

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)
**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, October 20, 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. Mark B. Madsen
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:

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.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Noel called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Seegmiller moved to approve minutes of the September 15, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Barrus, Rep. Fisher, and Rep. Wilcox were absent for the vote.

2. National Electrical Code and Electric Service Connections

Rep. Johnny Anderson introduced the topic.

Mr. Douglas Bennion, Vice President, Engineering Services and Capital Investment, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), distributed a draft of "Six-State Electric Service Requirements Manual," which was updated to assist independent electrical contractors in connecting to the electric grid.

Mr. Dirk Burton, President, Able Electric Company, spoke in favor of the updated manual and RMP's efforts to enable a better working relationship.

3. Energy Cost Recovery & Renewable Energy Provisions

Staff distributed 2010 General Session S.B. 131, "Energy Cost Recovery and Renewable Energy Provisions."

Sen. Hinkins introduced the topic.

Mr. Ryan Davies, President, Renewable Energy Development Company (REDCO), reported on the background and provisions of the legislation. He stated that the legislation categorizes energy sources, so that a Public Service Commission (PSC) regulated utility that builds a wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, or solar project can be evaluated for lowest cost.

Ms. Michelle Beck, Director, Office of Consumer Services, spoke in support of the importance of renewable energy as part of the energy mix, but expressed concerns with the legislation.

Mr. Ted Boyer, Chairman, PSC, commented on the issue of rate recovery and responded to committee members' questions.

Ms. Kelly Francone, Utah Association of Energy Users, spoke in favor of the current regulatory process and responded to questions regarding industrial customers and related issues.

Committee discussion followed. No action was taken on this item.

4. Challenges of Utah Energy Growth: Rocky Mountain Power

Mr. Richard Walje, President, and Mr. Brian Anderson, Customer and Community Relations Manager, Rocky Mountain Power, distributed and presented "Challenges of Utah Energy Growth."

Committee discussion followed. No action was taken on this item.

5. Broadband Deployment in Utah

Ms. Tara Thue, Broadband Mapping and Planning Coordinator, Governor's Office of Economic Development, gave a brief overview of the Utah Broadband Mapping, Planning, and Analysis Project, which is engaged in research to determine areas in which to expand or deploy broadband resources in the state.

Sen. Urquhart asked Ms. Thue to return at the November meeting to present statewide maps of broadband accessibility.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Goodfellow, Sen. Madsen, Rep. Barrus, Rep. Brown, and Rep. Wilcox were absent for the vote.

Chair Urquhart adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.