

DRAFT AGENDA

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

Room 102, State Capitol
Thursday, September 9, and Friday, September 10, 2004

PLEASE NOTE: Scheduled times on this agenda are approximate and are subject to change.

Thursday, September 9th

- 8:30 a.m. **Call to Order, Approval of Minutes** -- Rep. Olson, Chair
- 8:35 a.m. **Update on NorthWestern Energy's Bankruptcy and any Initiatives to Purchase NorthWestern Energy's Assets**
☎ NorthWestern Energy
☎ Bob Rowe, Chair, Public Service Commission
- 10:00 a.m. **Public Service Commission Proposed Legislation Review and Update on PSC Activities** - Bob Rowe, Chair, PSC
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Proposed Legislation Related to Telecommunications**
☎ Rick Hayes, Qwest
☎ Others?
- 11:15 a.m. **Review Committee Bills**
1. Review Bills and Written Public Comment
*Ring Fencing Draft Legislation
*Utility Transactions Draft Legislation
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. **Review Committee Bills Continued**
*Property Tax Exemption Extension Draft Legislation
*Interim Committee Laws Revisions Draft Legislation
2. Public Comment on Bills
3. Make a Decision on Whether to Forward the Bills on to the 2005 Legislature
4.. Review and Approve Fact Sheets
- 3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:15 p.m. **Discussion and Public Comment on Potential Universal System Benefits Legislation**
☎ Representative Olson's "Cost Effective" Definition Proposal
☎ Montana Electric Cooperatives' USBP Funding Proposal

- ☞ Senator Johnson's USBP Funding Proposal
- ☞ Extending the USBP Funding Termination Date Proposal
- ☞ Carry Forward of USBP Funds Proposal
- ☞ Increase Minimum Annual Funding Requirement for Low-Income Energy and Weatherization Assistance Proposal
- ☞ Require the Department of Revenue to Report Annually to the ETIC on USBP Activities and Expenditures and Eliminate Requirement that Utilities Report to the ETIC Proposal
- ☞ Require Annual Reports to the ETIC from the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Public Health and Human Services Regarding Each Agency's USBP Expenditures Proposal
- ☞ Require the Department of Revenue to Adopt Rules for Uniform USBP Expenditures Reporting Proposal

5:30 p.m. **Recess**

Friday, September 10th

8:00 a.m. **Litigation and Energy Projects Panel Discussion**

- ☞ John North, Department of Environmental Quality
- ☞ Tom Richmond, Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Division
- ☞ Pat Judge and Jennifer Hendricks, Montana Environmental Information Center
- ☞ Mike Reisner, Northern Plains Resource Council
- ☞ Bruce Williams, Fidelity Exploration and Production Company
- ☞ Joe Dickey, Roundup Power Project

10:30 a.m. **Basin Creek Project Update** - Jim Williams

10:45 a.m. **Break**

11:00 a.m. **Public comment** on any matter not contained in this agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the ETIC

11:15 a.m. **Updates**

- * EQC Energy Policy Subcommittee Activities - Todd Everts
- * ETIC Budget - Todd Everts
- * Other Updates

11:30 a.m. **Other Business**

11:35 a.m. **Instructions to Staff**

11:40 a.m. **Adjourn**

Please Note: Due to reconstruction of the front stairs of the Capitol, visitors must enter through the central doors at the south side of the buildings