

SUMMARY of PROCEEDINGS



JOINT MINERALS, BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

July 29-30, 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 (July 30)
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 continue and complete its interim work. The Committee discussed bill drafts on the Wyoming Business Council's Business Ready Community Program, low-carbon energy standards, nuclear facilities physical security, carbon dioxide pipeline infrastructure and enhanced oil recovery, the oil and gas bonding pool program created in the 2025 General Session, and nuclear energy and spent fuel storage. The Committee received testimony from the Wyoming Business Council, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Public Service Commission, the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and the Wyoming Aeronautics Division of the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

The Committee voted to sponsor the following bills:

- 26LSO-0074, Protection of nuclear reactors.
- 26LSO-0153, Oil and gas bonding pool-investment and earnings.

TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Heiner 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, July 29 ([AM](#)), ([PM](#)) and July 30 ([AM](#)), ([PM](#)).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee adopted the Minutes from the Committee's May 21-22, 2025 meeting by voice vote.

WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL

Agency Update

Josh Dorrell, Chief Executive Officer, Wyoming Business Council, provided a presentation on the state of Wyoming's economy and possible policies to impact Wyoming's economic future ([Appendix 2-02](#)).

Business Ready Community Program

26LSO-0071, Wyoming business ready community program-amendments

Brian Fuller, Deputy Legal Administrator, Legislative Service Office, discussed 26LSO-0071, Wyoming business ready community program-amendments, which would amend the Wyoming Business Ready Community Program to remove grants and loans for educational development, including the University of Wyoming Business Technology Center, and would require a match of at least twenty-five percent (25%) for program grants ([Appendix 2-01](#)).

Public Comment

The following persons provided public comment:

- Renny MacKay, President, Wyoming Business Alliance
- Matt Murdock, Pinedale Mayor

Committee Directives

Co-Chairman Anderson moved to sponsor 26LSO-0071. The motion to sponsor failed by roll-call vote by a vote of the House committee members. Representatives Campbell, Knapp, Tarver, Webber, and Co-Chairman Heiner voted no. Representative Schmid was excused.

LOW-CARBON ENERGY STANDARDS

26LSO-0072, Low carbon energy standards-repeal

Mr. Fuller discussed 26LSO-0072, Low carbon energy standards-repeal, which would repeal the low-carbon energy generation requirements that were established in the 2020 legislative session ([Appendix 3-01](#)).

Randall Luthi, Policy Director, Governor's Office, provided an overview of coal production, changes to federal rules concerning coal, and the Governor's energy goals ([Appendix 3-03](#)) ([Appendix 3-04](#)).

Chris Petrie, Deputy Chairman, Public Service Commission (PSC), provided an overview of PSC's mission to ensure safe, adequate, and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates. He explained in 2020 that the low-carbon energy requirements authorizes a two percent (2%) cap on surcharges for expenses incurred and discussed the Commission's rulemaking concerning the low-carbon standards.

Thom Carter, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, and Craig Eller, Vice President, Business Policy and Development, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), discussed the low-carbon standards and RMP's position concerning the standards.

David Bush, Black Hills Energy, discussed the costs associated with implementing carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) technology on a power plant and the utility's efforts to comply with the low-carbon standards.

Public Comment

The following persons provided public comment:

- Senator Laura Pearson, Wyoming Senate
- Ryan Perry, Evansville
- Travis Deti, Executive Director, Wyoming Mining Association
- Jan Loftus, Buffalo

Committee Directives

Representative Tarver moved to sponsor 26LSO-0072. The motion to sponsor failed by roll-call vote by a vote of the Senate committee members. Senators Cooper, Nethercott, Rothfuss, and Co-Chairman Anderson voted no. Representative Schmid was excused.

COAL AND ENERGY LITIGATION FUNDS-UPDATE

David DeWald, Water and Natural Resources Division Deputy, Attorney General's Office, provided an update on litigation that uses funds appropriated by the Legislature for litigation to support coal and energy issues affecting Wyoming.

Mr. Luthi discussed the annual report for the use of the coal litigation funds ([Appendix 4-01](#)).

INDUSTRIAL SITING

Todd Parfitt, Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), provided an overview of the Industrial Siting Council and its reporting requirements, particularly those concerning impact assistance payments available to cities, counties, and towns for approved projects.

