

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9362

To direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to improve interregional electricity transfer capability between immediately adjacent transmission planning regions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 16, 2024

Mr. CASTEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to improve interregional electricity transfer capability between immediately adjacent transmission planning regions, 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 “Reinforcing the Grid
5 Against Extreme Weather Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING INTERREGIONAL ELECTRICITY TRANS-**
2 **FER CAPABILITY.**

3 Part II of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824 et
4 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 224. IMPROVING INTERREGIONAL ELECTRICITY**
6 **TRANSFER CAPABILITY.**

7 “(a) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 24 months after
8 the date of enactment of this section, the Commission
9 shall issue regulations to establish a process for—

10 “(1) calculating existing transfer capability be-
11 tween each transmission planning region and its im-
12 mediately adjacent transmission planning region,
13 such that—

14 “(A) each transmission planning entity for
15 a given transmission planning region and the
16 transmission planning entities for any imme-
17 diately adjacent transmission planning region
18 shall use the same method to calculate the
19 transfer capability between them; and

20 “(B) each shared method of calculation
21 shall comply with requirements established by
22 the Commission;

23 “(2) determining a minimum transfer capability
24 between each transmission planning region and its
25 immediately adjacent transmission planning region
26 in order to—

1 “(A) ensure that each transmission plan-
2 ning region has sufficient electric transfer capa-
3 bility with immediately adjacent transmission
4 planning regions to ensure reliability during im-
5 pacts associated with weather events, physical
6 events, or cyberattacks to the transmission
7 planning region; and

8 “(B) optimize achievement of the trans-
9 mission benefits;

10 “(3) identifying, selecting, and allocating costs
11 for individual interregional transmission projects
12 needed to achieve each minimum transfer capability
13 identified pursuant to paragraph (2); and

14 “(4) preventing the disclosure of information
15 pertaining to cyberattacks that may compromise the
16 security of the electricity system.

17 “(b) FILING A PLAN.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
19 after the date of enactment of this section, and at
20 least every 5 years thereafter, the transmission plan-
21 ning entities for each pair of immediately adjacent
22 transmission planning regions shall file with the
23 Commission, and receive approval for, a plan that,
24 in accordance with the regulations issued under sub-
25 section (a)—

1 “(A) evaluates and selects interregional
2 transmission projects based on consideration of
3 the transmission benefits; and

4 “(B) achieves minimum interregional
5 transfer capability.

6 “(2) DUTY OF COMMISSION.—The Commission
7 shall approve or deny a plan filed pursuant to para-
8 graph (1) in consideration of the factors described in
9 subsection (a)(2).

10 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 48 months after the
11 date on which the regulations are issued pursuant to sub-
12 section (a), and annually thereafter, the Commission shall
13 publish in the Federal Register a report on the results
14 of implementing this section.

15 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term ‘greenhouse
17 gas’ includes each of the following:

18 “(A) Carbon dioxide.

19 “(B) Methane.

20 “(C) Nitrous oxide.

21 “(D) Sulfur hexafluoride.

22 “(E) Any hydrofluorocarbon.

23 “(F) Any perfluorocarbon.

24 “(G) Nitrogen trifluoride.

1 “(H) Any fully fluorinated linear,
2 branched, or cyclic—

3 “(i) alkane;

4 “(ii) ether;

5 “(iii) tertiary amine; or

6 “(iv) amino ether.

7 “(I) Any perfluoropolyether.

8 “(J) Any hydrofluoropolyether.

9 “(K) Any other fluorocarbon, except for a
10 fluorocarbon with a vapor pressure of less than
11 1 mm of Hg absolute at 25 degrees Celsius.

12 “(2) TRANSMISSION BENEFIT.—The term
13 ‘transmission benefit’ means a broad range of eco-
14 nomic, operational, safety, security, resilience, public
15 policy, environmental, and other reasonably antici-
16 pated benefit of constructing, modifying, or oper-
17 ating a transmission facility, including any benefit
18 realized when real-time energy prices and oper-
19 ational conditions differ from those anticipated in
20 the 48-hour ahead or day-ahead time frame. Such
21 benefits include—

22 “(A) improved reliability;

23 “(B) improved resilience;

24 “(C) improved safety;

25 “(D) reduced congestion;

1 “(E) reduced power losses;

2 “(F) greater carrying capacity;

3 “(G) reduced operating reserve require-
4 ments;

5 “(H) improved access to lower-cost elec-
6 tricity generation;

7 “(I) improved access to electricity gener-
8 ating facilities with no direct emissions of
9 greenhouse gases;

10 “(J) improved public health from the clo-
11 sure of electricity generation facilities that emit
12 harmful pollution;

13 “(K) increased competition and market li-
14 quidity in electricity markets;

15 “(L) improved energy resilience and reli-
16 ability of Department of Defense installations;

17 “(M) optimizing use of existing trans-
18 mission assets, including any existing rights of
19 way;

20 “(N) other transmission costs avoided by
21 the proposed transmission solution; and

22 “(O) other potential benefits of increasing
23 the interconnectedness of the electric grid.

24 “(3) TRANSMISSION PLANNING ENTITY.—The
25 term ‘transmission planning entity’ means an entity

1 responsible for planning for the deployment of elec-
2 tric transmission for a given transmission planning
3 region.

4 “(4) TRANSMISSION PLANNING REGION.—The
5 term ‘transmission planning region’ means a geo-
6 graphic area that the Commission finds sufficient to
7 satisfy its requirements for the scope of regional
8 transmission planning, as established in or in com-
9 pliance with the following orders issued by the Com-
10 mission:

11 “(A) ‘Transmission Planning and Cost Al-
12 location by Transmission Owning and Oper-
13 ating Public Utilities’ published in the Federal
14 Register on October 12, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg.
15 64890); and

16 “(B) ‘Building for the Future Through
17 Electric Regional Transmission Planning and
18 Cost Allocation’ published in the Federal Reg-
19 ister on October 24, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg.
20 64890).”.

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