

ETIC Member Worksheet

To prepare for the January ETIC meeting, members are asked to review the questions below and begin formulating responses to guide the committee in moving Senate Joint Resolution No. 12 forward. Questions also are based on interconnection and safety information provided to the ETIC in September. The responses also should assist the committee in its discussion of draft findings and recommendations.

- Is Montana's net metering policy equitable? Why or why not?
- Is Montana's net metering policy sustainable? Why or why not?
- Should the ETIC limit its discussion of Montana's net metering policy to NorthWestern Energy?
 - Should the policy extend to other regulated utilities?
 - Should the policy extend to rural electric cooperatives?
 - Instead of extending the full policy, should different policies or direction to other regulated utilities and cooperatives be incorporated into statute? If so, what?
- Should the ETIC continue to try to capture cost and benefit data about net metering?
 - If so, how should the committee move forward?
 - Should the ETIC recommend an independent consultant?
 - Should the ETIC direct the PSC to take specific steps related to net metering?
- Based on the current number of net-metered customers in Montana, is retail rate the appropriate rate design mechanism?
- If net metering increases, do policies need to be revised to ensure that net metering customers are neither overcompensated nor undercompensated? How should an increase or "trigger" be established, if at all?
- What method for valuing net-metered generation is appropriate in Montana and under what circumstances?
- Is there support for policy changes to increase net metering in Montana? If so under what circumstances, and how should the committee move forward?
 - Retail rate should be preserved?
 - New rate structure should be established?
 - Trigger for review should be included in statute?
- If there is not a consensus that policies should be changed to increase net metering, is Montana's net metering rate structure (retail rate) working for the current level of activity in the state? Is there a reason to continue with the rate design discussion?
- Should incentives or policy changes be made to support and increase net metering?
 - Increasing the cap on net metering?
 - Expanding net metering to include more than Montana's regulated utilities?
 - Allowing for aggregate net-metering?

- Providing new tax incentives for net metering?
- Increasing net metering opportunities through community net metering or virtual net metering?
- Do the requirements of 69-8-604, MCA adequately address interconnection procedures and safety for the current level of net metering on NorthWestern's system?
- Do the administrative rules adopted by the PSC adequately address interconnection and safety requirements in Montana? Are the rules being adequately enforced by the PSC?
- Do the interconnection rules apply to MDU, and if not, should the rules apply?
- If net metering increases on NorthWestern's system, should the law or rules related to interconnection and safety be modified?
- If yes, how should they be changed? Request or require a utility:
 - Revisit rules for paths or levels for interconnection?
 - Provide a pre-application process?
 - Set different timelines for processing interconnection requests?
 - Require customer-generators provide certain levels of liability insurance?
 - Establish legal indemnification requirements?
 - Fees for various aspects of interconnection?
 - Set specific technical requirements for disconnect switches, separate transformers, synchronizing devices?
- If changes in interconnection are needed, should the law establish:
 - New capacity limits for advanced interconnection review?
 - Appropriate use of smart inverters?
 - If smart inverters are needed, additional regulatory considerations?

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