pected unscheduled outages of bulk-power system
15 components.

16 (9) TRANSMISSION PROVIDER.—The term
17 “transmission provider” means—

18 (A) a public utility (as defined in section
19 201(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.
20 824(e))) that owns, operates, or controls 1 or
21 more transmission facilities;

22 (B) an Independent System Operator; and

23 (C) a Regional Transmission Organization.

1 **SEC. 3. RULEMAKING TO IMPROVE INTERCONNECTION**
2 **QUEUE FLEXIBILITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall ini-
5 tiate a rulemaking—

6 (1) to address the inefficiencies and ineffective-
7 ness of existing procedures for processing inter-
8 connection requests to ensure that new dispatchable
9 power projects that improve grid reliability and re-
10 source adequacy can interconnect to the electric grid
11 quickly, cost-effectively, and reliably; and

12 (2) to amend the pro forma Large Generator
13 Interconnection Procedures and, as appropriate, the
14 pro forma Large Generator Interconnection Agree-
15 ment, promulgated pursuant to section 35.28(f) of
16 title 18, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
17 regulations)—

18 (A) to authorize transmission providers to
19 submit proposals to the Commission to adjust
20 the interconnection queue of the transmission
21 provider to prioritize new dispatchable power
22 projects that will improve grid reliability and
23 resource adequacy by assigning those projects
24 higher positions in the interconnection queue;
25 and

26 (B) to require transmission providers—

1 (i) to provide in any proposal de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A)—

3 (I) a demonstration of need for
4 prioritization of the relevant projects;
5 and

6 (II) a description of how the
7 prioritization of those projects will im-
8 prove grid reliability or grid resilience;

9 (ii) to provide a process for public
10 comment and stakeholder engagement be-
11 fore a proposal described in subparagraph
12 (A) is submitted to the Commission; and

13 (iii) to provide regular reporting to
14 the Commission on the state of grid reli-
15 ability and grid resilience, including report-
16 ing on any actions taken pursuant to this
17 Act.

18 (b) COMMISSION APPROVAL.—To ensure timely re-
19 sponses to grid reliability concerns, not later than 60 days
20 after a proposal is submitted pursuant to subsection
21 (a)(2), the Commission shall—

22 (1) review the proposal; and

23 (2) approve or deny the proposal.

24 (c) DEADLINE FOR FINAL RULE.—Not later than
25 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-

1 mission shall promulgate final regulations to complete the
2 rulemaking initiated under subsection (a).

3 (d) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than
4 once every 5 years, the Commission shall review and, if
5 necessary, update the regulations promulgated under this
6 section to ensure that those regulations remain effective
7 and relevant to evolving grid reliability and grid resilience
8 challenges.