



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 22, 2000

S. 2942

A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects in the state of West Virginia

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 20, 2000*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2942 would have no net effect on the federal budget. The bill does not contain any intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 2942 would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend—by six years—the deadline for beginning construction of three hydroelectric projects currently subject to licensing by that agency. The extensions that would be authorized are for projects numbered 6901, 6902, and 7307 in the state of West Virginia. The bill also would direct FERC to reinstate the license for the project should it expire prior to enactment of this bill. This provision may have a minor impact on FERC's workload. Because FERC recovers 100 percent of its costs through user fees, any change in its administrative costs would be offset by an equal change in the fees that the commission charges. Hence, the bill's provisions would have no net budgetary impact.

Because FERC's administrative costs are limited in annual appropriations, enactment of this legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to S. 2942.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lisa Cash Driskill. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.