Panel reviewing Colorado renewable energy law adds 2 members

Cathy Proctor
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A 10-member advisory committee looking at the feasibility of implementing Colorado’s controversial new renewable energy standard for rural electric cooperatives will have two new members at its next meeting on Wednesday, the Colorado Energy Office says.

Gov. John Hickenlooper announced the formation of the advisory committee in June, the same day he signed Senate Bill 252 into law.

The law doubles the renewable energy goal for rural cooperatives to 20 percent by 2020. The previous goal, instituted in 2007, required rural cooperators to get 10 percent of their power from renewable resources by 2020.
The committee is supposed to make recommendations by November on how the law should be tweaked to smooth implementation.

The Colorado Energy Office on Monday announced the two new members:

- Lisa Nolder, vice president of economic and governmental affairs for Quantum Renewable Energy. Nolder also is the former executive director of Prowers County Development Inc. She will bring her perspective of rural economic development to the committee, according to the energy office.

- Fred Menzer, vice president of Colorado operations, for Climax Molybdenum Co., which runs the Henderson Mine near Empire. Menzer brings his perspective of a large electric customer to the committee, according to the energy office.

The other members of the committee were named in July.

At the committee’s first meeting on July 10, a representative of Westminster-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the second-biggest electricity generator in Colorado, estimates it will have to add 430 megawatts of wind-based power on its system — at a cost of $1 billion — to meet the new law.