



MINUTES

PUBLIC UTILITIES, ENERGY, AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 | 1:30 p.m. | 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ronald Winterton, Chair
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht, Chair
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Derek L. Kitchen
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. Walt Brooks
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Steve R. Christiansen
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson

Rep. Joel Ferry
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Jeffrey D. Stenquist

Members Absent:

Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Keven J. Stratton

Staff Present:

Sarah J. Balland, Policy Analyst
Rikka Strong, Associate General Counsel
Lorna Wells, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Winterton called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

1 . Committee Business

Chair Winterton explained safety protocols and Webex procedures for the meeting.

Rep. Stratton was excused from today's meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2020 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 2.

Yeas-14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. P. Arent
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. S. Christiansen
Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Kitchen
Rep. C. Moss
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. J. Stenquist
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-2

Rep. M. Poulson
Rep. K. Stratton

2 . Public Utilities Consumers and COVID-19

Michele Beck, Director, Office of Consumer Services with the Utah Department of Commerce, gave a presentation regarding public utilities consumers and COVID-19.

Kelly Francone, Executive Director, Utah Association of Energy Users, gave an overview of the COVID-19 impact on Utah's industrial consumers of energy.

Margarita Satini, Executive Director, Utah Pacific Islanders Civic Engagement Coalition and a Community Organizer with Sierra Club, expressed support for legislation that would order the long-term suspension of energy utility shut-offs, work to provide more utility bill assistance programs to underserved communities, and forgive all debt incurred by utilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly within communities of color that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and its resulting economic crisis.

Josh Craft, Utah Clean Energy, waived his public comment time.

3 . Earthquake Preparation for Critical Infrastructure

Wade Skinner, Disaster and Risk Planning Manager, Rocky Mountain Power, discussed earthquake preparation for critical infrastructure.

[3a - Earthquake Event Preparedness Rocky Mountain Power, Wade Skinner \(Presentation\)](#)

Rep. Albrecht asked about standby-transformers. Wade Skinner responded.

Ray Timothy, Executive Director, Utah Education and Telehealth Network, discussed earthquake preparation.

[3b - UETN Infrastructure Map, Ray Timothy \(Presentation\)](#)

Several committee members asked questions about UETN and Ray Timothy responded.

4 . Public Service Commissioner Ron Allen

Ron Allen, Commissioner, Utah Public Service Commission, introduced himself to committee members.

Rep. Arent and Rep. Albrecht welcomed Commissioner Allen.

Rep. Albrecht asked the commissioner about Rocky Mountain Power's request for proposal (RFP) process.

Thad LeVar, Chair, Utah Public Service Commission (PSC), responded to committee questions about the Utah Supreme Court case "Office of Consumer Services v. Utah Public Service Commission, No. 20170364", by giving a brief overview of the case.

5 . Berkshire Hathaway Acquisition of Dominion Energy Transmission and Storage Business

Jon Cox, Vice President of Government Affairs, Rocky Mountain Power, introduced Craig Eller, representative from Berkshire Hathaway Energy.

Craig Eller presented details of the Berkshire Hathaway Energy Pipeline Group's acquisition to the committee.

[5 - Berkshire Hathaway Acquisition Quick Facts Pacific Corp., Jon Cox \(Presentation\)](#)

Several committee members asked questions about the acquisition. Craig Eller responded to these questions.

Rey Butcher, State Policy Advisor, Dominion Energy Utah (DEU), discussed the transition taking place.

Rep. Albrecht asked questions about current DEU projects taking place. Rey Butcher responded.

MOTION: Sen. Sandall moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 2.



Yeas-14

Rep. C. Albrecht
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Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Kitchen
Rep. C. Moss
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. J. Stenquist
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-2

Rep. M. Poulson
Rep. K. Stratton

Chair Winterton adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.