

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8156

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress an updated report on the roles, responsibilities, and practices of the Council on Environmental Quality.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2024

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BENTZ, and Mr. ZINKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress an updated report on the roles, responsibilities, and practices of the Council on Environmental Quality.

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. GAO REPORT ON THE ROLES, RESPONSIBIL-**
4 **ITIES, AND PRACTICES OF THE COUNCIL ON**
5 **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.**

6 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days
7 after the date of enactment of this section, the Comp-
8 troller General of the United States shall submit to Con-

1 gress an updated version of the report titled “The Council
2 on Environmental Quality: A Tool in Shaping National
3 Policy”, published March 19, 1981.

4 (b) INFORMATION RELATED TO THE LOWER SNAKE
5 RIVER DAMS.—The updated report required under sub-
6 section (a) shall provide information on the roles, respon-
7 sibilities, and practices of the Council on Environmental
8 Quality in *National Wildlife Federation, et al. v. National*
9 *Marine Fisheries Service, et al.* (Case No. 3:01-cv-
10 00640-SI), including—

11 (1) a determination whether the Council on En-
12 vironmental Quality is satisfying its responsibilities
13 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
14 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (including the duties
15 and functions of the Director of the Office of Envi-
16 ronmental Quality established under the Environ-
17 mental Quality Improvement Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C.
18 4371 et seq.)), which shall include identifying the
19 basis for such determination;

20 (2) a determination whether—

21 (A) there is a continuing need for the
22 roles, responsibilities, and practices of the
23 Council on Environmental Quality in *National*
24 *Wildlife Federation, et al. v. National Marine*

1 Fisheries Service, et al. (Case No. 3:01-cv-
2 00640-SI); or

3 (B) such roles, responsibilities, and prac-
4 tices could be effectively carried out by another
5 Federal agency;

6 (3) information on how often the Council on
7 Environmental Quality enters into contracts with, or
8 relies on information provided by, non-governmental
9 or non-profit organizations to perform or inform
10 studies, reports, and analysis by the Council on En-
11 vironmental Quality; and

12 (4) the percent of Presidential appointees, full
13 time employees, part time employees, and contrac-
14 tors of the Council on Environmental Quality that—

15 (A) are or have been employed at a covered
16 organization; or

17 (B) hold or have held a volunteer position,
18 political campaign position, or political fund-
19 raising position at a covered organization.

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) COVERED ORGANIZATION.—The term “cov-
22 ered organization” means a non-governmental orga-
23 nization or non-profit organization that has an inter-
24 est in—

1 (A) litigation that the Council on Environ-
2 mental Quality is involved in; or

3 (B) the policies developed or recommended
4 by the Council on Environmental Quality.

5 (2) LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS.—The term
6 “Lower Snake River dams” means the following
7 dams in the State of Washington, authorized by sec-
8 tion 2 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (chapter 19, 59
9 Stat. 21):

10 (A) Ice Harbor Dam.

11 (B) Lower Monumental Dam.

12 (C) Little Goose Dam.

13 (D) Lower Granite Dam.

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