

Proposal

That ETIC formally request the directors of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), and Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (MBOGC)

to each designate the appropriate knowledgeable staff member[s] to participate in a one-time interagency working group to:

1. Review the existing statutory and regulatory steps required to permit a hypothetical 50 MW Enhanced Geothermal System (EGS) plant in Montana, using a provided project scope outline (e.g., site selection, drilling, water injection, environmental reviews, and power generation).
2. Identify any gaps, overlaps, or barriers in the current process (e.g., under MFSA for large facilities, water rights, UIC injection permits, or drilling approvals).
3. Determine if new legislation is needed, or if Montana is already positioned to attract these projects.

Outcome: the vision is to collate and summarize existing information and working knowledge in the agencies from which shall be generated a 2-5 page summary report of findings and recommendations, delivered to ETIC by its March, 2026 meeting.