

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, July 20, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W015 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Gregory S. Bell, Senate Chair
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen, House Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Beverly Evans
Sen. Darin G. Peterson
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
Rep. Fred R. Hunsaker
Rep. Rosalind J. McGee
Rep. Michael E. Noel

Rep. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Aaron Tilton
Rep. David Ure
Rep. Richard W. Wheeler

Members Absent:

Rep. Ben C. Ferry

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Mr. Christopher R. Parker, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Phalin L. Flowers, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Rep. Ure, and Rep. Wheeler absent for the vote.

2. General Agreement on Trades in Services (GATS) Review

Mr. North introduced this issue. He distributed and discussed "Legislative Oversight - Trade Issues." He explained the process that California has followed in managing this issue. He explained that the Committee needs to know how much money is at stake concerning GATS and who should decide what are the best interests of the state. He also explained that trade rules do not regulate trade; they regulate the power of government to influence trade.

Mr. Brian Farr, Attorney General's Office, spoke to the Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to create a working group with the Attorney General and the Governor to draft legislation that will establish a commission or committee with trade oversight. She also volunteered to chair the working group.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Ure moved to have Rep. Daw, Rep. Fowlke, and Rep. Tiltion added to the working group proposed by Rep. Allen. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Sen. Peterson, Rep. McGee, and Rep. Wheeler absent for the vote.

3. State Energy Policy Working Group Report

Rep. Becker gave a report on the progress of the State Energy Policy Working Group. He explained the creation of four sub-groups and that these sub-groups are to study efficiency, consumption, and consumers; energy development; transmission and transportation; and governmental organizations.

4. Energy Policy - Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Mr. Steve Bloch, Staff Attorney, SUWA (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance), distributed and discussed "The Facts About Oil and Gas Development on Utah's Public Lands" and "U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works Hearing Statements." He explained that SUWA supports a balanced approach to energy issues, which includes promoting energy efficiency and conservation. He also explained that SUWA believes the enforcement of existing environmental laws and regulations haven't created any serious impediments to gas development.

5. Municipal Power Plant Revenue Transfer Disclosure

Rep. Tilton introduced this item. He also introduced Mr. Mac Curtis, State Auditor's Office.

Mr. Curtis distributed and discussed "Proposed Language to Clarify Notice Requirements for Budget Transfers from Utility Funds." He explained several proposed statutory changes to provide a clear accounting trail when municipalities transfer money from their power generation accounts to the municipality's general fund.

Mr. Roger Tew, Utah League of Cities and Towns, and Mr. Ted Rampton, Utah Association of Municipal Power Systems, spoke against the presented language.

Mr. Mike Jerman, Utah Taxpayers Association, spoke in favor of the presented language.

Mr. Ronald Mortensen, representing Citizensfortaxfairness.org, spoke in favor of the presented language.

MOTION: Rep Tilton moved to adopt language into draft legislation and bring it back to the Committee.

The motion was withdrawn until actual legislation is presented to the Committee.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

Sen. Bell noted that the Committee was authorized to have a joint meeting with the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee to create a state energy policy.

MOTION: Rep. Ure moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Sen. Evans, Sen. Peterson, Rep. Becker, Rep. Hunsaker, and Rep. Noel absent for the vote.

Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.