

Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee

Work Plan Summary – 2014 Interim

PROJECT: Legislative Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy

COMPLETION DATE: December 2014 **STAFF:** William Bridges
786-7416

REFERENCES: [ESSB 6002 - SEC. 101 & 102 \(2014\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: According to the federal Energy Information Agency, there are currently 65 commercially operating nuclear power plants with 104 nuclear reactors in 31 states around the country. These plants generate about 20 percent of U.S. electricity each year.

The Columbia Generating Station (CGS) near Richland, Washington is the Pacific Northwest's only commercially operating nuclear power plant. CGS is operated by Energy Northwest, a not-for-profit joint operating agency. The entire output of CGS is marketed by the Bonneville Power Administration. According to the most recent state fuel mix report, CGS supplied about 4.7 percent of the electricity used by retail customers in the state in 2012.

The 2013-15 capital budget appropriated \$500,000 to study the manufacturing of small modular nuclear reactors in the Tri-Cities.

During the 2014 legislative session, the EET committee heard SSB 5991, which proposed the creation of a legislative task force to study nuclear energy in the region. While the bill did not pass, its substantive provisions were added to the supplemental operating budget, ESSB 6002.

Under the budget provisions, an eight-member legislative taskforce must study the generation of nuclear energy in the region. It must hold no more than four meetings, with two of those meetings in Richland, Washington. Senate committee staff will help plan the meetings and assist in the preparation of any findings and recommendations, which are due December 1, 2014.

Committee Meeting Schedule – 2014 Interim

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7406

July 9, 2014 10:00 AM	Legislative Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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July or September (Two consecutive days) Time TBA	Legislative Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy Work Session	Richland, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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November Time TBA	Legislative Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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