

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4776, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. CASTEN OF ILLINOIS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. IMPROVING INTERREGIONAL ELECTRIC
2 TRANSMISSION PLANNING.

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 ELECTRIC TRANS-
6 MISSION PLANNING.

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after
8 the date of enactment of this section, the Commission
9 shall issue regulations that require each pair of neigh-
10 boring transmission planning regions to develop jointly,
11 and file with the Commission, a process by which they will
12 develop an interregional transmission plan to identify and
13 to facilitate the construction or upgrade of onshore and
14 offshore electric transmission facilities that are efficient,
15 cost-effective, and broadly beneficial. The regulations shall
16 require each pair of transmission planning regions to file
17 a process that addresses the considerations in subsection
18 (b) within 6 months after the regulations required by this

1 paragraph are finalized. This process shall require devel-
2 opment of a plan within at least 3 years and at least every
3 3 years thereafter, in alignment with plans developed
4 under Orders 1920 and 1920-A (89 Fed. Reg. 49280 and
5 89 Fed. Reg. 97174).

6 “(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the require-
7 ments for a process described in subsection (a), the Com-
8 mission shall require that any process advance—

9 “(1) the development of transmission systems
10 that can operate for a minimum of 20 years and
11 across a wide range of scenarios, including scenarios
12 that take into account—

13 “(A) Federal, State, and local laws and
14 regulations, and other factors that affect elec-
15 tricity demand and the current and future gen-
16 eration resource mix;

17 “(B) trends in technology and fuel costs;

18 “(C) the retirement of generation facilities,
19 energy storage projects, and transmission facili-
20 ties;

21 “(D) generator interconnection requests
22 and withdrawals; and

23 “(E) extreme weather events, including in
24 anticipation of how the frequency and intensity

1 of these events are projected to change over the
2 planning period due to climate change;

3 “(2) the public interest;

4 “(3) the integrity of electricity markets;

5 “(4) the protection of consumers;

6 “(5) an optimization of transmission benefits;

7 “(6) the need for an individual interregional
8 transmission project to secure approvals based on a
9 comprehensive assessment of the multiple benefits
10 provided;

11 “(7) the importance of synchronization of plan-
12 ning processes in neighboring regions, such as using
13 a joint model on a consistent timeline with a single
14 set of needs, input assumptions, and benefit metrics;

15 “(8) the need for an individual interregional
16 transmission project that is identified in the inter-
17 regional transmission plan of a pair of transmission
18 planning regions not to be subject to any subsequent
19 planning process by other transmission planning re-
20 gions;

21 “(9) that evaluation of long-term scenarios
22 should align with the expected life of an element of
23 a transmission system;

24 “(10) that a pair of transmission planning re-
25 gions should allow for the identification and joint

1 evaluation of alternatives proposed by stakeholders,
2 and ensure meaningful opportunities for States,
3 Tribes, consumer advocates, labor organizations, and
4 environmental justice communities to participate;

5 “(11) the need to eliminate arbitrary project
6 voltage, size, or cost requirements for transmission
7 projects;

8 “(12) the applicability of a broad range of al-
9 ternatives to the construction of transmission facili-
10 ties, including advanced transmission technologies,
11 demand side flexibility, distributed storage, load
12 management, dynamic line rating, and power flow
13 control; and

14 “(13) the use of data and analyses provided by
15 the Secretary of Energy, including as provided by
16 the National Laboratories, regarding any of the
17 items described in paragraphs (1) through (12).

18 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the
19 issuance of regulations under subsection (a) and annually
20 thereafter, the Commission shall publish in the Federal
21 Register a report on the progress by each pair of trans-
22 mission planning regions in identifying and facilitating the
23 construction of interregional electric transmission
24 projects, including a description of the transmission bene-
25 fits associated with such projects.

1 “(e) ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS.—In assessing the
2 environmental benefits associated with any activity under-
3 taken pursuant to this Act, the Commission may use any
4 relevant analysis or other information conducted or pro-
5 vided by the Council on Environmental Quality and the
6 Environmental Protection Agency.”.

