

# **ELECTRIC ENERGY TASK FORCE**

Meeting Minutes: Thursday, December 09, 2004  
1:00 p.m. in Room 123 State Capitol

## **PRESENT:**

Rep. Tom Hackbarth, Co-Chair  
Rep. Michael Beard  
Rep. David Dill  
Rep. Bob Gunther  
Rep. Frank Hornstein  
Rep. Dean Simpson  
Rep. Jean Wagenius  
Rep. Torrey Westrom  
Sen. James Metzen, Co-Chair  
Sen. Ellen Anderson  
Sen. Steve Dille  
Sen. David Gaither  
Sen. Gary Kubly  
Sen. John Marty  
Sen. Mark Ourada  
Sen. Pat Pariseau  
Sen. Linda Scheid

## **EXCUSED:**

Rep. Irv Anderson  
Rep. Dennis Ozment  
Sen. Steve Murphy

Representative Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. A quorum was present.

## **Wind Energy and Local Economic Development**

Mr. John Fuller, Senate Counsel and Research, highlighted the four areas listed on the agenda and gave his presentation. Mr. Fuller stood for questions. (See presentation summary on file.)

## **Energy Policy – The Legislature and Public Utilities Commission Working Together**

Commissioners Leroy Koppendraye (Chair) and Phyllis Reha testified before the task force and discussed the role of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in energy policy. Commissioner Koppendraye stated the need for good energy policy is becoming more and more important due to the huge increase in use of energy around the world. What is needed is economic policy that is good for the whole state as well as good efficient use of all sources of energy. In order to achieve that, the role of the Legislature is to set the parameters and then the PUC can help the Legislature understand the broader impact of the legislation on the state and explain what will benefit the consumers. A goal of the PUC is to establish that important dialogue with the Legislature.

Commissioner Reha outlined other roles the PUC would play in establishing an effective relationship with the Legislature. She stated it would be helpful if proposed legislation could be shared with the PUC to allow the opportunity for them to provide input and/or point out possible implementation problems. Commissioner Reha felt that one thing that is lacking in the State of MN is a comprehensive, integrated energy policy. She suggested the Legislature develop public policy that prioritizes energy issues. She also stressed the importance of involving the stakeholders in a collaborative decision making process to develop energy policy. The task force is a great place to begin collaboration with stakeholders. The PUC, the Commissioners and staff, are willing to collaborate, communicate, advise and assist the Legislature.

Commissioners Koppendraye and Reha stood for questions.

**Transmission Issues**

Mr. Bob Eleff, House Research, testified before the Task Force and stood for questions. (See presentation summary on file.)

Mr. Rod Sheel, Otter Tail Power, and Mr. Gordon Pietsch, Great River Energy gave their presentation – CapX 2020 – Industry Transmission work group, and stood for questions. (See presentation on file.)

Deputy Commissioner Edward Garvey from the Department of Commerce testified before the task force. The information he presented was outlined in a booklet – Minnesota’s Leadership in Renewable Energy. (See booklet on file.) Deputy Commissioner Garvey stood for questions.

Rep. Hackbarth thanked everyone for their testimony. Special thanks to John Fuller and Bob Eleff.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Rep. Gunther moved approval of the minutes from the April 20, 2004, minutes. Seconded and **APPROVED.**

Rep. Hackbarth presented written testimony to the Task Force submitted by Tim Henning, President of the Nobles County Farmers Union, who was unable to testify at the meeting today. (See letter on file.)

**Next Meeting**

Rep. Hackbarth announced the next meeting would most likely be held when the report to the Legislature, which is to be submitted by January 15, is ready for review.

There being no further business to discuss, Rep. Hackbarth adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

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Senator James Metzen, Co-Chair

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Representative Tom Hackbarth, Co-Chair