Jenny Staeben, Industrial Siting Administrator, DEQ, discussed current industrial-siting projects, provided an overview of the application process, and discussed potential changes to statutes governing the industrial-siting process ([Appendix 5-01](#)).

Public Comment

Representative Elissa Campbell, Wyoming House of Representatives, provided public comment.

NUCLEAR FACILITIES-PHYSICAL SECURITY

26LSO-0074, Protection of nuclear reactors

Mr. Fuller discussed 26LSO-0074, Protection of nuclear reactors, which would provide an affirmative defense for the use of defensive force, including the use of deadly force in some situations, for the protection and defense of nuclear facilities, employees, or assets located in certain portions of those facilities. The bill draft would also provide detention authority for armed nuclear security guards for persons who are unlawfully at a nuclear facility and would create a new criminal offense for trespassing at a commercial nuclear generating facility ([Appendix 7-01](#)).

Travis McNiven, TerraPower, expressed his appreciation to the committee for considering the topic and introduced members from TerraPower.

Andrew Richards, Vice President of Government Affairs, TerraPower, discussed support of the bill and provided amendments for the committee to consider ([Appendix 7-02](#)).

Melissa Darlington, Nuclear Security Manager, TerraPower, discussed how the security level would be the same as if the TerraPower facility was a full-sized nuclear reactor.

Public Comment

The following persons provided public comment:

- Hope Dennis, Buffalo
- Ken Hume, Bar Nunn
- Sharon Buccino, Interim Executive Director, Powder River Basin Resource Council
- Nancy McCann, Powder River Basin Resource Council
- Cathy Cline, Sheridan

Committee Directives

Co-Chairman Anderson moved to sponsor 26LSO-0074. The motion to sponsor passed by roll-call vote with Senator Nethercott and Representative Schmid excused. The Committee adopted the following amendments:

Page 2-line 15

Delete entirely and insert "nuclear facility;"

- Page 2-line 20 After "firearm" delete "." and insert "; and".
- Page 2-after line 20 Insert:
- "(C) Certified as a peace officer by the peace officer standards and training commission."
- Page 2-lines 22 and 23 Delete entirely.
- Page 3-lines 1 through 19 Delete entirely, renumber as necessary and insert:
- "(ii) "Commercial nuclear facility" means a facility that is owned by any person, is licensed by the United States nuclear regulatory commission and that is required to have a security plan for the facility approved by the United States nuclear regulatory commission. "Commercial nuclear facility":
- (A) Shall not include any facility owned by the United States nuclear regulatory commission;
- (B) Includes the property on which the facility is located and any other structure and fencing associated with the facility."
- Page 4-line 26 Delete "(v)" and insert "(iii)".
- Page 4-line 27 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".
- Page 4-line 34 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".
- Page 4-line 33 Delete "(vi)" and insert "(iv)".
- Page 5-line 2 Delete "(vii)" and insert "(v)".
- Page 5-line 5 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".
- Page 5-line 7 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".
- Page 5-line 29 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".
- Page 6-line 3 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".
- Page 6-line 8 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".
- Page 8-line 11 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".
- Page 8-line 23 Delete "generating".
- Page 9-line 36 Delete "**generating station**" and insert "**facility**".

Page 10-line 3 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".

Page 10-line 7 Delete "generating station" and insert "facility".

Page 10-line 10 Delete "generating".

Page 10-line 11 Delete "station" and insert "facility".

Page 10-line 14 Delete "generating".

WYOMING AERONAUTICS REPORT

Darin Westby, Director, Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT), introduced the team of the Aeronautics Division.

Shawn Burke, Aeronautics Administrator, and Mariah Johnson, Air Service Development Program, Wyoming Aeronautics, WYDOT, provided an update on Wyoming air service ([Appendix 8-01](#)).

Devon Brubaker, President, Wyoming Airports Coalition, provided an update on commercial air service in Wyoming ([Appendix 8-02](#)).

Todd Chatfield, Director, Gillette Airport, discussed the success of the capacity purchase agreement, contract between WYDOT and commercial airlines which guarantees a certain level of air service to certain communities in Wyoming.

Public Comment

Mr. MacKay, Wyoming Business Alliance, provided public comment.

CARBON GEOCAPTURE

John Pope, Chief Executive Officer, Carbon GeoCapture, discussed the commercial aspects of CCUS and a coal-assisted CCUS process that Carbon GeoCapture is developing ([Appendix 9-01](#)).

