PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE
68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS	HOUSE MEMBERS	COMMITTEE STAFF
Brad Molnar	Laurie Bishop	Trevor Graff - Research Analyst
Christopher Pope	Steven Galloway	Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary
Jacelyn Sterling	Gary Parry	Jameson Walker - Attorney
Barry Usher	Katie Zolnikov	
Daniel Zolnikov		

MINUTES LOG

January 18, 2024
102
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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at https://leg.mt.gov. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed.
Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Chair (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Sen. Brad Molnar (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

09:01:51 Presiding Officer Christopher Pope, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

HJ 6: POWER RESERVE STUDY

09:05:29 Trevor Graff

09:06:23 Doug Hardy, Montana Central Electric Cooperatives Association

09:16:45 Mark Lambrecht, Director, Governors Affairs, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)

09:21:44 Mike Cashell, NorthWestern Energy

09:29:12 Thor Nelson, Montana Large Customer Group (LCG)

Public Comment

09:43:00 Diego Rivas, Northwest Energy Coalition

09:49:59 Nick Fitzmaurice, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

09:52:56 Kyle Unruh, Renewable Northwest

Committee Questions, Discussion

09:55:01 Sen. Zolnikov

09:56:38 Thor Nelson, LCG

09:59:30 Sen. Zolnikov

09:59:57 Mike Cashell

10:03:09 Sen. Zolnikov

10:04:06 Mike Cashell

10:05:18 Rep. Galloway

10:06:30 Sen. Usher

10:08:14 Mark Lambrecht, MECA

10:10:48 Sen usher EDIT

10:15:33 Diego Rivas

10:17:30 Kyle Unruh

10:18:15 Nick Fitzmaurice, MEIC

10:18:43 Sen. Usher

10:19:03 Sen. Molnar

10:29:04 Mike Cashell

10:30:27 Sen. Molnar

10:30:46 Thor Nelson

10:31:55 Rep. Bishop

10:33:13 Thor Nelson
10:36:17 Rep. Bishop
10:38:40 Mike Cashell
10:39:38 Rep. Parry
10:42:36 Mike Cashell
10:42:09 Rep. Parry
10:44:57 Thor Nelson
10:47:20 Rep. Parry
10:47:30 Mike Cashell
10:49:59 Rep. Galloway
10:50:51 Thor Nelson
10:53:01 Rep. Galloway
10:53:32 Doug Hardy
10:57:11 Rep. Bishop
10:58:00 Mike Cashell
11:01:17 Sen. Usher
11:01:40 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy
11:04:37 Rep. Bishop
11:05:07 Chris Puyear
11:05:30 Sen. Molnar
11:06:41 Mike Cashell
11:07:08 Presiding Officer Pope

Recess
11:08:10

Reconvened
11:17:27

ENERGY REGIONALIZATION: MONTANA TRANSMISSION
11:18:18 Trevor Graff
11:19:01 Mike Cashell, NorthWestern Energy

Public Comment
None

Committee Questions, Discussion
11:45:55 Rep. Galloway
11:46:14 Mike Cashell
11:46:41 Sen. Molnar
11:48:58 Mike Cashell

11:50:43 Rep. Parry
11:53:10 Mike Cashell
11:53:56 Rep. Parry
11:54:25 Presiding Officer Pope
11:54:52 Mike Cashell
11:57:09 Presiding Officer Pope
11:57:59 Diego Rivas, Northwest Energy Coalition
11:59:00 Presiding Officer Pope

MONTANA RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS UPDATE

11:59:24 Trevor Graff
11:59:56 Jim Hogan, Puget Sound Energy

Public Comment

None

Committee Questions, Discussion

12:06:34 Presiding Officer Pope
12:10:07 Jim Hogan
12:10:55 Rep. Bishop
12:11:12 Jim Hogan
12:12:35 Sen. Usher
12:13:43 Jim Hogan

Recess for Lunch

12:15:30

Reconvened

13:19:14

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) OVERVIEW

13:19:53 Trevor Graff
13:20:02 James Brown, President, PSC
13:21:40 David Sanders, Executive Director, PSC
13:22:15 James Brown
EXHIBIT1
EXHIBIT2
EXHIBIT3
EXHIBT4
EXHIBIT5

