

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3937

To redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at Highway-155, Coulee Dam, WA 99116, as the “Nathaniel ‘Nat’ Washington Power Plant”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2019

Mr. NEWHOUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at Highway-155, Coulee Dam, WA 99116, as the “Nathaniel ‘Nat’ Washington Power Plant”.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) Both Nathaniel “Nat” Washington, Sr.,
6 and his son, Nat, Jr., direct descendants of the fam-
7 ily of President George Washington, were pioneers
8 for the development of hydropower and strong pro-

1 ponents of hydropower’s many benefits for Wash-
2 ington State and the Pacific Northwest.

3 (2) In 1908, Nat Washington, Sr., left his
4 home in Virginia and established a homestead along
5 the Columbia River in the area of Grand Coulee,
6 Washington. In 1916, he was elected Grant County
7 prosecutor.

8 (3) As the first president of the Columbia River
9 Dam, Irrigation, and Power District, Nat Wash-
10 ington, Sr., played a key role in developing the con-
11 cept of, and securing the approval for, the construc-
12 tion of the Grand Coulee Dam.

13 (4) In 1926, Nat Washington, Sr., fell victim to
14 the power of the Columbia River when he was swept
15 away in the current, losing his life while attempting
16 to save his brother James from drowning.

17 (5) Nat Washington, Jr., followed in his fa-
18 ther’s footsteps by serving as Grant County pros-
19 ecutor after earning his law degree at the University
20 of Washington, where he was elected student body
21 president at the University of Washington as an un-
22 dergraduate.

23 (6) Nat Washington, Jr., served in the Wash-
24 ington State Legislature for 30 years and was in-
25 strumental in the development of several hydropower

1 projects across the region, as well as the Columbia
2 Basin Project, which utilizes the Grand Coulee Dam
3 to supply water for irrigation to 10,000 farms on
4 671,000 acres of farmland in the Columbia Basin.

5 (7) When the Third Power Plant was completed
6 in 1980, Grand Coulee Dam became the largest hy-
7 dropower generating facility in the world. With a
8 6,809 megawatt generating capacity, supplying an
9 average of 21 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to
10 11 States and Canada each year, Grand Coulee is
11 the largest power station in the nation.

12 (8) The vision, advocacy, and public service of
13 Nat Washington, Sr., and his son, Nat, Jr., fun-
14 damentally transformed the Columbia Basin, Wash-
15 ington State, and the entire Pacific Northwest by se-
16 curing hydropower—a clean, affordable, and reliable
17 source of energy—as the foundation of the region’s
18 power system.

19 **SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF FACILITY.**

20 The facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at
21 Highway-155, Coulee Dam, WA 99116, known as the
22 Third Powerplant, shall be known and designated as the
23 “Nathaniel ‘Nat’ Washington Power Plant”.

1 **SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

2 Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document,
3 paper or other record of the United States to the facility
4 referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference
5 to the Nathaniel “Nat” Washington Power Plant.

○