

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 04, 2014
TIME: 1:30 PM or Upon Adjournment
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Eskridge, Representative(s) Anderson(1), Hartgen, Vander Woude, DeMordaunt, Nielsen, Thompson, Anderson(31), Anderst, Mendive, Monks, Morse, Trujillo, Smith, Rusche, Woodings
ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative(s) Anderson(1), Nielsen, Vander Woude, Thompson, Rusche
GUESTS: Ken Miller, Snake River Alliance; John Chatburn, OER
Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.
MOTION: **Rep. Trujillo** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2014. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Lane Allgood, Executive Director of the Partnership for Science and Technology (PST), began his presentation by explaining the purpose of the PST. He said their purpose as a "non-profit, public interest organization is advocating for the advancement of science, energy and technology and providing accurate and timely information on related regional activities including those at the Idaho National Laboratory." He then gave an overview of the history of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) as well as the PST. He discussed the diversity of the PST members and the advantage that adds to their organization with different viewpoints, backgrounds, and experience. He stated the entire program is membership based and membership funded. For this reason, he said, the members are very important and the PST works to support their members through representation, advocacy, information, and analysis.

Mr. Allgood discussed the importance of the INL to Idaho. He said it is the second largest employer in the state and has an economic impact of \$3.5 billion. He quoted an economic impact study at BSU stating, "The presence of the lab & its steady level of activity add a measurable degree of stability to Idaho's economy."

Mr. Allgood then discussed the priorities of the PST. He said their main priorities include; the 2014 and 2015 Department of Energy budgets, recruiting new energy related businesses to Eastern Idaho, the NuScale Small Modular Reactor project, the LINE COMMISSION 2.0, state legislative involvement, continuing to grow membership, and the upcoming visit of **Senator Lisa Murkowski**.

In discussing the NuScale project, **Mr. Allgood** stated the company, based out of Oregon, has teamed up with Idaho and received a grant from the Department of Energy to build a small modular. He explained that part of this agreement is to build the reactor in Idaho. He stated this kind of new development would establish Idaho as a key player in the technological development of new energy technologies and add new jobs both direct and indirect to Idaho.

In response to questions about small modular reactors, **Mr. Allgood** explained they are still very new technologies. He said the reactors have the potential to produce 45 MW with up to twelve modules per facility. He said this would allow the facilities to grow as needed to accommodate the needs of different areas. He explained that NuScale has built a prototype and with the new grant from the Department of Energy can begin the process of building the first of its kind. He said the small reactor would be approximately a third the size of current reactors and thus put out a third of the power. He said the licensing process is looking to be between three and four years with another three to four years for construction. Mr. Allgood stated the targeted date for an operational reactor facility to produce power is 2023. He explained the cost seems to be around the same price as current nuclear power and still looks more dependable and cost efficient than wind or solar although not as cost-effective as coal or natural gas. In terms of storage, Mr. Allgood said the storage process would be similar to the process for the larger facilities except on a smaller scale.

In response to questions regarding the impact of the new energy output and current transmission constraints, **Mr. Allgood** said this is one of the biggest issues currently being discussed. He said if no one will buy the power, they won't be able to build the reactor and gain the extra power capacity. He said, first they need to prove the reactors will work for its intended purpose and then the issue of transmission and the future of the proposed designs will have to be addressed.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Kaela Becklund
Secretary