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Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

62nd Montana Legislature

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November 1, 2011

To: ETIC members
From: Sonja Nowakowski, ETIC staff
Re: Universal System Benefits (USB) program

Attached is a copy of the 2010 USB reports submitted by Montana-Dakota Utilities, the Montana Electric Cooperatives's Association, and NorthWestern Energy.

Title 69-8-402, MCA and House Bill No. 27, approved by the 2009 Legislature, requires the ETIC to "review the universal system benefits programs, and, if necessary, submit recommendations regarding these programs."

Public utilities and cooperative utilities are required to submit an annual summary report of universal system benefits programs to the ETIC for review. The electric universal system benefits proposal was poised to sunset in 2009, however the 2007-08 ETIC requested HB 27, which eliminated the sunset and clarified the ETIC's role in reviewing the program.

During the November 17 meeting, ETIC members will receive additional information about the USB program.

Sonja Nowakowski

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