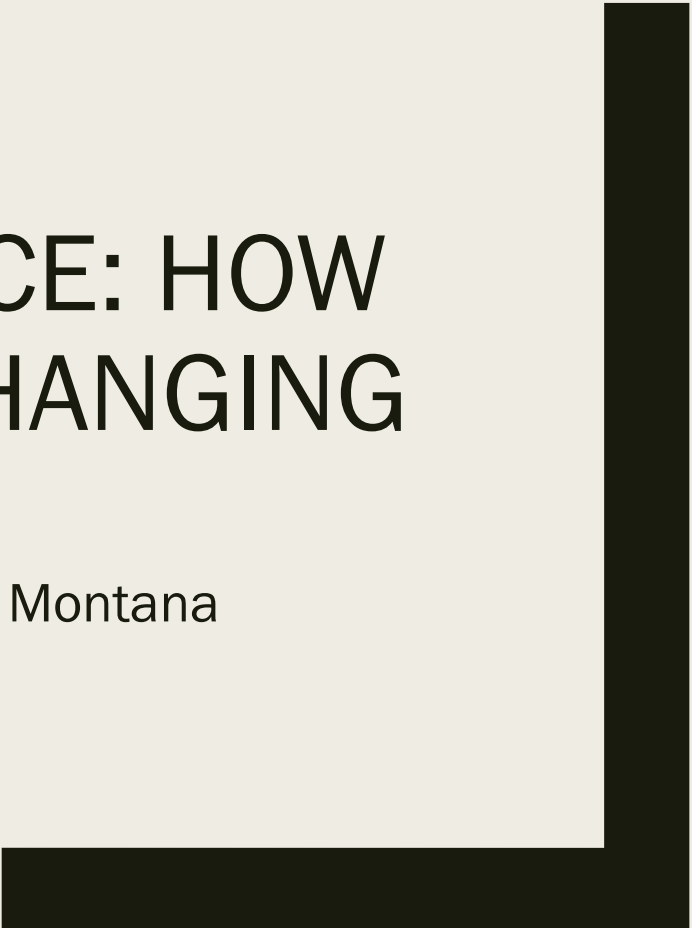




DISRUPTIONS IN THE FORCE: HOW THE ENERGY SECTOR IS CHANGING

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- There is something endearingly hopeful in human nature that compels each generation to privilege its own (geologically-speaking) tiny span of time on earth as remarkable, even unprecedented.
- We flatter ourselves that no generation before has seen the things we have seen, done the things we have done, contended with the challenges we contended with.

- “*We live in unusual/interesting/never-before-seen times,*” we tell each other.
- But really, most of the time, we don’t.
- There is, after all, “*nothing new under the sun,*” as some English guy wrote many generations back.

- Well, I am here today to tell you that . . . “*We live in unusual/interesting/never-before-seen times.*”
- In so, so many ways.
- And how can you doubt it when the head-snapping, jaw dropping impact of that thing we never thought we would see/hear/read/tweet is still reverberating in our heads when the next thing we never thought we would . . . gob smacks us again?

- In its seemingly stodgy but sneakily interesting way, the energy sector serves as a microcosm of this head spinning pace of change.

■ I offer for your consideration:

- *The United States' we're in, we're out, actually we're back in, actually we're back out "dance" with the Paris Climate Accord, and the rise of state and private company actions to compensate for federal gridlock on climate change*
- *The enormous effort to create the EPA's Clean Power Plan rule, followed by the U.S. Supreme Court's stay of the CPP, to the measure signed by EPA Chief Scott Pruitt late last year to repeal the "so-called Clean Power Plan."*
- *The proposal, ultimately rejected by FERC, by Energy Secretary Perry for a plan of incentives to "reward nuclear and coal-fired power plants for adding reliability to the nation's power grid."*
- *The seemingly never ending pitched battle about the future of PURPA, especially in the west and including a current bill in Congress to all but do away with the mandatory purchase requirement (the "PURPA put").*
- *And all of this happening in the context of market forces that are (and have been) ringing the death knell for coal.*
- *And on and on and on . . .*