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House Special Committee on Energy

House Committees Schedule Energy Projects Review

House Special Committee on Energy and House Resources Committee to meet Friday and Saturday

For immediate release

May 4, 2011

Juneau, Alaska – The House Special Committee on Energy, in conjunction with the House Resources Committee, has scheduled two days of hearings on energy projects in the most recent draft capital budget bill.

The committee will review various hydroelectric, gas, geothermal, wind, coal-to-liquids, and other energy projects **from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7**, in the House Finance Committee Room, Room 519, of the Alaska State Capitol. The meetings will be teleconferenced statewide at Legislative Information Offices.

Anticipating the Senate sending the capital budget before the end of the 30-day special session on May 17, the House committees have invited state officials and utility representatives to provide details on their projects. Committee members want to hear about each proposal's benefits and costs and how each one will lower Alaskans' energy expenses. Project proponents also are encouraged to explain how their requests fit into the state energy policy approved last year by the legislature.

House Energy Co-chair Lance Pruitt (R-Anchorage) said the hearings will focus on 28 projects that add up to more than \$310 million. These do not include items reviewed last week by the House Finance Committee such as energy rebates and the state weatherization program or those that have been vetted by the Alaska Energy Authority through its renewable energy grant guidelines.

"Although the Senate hasn't yet passed its capital budget to the House, time is running short in the special session and the House is adamant that we have a chance to review the plan thoroughly," he said. "We can begin that process now, with the understanding that these projects are important to communities statewide."

"Our goal is to help make energy more affordable for all Alaskans while allowing the State of Alaska to get a bigger bang for its buck," House Energy Co-chair Rep. Neal Foster (D-Nome) said.

Attached to the electronic version of this press release are:

- Energy projects in CSSB 46 Version T, page 98, line 1, through page 101, line 27
- A one-page spreadsheet of those projects
- The House Special Committee on Energy schedule
- Alaska Statute 44.99.115, the state energy policy

For more information, contact Christopher Clark, Rep. Neal Foster's office: (907) 465-3789.

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