

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2014
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Eskridge, Representatives Anderson(1), Hartgen, Vander Woude, DeMordaunt, Nielsen, Thompson, Anderson(31), Anderst, Mendive, Monks, Morse, Trujillo, Smith, Rusche, Woodings
ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Representative(s) Hartgen, Vander Woude
GUESTS: Kevin Moriarty,

Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Gloria Totricaguena gave an overview of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) and the Idaho Council. She stated that the Idaho Council was created by **Governor Otter** to establish active participation within PNWER. She then introduced the PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison.

Matt Morrison introduced the other members of the PNWER delegation. They included: **Alana DeLong** from Calgary, Alberta; Canada, **Herb Cox** from North Battleford, Saskatchewan; **David Kettles** from Edmonton, Alberta, **Colin Smith** from Victoria, BC, and **Dan Kirschner** from West Linn, Oregon. Mr. Morrison then detailed the remainder of the meeting and the presentations PNWER had prepared.

Dan Kirschner, PNWER Private Sector Co-Chair and Director of the Northwest Gas Association, gave a presentation about the natural gas resources available to the Northwest Region of the United States. This resource, he stated, is suspected to be approximately 2,384 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) which is a 100% increase in estimated available resource the last ten years. He stated that not only is the total available resource growing but the production is also increasing. By 2035 it will have increased nearly 50% from approximately 80 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per day to 115 Bcf per day. Mr. Kirschner then discussed the costs of natural gas; the cost of natural gas production and the changes in the ability to produce natural gas from shale has had on the cost of natural gas since 2008. He showed a comparison of natural gas to oil and stated that natural gas prices have continued to go down while oil prices have continued to rise. Mr. Kirschner showed a comparison of countries with natural gas availability and a comparison of countries who use natural gas vehicles. He wanted to point out that although the U.S. ranks number one in world availability, we rank 13th in usage of the resource as a fuel source. He stated that we have a lot of natural gas and that it looks to hold stable for the near future.

In response to a question, **Mr. Kirschner** stated that renewable resources and natural gas go hand in hand. He stated that it could be a possibility that natural gas could spell the end for coal, but that today's prices for coal are good and remain competitive with natural gas.

Alana DeLong, Member of the Legislative Assembly in Alberta, gave a presentation about the Alberta Oil Sands. She detailed Alberta's new Energy Regulator and the project's mission to oversee the responsible development of upstream oil, gas, oil sands and coal across the province. She stated that this system is very advanced and that it does a good job balancing all of the various needs and desires of all members of society. Next, she discussed the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund (CCEMC). She stated that this fund was created to be a key part of Alberta's climate change strategy and movement toward a stronger and more diverse lower carbon economy. She also discussed the results of this Fund, saying that as of June 2013 there had been \$398 million collected in the fund and that it was estimated to contribute to annual carbon reductions of 1.7 Mt/year. Finally, she discussed the Alberta Oil Sands Economic impacts particularly in the PNWER Region. She stated that production will increase 100% over the next fifteen years, that this is a long term industry and that it is a job creating industry. In Idaho alone there are 240 to 560 jobs that work to support the Oil Sands region.

Matt Morrison, Executive Director of PNWER, then gave a presentation about the Invasive Species Working Group and the continuing attempts to unify the region and continue to keep these species out of the lakes. He stated that the North West is the last region in North America to remain uninfested. He discussed the preventative measures that are being taken to ensure that contaminated vessels do not bring these species to the North West. These measures include checkpoints, passports and continuing efforts to create regional preventative policies. Mr. Morrison discussed the policy aspect of the Working Group and gave examples of the actions that Montana and Washington have taking. He also discussed the action and involvement of PNWER to create a multi-state regional perimeter. He stated that the invasive species continue to move this way and they are being found closer and closer to our area. He stated that if we don't do something now it will be too late. He added that he hoped Idaho would continue it's leadership role in this area and continue to move forward to gain the support necessary to coordinate the states and protect the region.

Rep. Anderson(1) added some comments to the presentation and his desire that Idaho stand up and lead in this area.

Chairman Raybould also mentioned that he hoped this is the beginning of Idaho working with other states to stop the invasion and promoting awareness. He thanked **Mr. Morrison** for bringing it to the committee.

Matt Morrison also mentioned the importance of the Columbia River Treaty and the benefits it brings to the North West Region.

Rep. Trujillo made a comment about the high amount of interest she has seen in the topic of invasive species and wanted to state that there was support for such legislation.

In response to a question regarding the Lake Mead invasion and how the species are transferred between lakes, **Rep. Anderson(1)** stated that it is through transportation of water vehicles that is contributing to the spread of these invasive species. In giving an example he said the Colorado River was completely infested in less than 18 months because the species moved through the water but water sources that are not connected are invaded because they are being transferred by water vehicles.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Kaela Becklund
Secretary