

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee Purpose and Duties

2015-2016 Interim



The ETIC

- The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) has broad oversight over a range of energy and telecommunication-related topics in Montana.
- The committee conducts interim studies as assigned by the Legislative Council and reviews the administrative rules proposed by the Department of Public Service Regulation and the Public Service Commission.
- Members monitor the operation of the PSC with specific attention to issues likely to require future legislative attention, opportunities to improve existing law through the analysis of problems, and the experiences of Montana's citizens with the operation of the agency that may be amenable to improvement through legislative action.

ETIC Budget and Resources

- 5 one-day meetings and 2 two-day meetings
- Similar to 2015 biennial budget
- Out of town travel expenses

ETIC Duties

- Specific statutory duties – obligations
 - See Work plan
 - Public Service Commission rule review.
 - USB.
 - Energy Policy.
- General committee member duties
 - See “Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines”



**Energy and Telecommunications
Interim Committee
Staff & Member Responsibilities/Role**

2015-2016 Interim



ETIC Staff and Member Roles

Committee

- Provide sound energy policies for the state – luxury of time.
- Evaluate the implementation of existing policies.
- Offer a balanced legislative forum for the resolution of issues.
- Attend, prepare, direct staff.
- Request what you need and review what you request.

Staff

- Assist the ETIC in achieving its mission.
- Organize meetings and topic discussions.
- Provide impartial factual information.
- Conduct requested research.
- Develop policy options.
- Draft requested legislation.
- Provide research and other assistance to the division and other legislators.
- Provide legal opinions.

ETIC Staff – Research Priorities

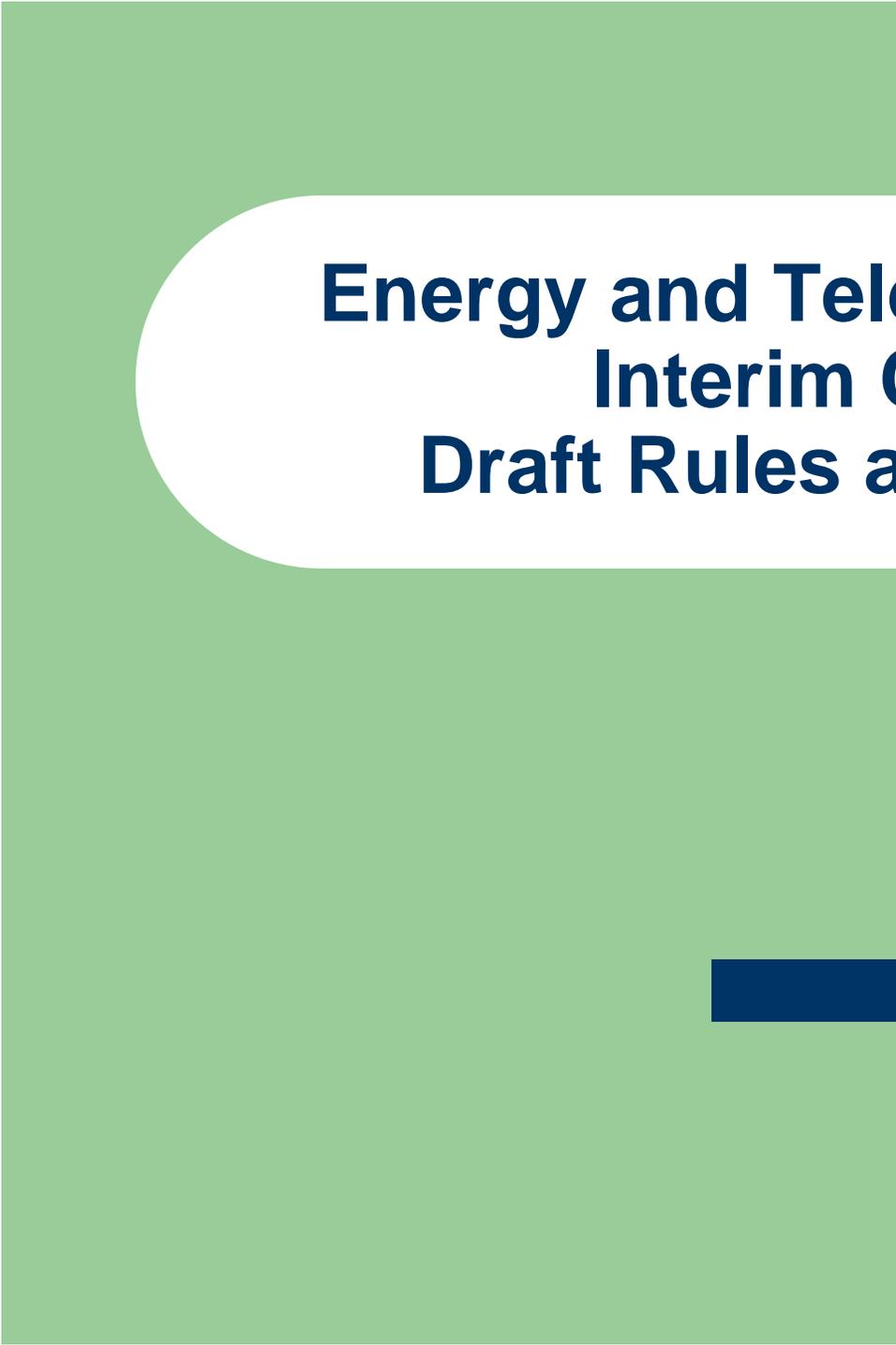
- ETIC staff:
 - are Legislative Services Division employees assigned to assist the ETIC in performing its statutory duties.
 - put top research priority on topics included in the ETIC workplan, which must be established by the 2nd regular ETIC meeting in September.
 - may conduct other research at members' request, but if exceeds 2 days' work, must be approved by Chair.

