SUMMARY *of* PROCEEDINGS

JOINT MINERALS, BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

May 21-22, 2025
Thyra Thomson State Office Building, Round House Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 3024
444 W Collins Drive
Casper, Wyoming

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Jim Anderson, Co-Chairman
Representative Scott Heiner, Co-Chairman
Senator Ed Cooper
Senator Stacy Jones
Senator Tara Nethercott
Senator Chris Rothfuss
Representative Kevin Campbell
Representative Christopher Knapp
Representative J.T. Larson
Representative Martha Lawley
Representative J.R. Riggins
Representative Mike Schmid
Representative Reuben Tarver
Representative Nina Webber

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Brian Fuller, Deputy Legal Administrator
Heather Hunter, Legislative Editor
Pierre Chesnais, Research Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING

Please refer to **(Appendix 1-02)** to review the Committee Sign-in Sheet for a list of other individuals who attended the meeting.

The Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings (meeting minutes) is prepared by the Legislative Service Office (LSO) and is the official record of the proceedings of a legislative committee meeting. This document does not represent a transcript of the meeting; it is a digest of the meeting and provides a record of official actions taken by the Committee. All meeting materials and handouts provided to the Committee by the Legislative Service Office, public officials, lobbyists, and the public are on file at the Legislative Service Office and are part of the official record of the meeting. An index of these materials is provided at the end of this document and these materials are on file at the Legislative Service Office. For more information or to review meeting materials, please contact the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881 or by e-mail at lso@wyoleg.gov. The Summary of Proceedings for each legislative committee meeting can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's website at www.wyoleg.gov.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Minerals, Business, and Economic Development Interim Committee met for two days in Casper to begin its interim work. The Committee received testimony on enhanced oil recovery/carbon dioxide pipelines, energy matching funds for energy projects and large projects, low-carbon energy standards for specified public utilities, and nuclear energy and site security. The Committee also received updates from the Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Committee requested bill drafts related to: (1) proposed changes from the Wyoming Business Council for the Wyoming Business Ready Community Program, (2) the repeal of low-carbon energy standards, (3) spent nuclear fuel storage for advanced nuclear reactor manufacturers, (4) security for nuclear facilities, and (5) a joint resolution to encourage a regional compact or agreement for carbon dioxide infrastructure.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to **(Appendix 1-01)** to review the Committee Meeting Agenda. The meeting recording is available on the Wyoming Legislature's YouTube page, May 21 **AM**, **PM** and May 22 **AM**, **PM**.

ADOPTION OF INTERIM COMMITTEE RULES

The Committee adopted Interim Committee Rules by voice vote, as amended **(Appendix 2-01)**.

ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY/CO2 PIPELINES

Lon Whitman, Director, Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute, provided an overview of enhanced oil recovery (EOR) in Wyoming **(Appendix 3-01)**.

Joe Scott, Natural Resources Manager, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, provided an overview of the EOR regulatory process **(Appendix 3-02)**.

Pete Obermueller, President, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, discussed the federal 45Q tax credits available for carbon sequestration and utilization and provided updates on potential changes in federal law.

Public Comment

The following person provided public comment:

- Rozmaring Czaban, Casper

WYOMING ENERGY AUTHORITY

Rob Creager, Executive Director, WEA, provided an overview of the energy matching funds made available through past budget bills and projects associated with those funds **(Appendix 4-01)**.

Public Comment

The following persons provided public comment:

- Travis Deti, Executive Director, Wyoming Mining Association
- David Bush, State Government Affairs Manager, Black Hills Energy (BHE)
- Shawn Taylor, Executive Director, Wyoming Rural Electric Association

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Agency Update

Todd Parfitt, Director, DEQ, provided an overview of the department's budget and the functions of each division within the agency **(Appendix 6-01)**.

Jennifer Zygmunt, Water Quality Administrator, DEQ, answered questions from the committee on lead drinking water line identification and replacement.

LOW-CARBON ENERGY STANDARDS

Brian Fuller, Deputy Legal Administrator, Legislative Service Office (LSO), provided an overview of the statutes establishing low-carbon energy generation standards **(Appendix 7-01)**. These standards require specified public utilities to generate a certain portion of their electricity generation using carbon capture, utilization, and storage technology based on standards that the Public Service Commission is required to establish.

Mike Robinson, Chairman, and John Burbridge, Chief Counsel, Public Service Commission, discussed public utilities' efforts to meet low-carbon energy standards. Chairman Robinson highlighted newly developed metrics for monitoring power reliability and quality and emphasized the importance of a dependable energy grid. He also discussed updates received from utilities and how the commission is implementing relevant laws.

Craig Eller, Vice President, Business Policy and Development, and Rick Kaysen, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), provided an overview of RMP's work to comply with low-carbon energy standards.

Mr. Bush, BHE, discussed changes to the low-carbon energy standards that the Legislature enacted in the 2024 session, including changes to the scope of utilities subject to the requirements and standards. Mr. Bush also discussed BHE's work with Brightloop (a project that would convert coal to hydrogen).

Committee Directives

Co-Chairman Heiner moved that the Committee draft a joint resolution to encourage establishment for carbon capture infrastructure in regional states and to request that the governor's office initiate discussions. The motion passed by voice vote.

