



ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSMISSION COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 17, 2024
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator David Hogue, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Senators David Hogue, Brad Bekkedahl*, Keith Boehm*, Ryan Braunberger*, Dale Patten*, Merrill Piepkorn*; Representatives Dick Anderson*, Alisa Mitskog*, Corey Mock*, Don Vigesaa*

Members absent: Representatives Mike Brandenburg, Todd Porter

Others present: None

**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Senator Bekkedahl, seconded by Representative Vigesaa, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the September 5, 2024, meeting be approved as distributed.

Mr. Austin Gunderson, Counsel, Legislative Council, presented a bill draft [\[25.0429.01000\]](#) to require a study on advanced nuclear energy. He noted the study includes the evaluation of provisions of the North Dakota Century Code that place restrictions on advanced nuclear energy development, if any. He also noted the bill draft appropriates \$500,000 for the purpose of contracting for consulting services and requests special funds from grants or donations from nonstate sources.

Chairman Hogue noted the importance of receiving federal contributions through vouchers or grant programs. He noted the Department of Commerce had requested the committee discuss possible institutions of higher education that may participate in the study to assist in evaluating social interests and community acceptance of siting locations for advanced nuclear energy facilities.

The committee discussed other states that have conducted studies relating to advanced nuclear energy.

It was moved by Representative Mock, seconded by Senator Patten, and carried on roll call vote to revise the bill draft [\[25.0429.01000\]](#) to include in the study the participation of an institution of higher education to assist in evaluating social interests and community acceptance of siting locations for advanced nuclear energy facilities. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Boehm, Braunberger, Patten, and Piepkorn and Representatives Anderson, Mitskog, Mock, and Vigesaa voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

It was moved by Representative Mock, seconded by Senator Patten, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft [\[25.0429.01000\]](#), as revised, relating to a study on advanced nuclear energy be approved and recommended to the Legislative Management. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Boehm, Braunberger, Patten, and Piepkorn and Representatives Anderson, Mitskog, Mock, and Vigesaa voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

It was moved by Senator Bekkedahl, seconded by Representative Mock, and carried on a voice vote that the Chairman and the Legislative Council staff be requested to prepare a report and the bill draft recommended by the committee and to present the report and recommended bill draft to the Legislative Management.

It was moved by Representative Mock, seconded by Representative Anderson, and carried on a voice vote that the committee be adjourned sine die.

No further business appearing, Chairman Hogue adjourned the committee sine die at 10:22 a.m.

Austin Gunderson
Counsel