

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, October 17, 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. Darin G. Peterson
Sen. Carlene M. Walker
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Lynn M. Hemingway
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Aaron Tilton
Rep. Brad Winn

Members Excused:

Rep. Roger E. Barrus

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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Noel called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dmitrich, Sen. Peterson, Rep. Becker, Rep. Hemingway, Rep. McIff, and Rep. Tilton were absent for the vote.

2. Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee on Climate Change

Mr. James O'Neil distributed "Comments by Jim O'Neal on Nuclear Power Plant Proposal" He's against nuclear power. Rates went up in Tennessee, etc.

Sen. Bramble distributed 2008 General Session draft legislation "Energy Resource and Carbon Emission Reduction Initiative."

Mr. Richard Walje, President, Rocky Mountain Power, is talking about why the legislation was drafted and major aspects of it.

3. Sex Offender Email Registration: Draft Legislation

Rep. Bird introduced and discussed the provisions of 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Email Information Required of Registered Sex Offenders."

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to recommend 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Email Information Required of Registered Sex Offenders" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Peterson and Sen. Walker were absent for the vote.

4. Energy Efficiency Report

Ms. Sarah Wright, Director, Utah Clean Energy, distributed and presented "Utah Energy Efficiency Strategy: Policy Options." Ms. Wright made recommendations to the Legislature including the expansion of natural gas utility energy efficiency programs, clean-car standards for new cars and light trucks, utility incentives, lamp and appliance efficiency standards, and a broad based public education campaign.

Rep. Becker suggested the Committee sponsor legislation to begin addressing some of these issues.

Sen. Walker asked Ms. Wright for a priority list of recommendations to be addressed in legislation for the coming session.

Mr. Phil Powlick, State Energy Manager, said that every state building is required to comply with the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code which went into effect on January 1, 2007.

Sen. Jenkins asked staff for research information on any energy efficiency requirements in statute.

Ms. Kim Hood, Executive Director, Department of Administrative Services, responded to questions about building standards in the state. She said the state has adopted High Performance Building Standards, comparable to the requirements of the Silver LEED Certification Program at the federal level.

Committee discussion followed.

5. Rocky Mountain Power: The Future of Energy Generation

Mr. Richard Walje, President, Rocky Mountain Power, distributed "Rocky Mountain Power's Comments on the Utah Renewable Energy Initiative." He also distributed and presented "Utah Valley Executive Summit" and discussed Rocky Mountain Power's plans for adding new generation capacity.

Sen. Walker said it is good for the Committee to be addressing all possibilities for future power generation.

6. Nuclear Power

Dr. David Hill, Deputy Laboratory Director, Science and Technology, Idaho National Laboratory, distributed and presented "Clean, Safe Nuclear Energy." Dr. Hill briefed the Committee on the current status of nuclear energy in the United States and said that a resurgence of interest in nuclear power is due in part to the growing demand for clean energy. Dr. Hill commented on some of the issues relating to nuclear power including finances and waste management, and discussed the future reprocessing of nuclear materials.

Rep. Tilton distributed and reviewed "Introduction Summary to Transition Power Development, LLC." As Managing Director and CEO of Transition Power Development, LLC, Rep. Tilton introduced others on the management team, and explained their focus to find a suitable site in Utah for the deployment of safe, reliable, secure, and economic nuclear power generation.

Dr. Nils Diaz, former Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, addressed the Committee. He commended the Committee for discussing the option of nuclear power. Dr. Diaz spoke in favor of nuclear power, stating that the nuclear industry is safe, reliable, and cost effective to operate. Dr. Diaz responded to

questions about the storage of nuclear waste and the possibilities of reprocessing it in the future when viable technology has been developed.

Mr. Gordan Dahle, Energy Solutions, spoke in favor of the investigation of nuclear technology in the state.

7. Federal Exemptions for Alternative Energy Projects on Federal Land

Mr. Mike Devine, Attorney and Chief Operating Officer, Shoshone Energy, commented on availability of federal land suitable for geothermal development.

Mr. Reed Searle responded to questions about the review and approval process necessary before breaking ground for any utility.

8. Other Items / Adjourn

Mr. Parker distributed "Differences Between Draft Bill and Current Law and Practice," as requested by Rep. Fisher at the previous meeting.

Chair Noel adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.