

**From:** [Nowakowski, Sonja](#)  
**To:** [Graft, Trevor](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Montana Renewable Resource Development\_ETIC Summary  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:28:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Montana Renewable Resource Development\\_ETIC Summary.docx](#)

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**From:** Reller, Mark D (BPA) - DIR-MSGL [mailto:mdreller@bpa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:04 PM  
**To:** Nowakowski, Sonja <snowakowski@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** Montana Renewable Resource Development\_ETIC Summary

ETIC Members

At the request of Sonja, I have prepared a short summary of the ideas and observations that came out of the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting hosted by BPA and the State of Montana (see attached).

The facilitated meeting was held at the MT Capital and was well attended by state officials, renewable energy developers, regulators, utilities and public interest groups. The goal of BPA and the State of Montana is to enable a conversation between all of these parties and others, that leads to an action plan which articulates the barriers and opportunities that are connected to energy development in Montana.

December 8<sup>th</sup> was the kickoff meeting of what is envisioned to be an approximately 6 month process with several meetings here in Montana. The attached document summarizes the issues discussed at the kickoff meeting and the goal of the effort. The next meeting is expected in Mid-February and the remaining meetings will be calendared at that time. I will provide venue, date and time details to ETIC as they become available.

There is no expectation that a 6 month process will fully resolve all of the issues associated with an issue as complex as energy development and export. However, there is a desire to pull together as many of the interested parties as possible, start a facilitated conversation, capture the fruits of that conversation and create an action plan to help set a course towards Montana energy development and export.

Such an approach has worked before in the Pacific Northwest. The link below takes you to the Northwest Wind Integration Action plan from 2007. This document and that approach are the template for the Montana Renewable Resource Development Action Plan. The Montana action plan, given the shorter timeline, is not expected to be as robust as the its Pacific Northwest counterpart, but the link gives additional background on the nature of the industry, the types of issues in play and the terminology you can expect to hear in the Montana discussion.

<https://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/wind/2007-1/>

As you are aware, the Washington UTC recently approved a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) settlement that affects Colstrip. That settlement also called for "PSE, commission staff, and other parties to the settlement to engage stakeholders in workshops to review the future use of the transmission lines that currently carry Colstrip's electric load. These workshops will be hosted by the UTC at later dates still to be determined." (see links below)

While **the BPA & Montana hosted effort is separate and distinct from the WUTC / PSE settlement process**, PSE is directly involved in the BPA/Montana process and it hoped that the two processes will benefit from the work that each produces. Retirement of Colstrip will create some capacity on the exiting transmission grid, a factor that is very important as Montana & the region move forward in their conversations on Montana energy development.

[https://www.utc.wa.gov/aboutUs/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?](https://www.utc.wa.gov/aboutUs/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=490&Source=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eutc%2Ewa%2Egov%2FaboutUs%2FLists%2FNews%2FAllItems%2Easpx&ContentTypeId=0x010400FF58A04FBD57384DB60A5ECF52665206)

[ID=490&Source=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eutc%2Ewa%2Egov%2FaboutUs%2FLists%2FNews%2FAllItems%2Easpx&ContentTypeId=0x010400FF58A04FBD57384DB60A5ECF52665206](https://www.utc.wa.gov/aboutUs/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=490&Source=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eutc%2Ewa%2Egov%2FaboutUs%2FLists%2FNews%2FAllItems%2Easpx&ContentTypeId=0x010400FF58A04FBD57384DB60A5ECF52665206)

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/2017/09/15/montana-says-settlement-agreement-filed-over-colstrip-power-plant/672541001/>

I hope you find the summary and links useful and I plan to be available for your March Meeting to provide additional details and updates.

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