

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

Wednesday, August 20, 2008 – 3:00 p.m. – Room C415 State Capitol

Members Present:

Rep. Scott K. Jenkins, House Chair
Sen. Michael E. Noel, Senate Chair
Sen. Carlene M. Walker
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Lynn M. Hemingway
Rep. Aaron Tilton
Rep. Brad Winn

Members Excused:

Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Darin G. Peterson
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Kay L. McIff

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Ms. Shannon C. Halverson, 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 3:07 p.m.

2. Populus - Ben Lomond Utility Transmission Corridor Update

Mr. Aaron Gibson, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), updated committee members on the discussions in progress and agreements which have been made with several communities affected by the proposed routing lines. Mr. Gibson responded to questions from committee members and noted that Mr. Rich Walje, RMP, will report further at the next meeting.

Mayor Max Weese, Tremonton City, said they have met several times with RMP, but no decisions have been made.

Mr. Jay Aguilar, City Planner, Willard City, said that they are in the process of negotiating with RMP, but no agreements have been reached.

Mr. Richard Nicholas, citizen, spoke in opposition to placing the power line over Tremonton City.

Mr. Kevin Hamilton, Community Development Director, Box Elder County, said RMP has applied for a conditional use permit, but no agreements have been reached.

Mr. Denton John, U & I Concerned Citizens, said they have been excluded from all meetings on this issue.

Mr. Gary Nelson, property owner, said he has never been contacted by RMP about plans for the utility line.

Mr. Earl Peterson, U & I Concerned Citizens, suggested asking for an outside party to evaluate the sites and recommend another possibility.

Mr. Charles Taylor, citizen, commented on possible alternate sites for the proposed power line.

Ms. Ann Larson, citizen, spoke to the issue.

Mr. Guy Harris, citizen, expressed concerns that he was not notified by RMP about the proposed power line that would go across his land.

Mr. Kevin Boardman, Government Affairs, RMP, responded to questions about the discussions being held in Box Elder County.

Mr. Charlie Smith, citizen, provided a petition with 300 signatures requesting RMP to move the proposed utility transmission corridor away from their properties.

Chair Noel thanked everyone for participating and said the discussion will be continued in the September meeting.

3. Power Line Upgrades

Mr. Craig Laub, Community Representative, Beryl, Utah, distributed and reviewed "Memo: Electric Utility Service in the Parowan Valley." Mr. Laub requested that RMP be held accountable for providing electric service to the Parowan Valley consistent with standard utility practices and connection of service to the hay cubing plant.

Mr. Dennis Hansen, RMP, distributed and presented "Our Approach to Distribution Line Design and the Impact of Highly Fluctuating Loads."

Mr. Steve Byl, Co-Owner, Dutch Cowboy Dairy, commented on problems with insufficient power resources at the dairy.

Mr. Gordon Roberts, Farmer, Parowan Valley, said RMP has not met their obligations to supply adequate electrical service to the farm.

Mr. Ted Boyer, Chair, Public Service Commission (PSC), noted that PSC has some oversight for issues concerning quality of service from RMP. He provided an overview of the complaint process and said that no formal complaint has been filed with the PSC.

Mr. Rob Stuart, RMP, responded to questions from committee members but said RMP was unable to comment on the complaints being voiced because they were previously unaware of them.

4. Department of Technology Services

This item was not discussed.

5. Overlay vs. Split Area Code Implementation (801 & 385)

Mr. Kenneth W. Smith, resident of Lehi, distributed and reviewed "Presentation to Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee." Mr. Smith reported that he and many other people were opposed to the Overlay method for implementation of the new telephone area code and would like the Legislature to encourage the PSC to use the Split method instead.

Mr. Brad Simpson, citizen, spoke against the Overlay system.

Mr. Boyer, and Commissioner Ron Allen, PSC, responded to the concerns of Mr. Smith and Mr. Simpson. Mr. Boyer explained the process of how the decision to go with the Overlay system came about, the public and business community participation, and the advantages of the Overlay system.

Mr. Jerry Fenn, President, Qwest Communications, asked the Committee not to second guess the PSC's decision to implement the Overlay method.

The Committee discussed the issue further. No action was taken.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

Chair Noel adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.