

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 20, 2017

TIME: 1:30 PM OR UPON ADJOURNMENT

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Thompson, Representatives Hartgen, Vander Woude, Anderson, Anderst, Mendive, Trujillo, Chaney, Nate, Cheatham, Horman, Malek, Moon, Smith, Scott, Jordan (Ringo), Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Vander Woude, Rep. Trujillo, Rep. Chaney, and Rep. Malek.

GUESTS: John Cross; John Chatburn, Office of Energy and Mineral Resources.
Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Thompson** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2017. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Doug Jones, Cat Creek Energy, presented information on pumped hydro storage and the Cat Creek Renewable Generation Station (CCRGs). The project is building a dry creek storage reservoir to be located 20 miles north of Mountain Home, Idaho, behind the Little Camas Reservoir to pump water up from Anderson Dam on 1,045 acres. The new reservoir will be lined and 50-75 feet deep, is being built on private land owned by John Faulkner, a rancher in Gooding, and funded with private funds for an estimated cost of \$1.5 billion. CCRGs' electrical generation profile is a firm renewable resource with 750 MW overall nameplate capacity consisting of 400 MW Pump Storage Hydro. The design is a high-lift design to pump up and bring back down 8,500 acre feet of water a day and can move more than that up and down. The Pump Storage Hydro system has multiple hydro generators with the ability to provide operating options and ancillary services without impacting on peak energy generations services and ramping requirements of the grid system. Windmills have been removed from the project, but PV axis solar panels remain a part of the project. Potential secondary uses and benefits of CCRGs are the provision of supplemental water to Elmore County and Mountain Home Air Force Base, and, since their power will be completely green power, it will add grid stability and be a recruiting tool for new business in Idaho. Solar generation is projected to be on line in 2018 with total project completion in 2020. Subscribers will be municipalities and others, and CCRGs is already negotiating with them.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Jones** stated that the lined reservoir will not become stagnant because there will be no fish in it. The water will be moving up and down from day-to-day with hydro production and the water released into the lower Snake River will not be too warm because it will be drawn from the depths of the reservoir. He also responded that the project is too large to be a PURPA project, and no financing is sought but the taking of existing tax credits. Mr. Jones also replied to questions saying that CCRGs needs 40,000 acre feet of water for operation, and they can put out 75,000 acre feet which gives the possibility of water going to Mountain Home. Mountain Home would not be charged for the water but might be asked to pay the pumping bill to get the water there. He also replied to committee safety concerns by saying that the odds of the reservoir breaking would be very low. Mr. Jones stated 87% of the energy used to pump the water up would come back to them. The reservoir liner has a 40-year warranty and would also be protected by environmental bonds, and they have completed about 7,000 pages of an Environmental Impact Statement. Mr. Jones replied yes to committee questions

regarding whether water rights are needed, stating a single right application will be submitted in two categories, one to fill the reservoir and the second for off-stream storage. The water right probably won't be issued until 2018 and won't impact pre-existing rights. They will only have rights to surface water when available and for some of the water currently going down the river.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Lorrie Byerly
Secretary