



Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

60th Montana Legislature

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ETIC contemplating carbon sequestration, public power

The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee meets July 16 and will accept public comment on two draft reports and two pieces of draft legislation.

In June, the ETIC released reports including: "Perspectives on Public Power: A review of the public power model, its history, and its potential in Montana" and "Carbon Sequestration Study: An analysis of geological and terrestrial carbon sequestration regulatory and policy issues."

Public comments received in advance of the meeting will be compiled and presented to the ETIC at the meeting. The ETIC meets **July 16 in room 102 of the Capitol**. The committee also will accept testimony during the meeting. Please note the change in the meeting date and location.

In addition to the draft reports, the ETIC is reviewing two pieces of draft legislation and inviting the public to comment on the proposals.

The first bill draft establishes the surface owner as the owner of pore space used for the long-term storage of carbon dioxide or other substances, including compressed air. The draft legislation includes reporting requirements, protects existing oil and gas rights, and affirms the dominance of the mineral estate. The bill draft was largely modeled after legislation approved by the Wyoming Legislature in early 2008.

The second piece of draft legislation is a study bill. The proposed study bill directs the ETIC next interim to oversee a geologic carbon sequestration study that is narrowly focused on liability, cost and jurisdictional issues.

The draft reports and legislation are available on the ETIC Website at www.leg.mt.gov/etic. Meeting materials and additional information on the ETIC and its studies also can be found there.

Copies of the reports may be obtained from ETIC staff by calling (406) 444-3078. Comments may be submitted by email to snowakowski@mt.gov. Please include "carbon sequestration study" or "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.