ETIC Mailings

- Two weeks prior to meeting, information mailed to members.
- Electronic-only packets are available.
- Use of Website.

ETIC Communication

- Expectations of staff.
- Member Preference -- email, telephone?
- Providing information from interested parties (forwarding email).
- Special instructions?



**Energy and Telecommunications
Interim Committee
Draft Rules and Procedures**

2015-2016 Interim



ETIC Action Needed

- Draft Rules and Procedures included in June mailing.
- Legislative Council updated rules in 2012, dealing with proxies.
- 2015-2016 ETIC may modify or re-adopt existing rules and procedures.

ETIC Quorums and Parliamentary Procedures

- Meetings in Helena unless prior notice.
- 10 day public notice for regular meetings.
- Mailing list via Website for interested parties.
- At least 24-hour notice for special meetings - no public hearing items.
- Rules of the Senate apply regarding quorum and parliamentary procedure.

ETIC Public Participation Guidelines

- ETIC committed to public participation as part of policy development and review.
- Public comment at discretion of the Chair.
- Written comments save time.
- Courtesy is required.
- Recess at the discretion of Chair.
- Electronic recording OK if not disruptive.

ETIC Election of Officers

Proxy Voting

- Chair and Vice Chair (or co-chairs) must be from different parties (5-5-213 MCA)
- Proxies discouraged, especially on new debate or questions not raised in a prior hearing.

ETIC Travel and Reimbursement Rules

- Members reimbursed for food, lodging, mileage, and misc. expenses incurred traveling to and from ETIC meetings, as provided by law.
- Members paid for time spent in ETIC meetings.

Interim Committee Minutes

- Legislative Council adopted proposal reflected in the rules and guidelines.
- Minutes will reflect time, topic, speakers and exhibits.
- Digital recording recognized as the official interim committee minutes.

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee Questions?

2015-2016 Interim



ETIC Rules and Procedures 2015-16

- Any changes needed?
- Are draft rules sufficient?
- Process discussion - questions
 - new proposals and vote later today, or
 - staff prepare suggested revisions and provide for adoption at next meeting.
 - other