



# Energy and Technology Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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## SENATE MEMBERS

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GAYLE LAMMERS  
CHRISTOPHER POPE  
DANIEL ZOLNIKOV- Chair

## HOUSE MEMBERS

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## COMMITTEE STAFF

GRIFFIN BURNS, Lead Staff  
JAMESON WALKER, Staff Attorney  
JACELYN STERLING, Secretary

## Energy and Technology Interim Committee State Capitol, Room 102 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 9th

AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

- 9:00 a.m.                    **Call to Order - Roll Call**
- 9:05 a.m.                    **2024 Universal Systems Benefit (USB) Reports- Statutory Duty**
1. Purpose of USB and 2024 Data -- Mr. Burns
  2. Public Comment
  3. Questions/Comments from the Committee
- 9:20 a.m.                    **Geothermal Research Update- Statutory Duty**
1. Bureau of Mines and Geology Geothermal Research- John LaFave
  2. Public Comment
  3. Questions/comments from the committee
- 10:00 a.m.                    **Utility Wildfire Mitigation Operations- NorthWestern Energy (NWE), Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA), and Montana-Dakota Utilities(MDU)**
1. NWE Wildfire Mitigation Efforts- Jason Merkel & Nate Linder
  2. MECA Wildfire Mitigation Efforts- Mark Lambrecht, CEO
  3. MDU Wildfire Mitigation Efforts- MDU Representative
  4. Public Comment
  5. Questions/Comments from the committee
- 10:45 a.m.                    **Break**
- 11:00 a.m.                    **BNSF Easements and Utility Permitting**

1. Introduction – Chair Zolnikov
2. BNSF Permitting Process- Matt Jones & Cary Hutchings, BNSF
3. BNSF Agreements- Mark Lambrecht, Bridger Mahlum (Broadband MT)
4. Municipality Permitting Issues- Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns
5. Public Comment
6. Questions/Comments from the committee

12:15 a.m. **LUNCH**

- 1:00 p.m. **Public Service Commission Update**
1. Commission Update – Commissioners, Staff
  2. Public Comment
  3. Questions/Comments from the Committee

- 1:30 p.m. **Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (HJ4) – National Conference of State Legislatures (NSCL) AI Toolkit**
1. NCSL Resources - Chelsea Canada, NSCL
  2. Public Comment
  3. Questions/Comments from the Committee

- 2:00 p.m. **Intro to SJ 12/21- Montana Transmission Pathways**
1. Montana Alberta Tie Line Overview- Sharmen Andrew, Director of Operations, BHE Canada
  2. Bonneville Power Administration Transmission Intertie and Proposed Upgrades- Kate Wilson, Mike Normandeau & Chris Lockman, BPA
  3. NWE Transmission Overview- Mike Cashell, VP of Transmission
  4. Public Comment
  5. Questions/Comments from the Committee

3:00 p.m. **Break**

- 3:15 p.m. **Adoption of Work Plan & Open Workshop**
1. Work Plan Adoption- all members
  2. Bill Draft Workshop, if needed- all members
  3. Letter of Support for Bonneville Power Administration’s M2W Project- all members
  4. Public Comment
  5. Committee Action

4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

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**Written public comment** may be submitted either through the [online form](#) for written comment or by mailing the comments to the Energy and Technology (ETIC) Interim Committee, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

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