

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

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 25 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. J. Stuart Adams, Senate Chair
Rep. Michael E. Noel, House Chair
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Pres. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Fred C. Cox
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway

Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Ken Ivory
Rep. Holly J. Richardson
Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox

Members Absent:

Rep. Patrick Painter

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, 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 9:07 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Pres. Waddoups, Sen. Urquhart, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Herrod, Rep. Ivory and Rep. Wilcox were absent for the vote.

2. Utah Energy Users Association

Ms. Kelly Francone, Deputy Director, Utah Association of Energy Users, distributed and presented "Business Outlook On Utah Electric Rates." Ms. Francone discussed issues which can cause energy rates to increase and asked the Legislature to keep businesses in mind when considering energy legislation.

Mr. Brent Gale, Senior Vice President, MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, offered to discuss investments, cost allocations, and what drives costs with the Committee at a future meeting. Mr. Gale commented on Ms. Francone's presentation and responded to committee members' questions.

Committee discussion followed. Ms. Francone, Mr. Gale, and Mr. Jeff Larson, Vice President, Regulation, Rocky Mountain Power, responded to committee members' questions.

3. Facilitating Renewable Energy Contracts

Sen. Mark B. Madsen reviewed provisions of 2012 General Session draft legislation, "Energy Amendments" (2012FL-0093/008), which was distributed by staff.

Mr. Dean Nelson, Chairman and Founder, Data Center Pulse Consortium, and Senior Director, Global Foundational Services, eBay, spoke in favor of the legislation. Mr. Nelson stated that low energy costs were a major factor when eBay chose sites in Utah as customer service centers. He discussed power consumption and renewable energy option development which will attract larger businesses.

Mr. Gale spoke in support of the legislation but stated there were still improvements that need to be discussed. He distributed "2010 PacifiCorp Resource Mix," and responded to committee members' questions.

No action was taken on this item.

4. Broadband Fiber Deployment and Coordination in Utah

Ms. Tara Thue, Project Manager, Utah Broadband Project, Governor's Office of Economic Development, distributed and reviewed "Utah Broadband Project: Summary of Findings Regarding Broadband Availability in Utah."

Mr. Stephen Fletcher, Executive Director, Department of Technology Services, spoke in favor of the initiative and its effects on economic development in the state.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Director, Legislative Affairs, Utah League of Cities and Towns, spoke to the issue and recommended minimizing public investment by coordinating infrastructure development.

Ms. Lynne Yocom, Electronic Business Manager, Utah Department of Transportation, commented on planning of communication infrastructure development with transportation planning.

Mr. Mike Peterson, Executive Director, Utah Education Network, distributed and reviewed "Utah Education Network Wide Area Network."

5. Geographic Information System Reports: State Broadband and Wireless Coverage, County and State Data Sharing, and Public Land Survey System

This item was moved to the November 16, 2011 agenda.

6. Western States Energy Development

Mr. Lea Peacock, President, Utah Petroleum Association, distributed "The Blueprint for Western Energy Prosperity."

Ms. Kathleen Sgamma, Director of Government Affairs, Western Energy Alliance, reviewed the handout and reported that by the year 2020 an abundance of natural gas could be produced in the United States rather than importing it. She stated that much of the production could be done in the west, including Utah, due to new technologies, which are more environmentally responsible than those of the past. Ms. Sgamma responded to committee members' questions.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Hendrickson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. McAdams, Sen. Urquhart, Pres. Waddoups, Rep. Hemingway, and Rep. Wilcox were absent for the vote.

Chair Noel adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.