

January 20, 1977

The Natural Resources Committee met at 10 a.m. in room 437, on January 20, 1977, with Chairman Sheldon presiding and all members present. The purpose of the meeting was to organize the subcommittees for an indepth study of the governor's "Montana Energy Advisory Council Report."

The committee members were divided into three groups of five members each. Chairman Sheldon and Vice Chairman Harper will be exofficio members of all committees--joining in when and where they can. The committees and the areas of concentration are:

Conservation and Public Participation

Rep. Bengtson, Chairman
Rep. Quilici
Rep. Curtiss
Rep. Davis
Rep. Nathe

Plant Siting, Energy Data and Analysis, Siting of Energy Facilities

Rep. Hirsch, Chairman
Rep. Cooney
Rep. Huennekens
Rep. Burnett
Rep. Horwitz

Energy Extraction and Conversion

Rep. Kessler, Chairman
Rep. Metcalf
Rep. Frates
Rep. Cox
Rep. Ernst

Chairman Sheldon asked the chairman of each committee to arrange meeting times. He asked them to make a comparison between the original staff report and the governor's report. If any major differences are noted, they are to check them out and report back to the committee with enough information so a decision can be reached. Chairman Sheldon said a representative of the governor's office will discuss the report sometime next week before the committee.

Chairman Sheldon discussed the motion from the House that this committee come up with an energy policy. He said the difference between a policy and a bill is that a bill is something in law that tries to activate something that was developed in policy. He said the committee might write a bill if the bills that come to committee don't cover something the committee feels should be covered.

He urged the members to seek wherever need be to find information they need. He reminded them about the EQC and that they are there to serve the legislature. He said if anyone ran into difficulty in getting the kind of information needed to let him know and "I'll grease the skids, if I can."

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


ARTHUR H. SHELDEN, Chairman