



H.Res. 1374 – Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam and recognizing its critical role in the national and economic security of the United States and the contributions of hydroelectric power to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1374 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) on July 24, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1374 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1374 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam;
- Honors the sacrifice of the 107 individuals who lost their lives during the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam; and
- Recognizes that--
 - the Grand Coulee Dam continues to play a critical role in the national and economic security of the United States by providing vital electric power and crop irrigation;
 - hydroelectric power is a clean, renewable resource that is emissions-free and plays a major role in controlling emissions of greenhouse gases; and
 - having clean, affordable hydroelectric power helps reduce the reliance of the United States on foreign oil imports and supports the successful wind power industry in the Northwestern United States by ensuring the availability of electricity in the absence of sufficient wind power.

BACKGROUND

The Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State is the largest hydroelectric power facility in North America. Construction of the Grand Coulee Dam began in 1933 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'New Deal' response to the Great Depression. The dam was completed in 1942, and 107 workers were killed during the construction process. During World War II, electricity from the Grand Coulee Dam was used in aluminum plants which manufactured ships and planes for the war effort.

The Grand Coulee Dam, on the Columbia River, is almost a mile long. Today, the dam supplies irrigation water in the Columbia Basin, generates 6.5 million kilowatts of electricity, and serves a flood control purpose in the Columbia River Basin. The dam is maintained by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

STAFF CONTACT

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