

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4959

To require to Comptroller General to submit to Congress a report on the status of dams in the USDA watershed program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. VAN ORDEN (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. MCGARVEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require to Comptroller General to submit to Congress a report on the status of dams in the USDA watershed program.

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. REPORT ON DAMS IN USDA WATERSHED PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
7 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report

1 on the status of covered dams, including, with respect to
2 each covered dam—

3 (1) the location, ownership, and structural con-
4 ditions of the dam, including any need for repairs;

5 (2) whether the dam is in compliance with the
6 principles and requirements described in the docu-
7 ment published by the Council on Environmental
8 Quality entitled “Principles and Requirements for
9 Federal Investments in Water Resources” and dated
10 March 2013, and the related interagency guidelines
11 published by the Council on Environmental Quality
12 and dated December 2014;

13 (3) the most recent hazard classification assess-
14 ment of the dam for purposes of the National Dam
15 Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467 et seq.), and
16 whether downstream changes have been accounted
17 for in such assessment;

18 (4) whether the dam is meeting its intended
19 purpose;

20 (5) whether the dam is a candidate for decom-
21 missioning because—

22 (A) the dam is not meeting, or not cost-ef-
23 fectively meeting, its intended purpose;

24 (B) the dam is a safety hazard and has de-
25 ferred maintenance;

1 (C) the environmental benefits of decom-
2 missioning and removal of the dam outweigh
3 the benefits provided by the dam; or

4 (D) the owner of the dam is requesting de-
5 commissioning; and

6 (6) whether the dam has exceeded its life ex-
7 pectancy, and what the end-of-life care plan is for
8 the dam.

9 (b) COVERED DAMS.—For purposes of this section,
10 the term “covered dam” means a dam for which assistance
11 has been provided under—

12 (1) the Watershed Protection and Flood Pre-
13 vention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);

14 (2) the Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter
15 665; Public Law 78–534);

16 (3) the Pilot Watershed Program carried out
17 pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Appro-
18 priation Act, 1954 (Public Law 83–156); and

19 (4) the Resource Conservation and Develop-
20 ment Program carried out pursuant to the Food and
21 Agriculture Act of 1962 (Public Law 87–703).

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