

**MINUTES OF THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 16, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W015 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair  
Rep. Michael E. Noel, House Chair  
Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Carlene M. Walker  
Rep. Roger E. Barrus  
Rep. Ralph Becker  
Rep. Jim Bird  
Rep. Janice M. Fisher  
Rep. Lynn M. Hemingway  
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro  
Rep. Kay L. McIff  
Rep. Aaron Tilton  
Rep. Richard W. Wheeler

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Darin G. Peterson  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Christopher R. Parker, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.leg.utah.gov](http://www.leg.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Noel called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Becker and Rep. Wheeler were absent for the vote.

**2. Carbon Gasification Projects: Utah**

Mr. Jim Guthrie, President, and Mr. Neal Richter, Technical Advisory Board, Viresco Energy, distributed a packet which included "Private Firm Leads Hydrogasification to Pilot Scale," "Atmospheric Processes Research," "Emissions and Fuels Research," "Environmental Modeling and Policy," "Sustainable Energy Systems Research," "Transportation Systems Research," "Production of Synthesis Gas for Liquid Fuel Synthesis Using a Steam Hydrogasification and Reforming Process," and "Characteristics of steam hydrogasification of wood using a micro-batch reactor."

Dr. Joseph Norbeck, Professor of Engineering, Environmental Research Institute, University of California at Riverside, discussed the gasification process.

Mr. Guthrie said they are hoping that the Legislature will not pass legislation that will make the production of diesel fuel illegal in the state and responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. John Baza, Director, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, responding to a committee question, commented on coal production in the state during the past year.

Mr. Nick Rahn, Vice President, PacifiCorp Energy, presented a brief overview of gasification technology and PacifiCorp's plans for the future.

**3. Energy Resource Extraction Process: Permitting**

Mr. Baza distributed and presented "Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, A Briefing for the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee," and responded to questions from the Committee.

**4. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Noel adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.