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## Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

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### 60th Montana Legislature

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SONJA NOWAKOWSKI, Lead Staff  
TODD EVERTS, Staff Attorney  
DAWN FIELD, Secretary

June 9, 2008  
Sonja Nowakowski, 444-3078

### Comments sought on public power study

Helena --- Public power likely will continue to be an issue of interest in Montana, according to a draft report prepared by the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC).

The draft report is available for public comment through July 3. Comments will be compiled and presented to the ETIC at a July 16 meeting in Helena. The committee will consider a final version of the report in September.

While not the subject of an assigned study bill, the ETIC conducted a study of public power, evaluating the public power model, its potential and operation in Montana, and the role the state could and has played in a public power scenario.

Public power, in its many forms, has a long history in Montana. In the past decade a variety of public power legislation, including voter initiated activities, have been pursued. Currently in Montana, electrical cooperatives and municipal power operations serve as examples of the public power model.

Because the issue of public power continues to come before the Montana Legislature and Montana voters, ETIC members agreed that a report offering some background on the issue could be useful to lawmakers and the public. The ETIC at this time is not contemplating public power legislation.

The full report: "Perspectives on Public Power: A review of the public power model, its history, and its potential in Montana " is available online at [www.leg.mt.gov/etic](http://www.leg.mt.gov/etic). Copies also may be obtained from ETIC staff by calling (406) 444-3078. Comments may be submitted by email to [snowakowski@mt.gov](mailto:snowakowski@mt.gov). Please include "public power study" in the subject line. To submit comments by mail, send to: Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Environmental Policy Office, Room 171A, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704.