RECESS

The Committee recessed at 4:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY/CARBON DIOXIDE INFRASTRUCTURE

Lon Whitman, Director, Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute, discussed enhanced oil recovery (EOR) in Wyoming, including responding to Committee inquiries from the May meeting and discussing ways the state can further incentivize EOR in Wyoming ([Appendix 12-01](#)).

Tom Kropatsch, Supervisor, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC), discussed incentivizing EOR and regulatory requirements for underground injection control and hydraulic fracturing ([Appendix 12-03](#)).

Pete Obermueller, President, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, discussed issues related to resource constraints and how EOR can help alleviate the problem.

26LSO-0070, Carbon dioxide infrastructure-regional compact

Mr. Fuller presented 25LSO-0070, Carbon dioxide infrastructure-regional compact, which would establish an interstate compact for the development of regional and international carbon dioxide pipeline infrastructure similar to North Dakota ([Appendix 12-01](#)).

Public Comment

The following persons provided public comment:

- Scott Clem, Campbell County Commissioner
- Jan Loftus, Buffalo
- Rozmaring Czaban, Casper
- Ryan Perry, Evansville
- Joey Correnti, Rural Wyoming Matters

Committee Directives

Senator Rothfuss moved that the Committee draft legislation to amend the enhanced oil recovery stimulus created in the 2025 General Session to provide a consistent stimulus for each ton of carbon dioxide used in EOR, regardless of any federal tax credit. The motion passed by voice vote.

Senator Rothfuss moved that the Committee draft legislation based on 2003 HB0054 to provide a five-year exemption of severance taxes for oil and gas produced through EOR. The motion passed by voice vote.

Senator Nethercott moved to sponsor 26LSO-0070. The motion to sponsor failed by roll-call vote by a vote of the House committee members. Representatives Knapp, Riggins, Schmid, Tarver, and Webber voted no.

OIL AND GAS BONDING POOL-INVESTMENTS

26LSO-0153 Oil and gas bonding pool-investment and earnings

Mr. Fuller discussed 26LSO-0153, Oil and gas bonding pool-investment and earnings, which would clarify that funds collected from the assessments for the oil-and-gas bonding pool created in 2025 must be invested

according to law, and that the investment earnings would remain as part of the bonding pool ([Appendix 13-01](#)).

Mr. Kropatsch, WOGCC, discussed support for the bill.

Committee Directives

Co-Chairman Heiner moved to sponsor 26LSO-0153. The motion to sponsor passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

NUCLEAR ENERGY/SPENT FUEL STORAGE

Department of Energy

Marla Morales, Director, and Paul Murray, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Spent Fuel & High-Level Waste Disposition, U.S. Department of Energy, discussed the Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste Disposition Program and other matters concerning the storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuel ([Appendix 14-02](#)).

26LSO-0073, Advanced nuclear reactor manufacturers-fuel storage

Mr. Fuller discussed 26LSO-0073, Advanced nuclear reactor manufacturers-fuel storage, which would provide advance authorization for advance nuclear reactor manufacturing facilities located in Wyoming to store spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste associated with the reactors produced and deployed by the manufacturers ([Appendix 14-01](#)).

Representative Lloyd Larsen, Wyoming House of Representatives, discussed the bill draft and the history of laws concerning the storage of spent nuclear fuel.

Director Parfitt, DEQ, provided background on the topic.

Jessie Dafoe, Radiant, thanked the Committee for discussing this topic.

Makai Cartman, Senior Operations Manager, and Rita Baranwal, Chief Nuclear Officer, Radiant, provided background on Radiant and discussed the specific kind of nuclear fuel that would be used.

Public Comment

The following persons provided public comment:

- Representative Bill Allemand, Wyoming House of Representatives ([Appendix 14-03](#))
- Ms. Buccino, Powder River Basin Resource Council
- Ms. McCann, Powder River Basin Resource Council
- Ms. Czaban, Casper
- Ms. Cline, Sheridan
- Alex Sherrow, Bar Nunn
- Mr. Perry, Evansville
- Matt Keating, Casper
- Avilia Rae Friday and Three Stars Friday, Wind River Reservation
- Dillon Conner, Radiological Program Manager, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
- Mr. Hume
- Tristy Thomas, Casper

