

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dennis Hedke at 9:00 am on Thursday, March 19, 2015, 582-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Kasha Kelley – Excused

Representative Mike Kiegerl – Excused

Representative Harold Lane – Excused

Committee staff present:

Cindy Lash, Legislative Research Department

Patricia Kready, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Erica Haas, Legislative Research Department

Matt Sterling, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Approval of minutes

Chairman Hedke asked for an approval of committee minutes for February 2, 18, 20, 23, 25, March 11 and 16. *Rep. Whitmer moved to approve the minutes, Rep. Esau seconded, minutes were approved.*

Smart Meters and Digital Meters

Chairman Hedke brought to the committee's attention recent discussions he has had with representatives of Westar and KCP&L regarding the subject of Smart Meters that are being introduced into some homes. Chairman Hedke has had some inquiries from individuals concerned that the digital meters, that are now being installed in place of the old analog meters, were Smart Meters.

Chairman Hedke called on Scott Jones with KCP&L to inform the committee how this would be communicated to the customers. Mr. Jones indicated in terms of advance meters, the digital meters the Chairman was referring to have been introduced by both Westar and KCP&L over the last few years. He indicated they have each had a demonstration of a Smart Grid project where they used the Smart Meters. These digital meters are replacing analog meters that require meter readers. This information is clearly communicated on both utilities websites and has also been communicated door to door with flyers and mailings.

Chairman Hedke made a recommendation to Westar and KCP&L to send the digital versions of what they have produced, and to forward to Patricia, for circulation to Committee members so they have it available to communicate with their constituents if needed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Energy and Environment at 9:00 am on Thursday, March 19, 2015, 582-N of the Capitol.

HB2233 — Electric utilities and carbon dioxide emissions.

Chairman Hedke mentioned that the bill went out of the Committee and did not get above the line on the Committee of the Whole, so the bill was blessed and it was referred back to the Committee; however, he indicated valuable input has been received from the utilities and we have an opportunity to improve bill language and incorporate comments from the utilities. He then sought a motion to amend.

Rep. Corbet made a motion to amend the bill, Rep. Keuther seconded.

Matt Sterling, Assistant Revisor of Statutes handed out an amendment to the bill and explained it to the committee. ([Attachment 1](#)) He stood for questions following this.

Chairman Hedke invited Gary Mason, Deputy Secretary with KDHE to speak regarding this bill and amendment. Mason indicated he supported the amendment.

Discussion followed. Chairman Hedke indicated there's a possibility that an interim committee will be appointed to interact with the KCC and KDHE as they develop their State Implementation Plan.

Rep. Jennings moved to accept the amendment, Rep. Whitmer seconded, amendment passed favorably.

Rep. Jennings moved to pass the bill favorably, Rep. Whitmer seconded, bill passed favorably as amended.

Additional Items

HB2414-Department of health and environment and economic impact reports for state implementation plans was received into Committee on March 17.

Chairman Hedke adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.