

**2017-18 Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee
Work Plan Decision Matrix**

Topic	Why is this a topic?	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Resources Allocated
The following studies were assigned to the ETIC by Legislative Council.						
Study Utility Decoupling	SJ 31	<p>.4 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Option B ◦ Expanded analysis of decoupling options ◦ Review methods used in other states ◦ Quantify Montana specific merits and drawbacks to decoupling ◦ Analysis of utility and ratepayer impacts <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Interim report ◦ Legislation 	<p>.3 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Option C ◦ Multiple panel discussions ◦ Limited analysis of different forms of decoupling ◦ Review of options to address sales fluctuations ◦ Analysis of other Western states experiences <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ White paper ◦ Legislation 	<p>.15 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Panel discussion with utilities, the PSC, and experts ◦ Engage experts in analysis and information gathering ◦ Summary of decoupling methods based on panel discussion <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Summary of decoupling ◦ Legislation 	No Action	.4 FTE
Study Renewable Energy Credits	SJ 2		<p>.03 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Option C ◦ Evaluate REC reporting requirements in neighboring Western states ◦ Assess use of MRETS and WREGIS for the purposes of REC verification <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ White paper ◦ Brochure ◦ Legislation 	<p>.01 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Review REC requirements and use of RECs in Montana ◦ Analysis of options to further reporting in Montana ◦ Panel with stakeholders to solicit suggestions for further efforts <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Brochure ◦ Legislation 	No Action	.00 FTE
Study Natural Gas Utility Customer Choice	HJ 28	<p>.6 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Option B ◦ NorthWestern Energy experiences with choice (Limited) ◦ Review of other Western state experiences with customer choice ◦ Panel with industry experts <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Interim report ◦ Legislation 	<p>.2 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Option C ◦ Request utilities provide estimated costs for choice and methods used to establish estimates ◦ Staff analysis, largely driven by PSC staff, of estimates ◦ Panel with PSC and customer choice companies on state regulation <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ White paper ◦ Legislation 	<p>.005 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Request the PSC investigate the topic and report to the ETIC ◦ Panel with PSC, customer choice companies, and utilities to solicit suggestions for further changes in law <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Legislation 		.2 FTE
The following are the ETIC's statutory duties						
Review state energy policy	Statute		<p>0.25 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ In-depth review of energy policy and discussion of change ◦ Involve public and agencies in review ◦ Explore energy export markets <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Report ◦ Potential legislation 	<p>0.002 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Review existing energy policy as required by statute. Provide for public input on policy <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Summary of public comment received and of ETIC discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Discuss and review increasing relevancy ◦ Review of selected policy topics 	.05 FTE

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Review administrative rules	Statute		<p>0.03 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff provides ETIC copies of notices for the adoption of rules on all ETIC subjects (Members to inform staff or Chair if they want more information) Committee requests it be copied on notification letters that the DPSR and/or PSC is sending to legislators who were primary sponsors of laws that the agency is now promulgating rules for Committee attorney monitors and provides synopses of rules or subjects 	<p>0.02 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff provides ETIC copies of notices for the adoption of rules on certain ETIC subjects (Members to inform staff or Chair if they want more information) Committee requests that it be copied on notification letters that the DPSR and/or PSC is sending to legislators who were primary sponsors of laws that the agency is now promulgating rules for 		.02 FTE
Review agency legislation	Statute		<p>0.005 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee reviews proposals from the DSPR and/or PSC and decides if staff should draft legislation for preintroduction 			.005 FTE
Monitor PSC activities	Statute	<p>0.05 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor or investigate aspects of PSC programs 	<p>0.03 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor or investigate aspects of a program, if and when ETIC chooses 			.05 FTE
Review utility USB reports	Statute	<p>1 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of Option B. Analysis of USB program Analysis of large customer reports Panel discussions <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential legislation Final report with alternatives and recommendations 	<p>0.03 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee reviews utility reports and decides if any comments on compliance are needed and if staff should assist Collect public comment <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential legislation 			.03 FTE
Review geothermal research	Statute		<p>0.002 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee reviews Bureau of Mines and Geology reports and determines if comments are needed or if staff should assist 			.002 FTE
Review Hydroelectric Projects	Statute		<p>0.002 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee reviews DNRC reports and determines if comments are needed or if staff should assist 			.002 FTE
Review High-Performance Building Program	Statute		<p>0.002 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee reviews DOA reports related to the use of high-performance buildings 			.002 FTE
Review 9-1-1 next-generation grants	Statute		<p>0.002 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee receives report from DOA on distribution of grants for next-generation 9-1-1 infrastructure 			.002 FTE

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The following topics are <u>optional</u> and it is up to ETIC committee members whether to pursue them as studies or as potential agenda items.						
Revise ETIC publications	Historic precedence	.2 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhaul and complete update of <i>Understanding Electricity in Montana</i> Minimal updates to <i>The Citizens Guide</i> ETIC reviews and approves updates 	.05 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal updates to <i>The Citizens Guide</i> Limited updates to <i>Understanding Electricity in Montana</i> ETIC reviews and approves updates 	.02 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal updates to <i>The Citizens Guide</i> Link to DEQ's updated statistics to <i>Understanding Electricity in Montana</i> ETIC reviews and approves updates 		.05 FTE
Public Service Commission Review of Net Metering			.05 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option C Committee discussion and additional involvement in net metering review Provide PSC with recommendations and findings Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper Legislation 	.002 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive updates at each meeting from PSC and utilities Summary of findings and recommendations Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary Legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff monitors and provides updates on PSC activity 	.01 FTE
Regulatory Climate for Energy Generation			.1 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations from developers Summary of incentives and burdens Overview of actions in other neighboring states Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summaries Legislation 			.1 FTE
Programmatic Review	Expanded Duties	.2-Avail FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option B Multiple staff reports on subject Multiple agency presentations In-depth review of subject Possible subcommittee effort Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper Legislation 	.06-.2 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option C History and overview of applicable statutes Staff interviews with program personnel Staff summaries of related audit and fiscal work and any court decisions Additional staff research Legal review of specific subjects Multiple regulated community panels Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff report Legislation 	.02-.06 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (See attached document) Staff summary of program Agency presentation Bibliography of related materials including audits or fiscal analysis, including court cases Regulated community panel Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary with potential recommendations Legislation 		.07 FTE Focus on: 1. Small water/ sewer utilities 2. IRP and Resource Planning Processes
Total						.993 FTE

FTE Available to ETIC

- .05 FTE = 144 hrs = 18 days
- .10 FTE = 288 hrs = 36 days
- .50 FTE = 1440 hrs = 180 days
- .75 FTE = 2160 hrs = 270 days
- 1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hours

