

# Minerals Committee

## 2021 Interim Planning - Proposed Interim Topics

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### Representative Bear

**Proposed Interim Topic:** Wyoming Electricity Production Standard

**Contact Person:**

John Bear

Committee member

John.Bear@wyoleg.gov

307-670-1130

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Setting a standard for production and providing for a carbon credit style of mechanism.

**Expected goal or result:**

A bill to address this issue.

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

2-3 hours plus background work.

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Current standards enacted by other states.

### Representative Greear, Chairman

**Proposed Interim Topic:** Liability of Produced Water

**Contact Person:**

John T Robitaille

Encore Green Environmental

john.robaille@encoregreenenvironmental.com

3072621104

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Produced water liability must be addressed if Wyoming is to increase the beneficial use of the large amount of produced water associated with oil and gas production. We believe if the liability is passed to the 3rd party who agrees to take the water for treatment, more oil and gas companies will be willing to put that water to beneficial use, saving Wyoming's ground water and increasing agricultural yields for those who can use the treated produced water.

**Expected goal or result:**

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We believe a bill, and ultimately a law, which passes the liability of produced water from the producer to the 3rd party who is willing to take the produced water will result in an increase in beneficial use of produced water

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

We anticipate no more than 6 hours on this subject.

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

We recommend reviewing the State Engineer's Statutes regarding produced water and how to apply for appropriation of said water. W.S. 41-3-903; W.S. 41-3-904 specifically

### **N/A-Topic requested by legislator**

**Proposed Interim Topic: Review of existing internet related laws for update**

**Contact Person:**

Laura Baker

Wyoming CAN (Cybersecurity Action Network) Committee

[laurab@cyberwyoming.org](mailto:laurab@cyberwyoming.org)

307-314-2188

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

The Wyoming CAN Committee reviewed existing internet related laws and provided suggestions for simplification and updates. These include credit freeze laws to criminal laws. Some of these laws are referencing very outdated technologies and processes.

**Expected goal or result:**

Update and simplify existing statutes. We put together a committee and have a document of the recommendations. Please contact me (the unofficial secretary of the committee) to get a copy of the recommendations.

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

20 hours

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

The Wyoming CAN recommendations document.

### **Representative Greear, Chairman**

**Proposed Interim Topic: Unemployment insurance - seasonal & temporary workers.**

**Contact Person:**

Senator Kinsky

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

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Study seasonal and temporary workers pertaining to unemployment insurance. Examine other states that have seasonal exemptions in place in their respective Unemployment Insurance laws and figure out how to develop a Wyoming approach on this issue.

**Expected goal or result:**

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**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

#### Senator Anderson, Chairman

**Proposed Interim Topic: Landfill Remediation Program Credit**

**Contact Person:**

Jolene Martinez

City of Casper

[jmartinez@casperwy.gov](mailto:jmartinez@casperwy.gov)

307.235.8224

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

It is recommended that the state statute is changed to that the landfill owners can receive a check for the credit as an option.

**Expected goal or result:**

The goal is that the state statute is changed such that landfill owners will be able to use the credits that are due them. Currently, the way the statute is written, there are landfills that will never be able to use their credits.

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

About one hour of testimony with questions and answers on the topic will initially be required.

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

#### N/A-Topic requested by legislator

**Proposed Interim Topic: Revisions to Industrial Siting Act**

**Contact Person:**

Representative Scott Heiner

Legislature

[scott.heiner@wyoleg.gov](mailto:scott.heiner@wyoleg.gov)

307-870-2859

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

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No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Review Industrial Siting Act for possible revisions and update

**Expected goal or result:**

Possible reduction in allowable impact mitigation assistance, landowner involvement and notification, and other improvements to align requirements for all large developments to be equal. Right now, wind and solar are treated different than other projects.

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

1 day

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Title 35

**Proposed Interim Topic: Wyoming Business Council Improvements**

**Contact Person:**

Representative Scott Heiner

Legislature

scott.heiner@wyoleg.gov

307-870-2859

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

1) Review Business Ready Community Grant for effectiveness or improvements. 2) Review effectiveness of Community Development Block Grant program and need for update 3)

**Expected goal or result:**

Established in 1998, review the effectiveness and update priorities as necessary for the next 20 year effort

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

1 day

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

**Proposed Interim Topic: Revenue Neutral Severance Tax Modification**

**Contact Person:**

Brian Boner

SD 2

Brian.boner@wyoleg.gov

3073590706

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Change severance taxes on federal minerals which experience an increase in federal royalties.

**Expected goal or result:**

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A severance tax reduction that is revenue neutral to the state, recognizing the increases in FMRs the state will realize if federal royalties increase.

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

### Representative Greear, Chairman

**Proposed Interim Topic:** Electric Grid Reliability use of dispatchable power

**Contact Person:**

Randall B Luthi

Office of Governor

randall.luthi@wyo.gov

3072142093

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Pick up the work of the current Minerals Committee on providing reliability and stability to the electric grid system with the use of dispatchable energy

**Expected goal or result:**

Proposed legislation

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

With testimony less than 10 hours

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Governor's Office, PSC, private companies interested in CCUS, utility companies

**Proposed Interim Topic:** Bonding: WEA and reclamation

**Contact Person:**

Randall B Luthi

Office of Governor

randall.luthi@wyo.gov

3072142093

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Review the bonding authority of the Wyoming Energy Authority; some discussion of reclamation bonds for coal

**Expected goal or result:**

Proposed legislation; possibly study recommendations

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

With testimony, 8 - 10 hours

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### **Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Wyoming Energy Authority, DEQ, Governor's office, Wyoming Mining Association, private companies interested in developing energy related projects and those responsible for reclamation of coal mines

