

MINUTES

## HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 04, 2026

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Barbieri, Vice Chairman Furniss, Representatives Vander Woude, Scott, Wisniewski, Raybould, Redman, Bruce, Burgoyne, Fuhriman, Tanner(13), Thompson, Bingham, Rubel, Egbert, Galaviz

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Thompson

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Barbieri** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Egbert** made a motion to approve minutes from January 14, 2026 and January 28, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 32904:** **Rep. Scott** introduced **RS 32904** and explained proposed changes from the DOGE task force to review and remove obsolete pieces of code. She encouraged the committee to print and review the changes relating to the possibility of a shift of power, the elimination of public testimony, and to consider unintended consequences in committee member districts.

**Rep. Fuhriman** raised a question if the DEQ was involved in these code changes. **Rep. Scott** responded to this question with no.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to introduce **RS 32904**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Dr. John Wagner** from Idaho National Laboratory presented to the committee Enabling Energy Dominance and Security through Research, Development and Demonstration. His presentation focused on nuclear energy technologies, cyber security, power generation and distribution and economic impact. He also pointed to the urgency of the current administration directed by the U.S. Secretary of Energy; including rule-making to deploy nuclear energy with a constant power level target date of July 4, 2026. Other discussion points included military base power plans and partnership with large corporations such as Google, Amazon, Microsoft; and the power of AI accelerating the ability to make nuclear power with almost all testing going through INL.

Committee questions included what potential Idaho has for used fuel storage and the direction it is headed; how the state can take advantage of the opportunity and billions of dollars in revenue; have discussions taken place regarding power and transmission; suggestions for policy makers to make this attractive to commercial businesses in Idaho; the area required for a plant and how far away from population they should be placed. Additional questions addressed the issue of time for development and how long will it really take to be active; if data and AI centers are on this same time line or sooner; the amount of time it takes to build gas generation plants; regulatory messaging; the borrowing and debt load for continuing construction; nuclear's constant draw on power and keeping up with pace; lastly, the role of the legislature if the program stays on a fast-track.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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Representative Barbieri  
Chair

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Michele Coburn  
Secretary