

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2019

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Amador, Representatives Anderson, Anderst, Horman, Moon, Scott (Paterson), Ehardt, Armstrong, Furniss, Hartgen, Lickley, Raybould, Young, Smith, Chew, Ellis, Mason

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Anderst, Horman, Armstrong, Mason

GUESTS: Jeff Feeler, President, Chief Executive Officer, US Ecology; Terry Geis, Vice President of Western Operations, US Ecology; Simon Bell, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, US Ecology; John Chatburn, Administrator, Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources; David Swenson, Intermountain Gas; John J. Williams, BPA; Brian English, Idaho DEQ; Lon Stewart, Idaho DEQ.

Chairman Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Roy Eiguren, Attorney, Boise, Idaho, introduced **Jeff Feeler**, US Ecology, for the Legislative Update Presentation.

Jeff Feeler, President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, US Ecology presented: Idaho Legislative Update. Mr. Feeler introduced the key members of US Ecology and gave a brief overview about the US Ecology organization. US Ecology has been in business for 65 years and is a multi-national company with over 1,600 employees, in Idaho there are 164 team members. The US Ecology is headquartered downtown Boise, Idaho and is publicly traded on NASDAQ ('ECOL'). Customers are primarily in the industrial sector, also customers are retail and consumer based businesses dealing with hazardous waste management issues. Mr. Feeler reviewed the Coast to Coast Disposal Network with facilities positioned throughout North America and Canada. US Ecology operates 15 treatment facilities located at landfills and standalone facilities.

US Ecology services provides recycling with seven recovery/recycling operations in the Gulf, Midwest, Northeast and Southern Regions.

Terry Geis, Vice President, Western Region Operations, US Ecology, presented US Ecology, Grand View Idaho Overview: The Grand View facility employs over 40 people. US Ecology entered into a partnership with OSHA approximately 12 years ago, USEI recently celebrated a 10 year anniversary with OSHA VPP Star Status. US Ecology is a significant generator of state revenue and contributes \$1.8 M on average to the General Fund. Local initiatives US Ecology partners with Mountain Home and Owyhee Country is involved with local annual household hazardous waste collection and recycling community event with a contribution-in-kind of approximately \$20,000 and the community grant program annual award to Owyhee County non-profit organizations.

Simon Bell, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, US Ecology presented: An overview of the US Ecology Grand View's Incident. On November 17, 2018, US Ecology had an unexpected reaction, that resulted in significant damage to the facility and resulted in temporary site closure of the treatment facility. US Ecology is conducting a thorough investigation, and supporting regulatory investigations from IDEQ, EPA and OSHA. US Ecology will continue to keep all lines of communication open with key stakeholders during the process. Mr. Bell stated they are continuing the Idaho rebuild of the complex and recovery process. The current status is to re-open operations, substantial clean-up and repairs have been completed. The business will continue to look at expanding the field services to retail stores and are advancing many recycling opportunities.

In response to committee questions about the relationship with the emergency responders prior to the incident and after the incident, **Mr. Bell** said the relationship is very good with the Emergency Responders and US Ecology provides contingency plans which are updated annually to medical facilities, Mountain Home Air Force Base, hospitals, emergency agencies and the response was coordinated with multiple agencies both at the state and local level.

John Chatburn, Administrator, Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources presented, Energy In Idaho. Mr. Chatburn presented a brief overview of Idaho's landscape. Energy covers information that involves electricity, natural gas and transportation fuels. Statistical information is primarily from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Idaho Public Utilities Commission, and Individual Utility Integrated Resource Plans. Idaho energy production and consumption varies and has maintained an even plateau. Sources of energy consumed in Idaho during 2016, coal, natural gas, petroleum, woody biomass, and other renewables, and retail electricity sales and energy losses. In 2016, Idaho had the 13th highest percentage of energy expenditures, in the U.S. of Idaho's electric fuel mix, hydropower makes up the bulk of the fuel mix followed by coal and natural gas. Wind power has increased to 7% and nuclear is at 2%. Idaho has 6 investor-owned utilities that offer electric and/or natural gas service in Idaho. Utilities that provide service to 84% of electricity to customers in Idaho are Idaho Power Co., Rocky Mountain Power/PacifiCorp, Avista, Intermountain Gas and Dominion Energy.

Mr. Chatburn stated in 2018, Idaho had the 13th highest average gasoline prices in the United States. Idaho is one of the few states that does not have a refinery. The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) projects from 1981 to 2017 experienced an increase the amount of renewable energy being utilized. Gateway West received its final right of way grant from the BLM. Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) finished federal review and is in the state of Oregon's siting process. The Hooper Springs transmission line is under construction. The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) is a real-time wholesale energy trading market. Idaho received permission to apply for the approximately \$17 million in funding to mitigate emissions under the VW Settlement. Electrify America, a subsidiary of Volkswagen, will build out a network of DC fast charging stations throughout the country, as part of the VW settlement. Five stations will be installed in Idaho by June 2019 along I-84 and I-15.

In response to committee questions regarding additional car charging stations on I-90 and service territories in North Idaho and relationships between hydro and wind. **Mr. Chatburn** stated Electrify America would be putting a car charging station on I-90, in Idaho. It is a priority area, working with the utilities and private parties to facilitate this process. The hydro system has begun to follow resources such as wind and utilize the hydro systems to handle variabilities with other renewable resources.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Kristen Weitz
Secretary