

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

Wednesday, June 23, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 20 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Senate Chair
Rep. Michael E. Noel, House Chair
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod

Rep. F. Jay Seegmiller
Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox
Rep. Bill Wright

Members Absent:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Pres. Michael G. Waddoups

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 2:13 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Hemingway moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Urquhart, Rep. Greenwood, and Rep. Wright were absent for the vote.

2. Net Metering / Renewable Energy

Ms. Sara Baldwin, Senior Policy and Regulatory Associate, Utah Clean Energy, distributed and presented "Utah Net Metering."

Mr. Jason Keyes, Keyes & Fox, LLP, representing Interstate Renewable Energy Council, distributed and presented "Rate Impact of Net Metering."

Mr. LaDel Laub, President and CEO, and Mr. Colin Jack, Chief Engineer, Dixie Escalante Power, distributed and presented "Solar Energy - The Renewable Option."

Mr. Ted Boyer, Chair, Public Service Commission, commented on the Commission's role in net metering.

Ms. Michele Beck, Director, Office of Consumer Services, said the goal should be to move away from subsidies.

Mr. Orrin Farnsworth, President, Utah Solar Association, recommended looking at the real cost of power to the consumer, rather than the base line power rate.

Mr. Todd Stevens, Trustee, Utah Technology Council, spoke in support of continued net metering.

Ms. Kathy Van Dame, Policy Coordinator, Wasatch Clean Air Coalition, commented on the need for more readily available information on costs and benefits of net metering.

Mr. Terry Merasco, concerned citizen, distributed "The Problem: 'Utah: Worst Air In the Nation' Where Do We Draw the Line" and spoke about the importance of reducing air pollutants and emissions through a multiplicity of ways including looking at cleaner energy solutions.

Mr. Kimball Rasmussen, President and CEO, Deseret Power, spoke in support of net metering.

Ms. Alyssa Kay, Architectural Designer, Gorilla Design, commented on five-kilowatts of electricity from a solar power system they recently designed and installed for a client, which is generating more power than the client is using thereby allowing the client to net meter. She said she would hate to see the client have to pay for power that the system is generating.

3. Natural Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Sheldon Kinsel, Policy Director, Western Counties Alliance, and Mr. Steven Rich, President, Rangeland Restoration Academy, distributed and reviewed "Statement of Sheldon Kinsel, Western Counties Alliance, and Steven Rich, Rangeland Restoration Academy, on Natural Carbon Sequestration Before the Utah Legislature Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee." Mr. Kinsel explained that natural carbon sequestration uses certain rangeland grasses, pulse grazing, and fungi to naturally increase carbon storage.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Urquhart moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Gowans, Rep. Greenwood, and Rep. Wilcox were absent for the vote.

Chair Noel adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.