

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN GREG LIND**, on January 15, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Greg Lind, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss (R)  
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)  
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)  
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)  
Sen. Bill Tash (R)  
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)  
Sen. David E. Wanzenried (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 19, 1/9/2007; SB 26, 1/9/2007;  
SB 3, 1/9/2007  
Executive Action: None.

00:00:00 Chairman Lind

**HEARING ON SB 19**

**Sen. McGee opened for Sen. Shockley**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:55 **SEN. JIM SHOCKLEY (R), SD 45**, opened the hearing on **SB 19**, Revise laws governing oil and gas developers and surface owners.

**[EXHIBIT \(nas09a01\)](#)**

**[EXHIBIT \(nas09a02\)](#)**

**[EXHIBIT \(nas09a03\)](#)**

**Proponents:**

00:15:29 Brian Cebull, Nance Petroleum Corporation

00:19:07 Bruce Williams, Fidelity Exploration and Production Company (Fidelity E&P)

00:20:39 Dave Galt, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Company

00:21:18 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stockgrowers Association

00:22:04 Ed Bartlett, Attorney, Northern Alliance Gas Producers

00:22:44 Jerome Anderson, Encore Acquisition Company

00:24:42 Herb Vasser, Montana Land and Mineral Association

00:25:21 Connie Iverson, Land Owner

**[EXHIBIT \(nas09a04\)](#)**

00:26:51 Tom Ebzery, Devon Energy Company

00:29:12 Pat Montalban, Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association

00:29:36 Willie Duffield, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties, Inc.

**Opponents:**

00:30:27 Linda Simonson, Self

00:33:16 Rick Moore, Northern Plains Resource Council

**Informational Testimony:**

00:36:19 Tom Richmond, Administrator, Northern Plains  
Exploration, Montana Board of Oil and Gas, Department  
of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:37:15 Sen. Wanzenried to Sen. McGee

00:46:14 Sen. Kaufmann to Sen. McGee

00:48:37 Sen. Perry to Sen. McGee

00:50:57 Joe Kolman, LSD

00:52:42 Sen. McGee to Sen. Perry

00:53:21 Sen. Lind to Sen. McGee

00:55:27 Sen. Lind to Tom Richmond, DNRC

00:56:15 Sen. Lind to Tom Ebzery, Devon Energy Company

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:58:08 Sen. McGee

**HEARING ON SB 26**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:03:25 **SEN. DAN WEINBERG (D), SD 2**, opened the hearing on **SB 26**, Severed mineral rights registry law.

**Proponents:**

01:10:09 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center  
(MEIC)

01:12:50 Rick Moore, Northern Plains Resource Council

**Opponents:**

01:13:58 Jack King, Hancock Enterprises

**EXHIBIT (nas09a05)**

01:19:3 Roger Hagan, Self

**EXHIBIT (nas09a06)**

01:23:16 Bob Gilbert, Northwest Farm Credit Services

**EXHIBIT (nas09a07)**

01:23:45 Shawn Heringer, Montana Association of Professional  
Landmen, and Nance Petroleum Corporation

**EXHIBIT (nas09a08)**

01:26:40 John Baucus, Ranch Owner

01:31:38 Lonnie White, Landowner, and Shodair  
Hospital

01:35:14 Allen Wright, Townsend

01:37:42 John Fredlund, Independent Landmen

01:40:09 Pat Montalban, Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association

01:41:30 Bruce Williams, Fidelity Exploration and Production  
Company

**EXHIBIT (nas09a09)**

01:41:45 Dave Galt, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum  
Association

01:41:50 Debbie Shea, Montana Mining Association

01:42:07 Bruce Gowan, Vice President of Title Company

01:42:23 Gilda Clancy, Self

01:42:50 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association  
(WETA)

01:43:06 William Spilker, Broker/Realtor

**EXHIBIT (nas09a10)**

**Informational Testimony:**

01:44:02 Monty Mason, Trust Lands, DNRC

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

- 01:46:06 Sen. Harrington to Pat Montalban, Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association
- 01:49:03 Sen. Perry to Sen. Weinberg
- 01:51:57 Sen. Tash to Pat Montalban, Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association
- 01:52:46 Sen. Tash to Shawn Heringer, Nance Petroleum Corporation
- 01:53:27 Sen. Lind to Bill Spilker, Broker/Realtor
- 01:56:58 Sen. Lind to Sen. Weinberg

**Closing by Sponsor:**

- 01:58:19 Sen. Weinberg
- 02:06:34 5 minute break

**HEARING ON SB 3**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

- 02:06:43 **SEN. JEFF ESSMANN (R), SD 28**, opened the hearing on **SB 3**, Revise telecommunications law.

**EXHIBIT (nas09a11)**

**Proponents:**

- 02:14:54 Geoff Feiss, General Manager, Montana Telecommunications Association (Geoff Feiss is an opponent-he discussed grey bill, revised version of the regular SB 3 bill)

**EXHIBIT (nas09a12)**

**EXHIBIT (nas09a13)**

- 02:25:32 Sen. Wanzonried to Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association
- 02:25:55 Sen. Harrington to Sen. Lind
- 02:27:23 Sen. Lind to Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association

02:28:36 Sen. Essmann to Sen. Lind

02:29:54 Todd Everts, LSD

02:31:02 David Gibson, Montana President of Qwest

[EXHIBIT \(nas09a14\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(nas09a15\)](#)

02:46:59 Keith Allen, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 233

02:47:43 Lyle Williams, Verizon Telecommunications

**Opponents:**

02:52:09 Greg Jergeson, Chairman, Public Service Commission

[EXHIBIT \(nas09a16\)](#)

03:03:01 Mary Wright, Attorney, Montana Consumer Council

[EXHIBIT \(nas09a17\)](#)

03:08:17 Amy Gramolez, One Eighty Communications, Billings

[EXHIBIT \(nas09a18\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(nas09a19\)](#)

03:15:21 Geoff Feiss, General Manager, Montana Telecommunications Associations

**Informational Testimony:**

03:23:12 Jeff Brandt, Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO), Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), Department of Administration (DofA)

[EXHIBIT \(nas09a20\)](#)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

03:25:14 Sen. Harrington to Commissioner Jergeson, PSC

03:30:53 Sen. Wanzenried to Sen. Essmann

03:33:43 Sen. Tash to Commissioner Jergeson, PSC

03:35:33 Sen. Perry to Sen. Essmann

03:36:28 Sen. Lind to David Gibson, Qwest

03:39:14 Sen. Lind to David Gibson, Qwest

03:40:19 Sen. Lind to Mary Wright, Montana Consumer Council

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:42:25 Sen. Essmann

**Discussion:**

03:45:31 Chairman Lind

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 6:50 P.M.

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SEN. GREG LIND, Chairman

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CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

GL/cj

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([nas09aad.pdf](#))**