

January 27, 1977

The subcommittee on Extraction and Conversion met at 10:10 a.m. in room 437 on January 27, 1977, with Chairman Kessler presiding and Reps. Ernst, Cox, Harper and Metcalf present. Sarah Ignatius and Sharon Sullivan of Northern Plains Resource Council and Bob Kiesling of the EIC were informational guests. Also present was Doug Downey, Russ Plath and Debbie Schmidt, research aids; and for parts of the meeting Rep. Burnett and Rep. Shelden.

The subcommittee decided to invite representatives of the Coal Council, the University geology department, the Northern Plains Resource Council and Sonny Hanson of the Montana Technical Council to share information as to what they think should be in our energy policy.

It was suggested that copies of introduced bills dealing with the subcommittee policy recommendation be matched up and studied so some of this work can go on simultaneously.

The subcommittee came up with 10 proposals which are attached.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Kessler, Chairman

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SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSALS

1. That no more leasing should take place until they get their act together and we can get our act together.
2. The Department of State Lands shall adopt rules and regulations for policyming procedures including as a minimum suitability and unsuitability criteria.
3. The state legislature acting as a representative of the people of Montana recommends that there be no more federal coal leasing in the state at this time until the federal government defines their coal policy.
4. The State Lands Department is to further define the selective denial criteria found in section 9.
5. State supports the conservation of coal act and would recommend that it be strengthened.
6. We support continued research in the area of revegetation and oppose any weakening of the Montana Strip Mining and Reclamation Act.
7. Accept the recommendation on page 23 for alluvial valley floors.
8. The legislature encourages future oil and gas exploration with adequate safeguards.
9. Recommend extending the moratorium on solution mining and develop reclamation laws pertaining to solution mining.
10. The legislature recommends that the state develop uranium leasing procedures and that no further state lands be leased until such procedures are adopted. We further recommend similar action by the federal government.