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# Montana Association of Counties

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## MEETING MINUTES

### MACo ENERGY COMMITTEE

Great Falls, MT | Heritage Inn: February 10, 2020

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#### 1. Roll Call & Introductions

Chair Martens called the meeting to order, and roll call was conducted.

#### 2. Review & Approval of Minutes: September 24, 2019

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Energy Overview for Montana, Department of Environmental Quality

- What DEQ Does:
  - Air & Water Quality Permits
  - Major Facility Siting Act
  - Storm Water Construction Permit
  - Wind & Solar Bonding and Decommissioning
    - Wind: 25 megawatt and greater require a decommission plan and bond
    - Solar: 2 megawatt and greater require decommission plan and bond
    - None have been decommissioned in MT; in CA they are “repowering” them
    - 15-year decommissioning, where does the landfill fit in?
- PSC doesn’t regulate co-op; they regulate publicly owned utilities.
  - Power purchase agreements
  - Hydro dams (NorthWest Energy purchased in 2013)
  - FERC
  - Colstrip 1 and 2 sold mostly to Washington State
- Big Horn County
  - Coal going to the market
  - Navajo Purchase
  - Still have not paid gross proceeds tax (Spring Creek)
- Rosebud County
  - Colstrip Coal equals sole source to the power plant
- PSC/renewable portfolio standard: They have to have a certain percent by a target date – can apply for exemption.
- Peaking station is Basin Electric; DEQ permit; air quality standards, Roosevelt County
- Clean air act
- They opened two in North Dakota.
- Deer Lodge & Jefferson: National Gas Generation
- Colstrip Depreciation Schedules
  - Avista 2027

- Pudget 2027
- Portland General 2030 (or law; no more coal after 2030)
- Pacific Corp 2032
- NorthWest Energy 2042
- Proposed Storage Projects
  - Caitness Beaver Creek (Stillwater/Sweetgrass)
    - Wind and Battery Storage Project
    - Sixty-megawatt wind and twenty megawatts of storage
  - Gordon Butte Pumped Hydro Storage
    - Meagher County
    - 400-megawatt capacity
    - Estimated to have 8.5 hours of storage
- Solar: It takes ten acres to generate a megawatt and for wind it varies.
- DEQ Renewable Standard
  - Renewable portfolio standard was fifteen percent by 2015. New hydro power is considered renewable. Old hydro power, post 2005 or 2007 is not.
  - Washington renewable by 2025
  - Oregon all of coal by 2030
- Production tax audits show step down in wind 2.2 cents per kilowatt per hour .
- Solar is 30% and goes to 27% after 2020.

#### 4. Wind Energy Discussion

Wind Subcommittee of the MACo Energy Committee request from Carbon County: Maybe combine with land use—three-to-four members from each.

The Committee is in favor of creating the subcommittee and will begin at the September meeting.

#### 5. Other Business

None.

#### 6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.