



# 2023-2024 WORK PLAN



Select Committee on Energy  
Resource Planning and  
Acquisition

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# ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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## LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

SENATORS	REPRESENTATIVES
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov, Chairman	Rep. Gary Parry
Sen. Mike Cuffe	Rep. Josh Kassmier
Sen. Denise Hayman	Rep. Katie Sullivan

## AGENCY & PUBLIC MEMBERS

AGENCY	PUBLIC
James Brown, PSC President	Darcy Neigum, Montana Dakota Utilities
Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Counsel	Cyndee Fang, Northwestern Energy
	Jess Melin, Independent Power Producers
	Robin Arnold, Renewable Northwest

## STAFF MEMBERS

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Jacelyn Sterling	Secretary		<a href="mailto:Jacelyn.Sterling@legmt.gov">Jacelyn.Sterling@legmt.gov</a>

COMMITTEE WEBSITE:

<https://leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/special-select-committee-erpa/>

# INTRODUCTION

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## PURPOSE OF WORK PLAN

This is the work plan for the Special Committee on Energy Resource Planning and Acquisition (SCERPA) for the 2023-24 interim. This document is meant to be comprehensive, yet flexible. The work plan approved by the committee is designed to provide direction to staff.

The SCERPA was created during the 2021 session with the passage of House Bill 220 with the charge to examine and identify potential issues within the energy resource planning, acquisition, and approval processes in the Montana Code Annotated. The bill provides narrow focus for the committee that the following plan aims to achieve.

## COMMITTEE APPROACH

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The select committee nature of the SCERPA allows for a different approach from the standing Energy and Telecommunications interim committee. The following is an attempt to layout a proposed approach for the group over the course of the interim.

## BASIC STUDY PROCESS

An interim study typically involves information gathering, issue identification, and recommendations. The SCERPA may take a similar yet streamlined approach to the topic at hand. The proposed plan would function in three phases.



The first phase of the study can be carried out over three seminar meetings on the following topics:

- The integrated resource plan (IRP) process in Montana;
- The resource acquisition and bidding process; and
- Resource approval processes in the state.

Each phase one meeting will begin with an overview of the current state of the process and its function in Montana. Further the committee will have the opportunity to gain context from regional and national experts regarding other existing policies surrounding each topics.

The last function of a seminar meeting will include an open dialogue among members to identify each members' issues regarding each of the processes. This information will be collected and maintained for phase two of the committee's work.

In the second phase, the Committee will circle back to the collected list of issues in an effort to identify trending problems and develop potential solutions. Ideally, the group will identify a strategy for development and review.

During the final stage, members review and decide on an option for action. Potential solutions, include legislation, buy my also be reports to the legislature. The product may be finished in a single meeting or refined at multiple meetings before the Committee takes final action.

## WORK PLAN TIMELINE

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The following timeline provides an outline of how the SCERPA will accomplish its work plan. The timeline may be updated or revised to address scheduling, emerging issues, or to reallocate staff time. This includes the proposed dates aligning with ETIC meetings. The committee may want to consider an expedited timeline, which can be discussed during our organizational meeting.

August 2, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elect officers</li> <li>▪ Discuss and adopt draft work plan</li> <li>▪ Adopt committee rules</li> <li>▪ Adopt meeting dates</li> </ul>
Sept. 29	<p>Integrated Resource Planning Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In-State Overview</li> <li>▪ National and Regional Context</li> <li>▪ Issues Assessment</li> <li>▪ Public Comment</li> </ul>
Jan. 10, 2024	<p>Resource Acquisition Process Seminar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In-State Overview</li> <li>▪ National and Regional Context</li> <li>▪ Issues Assessment</li> <li>▪ Public Comment</li> </ul>
Feb. 12	<p>Resource Approval Process Seminar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In-State Overview</li> <li>▪ National and Regional Context</li> <li>▪ Issues Assessment</li> <li>▪ Public Comment</li> </ul>
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Issue Assessment</li> <li>▪ Potential Legislation Development</li> </ul>

May 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Review of final product (Legislation or Report)</li></ul>
Subsequent Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Dates and processes may be developed to facilitate further discussion if needed.</li></ul>

**Committee interim work must be completed September 15, 2024.**