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Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

60th Montana Legislature

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ETIC to host petroleum panel, wrap up interim

The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee meets September 4 and will host a petroleum panel discussion.

In July, the ETIC requested a series of speakers be invited to the next meeting to discuss increasing petroleum prices, oil production in Montana, taxation and price differentials, and the impact higher prices may have on Montana's economy.

Speakers invited to-date include: John Felmy, chief economist, American Petroleum Institute; Tom Richmond, administrator, Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation; Beth Claude, manager, state and government affairs, Enbridge Pipelines Inc.; Terry Johnson, principal fiscal analyst, Legislative Services; Eric Dale, associate revenue analyst, Office of Budget and Program Planning; Bob Decker, executive director, The Policy Institute; Scott Rickard, director, Center for Applied Economic Research, Montana State University -- Billings; and Pat Barkey, director, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana -- Missoula.

At the September meeting, the ETIC will finalize its 16-month study of carbon sequestration. Earlier this summer, the ETIC released a report "Carbon Sequestration Study: An analysis of geological and terrestrial carbon sequestration regulatory and policy issues." Based on public comment, the ETIC requested modifications to the report. Members will review those changes. In completing its work, the ETIC will decide whether to advance a proposed geological carbon sequestration study resolution to the 2009 Legislature.

The ETIC also will finalize its report titled "Perspectives on Public Power: A review of the public power model, its history, and its potential in Montana." Mike Ryan, regional director of the Great Plains Region of the Bureau of Reclamation, also is invited to discuss Pick Sloan project use power.

The ETIC meets September 4 in room 172 of the Capitol. Meeting materials, a draft agenda, and additional information on the ETIC and its studies are available on the ETIC Website at www.leg.mt.gov/etic.