### **Representative Sherwood**

#### **Proposed Interim Topic: Commercialization of Products made with CO2**

#### **Contact Person:**

Trey Sherwood

trey.sherwood@wyoleg.gov

3077602722

#### **Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

#### **Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Identify ways to support local, "Made in Wyoming" manufactures and producers wishing to utilize captured Co2 for commercial fuel or product development. Develop recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes which would support, facilitate or encourage the use of Co2 in commercial scale products (i.e. entrepreneurs using Co2 to make building materials, fuels, polymers for plastics, clothing and accessories, furniture, carbon fibers, wastewater treatment, fertilizer, detergent, soaps, and carbon materials including graphene (electrical conductor), carbon fibers (used in aerospace, energy, concrete, automobiles and sporting goods) and carbon nanotubes (used in batteries, electronics, sporting goods). Work with the following partners to understand the potential governmental and policy barriers to growing the Co2 industry: - X Prize Foundation and Carbon X Prize finalists - The Wyoming Integrated Test Center, Jason Beggar, Managing Director (jason@armatureadvocacy.com) - CarbonSAFE project - UW School of Energy Resources' Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC), Richard Horner, Director of Special Projects and Emerging Technologies (rhorner@uwyo.edu) - Manufacturing Works - Center of Economic Geology Research, Scott Quillinan, (307) 766-6697 - Carbon Ore, Rare Earth Elements and Critical Minerals (CORE-CM): with pending grant proposals to the Department of Energy under the CORE-CM program that would allow work with the Community Colleges, economic development groups, and industry stakeholders to promote full supply chain development and train a workforce to support carbon product, rare earth element, and critical mineral industries  
<https://www.netl.doe.gov/node/10130>

#### **Expected goal or result:**

Understand what is needed to further the Co2 products sector? - Government support and policies. I.e. carbon standards for concrete used in public infrastructure projects, buying policies for products for the government that incorporate CO2, and passing carbon pricing policies - Funding for research and development - Agency partnerships - Life cycle assessments - i.e. how long the CO2 can be sequestered and kept out of the air

#### **Estimated Committee time for topic:**

6 hours

#### **Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Reports/updates or tours from the above identified partner organizations.

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### Representative Gray

**Proposed Interim Topic:** WBC low tax rates promotion

**Contact Person:**

Chuck Gray

Wyoming State Legislature

chuck.gray@wyoleg.gov

3072511372

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

The process that the WBC uses to promote Wyoming's low tax rates.

**Expected goal or result:**

Promoting Wyoming's low tax rates.

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

2-3 hours

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Reviewing WBC collateral, marketing materials, and processes.

### Representative Sherwood

**Proposed Interim Topic:** Review of Economic Development Tools

**Contact Person:**

Trey Sherwood

trey.sherwood@wyoleg.gov

3077602722

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Review of our state initiated/hosted economic development tools and make determinations our return on investment for each. Explore how they could be improved, strengthened or, if not working, phased out.

**Expected goal or result:**

1. Tax Exemptions -How do we measure the ROI of each?
2. Economic Development Tax - Goshen and Fremont counties are the only ones using this. Why aren't more communities taking advantage of this?
3. Tax Increment Financing for Urban Renewal - tool on the books but not being used by Downtown Development Authorities because they cannot get the information they need from the Department of Revenue to establish a baseline sales tax collection. Title 15, Chapter 9. Additional consideration of:
4. New Market Tax Credits - are they working for Wyoming?
5. Venture Capital Funds - what legislative or policy changes need to occur to boost the availability of?
6. Federal funds - are we leaving money on

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the table? a. USDA Rural Economic Development Loans & Grants b. EDA 7. Zones - are they working? a. Opportunity zones b. Economic development zones (HB 170) - what should we expect from them in way of measurables? What does this bill/program need to be successful? i. Focus on economically distressed areas within Wyoming experiencing job loss, with underutilized property and below average median household income ii. Capacity building to support the work of local economic development organizations c. Incentive zones - NM & CO allow for tax credits for private businesses that contribute financially to economic development organizations 8. WBC programs a. Challenge Loan b. Forgivable loans? c. Business Ready Community i. Community Facilities Program - bring back? d. Marketing & messaging to attract new businesses and workforce

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

8 hours

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

### Representative Gray

**Proposed Interim Topic: Electricity standard**

**Contact Person:**

Chuck Gray

Wyoming State Legislature

chuck.gray@wyoleg.gov

3072511372

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Look at bill and how an electricity standard would work.

**Expected goal or result:**

Possible legislation

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

2-3 hours over 2 meetings

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

HB248 and the experience of other jurisdictions

**Proposed Interim Topic: Coal fired power plant status**

**Contact Person:**

Chuck Gray

Wyoming State Legislature

chuck.gray@wyoleg.gov

3072511372

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

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Review the relevant statutes regarding PSC authority

**Expected goal or result:**

Possible legislation after review of the topic

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

2-3 hours at each meeting

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Relevant PSC statutes and the Integrated Resource Plan from Rocky Mountain Power.

**Proposed Interim Topic: Review of coal export litigation and litigation regarding power plants**

**Contact Person:**

Chuck Gray

Wyoming State Legislature

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3072511372

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Legislative oversight of the Governor's efforts on coal exports and on coal-fired power plant closures.

**Expected goal or result:**

Testimony and possible legislation

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

1 hour at each meeting

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Relevant bills and briefs from any cases

**Proposed Interim Topic: Trade violations from China regarding trona**

**Contact Person:**

Chuck Gray

Wyoming State Legislature

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3072511372

**Related to 2021 legislation:**

No

**Recommended priorities Committee should consider:**

Study China's uses of synthetic trona and study relevant trade law.

**Expected goal or result:**

Possible legislation and education

**Estimated Committee time for topic:**

1-2 hours at each meeting

**Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:**

Trade law