

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY****Thursday, October 3, 2019****10:00 AM****Ozarks Electric Cooperative, 3641 Wedington Drive  
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Lance Eads, Co-Chair; and Mark Johnson, Vice Chair; Representatives Rick Beck, Co-Chair; Cameron Cooper, Don Glover, Megan Godfrey, Justin Gonzales, Spencer Hawks, Steve Hollowell, Robin Lundstrum, Ron McNair, and Clint Penzo

Other members present: Senator Breanne Davis; Representatives Andy Davis, Jim Dotson, Grant Hodges, and Austin McCollum

Senator Eads called the meeting to order.

**Discussion of Renewable Energy [Handouts C1-C5]**

Mr. Mitchell Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ozarks Electric Cooperative (OEC), provided an overview of the OEC Solar Project. Mr. Peter Nierengarten, Environmental Director, City of Fayetteville, discussed Fayetteville's Energy Action Plan. Mr. John Bethel, Director, Public Affairs, Entergy Arkansas, gave an Entergy Renewable Project Overview. Mr. John Coleman, Regional Director, Entegriety, discussed advanced energy technologies. Mr. Paul Cammack, Program Manager Marketing, Black Hills Energy, gave an overview of renewable natural gas. Mr. Bradley Hardin, State Government Affairs Manager, Arkansas, American Electric Power (AEP), Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), gave an overview of the wind project.

**Update on Renewable Integration into Respective Independent System Operators/Regional Transmission Organizations (ISOs/RTOs)[Handouts D1-D2]**

Mr. Mike Ross, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Relations, Southwest Power Pool (SPP), discussed the seven regional transmission organizations in the United States. Mr. Todd Hillman, Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), explained the company has control center facilities in Carmel, Indiana; Little Rock, Arkansas; and Egan, Minnesota.

**Public Service Commission (PSC) Renewables Overview**

Ms. Donna Gray, Executive Director, PSC, discussed the trilateral agreement project in expanding the Arkansas Renewable Development Act.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

## MINUTES

### JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Friday, October 4, 2019

9:00 AM

Ozarks Electric Cooperative, 3641 Wedington Drive  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

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Committee members present: Senator Mark Johnson, Vice-Chair; Representatives Rick Beck, Co-Chair; Cameron Cooper, Don Glover, Megan Godfrey Justin Gonzales, Spencer Hawks, Steve Hollowell, Robin Lundstrum, Clint Penzo, and Jim Sorvillo.

Other members present: Representatives Jim Dotson and Grant Hodges.

Representative Beck called the meeting to order.

#### **Approval of Minutes for the November 27, 2018 Meeting [Exhibit C]**

Representative Justin Gonzales made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Clint Penzo, and the motion carried.

#### **Consideration of Motion to Authorize Co-Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Joint Energy Committee [Exhibit D]**

Senator Mark Johnson made a motion to authorize the co-chairs to approve special expenses incurred by the Joint Energy Committee, seconded by Representative Don Glover, and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

## MINUTES

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

9:00 AM

El Dorado Conference Center, 311 South West Avenue  
El Dorado, Arkansas

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Committee members present: Senators Bob Ballinger, Co-Chair; Mark Johnson, Vice Chair; and Trent Garner; Representatives Rick Beck, Co-Chair; Clint Penzo, Vice Chair; Howard Beaty, Cameron Cooper, Sonia Eubanks Barker, Ken Bragg, Justin Gonzales, Austin McCollum, Mark McElroy, and Ron McNair

Other members present: Senators Charles Beckham, Linda Chesterfield, and Ben Gilmore; Representatives Jim Dotson, David Fielding, Matthew Shepherd, and Keith Slape

Senator Ballinger called the meeting to order.

#### **Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Co-Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Joint Energy Committee**

Representative McNair made a motion to authorize the Chairs to approve special expenses incurred by the Joint Energy Committee, seconded by Representative Bragg, and the motion carried.

#### **Update from the Arkansas Public Service Commission**

Mr. Ted Thomas, Chairman, Public Service Commission, gave an update on gas costs and this past winter's gas price spike.

