

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1662

To authorize the Navajo Indian irrigation project to use power allocated to it from the Colorado River storage project for on-farm uses.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 1998

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the Navajo Indian irrigation project to use power allocated to it from the Colorado River storage project for on-farm uses.

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. FINDINGS.**

4       Congress finds that—

5               (1) the Navajo Indian irrigation project (in this  
6       section referred to as the “irrigation project”) was  
7       authorized for construction and operation as a par-  
8       ticipating project of the Colorado River storage  
9       project by the Act of June 13, 1962, Public Law

1 87–483, pursuant to plans approved by the Sec-  
2 retary of the Interior on October 16, 1957;

3 (2) the irrigation project is an all-Indian irriga-  
4 tion project authorized for the primary purpose of  
5 delivering water to develop farming and allied indus-  
6 tries that benefit the Navajo Nation;

7 (3) the Bureau of Reclamation has reserved 87  
8 megawatts of power and associated energy from the  
9 Colorado River storage project for current and fu-  
10 ture use on the irrigation project, but currently not  
11 more than 25 megawatts of power is being used be-  
12 cause the project is only partially completed; while  
13 the initial and subsequent plans and authorizing leg-  
14 islation for the irrigation project allow power to be  
15 used to deliver water to the irrigation project by ca-  
16 nals and to lift water to heights sufficient to pres-  
17 surize the sprinkler delivery system, clarification is  
18 necessary to approve the use of power for on-farm  
19 uses such as for powering center-pivot irrigation sys-  
20 tems or for related agricultural industry purposes;  
21 and

22 (4) the irrigation project is of vital economic  
23 importance to the Navajo Nation, and substantial  
24 economic development for the Four Corners Region  
25 and the Navajo Nation could be realized if a portion

1 of the 87 megawatt power allocation were made  
2 available by the Bureau of Reclamation for powering  
3 center-pivot irrigation systems and for related agri-  
4 cultural industry purposes.

5 **SEC. 2. USE OF POWER.**

6 The first section of the Act of June 13, 1962 (Public  
7 Law 87-483; 76 Stat. 96) is amended by adding at the  
8 end the following: "The Navajo Indian irrigation project  
9 may use its allocation of 87 megawatts of power from the  
10 Colorado River storage project for water delivery, on-farm  
11 production, and related agricultural industry purposes."

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