

[H.R. 3447, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Tuesday, March 15, 2016, the House will complete consideration of [H.R. 3447](#), to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 3447 was introduced on September 8, 2015 by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which ordered the bill reported by unanimous consent on February 25, 2016.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3447 authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee for the project numbered 12642 (W. Kerr Scott Hydropower Project in Wilkes County, North Carolina), to extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction for up to three consecutive two-year periods from the date of the expiration of the original extension.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. FERC also reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines as well as licensing hydropower projects.¹

Section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) requires a hydropower licensee to begin construction on a licensed project within two years of obtaining the license. FERC may extend this timeline once for an additional two-year period. The license expires and is terminated if the licensee is unable to begin construction by the extended deadline.²

¹ See the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's website, "[What FERC Does](#)".

² See the Committee on Energy and Commerce's [background memo](#) at 7-8.

COST

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is currently not available.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jake Vreeburg](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 3-1555.