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**January 15, 1999 Periodic Update of
Legislative Electric Energy Task Force to the Legislature**

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Introduction

Laws 1998, chapter 380, required the Legislative Electric Energy Task Force (LEETF) to conduct an extensive analysis of nine specified issues related to the issue of restructuring of the electric industry to provide for competition in the generation segment of that industry. The LEETF was required to convene several advisory work groups to assist it in its work. The LEETF was specifically directed to examine issues related to bulk power system reliability, the distribution system, prices, and universal service during the interim after the 1998 session.

Laws 1998, chapter 380, section 2, subdivision requires the LEETF by January 15, of each year to provide the legislature with an update on the progress of its review and analysis of restructuring issues required by chapter 380, including legislative recommendations as the LEETF deems appropriate. This is the update for January 15, 1999.

The LEETF has timely completed its 1998 interim statutory assignments. It has adopted a work plan more fully described below.

There is consensus among participants in the LEETF advisory work groups and among members of the LEETF that the analysis required by chapter 380 is a critical prerequisite to enable the legislature to acquire the knowledge to make an informed decision about whether and how to proceed with restructuring of the electric industry, and to be able to act in an informed manner in the event the federal government mandates electric restructuring prior to any action by the state. Not only is the LEETF acquiring information but also the process of the analysis has allowed a forum for stakeholders to gain an understanding of the diverse viewpoints of a broad array of interests. In addition, the process has been useful in terms of identifying issues that the legislature may want to address regardless of whether the state moves forward with restructuring, such as issues of regional governance and the likely generation shortfall in the next 3 to 5 years.

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LEETF 1998 Interim Activities

The LEETF did perform the analysis in the 1998 interim that was required by law. Advisory work groups were convened on the issues of bulk power reliability and distribution and on universal service and pricing. Written comments were received from individual work group members on those issues. Individual meetings with work group

