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110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2339

To encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

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A BILL

To encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Produced Water Utilization Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The population of the United States is increasing, and as the population increases, additional potable water supplies are required to sustain individuals, agricultural production, and industrial users, particularly in the Mountain West and desert Southwest, where water resources are scarce.

(2) During the development of domestic energy sources, including coalbed methane, oil, and natural gas, water may be extracted from underground sources and brought to the surface, often increasing energy production from subsurface geological formations in the process.

(3) Produced water frequently contains increased levels of potentially harmful dissolved solids, rendering much of the water nonpotable and unsuitable for agricultural or industrial uses, and encouraging reinjection of the water to subsurface geological formations to safely dispose of it, which may lead to reduced production of domestic energy resources and increased costs to producers.

(4) Increasing environmentally responsible surface utilization of produced water would—

(A) increase water supplies available for agricultural and industrial use;

(B) reduce the amount of produced water returned to underground formations; and

(C) increase domestic energy production by reducing costs associated with reinjection of produced water to the subsurface.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) EXISTING PROGRAM.—The term ''existing program'' means a program at the Department of Energy which is engaged in research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of technologies for unconventional domestic natural gas production and other domestic petroleum production as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) PRODUCED WATER.—The term ''produced water'' means water from an underground source that is brought to the surface as part of the process of exploration for or development of coalbed methane, oil, natural gas, or any other substance to be used as an energy source.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 4. PURPOSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out under this Act, in conjunction with an existing program,

a program of research, development, and demonstration of technologies for environmentally sustainable utilization of produced water for use for agriculture, irrigation, municipal, or industrial uses, or other environmentally sustainable purposes. The program shall be designed to maximize the utilization of produced water in the United States by increasing the quality of produced water and reducing the environmental impacts of produced water.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The program under this Act shall address the following areas, including improving safety and minimizing environmental impacts of activities within each area:

(1) Produced water recovery, including research for desalination and demineralization to reduce total dissolved solids in the produced water.

(2) Produced water utilization for agricultural, irrigation, municipal, or industrial uses, or other environmentally sustainable purposes.

(3) Reinjection of produced water into subsurface geological formations to increase energy production.

(c) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—The program under this Act shall be administered by a consortium, administering an existing program, whose members have collectively demonstrated capabilities and experience in plan-

ning and managing research, development, demonstration, and commercial application programs for unconventional natural gas and other petroleum production and produced water utilization.

(d) ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.—The Secretary, through the National Energy Technology Laboratory, shall carry out a program of research, development, and demonstration activities complementary to and supportive of the research, development, and demonstration programs under subsection (b).

(e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary shall consult regularly with the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SEC. 5. SUNSET.

The authority provided by this Act shall terminate on September 30, 2016.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

(a) ALLOCATION.—Amounts appropriated for this Act for each fiscal year shall be allocated as follows:

(1) 75 percent shall be for activities under section 4(a), (b), and (c).

(2) 25 percent shall be for activities under section 4(d) and other activities under section 4, includ-

ing administrative functions such as program direction, overall program oversight, and contract management.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2016.

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