



washington dc update

HR 3598, Energy and Water Research Integration Act

November 30, 2009

EPA announced a 30-day public comment period for the draft document titled, "A Framework for Categorizing the Relative Vulnerability of Threatened and Endangered Species to Climate Change" (EPA/600/R-09/011). The document was prepared by the National Center for Environmental Assessment within EPA's Office of Research and Development.

The full House of Representatives is scheduled tomorrow to vote on HR 3598, the Energy and Water Research Integration Act. This legislation will be considered under "unanimous consent" which is a procedure that allows legislation to pass with only a voice vote. Virtually all bills brought up under unanimous consent are passed by the House.

HR 3598 is a bill that could be worthy of the support of WESTCAS. Among its key provisions:

- Seeks to advance energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices that would minimize freshwater withdrawal and consumption, increase water use efficiency, and use nontraditional water sources with efforts to improve the quality of that water.
- Consider the effects that climate change may have on water supplies quality for energy generation and fuel production.
- Improve understanding of the energy required to provide water supplies and the water required to provide reliable energy supplies throughout the United States.

The Secretary of Interior is also required to look at specific areas including innovative water reuse, recovery, and treatment in energy generation and fuel productions. In addition, an "Energy-Water Architecture Council is established to promote technical innovation.

This legislation was introduced in the House Science and Technology Committee on September 17th and has already made it to the House floor. It appears that HR 3598 could provide additional avenues for integrating water reuse into the larger water picture.

\$25,000,000 is authorized at \$5 million a year for the next five fiscal years to support this legislation.

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