

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joe Seiwert at 9:00am on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 582-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Stan Frownfelter – Excused
- Representative Scott Schwab – Excused
- Representative Annie Kuether – Excused
- Representative Brandon Whipple – Absent

Committee staff present:

- Linda Borrer, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
- Erica Haas, Legislative Research Department
- Craig McCullah, 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](#)

Possible Bill Introductions

No Bill Introductions

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Phil Wages, KEPCO .Mr. Wages summarized the background of the formation of the company as well as the Function, Governance, Energy sales and Demand. He also gave a brief report on the Wolf Creek Nuclear station as well as Iatan2 nuclear station. ([Attachment 1](#))

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Mike Morley of Midwest Energy explained that it is Kansas' only combined electric and natural gas cooperative and also the only one that operates its own generation facilities while maintaining both transmission and electric lines. He then used the map to point out the specific service areas.

([Attachment 2](#))

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Morley stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Scott Jones of Kansas City Power and Light shared the Strategic Initiatives of the company. They are: Energy Efficiency, Transmission, Managing Costs, Environmental Improvements and Economic Development..

([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Utilities and Telecommunications at 9:00am on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 582-N of the Capitol.

Following his presentation, Mr Jones stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

David Holthaus of Kansas Electric Cooperatives first gave an explanation of how cooperatives are unique. He then gave a brief history of this organization, how many people are served and reviewed the distribution systems. ([Attachment 4](#))

Following his presentation, Mr Holthaus then stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Colin Hansen from Kansas Municipal Utilities started his presentation by explaining the 2015 Legislative Initiatives which included: Retail Wheeling / Deregulation, Municipal Telecommunications, Water Vision, Water & Wastewater Infrastructure, Public Advocacy, Low Cost, Reliable Utilities, Empowering Local Decision Making, Utility Training and Mutual Aid. ([Attachment 5](#))

Following his presentation, Mr Hansen stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Kimberly Svaty from The Wind Coalition gave a passionate review of not only reasons to use Wind Energy but also used a detailed and colorful map to substantiate her description of wind in Kansas. Kansas is known as the Saudia Arabia of Wind..... ([Attachment 6](#))

Following her presentation, Ms Svaty stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Claire Gustin of Sunflower Electric spoke of this organization that is a six Member-Owner cooperative that serves primarily central and western Kansas. She drew attention to the fact that it was the local farmers and business men who formed this cooperative to serve the sparsely settled areas of the state where service was not available. ([Attachment 7](#))

Following her presentation, Ms Gustin stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Mark Schreiber of Westar Energy gave an overview of the vast reach of this organization. He spoke to the Environmental, Transmission and Renewable Energy scope of Westar. He also addressed the flexible, diverse approach to customer costs as well. ([Attachment 8](#))

Following his presentation, Mr Schreiber stood for questions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Utilities and Telecommunications at 9:00am on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 582-N of the Capitol.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Whitney Damon, Empire Electric Co. shared a large number of statistics of this Investor-owned utility. It covers not only electric but Natural Gas, Fiber Optic and Water service. His presentation also covered the Generation Resources found in four (4) states. ([Attachment 9](#))

Following his presentation, Mr Damon stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Whitney Damron, IBERDOLA. Mr Damron stated that his company is headquartered in Oregon but appears today to provide a summary of the company and highlight its investment in Kansas. ([Attachment 10](#))

Following his presentation Mr Damron stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Michael White, ITC. Mr White pointed out that the main focus of this organization is on TRANSMISSION. He gave a background on the history as well as current innovations in the industry as well as looking at the future. ([Attachment 11](#))

Following his presentation, Mr White stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Joe Dick with BPU touched on a few FAST FACTS addressing the power of community. He looked at: General Utility Information, An Environmental Steward, Customer Service Focus and Meeting Wyandotte County's Utility Needs.. ([Attachment 12](#))

Following his presentation Mr Dick stood for questions.

Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists

Dorothy Barnett with Climate and Energy Projects addressed the committee focusing on: Jobs, Rural Prosperity and Sustainable Resources as related to Clean Energy. She spoke specifically to 1) preventing the repeal of the state's Renewable Portfolio Standards and 2) Establishing a State Implementation Plan for Kansas that satisfies the federal Clean Power Plan. ([Attachment 13](#))

Following her presentation Ms Barnett stood for questions.

Seeing no other business, Chairman Seiwert adjourned the meeting at 10:34 am