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## TSRIA NEWS

### February 2015

## 2015 Montana Legislative Session

The 2015 Montana Legislative Session is in its 25<sup>th</sup> day and has considered and acted on a long list of bills important to Montana's natural resource industries.

The following is a list of bills in which TSRIA is monitoring/engaging on behalf of its members:

### **Energy**

- HB 188, Rep. Wittich, revise net metering laws - TABLED
- HB 192, Rep. Wittich, increase cap on net metering – TABLED
- SB 134, Sen. Fielder, allow aggregate net metering – TABLED
- SB 182, Sen. Phillips, allow neighborhood net metering – TABLED
- SB 10, Sen. Keane, revise USB to exempt small natural gas utilities
- SB 11, Sen. Keane, revise USB to exempt small electric utilities. Passed Senate
- HB 230, Rep. Zolnikov, repeal Community Renewable Energy Project laws
- SB 114, Sen. Debby Barrett, classify all hydro power as renewable
- SB 204, Sen. Stewart-Peregoy, lift cap on coal board allocations to tribes impacted by coal production
- SB 236, Sen. Webb, limit authority to regulate carbon to the discretion of the Legislature

### **Environmental Protection**

- HB 340, Rep. Burnett, require the Montana DEQ to fine the federal government for fires on federal lands that contribute to violations of air quality standards. Hearing 2/4/15
- SB 136, Sen. Hamlett, revise hazardous waste fees. Hearing 2/6/15
- SB 49, Sen. Hamlett, expand use of petroleum mixing zones. Passed Senate
- SB 96, Sen. Keane, revise controlled allocation of liability laws. Passed Senate Natural Resources Committee
- SB 102, Sen. Ankney, revise air quality permit fee structure. Passed Senate

### **Water**

- SB 82, Sen. Hamlett, revise duties of Water Policy Interim Committee, Hearing 2/6/15
- HB 270, Rep. Richmond, revise water discharge laws regarding nutrients
- SB 97, Sen. Vincent, revise process for misclassified water bodies. Passed Senate Natural Resources Committee
- SB 112, Sen. Ankney, require TMDL for certain water bodies
- SB 159, Sen. Ankney, revise water standards for eastern Montana tributaries

SB 160, Sen. Ankney, add definitions for natural condition of a stream  
SB 56, Sen. Hamlett, add notice requirement for use of navigable river beds

### **Mining**

HB 235, Rep. Lynch, revise disposition of metal mines tax. Hearing 2/3/15  
SB 20, Sen. Vincent, reallocate portion of metal mines tax. Hearing 2/4/15  
SB 218, Sen. Sheehy Moe, increase the bond for certain metal mines. Hearing 2/6/16

### **Oil and Gas**

HB 253, Rep. Court, revise oil and gas development laws (require closed loop systems). Hearing 2/2/15  
SB 145, Sen. Hamlett, allocation of oil and gas revenue for impact projects. Hearing 2/5/15  
HB 226, Rep. Richmond, revise oil and gas damage mitigation account  
HB 243, Rep. Dunwell, require disclosure of fluids used in hydraulic fracturing. TABLED  
HB 310, Rep. Jacobson, establish oil and gas trust fund  
HJ 11, Rep. Lang, Join resolution on Keystone XL pipeline  
SB 172, Sen. Stewart-Peregoy, require water testing at oil and gas sites  
SB 173, Sen. Kaufmann, establish bonds for oil and gas development  
SB 177, Sen. McNally, require 1000 foot setback from water resources for drilling oil and gas wells

### **Land and Forestry**

SB 215, Sen. Fielder, prohibit sale of lands granted or transferred to the State  
SB 256, Sen. Hamlett, authorize attorney general to intervene in timber reduction projects

### **Taxation**

HB 156, Rep. Miller, revise laws related to pollution control equipment  
HB 213, Rep. Miller, revise business equipment tax laws  
HB 323, Rep. Jacobson, revise taxation of class five pollution control equipment

### **General**

SB 261, Sen. Hamlett, Montana Sage Grouse Stewardship Act  
SB 188, Sen. Vincent, revise liability for forest or range fires. Passed Senate Natural Resources Committee  
HB 244, Rep. Essman, fund litigation protecting Montana's products in interstate commerce

## **President Obama Releases 2016 Budget Proposal**

President Obama released his 2016 budget proposal this week for consideration by the US Congress. The proposal includes:

- \$8.6 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)--\$450 million over last year.
- \$4 billion for the Clean Power State Incentive Fund—to be awarded to states that go beyond their carbon reduction targets set in the Clean Power Rule.
- \$7.4 billion for clean energy technology programs to promote solar, wind and low-carbon fossil fuel projects.
- \$239 million for the EPA to address climate change.
- \$29.9 billion for the Energy Department, an increase of \$2 billion.
- \$13.2 billion for the Department of the Interior, an increase of \$959.2 million.
- \$500 million for foreign climate aid (the United Nations Green Climate Fund) to help other countries address climate change.

# Federal Fracking Rules Due Out Soon

By Timothy Cama of *The Hill*, 2/2/15

Rules for hydraulic fracturing on federal land will be made final within weeks, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said. Jewell told reporters Monday that the rules from Interior's Bureau of Land Management are "very close" and can be expected "in the coming weeks."

Other oil and gas industry rules for blowout preventers for offshore drilling Arctic drilling rules will take more time, Jewell said.

The fracking rules would set the first ever standards for using the controversial process on federally-owned land that is leased by oil companies. As proposed in 2013, the standards would mandate that fracking companies disclose the chemicals they use and take certain steps to ensure that fluids do not reach groundwater and are properly discarded. The oil and gas industry says the rules are unnecessary, and environmentalists say they don't go far enough.

## Upcoming Events/Dates

<b>February 27</b> Transmittal of general bills to other chamber Last day to request appropriation bills	<b>February 17</b> MT Board of Land Commissioners Supreme Court Chambers Helena
<b>February 28-March 3</b> Transmittal break	<b>March 20</b> Montana Board of Environmental Review MDEQ, Helena
<b>February 9-12</b> Montana Association of Counties Midwinter Conf. Red Lion Colonial Hotel Helena	