RECESS

The Committee recessed at 4:55 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Heiner called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Spent Nuclear Fuel

Mr. Fuller provided background information on federal and state laws concerning the licensing and siting of nuclear-related facilities **(Appendix 10-01)**.

Ryan Alexander, Regional State Liaison Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), provided an overview of NRC's nuclear reactor fuels, spent fuel storage, and transportation regulations and oversight **(Appendix 10-02)**.

Glen Murrell, Director, Regional and Industry Engagement, and Daniel A. Thomas, Department Manager, Used Fuel Management, Idaho National Laboratory, provided an overview of spent nuclear fuel and storage **(Appendix 10-06)**.

Representative Lloyd Larsen, Wyoming House of Representatives, provided an overview of advanced nuclear reactor manufacturers and suggested legislation on fuel storage for manufacturers.

Senator Ed Cooper, Wyoming Senate, discussed his trip to France and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to learn about nuclear energy fuel and storage.

Representative Jayme Lien, Wyoming House of Representatives, discussed what she learned at a conference in Orlando on nuclear energy fuel and storage.

Radiant

Matt Wilson and Jessie Dafoe, Radiant, discussed Radiant's work in producing and manufacturing advanced nuclear reactors **(Appendix 10-07)**(**Appendix 10-08**).

Physical Security

Mr. Alexander provided an overview of NRC's physical security requirements and plans for nuclear generation sites **(Appendix 10-03)**.

Andrew Richards, Vice President of Government Affairs, TerraPower, provided background on the Natrium demonstration project and discussed the timeline of the project **(Appendix 10-09)**(**Appendix 10-10**).

Barry Westreich, Senior Manager, Nuclear Security and Safeguards Program, and Melissa Darlington, Nuclear Security Manager, TerraPower, discussed physical security for the project and suggested legislation for the use of force for site security personnel.

Travis McNiven, TerraPower, discussed draft legislation to authorize the use of force, including lethal force, for commercial nuclear power reactor licensee security guards (**Appendix 10-04**)(**Appendix 10-05**).

Public Comment

The following persons provided public comment:

- Douglas Henderson, Director of Government Services, Westerman, Inc.
- Dave North, Natrona County Commissioner
- Shay Lundvall, Gillette Mayor
- Pat Sweeney, Casper City Council Member
- Michael McIntosh**,** Casper Vice Mayor
- Shane Johnson, Lincoln County Sheriff
- Ashley Harpstreith, Executive Director, Wyoming Association of Municipalities
- Travis Deti, Executive Director, Wyoming Mining Association
- Rozmaring Czaban, Casper

- Kerry Aggen, Buffalo
- Manuel Camargo, California
- William Almas, Lander **(Appendix 10-11)**
- Pete Fox, Casper **(Appendix 10-12)**

WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Wyoming Business Council provided proposed statutory changes to the Wyoming Business Ready Community Program **(Appendix 12-02)**. The Committee directed that this topic would be considered at the July meeting.

Committee Directives

The Committee requested LSO to draft the following bills for discussion at the next meeting: (1) proposed changes from the Wyoming Business Council for the Wyoming Business Ready Community Program; (2) the repeal of low-carbon energy standards; (3) state authorization for the storage of spent nuclear fuel on the site of advanced nuclear reactor manufacturers; and (4) nuclear security and the use of force for security personnel based on TerraPower's draft.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-Chairman Heiner adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Jim Anderson, Co-Chairman

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Committee Meeting Materials Index

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1-02		Sign-In Sheet	LSO
2-01	Adoption of Interim Committee Rules	Adopted Interim Rules	LSO
3-01	Enhanced Oil Recovery/CO2 Pipelines	Enhanced Oil Recovery and the State of Wyoming Presentation	EORI
3-02	Enhanced Oil Recovery/CO2 Pipelines	Enhanced Oil Recovery OGCC Regulatory Requirements	WOGCC
4-01	Wyoming Energy Authority	Interim Update	WEA
6-01	Department of Environmental Quality	Agency Updates	DEQ
7-01	Low-Carbon Energy Standards	Low-Carbon Statutes	LSO
10-01	Nuclear Energy	Topic Summary: Nuclear Energy Law	LSO
10-02	Nuclear Energy	Nuclear Reactor Fuels, Spent Nuclear Fuel, Storage, and Transportation	NRC
10-03	Nuclear Energy	Overview of NRC Physical Security	NRC
10-04	Nuclear Energy	Wyoming Security Bill Draft	TerraPower
10-05	Nuclear Energy	Supplemental Background Information	TerraPower
10-06	Nuclear Energy	Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage	Idaho National Laboratory
10-07	Nuclear Energy	Nuclear, Built in Natrona County	Radiant
10-08	Nuclear Energy	TRISO Fuel Poster	Radiant

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10-09	Nuclear Energy	Natrium Demonstration Project	TerraPower
10-10	Nuclear Energy	FAQ-Natrium Project	TerraPower
10-10	Nuclear Energy	Consent-Based Siting Process	Public Comment
10-12	Nuclear Energy	Potential Challenges with Storage of Spent Advanced Reactor Fuel Types	Public Comment
12-01	Wyoming Business Council	Practical Policy to Impact Wyoming's Economic Future	Wyoming Business Council
12-02	Wyoming Business Council	Proposed Business Ready Community (BRC) statutory changes	Wyoming Business Council

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