

[H.R. 4411, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Monday, March 14, 2016, the House will consider [H.R. 4411](#), to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 4411 was introduced on February 1, 2016 by Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA) 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. 4411 authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee for the project numbered 12737 (Gathright Hydroelectric Project, Alleghany County, Virginia), 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 [Robert Goad](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 6-1831.