Session of 2025

HOUSE BILL No. 2041

By Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

Requested by Paul Snider on behalf of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates

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AN ACT concerning electric transmission lines; relating to the state corporation commission; requiring an electric public utility to include that a competitive bid process was completed for the proposed electric transmission line in an application for a siting permit; requiring the commission to issue an order whether a competitive bid process was completed for a proposed electric transmission line to permit such line; amending K.S.A. 66-1,178 and 66-1,180 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 66-1,178 is hereby amended to read as follows: 66-1,178. (a) No electric utility may begin site preparation for or construction of an electric transmission line, or exercise the right of eminent domain to acquire any interest in land in connection with the site preparation for a construction of any such line without first acquiring a siting permit from the commission. Whenever any electric utility desires to obtain such a permit, the utility shall file an application with the commission setting forth therein that the utility proposes to construct an electric transmission line and specifying:

(1) The proposed location ~~thereof~~ *of such electric transmission line*;

(2) the names and addresses of the landowners of record whose land or interest ~~therein~~ is proposed to be acquired in connection with the construction of or is located within 660 feet of the center line of the easement where the line is proposed to be located; ~~and~~

(3) *for transmission lines with costs that will be recovered through a regional transmission organization, that such line was placed for competitive bid among qualified bidders with evidence that the bidding process was open and fair and whether such utility was the lowest reasonable bid; and*

(4) such other information as may be required by the commission.

(b) Upon the filing of an application pursuant to subsection (a), the commission shall fix a time for a public hearing on such application, which shall be not more than 90 days after the date the application was filed, to determine the necessity for and the reasonableness of the location of the proposed electric transmission line. The commission shall fix the

place for hearing, which shall be in one of the counties through which the electric transmission line is proposed to traverse.

(c) The commission may conduct an evidentiary hearing on an application filed pursuant to this section at such time and place as the commission deems appropriate.

(d) The commission shall issue a final order on the application within 120 days after the date the application was filed.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 66-1,180 is hereby amended to read as follows: 66-1,180. *(a)* All hearings conducted pursuant to this act shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act. All such hearings shall be completed within 30 days after the commencement thereof, unless the electric utility requests a continuance of any such hearing. All costs of any hearing pursuant to this act shall be taxed against the electric utility.

(b) The commission shall not issue a permit for any electric transmission line with costs that will be recovered through a regional transmission organization, unless the commission issues an order that such line was placed for competitive bid among qualified bidders with evidence that the bidding process was open and fair and whether the lowest reasonable bid was selected.

(c) The commission shall make its decision with respect to the necessity for and the reasonableness of the location of the proposed electric transmission line, taking into consideration the benefit to both consumers in Kansas and consumers outside the state and economic development benefits in Kansas.

(d) The commission shall issue or withhold the permit applied for and may condition such permit as the commission may deem just and reasonable and as may, in its judgment, best protect the rights of all interested parties and those of the general public.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 66-1,178 and 66-1,180 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.