

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

Wednesday, May 21, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – Room C415 State Capitol

Members Present:

Rep. Scott K. Jenkins, House Chair
Sen. Michael E. Noel, Senate Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Carlene M. Walker
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Lynn M. Hemingway
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Aaron Tilton
Rep. Brad Winn

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.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Noel called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. McIff moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Underground Sewage Facilities

Mr. Leland Myers, General Manager, Central Davis Sewer District, distributed "Sewer Lateral Marking Issue."

Mr. Myers introduced the issue, reviewed the background of Item #174 from 2008 General Session S.J.R. 11, "Master Study Resolution," and explained the problem of locating underground utilities so that they are not damaged when a contractor drills.

Mr. W. Gary Hansen, Executive Director, Blue Stakes of Utah, discussed the work of Blue Stakes of Utah Utility Notification Center, Inc. in processing utility location requests and providing underground utility damage prevention education throughout the state.

Mr. Craig Sorensen, Chief Operating Officer, Sorensen Companies, Inc., explained the safety issue associated with accidentally drilling through a sewer lateral for a high voltage power or gas line. He stated that because contractors are often held responsible for damaging the unmarked utilities getting insurance has become more difficult.

Mr. Chris Tschirki, Orem City, and Mr. Pat Richter, President, Americom Technology, Inc., responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Myers offered some recommendations and responded to questions from the Committee.

Rep. Mascaro asked the Committee to consider studying who is legally responsible for utility lateral maintenance on public property.

3. Utilities in Mobile Home Parks

Representative Kory M. Holdaway distributed "Utility Provision of Mobile Home Park Residency Act," and introduced the issue.

Ms. Betsy Wolf, Salt Lake Community Action Program, discussed provisions of 2008 General Session H.B. 335, "Mobile Home Park Amendments," and asked for further consideration of the issue by the Committee.

Mr. Paul Burke, Attorney, Ray, Quinney, & Nebeker P.C., requested that the Legislature make a policy decision that is fair and consistent regarding who is responsible for maintenance of mobile home park facilities and how costs and utility rates are calculated.

Mr. Rick Rappaport, Cohne, Rappaport, & Segal, P.C., said there was no reason to change the statute.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

Staff distributed "Open and Public Meetings Act."

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

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.