

Section 7(b) would impose a moratorium on Federal Power Commission licensing for periods up to eight years applicable to the 20 rivers listed in Section 5(a), in order to afford the Secretary of the Interior and the Congress time to process and act upon the studies of such rivers for possible additions to the Scenic Rivers System. Section 7(c) would further require the Commission to notify the Secretary of the Interior immediately upon passage of the bill of any proceedings affecting the rivers during the study periods.

The Commission believes that the maintenance in their natural state of selected segments of the nation's rivers is a desirable means of preserving our national heritage, and we accordingly endorse the purposes of this legislation. In considering previous bills on this subject the Commission has taken the position that the selection of particular areas for inclusion in a wild or scenic rivers system necessarily involves, and will continue to involve, a balancing of public policy objectives. Such goals include the multipurpose development of the water resources of the nation's rivers for flood control, navigation, irrigation, power production, water quality control, protection of fish and wildlife, and enhancement of any recreational potential afforded by such multipurpose river development, as compared with the existing values which are retained by the preservation of such rivers in a free-flowing condition with the attendant public benefits, including conservation of fish resources and preservation of scenic assets and historical features.

We are convinced that these diverse public interest factors can be accommodated under the comprehensive multipurpose standards set by the Federal Power Act, to the extent applications for hydroelectric power projects are presented. Consequently, we do not believe that the uses of any major river, particularly those having significant hydroelectric possibilities, should be limited without a careful study to support such a course of action. The possibility of comprehensive multipurpose development of the Nation's water and related land resources must receive the most careful deliberation.

Our review of H.R. 8416 indicates that the river segments named in Sections 3 and 5(a) contain substantial amounts of developed and undeveloped hydroelectric power capacity and possibly some pumped storage capabilities which the Congress may wish to consider in its deliberations on the bill. We are attaching for the information of the Committee a tabulation (Table A) listing in detail the existing and potential hydroelectric developments on the stretches of rivers described in the bill. The amounts of hydroelectric power involved are summarized below.

	Section of bill		Total
	3	5(a)	
Developed or under construction:			
Number of streams.....	4	20	24
Number of plants.....		20	20
Installed capacity (kilowatts).....		106,946	106,946
Annual generation (million kilowatt-hours).....		488	488
Undeveloped:			
Number of plants.....	25	53	78
Installed capacity (kilowatts).....	3,085,900	3,462,700	6,548,600
Annual generation (million kilowatt-hours).....	10,873	10,276	21,149

With one exception, the capacity and annual generation listed in the attached table includes only conventional hydroelectric installations. One-half of the potential capacity of 240,000 kilowatts at the Edes Fort (W. Va.) site would be in reversible units. Pumped storage sites may be available within the designated portions of other rivers and studies may show that additional capacity in reversible units would be justified for installation at some of the undeveloped sites.

There are no existing hydroelectric projects and no licensing proceedings are pending in the Commission with respect to the four rivers listed for initial scenic river designation by Section 3 of H.R. 8416. A summary is attached (Table B) showing the licensing status of existing projects on the rivers listed for study