



The Council

Energy Development and Transmission Committee

The Energy Development and Transmission Committee met on July 22 at the North American Coal Freedom Mine in Beulah to receive information relating to the committee's studies on developing a comprehensive statewide energy policy that supports the long-term development of the energy opportunities in the state and the development of each facet of the energy industry from the obtaining of the raw natural resource to the sale of the final product in the state.

Committee members attended a tour of the Freedom Mine, including a firsthand look at mining operations, and a tour of a dragline and surface mine. The tour included reclamation and remediation sites, and committee members received an overview of design and permitting, site grading, and land use restoration.

The committee received information regarding the history of coal mining reclamation in the state, an overview of coal conversion operations, and an update on the lignite energy industry and coal mining operations from representatives of BNI Coal, North American Coal, and the Lignite Energy Council.

The committee received information from a representative of the College of Engineering and Mines Research Institute at the University of North Dakota regarding the extraction and commercialization of rare earth elements from lignite coal.

The committee also received information on proposed increases in utility rates from a representative of Montana-Dakota Utilities Company and received information from the Legislative Council staff regarding other states' regulations on data center development.

Tribal and State Relations Committee

On July 22, the Tribal and State Relations Committee held its fifth meeting of the interim and met with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The committee received information from Chairman Steve Sitting Bear and members of the tribal council regarding the tribe and tribal-state issues.

The committee also received information from a representative of Wozu Inc., regarding the organization's work with members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The committee received information from a representative of the Sacred Pipe Resource Center regarding an overview of the organization's work and mission.

The committee received information from a representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, regarding law enforcement on the Standing Rock Reservation; a representative of the Game and Fish Department, regarding fishing jurisdiction in the state; and a representative of Sitting Bull College, regarding an overview of the college.

Upcoming Meetings

August

- 10** Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Subcommittee
- 12** Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board
- 13** Artificial Intelligence and Data Center
- 18** Judiciary
- 19** Advanced Nuclear Energy

September

- 3** Agriculture and Water Management
- 17** Water Topics Overview
- 24** Information Technology