



ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSMISSION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Freedom Mine, 204 County Road 15
Beulah, North Dakota

- 9:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
Consideration of the [minutes of the June 2, 2026, meeting](#)
- 9:05 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Andrew Hawbaker, President, The Coteau Properties Company, regarding an overview of the Freedom Mine
- 9:30 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Randy Christmann, Public Service Commissioner, regarding an overview of coal mining reclamation
- 10:00 a.m. Tour of the Freedom Mine
- 12:00 noon Recess
- 1:00 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Jonathan Fortner, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lignite Energy Council, regarding an update on the lignite energy industry
- 1:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Mike Heger, President, BNI Coal, regarding an overview of BNI Coal mining operations in Oliver County
- 2:00 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Carroll Dewing, Senior Vice President, North American Coal Corporation, regarding an update on coal mining activity and rare earth minerals in North Dakota
- 2:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Dr. Dan Laudal, Executive Director, College of Engineering and Mines Research Institute, University of North Dakota, regarding the extraction and commercialization of rare earth elements from lignite coal
- 3:00 p.m. [Presentation](#) by a representative of Basin Electric Power Cooperative regarding an overview of the cooperative's coal conversion operations
- 3:25 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Travis Jacobson, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, regarding proposed rate increases for existing customers
- 3:45 p.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of a [memorandum](#) regarding other states' regulations on data center development
- 4:00 p.m. Comments by interested persons
- 4:20 p.m. Committee discussion
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn

A livestream of the meeting will be available to the public at: <https://video.ndlegis.gov>.

Committee Members

Representatives: Anna S. Novak (Chairman), Dick Anderson, Mike Brandenburg, Austin Foss, Pat D. Heinert, Dustin McNally, Alisa Mitskog, Todd Porter

Senators: Brad Bekkedahl, Keith Boehm, Ryan Braunberger, Mark Enget, Kathy Hogan, Greg Kessel, Desiree van Oosting, Kent Weston

Staff Contacts: Austin Gunderson, Counsel
Erin K. Dohm, Counsel