



ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Brad Molnar
Christopher Pope
Jacelyn Sterling
Barry Usher
Daniel Zolnikov

HOUSE MEMBERS

Laurie Bishop
Steven Galloway
Gary Parry
Katie Zolnikov

COMMITTEE STAFF

Trevor Graff - Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary
Jameson Walker - Attorney

MINUTES LOG

September 28, 2023

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Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Chair (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Steven Galloway (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Trevor Graff, Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary
Jameson Walker, Attorney

AGENDA [\(Attachment 1\)](#)

VISITORS' LIST [\(Attachment 2\)](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:02:04 Presiding Officer Katie Zolnikov, called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

08:03:12 Kate Wilson, Bonneville Power Administration

08:04:12 Rep. Galloway joined the meeting.

08:05:05 Trevor Graff, LSD

08:07:04 Rep. Bishop

08:07:17 Trevor Graff

[EXHIBIT1](#)

08:09:13 Ben Brower, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) See Above Exhibit 1

Public Comment

None

HJ 6: POWER RESERVE STUDY

08:11:37 Trevor Graff

08:12:03 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

08:14:00 Jean Schafer, Basin Electric Power Cooperative

[EXHIBIT2](#)

Committee Discussion

08:44:59 Sen. Molnar to Jean Schafer

08:51:27 Rep. Bishop to Jean Schafer

08:55:54 Vice Presiding Officer Pope to Jean Schafer

09:04:41 Sen. Zolnikov to Jean Schafer

09:09:25 Rep. Galloway to Jean Schafer

09:15:57 Rep. Parry to Jean Schafer

09:19:02 Sen. Usher to Jean Schafer

09:26:32 Sen. Zolnikov to Jean Schafer

09:29:52 Mark Lambrecht

HJ 6: POWER RESERVE STUDY CONTINUED

09:30:37 Mike Cashell, Vice President, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT3](#)

Committee Discussion

10:06:00 Vice Presiding Officer Pope to Mike Cashell

10:08:52 Vice Presiding Officer Pope, clarification question on committee protocol.

10:09:18 Vice Presiding Officer Pope to Mike Cashell

10:15:17 Rep. Galloway to Mike Cashell
10:23:11 Sen. Usher to Mike Cashell
10:26:40 Sen. Molnar to Mike Cashell
10:40:56 Rep. Parry to Mike Cashell
10:44:15 Brian Dekiep, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
10:45:47 Recessed
10:59:48 Reconvened

MONTANA MOBILE PHONE PROVIDERS UPDATE

11:00:27 Jim Blundell, National Director of State Legislative Affairs, T-Mobile

[EXHIBIT4](#)

11:14:07 Eli Veenendaal, Director State Government Affairs, Verizon

Committee Discussion

11:22:34 Sen. Zolnikov to Eli Veenendaal
11:28:21 Jim Blundell responding to Sen. Zolnikov
11:30:49 Rep. Galloway to Jim Blundell
11:32:00 Sen. Zolnikov to Rep. Galloway
11:32:19 Rep. Bishop to Eli Veenendaal
11:36:04 Jim Blundell responding to Rep. Bishop
11:38:13 Sen. Usher to Eli Veenendaal
11:40:00 Jim Blundell responding to Sen. Usher
11:41:32 Rep. Parry to Eli Veenendaal and Jim Blundell
11:45:16 Vice Presiding Officer Pope to Eli Veenendaal and Jim Blundell
11:50:18 Sen. Zolnikov

Public Comment

None

Committee Discussion

11:52:25 Trevor Graff
11:54:20 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:55:53 Recessed
13:01:28 Reconvened

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OVERVIEW

13:01:47 James Brown, Public Service Commission (PSC)

[EXHIBIT5](#)

[EXHIBIT6](#)

[EXHIBIT7](#)

[EXHIBIT8](#)

13:21:58 Annie Bukacek, Commissioner, PSC

[EXHIBIT9](#)

13:35:21 James Brown

[EXHIBIT10](#)

Public Comment

Exhibit 11

Committee Discussion

13:36:12 Sen. Zolnikov
13:39:17 Trevor Graff
13:41:07 Sen. Usher
13:41:41 Rep. Parry to Trevor Graff
13:43:28 Rep. Galloway
13:43:42 Trevor Graff
13:45:08 Sen. Usher
13:45:33 Trevor Graff
13:45:48 Jameson Walker
13:46:20 Sen. Molnar to Sen. Zolnikov
13:47:59 Rep. Bishop to Trevor Graff
13:52:14 Sen. Zolnikov
13:54:13 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
13:54:31 Vice Presiding Officer Pope to James Brown
14:04:56 Sen. Zolnikov to James Brown
14:09:01 Recessed
14:24:26 Reconvened

ENERGY REGIONALIZATION: ENERGY MARKETS & RTOS IN THE WEST

14:24:31 Trevor Graff
14:25:39 Bruce Rew, Southwest Power Pool (SPP)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
14:37:06 Sarah Edmonds, Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP)
14:45:45 Holly Taylor, California (CA) ISO, Western Energy Imbalance Market
14:53:37 Adam Schultz, Manager CAISO
14:58:15 Holly Taylor, CAISO
15:01:00 Joe Stimatz, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Public Comment

None

Committee Discussion

15:16:52 Rep. Galloway
15:18:05 Joe Stimatz, NWE
15:19:08 Rep. Galloway to Sarah Edmonds, WRAP
15:28:19 Bruce Rew, SPP
15:28:52 Sen. Usher to Sarah Edmonds
15:34:27 Sen. Usher to Joe Stimatz
15:36:22 Vice Presiding Officer Pope to Joe Stimatz
15:43:41 Sen. Molnar to Joe Stimatz
15:49:32 Rep. Parry to Joe Stimatz
15:55:13 Rep. Bishop to Joe Stimatz

COMMUNICATION ADVISORY COMMISSION UPDATE

16:01:17 Sen. Dan Salomon, Chairman, Communication Advisory Commission
16:02:12 Misty Anne Giles, director, Department of Administration (DOA)

Public Comment

None

Committee Discussion

16:34:04 Rep. Parry to Misty Anne Giles, DOA
16:35:51 Rep. Bishop to Misty Anne Giles
16:39:48 Sen. Usher to Misty Anne Giles
16:42:49 Vice Presiding Officer Pope to Misty Anne Giles
16:44:57 Rep. Galloway to Misty Anne Giles
16:46:11 Sen. Molnar to Misty Anne Giles
16:48:03 Sen. Salomon

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

16:49:17 Jameson Walker
16:51:15 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
16:51:22 Sen. Zolnikov

RAILWAY INSPECTION DRAFT LANGUAGE

16:53:10 Trevor Graff

Final Adoption of Work Plan Options

16:57:19 Trevor Graff
16:57:50 Vice Presiding Officer Pope
16:58:57 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
16:59:38 Rep. Bishop
17:03:27 Sen. Usher Moved to have Trevor and three committee members meet with the PSC to create a memo or potential bill. The members are to include an invitation to the minority party to participate.

Vote:

17:06:48 Carried 7 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Molnar, voting no.

Committee Discussion

17:08:11 Trevor Graff
17:09:15 Rep. Galloway

Public Comment on Matters Within the Jurisdiction of the ETIC.

17:09:54 James Brown
17:10:31 Mekenna Sellers, Montana Renewable Energy Association

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:11:39