

**Joint Meeting: Legislative Energy Commission, House Energy Finance and Policy Division
and Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, Technology
Wednesday, March 25, 2009
6:30 p.m., Room 200 State Office Building**

Members Present:

Senator Ellen Anderson
Senator Steve Dille
Senator John Doll
Senator Gary Kubly
Senator Julie Rosen
Senator David Senjem
Senator Yvonne Prettner Solon
Representative Michael Beard
Representative Kent Eken
Representative Tom Hackbarth
Representative Bill Hilty
Representative Frank Hornstein
Representative Al Juhnke
Representative Kate Knuth
Representative Doug Magnus
Representative Mary Ellen Otremba
Representative Torrey Westrom

Members Excused:

Senator Satveer Chaudhary
Senator James Metzen
Senator Pat Pariseau

Call to Order

Representative Bill Hilty called the joint meeting of the Legislative Energy Commission; the House Energy Finance & Policy Division; and the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, Technology and Communications to order at 6:40 pm. A quorum was present.

Discussion of nuclear power

Melissa Savage, National Conference of State Legislatures, gave an overview of what others states are doing in regards to nuclear power. Ms. Savage spoke to the existing volume of nuclear waste and issues related to storage and transportation. She noted that at least 16 states are debating nuclear legislation. Ms. Savage stood for questions.

Jerome O'Leary, Director of Energy for the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry, spoke in favor of lifting the nuclear power moratorium. Mr. O'Leary addressed the reprocessing of nuclear fuel and the creation of jobs.

Dr. Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, spoke against rescinding the moratorium on nuclear power citing waste issues, cost, speed and financial risks as barriers to having successful new nuclear plants.

Adrian Heymer, Senior Director at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), testified in favor of lifting the nuclear moratorium. Mr. Heymer spoke to the status of operating reactors, new nuclear power plants and used fuel management.

Representative Hilty called a brief recess at 8:33 pm.

Representative Hilty called the meeting back to order at 8:46 pm.

Jim Harding, Energy Consultant, spoke to the economics of nuclear power and comparative costs. Mr. Harding stood for questions.

Dr. Anthony Buhl, President and CEO at EnergX LLC, spoke in favor of lifting the nuclear moratorium. Dr. Buhl's testimony focused on commercial nuclear power safety.

All testifiers were invited to the witness stand to field questions. Discussion ensued.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm.