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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

September 28, 2023
137
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)
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 Veenedaal
11:36:04 Jim Blundell responding to Rep. Bishop
11:38:13 Sen. Usher to Eli Veenedaal
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 COMISSION 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