

**MINUTES OF THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 21, 1999 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 223 - State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Lorin V. Jones, Co-Chair  
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen, Co-Chair  
Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Joseph L. Hull  
Sen. Howard C. Nielson  
Rep. Ralph Becker  
Rep. Chad E. Bennion  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. Blake D. Chard  
Rep. David N. Cox  
Rep. Gary F. Cox  
Rep. Kevin S. Garn  
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow  
Rep. Tom Hatch  
Rep. David M. Jones  
Rep. Gordon E. Snow

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Leonard M. Blackham  
Rep. John E. Swallow  
Rep. David Ure

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Richard North,  
Research Analyst  
Ms. Tani Pack Downing,  
Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Junie G. Anderson,  
Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

**1. Call to Order** - Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Goodfellow moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 1999 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hull, Rep. Brown, Rep. Chard, Rep. Garn, Rep. Hatch, and Rep. Jones were absent for the vote.

**2. What Is The State Of Y2K Remediation In Utah? What Are The Contingency Plans If Y2K Failures Occur?** Chair Allen informed the committee that President Clinton signed federal legislation addressing the Y2K liability issue for businesses.

Mr. Dave Fletcher, Y2K Coordinator- Utah, updated the committee on the status of Y2K Remediation in Utah. He said 81 percent of the state's systems are totally compliant, another 10 percent are compliant but have to go through a final review process. He discussed the required guidelines set by the state for contingency planning. He noted that on September 14, there will be a statewide contingency plan exercise in which departments will meet to discuss a variety of potential Y2K scenarios to see how prepared the agencies are. He also said the state is coordinating with the federal government and has established the Information Coordination Center (ICC) which will be responsible for assessing status on a national level.

Mr. Fletcher spoke about possible remediation for municipalities and counties. He discussed efforts by the state to provide information to municipalities and counties to assist in their efforts to become Y2K compliant. He said he could not speak for the level of compliance for individual municipalities.

Mr. Jan Furner, Association of Special District, updated the committee on Y2K compliancy efforts in special districts. He said that larger districts are near compliancy but expressed concern that the smaller districts lack the funding needed to become completely remediated.

Mr. Fletcher also reported on the status of the Utah Y2K Coalition.

**3. Draft Legislation: Amendments To The Blue Stakes Laws** - Ms. Tani Pack Downing, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, distributed several handouts titled: "Policy Questions for Blue Stakes Bill;" "Division of Consumer Protection Model;" "19-3-109. Civil penalties – Appeals;" "State of Utah Division of Finance Fund Information;" and draft legislation titled "Blue Stakes Amendments." She discussed each handout and made recommendations for changes to the draft legislation as indicated on the bill.

Mr. Lynn Vellinga, Department of Finance, discussed funding options, including restricted accounts and dedicated credits which would allow the Legislature some control over the amount of money in the fund. The current funding mechanism in the bill does not.

Mr. Fred Finlinson gave a historical background pertaining to legislation effecting governmental operators and Blue Stakes. He also discussed potential liability and said that local governmental utilities are willing to work with the state by assisting small utility companies and contractors in locating underground utility cables.

Mr. Sandy Mooy, Public Service Commission, said there is nothing in the draft legislation to identify what constitutes a violation.

**4. What Is Cramming? How Can This Telecommunication Issue Be Resolved?** Mr. Richard C. North, Research Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, distributed a handout titled "Account Billing." He discussed how cramming occurs on your utility bills. He also explained the process used by Utah and discussed proposed changes to the rules.

Mr. Ric Campbell, Public Utilities, discussed efforts by Public Utilities to discourage cramming. He said cramming complaints are decreasing slightly.

Mr. Ted Smith, US West, discussed efforts by US West to solve the cramming problem by making changes to the billing process. He also said that, effective November 1, US West would no longer include non-telecommunication related charges on the monthly phone bill.

**5. Adjournment -**

**MOTION:** Rep. Cox moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Becker, Rep. Brown, Rep. Garn, and Rep. Jones absent for the vote.