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PIPELINE SAFETY OVERVIEW

13:30:01 Joel Tierney, PSC

EXHIBIT6

Public Comment

13:44:53 Anne Hedges, MEIC

Committee Questions, Discussion

13:46:35 Rep. Parry

13:46:52 Joel Tierney

13:47:29 James Brown

13:49:33 Presiding Officer Pope

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISION UPDATES

13:50:06 James Brown

13:53:19 Tony O'Donnell, Commissioner, PSC
EXHIBIT7

Public Comment

14:16:15 Diego Rivas, Northwest Energy Coalition

14:19:12 Mark Lambrecht, Director, Governors Affairs, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association

14:21:20 Tony O'Donell

Committee Questions, Discussion

14:21:41 Rep. Galloway

14:22:15 Mark Lambrecht

14:24:57 Rep. Galloway

14:25:37 James Brown

14:28:53 Rep. Galloway

14:29:15 James Brown

14:31:15 Presiding Officer Pope

14:32:00 James Brown

14:35:12 Sen. Molnar

Recessed

14:37:31

Reconvened

14:45:39

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

14:46:02 James Brown, President, PSC

14:47:25 Dan Sherwood, Railroad Program Manager, PSC
EXHIBIT8

Public Comment

None

Committee Questions, Discussion

15:02:38 Rep. Galloway
15:03:08 Dan Sherwood
15:04:14 Rep. Parry
15:05:03 Dan Sherwood
15:06:23 Rep. Bishop
15:09:16 Dan Sherwood

RAILWAY INSPECTION DRAFT LANGUAGE

15:10:07 James Brown, PSC
EXHIBT9

15:20:40 Trevor Graff
EXHIBIT10

15:21:34 Sen. Usher
15:21:57 Trevor Graff
15:27:41 Presiding Officer Pope
15:27:51 James Brown
15:28:56 Rep. Bishop
15:29:58 Will Rosquist, Regulatory Division Administrator, PSC
15:31:02 Rep. Bishop
15:31:55 James Brown
15:33:41 Rep. Parry
15:34:13 Trevor Graff
15:35:55 Sen. Usher
15:37:07 Trevor Graff
15:37:54 Sen. Molnar
15:38:14 Sen. Usher
15:38:37 Sen. Molnar
15:39:10 Trevor Graff
15:40:01 Sen. Molnar
15:40:40 Trevor Graff
15:42:31 Sen. Zolnikov
15:44:07 Rep. Bishop
15:45:35 James Brown
15:46:47 Rep. Galloway
15:47:33 Rep. Parry

Motion

15:48:09 Sen. Usher made a motion to move forward with the draft language of the bill with the diverting funds.

Vote:

15:48:09 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Questions, Discussion

15:50:22 Rep. Galloway

15:50:44 James Brown

15:51:24 Sen. Zolnikov

GRIDLAB/ENERGY STRATEGIES MONTANA RESOURCE ADEQUACY STUDY

15:53:23 Trevor Graff

15:54:59 Priya Sreedharan, GridLab
EXHIBIT11

16:01:07 Alex Palomino, GridLab

16:02:33 Sen. Usher left.

Public Comment

16:24:34 Bruce Spencer, Montana Energy Business Alliance

16:25:56 Makenna Sellers, Executive Director, Montana Renewable Energy Association

Committee Questions, Discussion

16:27:30 Rep. Parry

16:28:05 Rep. Bishop

16:28:50 Rep. Parry

16:29:53 Presiding Officer Pope

16:30:23 Priya Sreedharan

16:33:08 Rep. Galloway

16:34:08 Alex Palamino

16:35:48 Priya Sreedharan

16:36:27 Rep. Galloway

16:37:55 Priya Sreedharan

16:40:04 Presiding Officer Pope

16:40:58 Priya Sreedharan

Administrative Rule Review

16:42:52 Jameson Walker

Other Business/Instructions to Staff

16:43:32 Trevor Graff
16:47:05 Presiding Officer Pope
16:48:34 Rep. Galloway
16:50:43 Sen. Molnar
16:52:53 Presiding Officer Pope
16:53:16 Rep. Bishop
16:55:06 Rep. Parry
16:55:46 Rep. Galloway

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:57:36