

MINUTES
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
Thursday, December 18, 2025
2:00 PM
Room B, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Mark Johnson, Co-Chair; Matt McKee, Vice-Chair; Ronald Caldwell, Alan Clark, Jimmy Hickey, Jr, Blake Johnson, and Clint Penzo; Representatives Matthew J. Shepherd, Co-Chair; Rick Beck, Justin Gonzales, Jack Ladyman, Richard McGrew, and David Whitaker

Other members present: Senators Steve Crowell, Matt Stone, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Lincoln Barnett, Howard M. Beaty, Jr, Cindy Crawford, Les D. Eaves, Jon S. Eubanks, Denise Garner, Rick McClure, Jon Milligan, Jason Nazarenko, Stetson Painter, Chad Puryear, Marcus E. Richmond, Johnny Rye, and Bart Schulz

Representative Shepherd called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes for the September 29, 2025, Meeting [Exhibit B]

Senator Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Ladyman, and the motion carried.

Approval of Murphy Energy Subcontract Request [Exhibits C1-C2]

Brian Meaders, General Counsel, EXCEL Services Corporation (EXCEL), led a discussion on EXCEL's request to utilize subcontractors for its work on the Nuclear Energy Feasibility Study. Senator McKee made a motion to approve EXCEL's request to utilize Murphy Energy & Infrastructure Consulting, LLC as a subcontractor, subject to providing the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) associated with the subcontractor, seconded by Representative Ladyman, and the motion carried.

Approval of Nucleon Energy Subcontract Request [Exhibits C3-C5]

Brian Meaders, General Counsel, EXCEL, led a discussion on EXCEL's request to utilize subcontractors for its work on the Nuclear Energy Feasibility Study. Senator McKee made a motion to approve EXCEL's request to utilize Nucleon Energy, Inc. as a subcontractor, subject to providing BLR the NDA associated with the subcontractor, seconded by Representative Ladyman, and the motion carried.

Authorization to Joint Energy Committee Chairs to Approve Any Additional Subcontractor Approval Requests

Senator McKee made a motion to authorize the Joint Energy Committee Chairs to consider and approve any requests from EXCEL for additional subcontractors, provided that the use of the subcontractor does not cause an increase in EXCEL's maximum contract amount of \$305,000 and if those proposed requests are provided to the Joint Energy Committee prior to approval, seconded by Representative Ladyman, and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.