- Lee-Ann Newquist, Bar Nunn
- Mike Wandler, L&H Industrial, Gillette
- Amity Holland, Casper
- Michael Newquist, Bar Nunn
- Maria Katherman
- Peter Boyer, Bar Nunn Mayor
- Shay Lundvall, Gillette Mayor
- Dan Sabrosky, Bar Nunn Town Council Member
- Will Almas, Lander
- Wayne Heili, Casper
- Kayla Wolosin, Bar Nunn
- Laura Redmond, Bar Nunn
- Casey Tholl, Bar Nunn
- Mr. Clem, Campbell County Commissioner
- Justin Farley, Advance Casper
- Bruce Lawson, Casper
- Auna Kaufman, Wyoming Outdoor Council
- George Dunlap, Gillette
- Ms. Baranwal, Radiant
- Bob Jordan, Campbell County Commissioner
- Jamie Locke, Casper
- Jim Willox, Converse County Commissioner
- Mr. Deti, Wyoming Mining Association
- Mr. Correnti, Rural Wyoming Matters
- Pat Sweeney, Casper
- Senator Ogden Driskill, Wyoming Senate
- Mark Koep, Crook County
- Nicole Wagon, Riverton

Committee Directives

Co-Chairman Anderson tabled 26LSO-0073 without objection.

TRISO NUCLEAR FUEL MARKET AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WYOMING

BWXT Advanced Technologies

Josh Parker, Senior Director, BWXT Advanced Technologies, discussed BWXT's work on developing nuclear microreactors and other opportunities for nuclear energy in Wyoming ([Appendix 17-01](#)).

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Scott Heiner, Co-Chairman

Committee Meeting Materials Index

Index Number	Agenda Item	Document Description	Document Provider
1-01		Agenda	Legislative Service Office
1-02		Sign-In Sheet	Legislative Service Office
2-01	Wyoming Business Council	26LSO-0071 v0.4 Wyoming business ready community program-amendments.	Legislative Service Office
2-02	Wyoming Business Council	Practical Policy to Impact Wyoming's Economic Future	Wyoming Business Council
3-01	Low-Carbon Energy Standards	26LSO-0072 v0.4 Low carbon energy standards-repeal.	Legislative Service Office
3-02	Low-Carbon Energy Standards	CCUS Report	Public Service Commission
3-03	Low-Carbon Energy Standards	Wyoming Coal, HB200, and CO2	Governor's Office
3-04	Low-Carbon Energy Standards	Article-Wyoming scrutinizes PacifiCorp coal retirement	Governor's Office
4-01	Coal and Energy Litigation Funds-Update	Report of Expenditure from the Coal Litigation Funds	Governor's Office
5-01	Industrial Siting	Industrial Siting Example Impact Assistance Report	Department of Environmental Quality
7-01	Nuclear Facilities-Physical Security	26LSO-0074 v0.5 Protection of nuclear reactors	Legislative Service Office
7-02	Nuclear Facilities-Physical Security	Proposed Amendments to Bill Draft	TerraPower
8-01	Wyoming Aeronautics Report	Wyoming Air Service Update	Wyoming Department of Transportation
8-02	Wyoming Aeronautics Report	Commercial Air Service in Wyoming	Wyoming Airports Coalition

9-01	Carbon GeoCapture	Low Cost, Low Carbon Dispatchable Power Presentation	Carbon GeoCapture
12-01	Enhanced Oil Recovery/Carbon Dioxide Infrastructure	26LSO-0070 v0.5 Carbon dioxide infrastructure-regional compact.	Legislative Service Office
12-02	Enhanced Oil Recovery/Carbon Dioxide Infrastructure	Enhanced Oil Recovery Presentation	Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute
12-03	Enhanced Oil Recovery/Carbon Dioxide Infrastructure	Incentivizing EOR Regulatory Requirements for UIC vs HF	Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
13-01	Oil and Gas Bonding Pool-Investments	26LSO-0153 v0.2 Oil and gas bonding pool-investment and earnings.	Legislative Service Office
14-01	Nuclear Energy/Spent Fuel Storage	26LSO-0073 v0.6 Advanced nuclear reactor manufacturers-fuel storage.	Legislative Service Office
14-02	Nuclear Energy/Spent Fuel Storage	Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste Disposition Program	US Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy
14-03	Nuclear Energy/Spent Fuel Storage	Nuclear Fuel Survey	Representative Allemand
17-01	TRISO Nuclear Fuel Market and Opportunities for Wyoming	BWXT & Wyoming Opportunities in Advancing U.S. Energy and National Security	BWXT Advanced Technologies