

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, November 14, 2007 – 8:30 a.m. – Room W015 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. Scott K. Jenkins, House Chair
Sen. Michael E. Noel, Senate Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Darin G. Peterson
Sen. Carlene M. Walker
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
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. Ralph Becker

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.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Dmitrich moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Nuclear Energy Comment Wrap-Up

Mr. James O'Neal, citizen, distributed "Comments by Jim O'Neal on Nuclear Power Plant Proposal" and spoke in opposition to a nuclear power plant in the state.

3. Energy Resource and Carbon Reduction Initiative: Draft Legislation

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

Mr. Richard Walje, President, Rocky Mountain Power, discussed the provisions of the proposed legislation and responded to questions from the Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Mascaro moved to move to the next speaker. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Barrus and Rep. Tilton were absent for the vote.

Chair Jenkins invited Mr. Christopher Thomas, Policy Director, The Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah, to comment on agenda item #2, Nuclear Energy. Mr. Thomas spoke briefly in support of renewable technologies.

4. Renewable Energy Tax Credit Utilization Report

Mr. North distributed and reviewed "Financial Incentives for Renewable Energy."

Mr. Phil Powlick, Manager, State Energy Program, Utah Geological Survey, distributed and discussed "Utah Renewable Energy Tax Credits Utilization History."

5. Alternative Energy Projects on Federal Land

Mr. Jason Berry, Renewable Energy Coordinator, State Energy Program, Utah Geological Survey, distributed and presented "Renewable Energy Development and Public Lands in Utah."

Staff distributed "Bureau of Land Management Lands and Realty: Solar Energy" and "The Bureau of Land Management News: New Policy Encourages Solar Energy Development on America's Public Lands."

6. Damage to Underground Facilities Act Amendment: Draft Legislation

This item was not discussed.

7. Water Right For An Electrical Cooperative: Draft Legislation

Rep. Gordon Snow discussed provisions of 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Water Right Application for Electrical Cooperative."

Mr. David Crabtree, General Counsel, Deseret Generation and Transmission, responded to questions from the Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Fisher moved to recommend 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Water Right Application for Electrical Cooperative" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Tilton was absent for the vote.

8. Climate Change Science

Mr. Paul Mero, President, Sutherland Institute, distributed and discussed the CD "Search for Climate Change" which contains a presentation on global warming given by John R. Christy, PhD. Mr. Mero also distributed the DVD "Global Warming."

9. Criminal Amendments: Administrative Rules Review

Mr. Parker distributed and invited committee discussion about "Criminal Penalty Statutes."

Rep. McIff remarked that the authority to define criminal penalties should be given only to members of the Legislature.

10. Oil Shale Exploration Report

Mr. Don Elcan, Managing Principal, Oil Shale Exploration Company, distributed "America's Vast Oil Shale Resource" and briefed the Committee on the results of their oil shale testing at the White River Mine in Uintah County.

11. Department of Technology Services Annual Report

Mr. Stephen Fletcher, Executive Director, Department of Technology Services, distributed and presented "Annual Technology Report" and "2007 Annual Technology Report."

12. State Energy Advisor's Annual Report

Dr. Dianne Nielson, Governor's Energy Advisor, State of Utah, distributed and reported on the CD "Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change," "Utah Renewable Energy Initiative Focus Group" and "State Energy Advisor's Annual Report 2007."

13. Other Items / Adjourn

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

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.