



Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

60th Montana Legislature

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ETIC discussing carbon sequestration, public power, wind integration

HELENA -- During a January 24 meeting, the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee is expected to discuss potential carbon sequestration legislation and dive into a study of the costs and benefits of future wind power development and integration.

The committee meets Jan. 24 in Room 172 of the State Capitol in Helena. The meeting starts at 8 a.m. A complete agenda can be found at:
http://leg.mt.gov/css/committees/interim/2007_2008/energy_telecom/default.asp

The committee last met November 8 and requested more information on the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission model legislation and regulations for carbon sequestration. The model statute was designed to assist states looking at a regulatory framework for geological sequestration. An analysis of the IOGCC model statute, along with comments from the Montana Board of Oil and Gas and Montana Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Division are posted on the ETIC Web site.

With the IOGCC analysis and additional background information provided to the committee over the last six months, members will dedicate the first two hours of the January meeting to discussing carbon sequestration and determining whether members wish to make any recommendations or findings on the subject.

At the January meeting, ETIC members will begin examining the issue of wind integration. The ETIC agenda also includes a discussion of potential USB legislation. At the November meeting, members requested a bill be drafted that eliminates the sunset for the electricity USB.

The committee also will hear from the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) about energy efficiency and conservation. In addition, NorthWestern Energy will provide information on demand-side management. A public power overview and discussion also is on the agenda.

The Public Service Commission and Department of Commerce Energy Infrastructure Promotion and Development Division also will provide updates.