#### **Update from The Energy Council's 2021 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference – Executive Committee/CLEER Board of Directors Meeting**

Senator Ballinger and Representative Beck gave an overview of the Energy Council's conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico and discussed the role of blended renewable energy to support dispatchable non-renewable energy.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

**MINUTES**  
**JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY**  
**Monday, October 10, 2022**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Audubon Arkansas, 4500 Springer Blvd.**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Bob Ballinger, Co-Chair; and Mark Johnson; Representatives Rick Beck, Co-Chair; Joe Cloud, Charlene Fite, Justin Gonzales, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Roger D. Lynch, Ron McNair, and Aaron Pilkington

Alternate members present: Representatives Howard M. Beaty, Delia J. Haak, and Tippi McCullough

Other members present: Representatives Denise Jones Ennett, Stephen Meeks, and Jamie Scott

Senator Ballinger called the meeting to order.

**Discussion of Solar Energy in Arkansas [Exhibit C]**

Glen Hooks, Policy Manager, Audubon Delta; Karl Rabago, Energy Consultant and Former Public Utility Commissioner; Lauren Waldrip, Executive Director, Arkansas Advanced Energy Association; and Will Giese, Southeast Regional Director, Solar Energy Industries Association; presented information on the use of solar energy, storage of energy, and associated costs.

**Discussion of the Regional Hydrogen Partnership [Handout]**

Becky W. Keogh, Secretary, Department of Energy and Environment, discussed the use of hydrogen in Arkansas using existing pipelines.

**Update from the Arkansas Public Service Commission**

Kim O'Guinn, Commissioner, Arkansas Public Service Commission, discussed the grandfathered meter rules expiring in December, 2022.

**Discussion of Alternative Fuel Corridor [Exhibit F]**

Brad McCaleb, Division Head of Transportation Planning & Policy, Arkansas Department of Transportation, reported on the placement of electric vehicle charging stations in the state and gaps in the existing corridor.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

**MINUTES**  
**JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY**  
**Monday, December 12, 2022**  
**1:30 PM**  
**Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas**  
**1 Cooperative Way, Little Rock, 72209, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Representatives Rick Beck, Co-Chair; Sonia Eubanks Barker, Ken Bragg, Charlene Fite, Justin Gonzales, Jack Ladyman, Roger D. Lynch, Ron McNair, and Danny Watson

Other members present: Representatives Howard Beaty Jr., Craig Christiansen, Denise Jones Ennett, Lanny Fite, Vivian Flowers, Delia Haak, Richard McGrew, and Johnny Rye

Representative Beck called the meeting to order

**Discussion of Balance of Power**

Buddy Hasten, CEO, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Cooperation and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. discussed net metering's overcompensation, what is paid by various states, cost to cooperative members, Arkansas's progressive policy, and saturation. He further discussed Europe and China's various types of energy use in comparison to the United States and said that he would like to see a diverse balance of clean and renewable energy in Arkansas.

**Update on Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and Broadband/Fiber Efforts**

Doug Maglothin, Executive Director, Diamond State Networks reported on Diamond State Networks' cooperation with electric cooperatives in other states, their mission statement, challenges for rural telecom operators, cost, content peering, serving businesses in Arkansas, current Diamond State Networks deployment, and partnering with other states.

**Discussion of Solar Initiatives, Broadband, and Rate Making Among the 17 Local Electric Cooperatives**

Buddy Hasten, CEO, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Cooperation and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.; Doug Maglothin, Executive Director, Diamond State Networks; Derek Dyson, CEO, Today's Power Inc.; and Jude Lindholm, Rate Specialist, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Cooperation and Former Senior Research, Policy Analyst, Arkansas Public Service Commission, answered questions from Committee Members on energy efficiency audits, cyber security, solar panels, safety when using a combination of gas and electric in homes, security at power plants, rate increases, sizes of solar panels needed for businesses and residential use, and the length of usability of a coal fire plant.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.