

Approved: MARCH 18, 1998  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pat Ranson at 1:30 p.m. on March 10, 1998 in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Sen. Hensley was excused

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes  
Jeanne Eudaley, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Rep. Larry Campbell  
Steve Coleman, Supervisor, Natural Gas Pipeline Safety  
Cindy Lash, Legislative Division of Post Audit  
Maurice Korphage, Director, Conservation Division

Others attending: See attached list

Sen. Ranson referred to two articles which have been distributed to members - Kansas City Star, "Homeowners report gas-line concerns", dated March 9, 1998 and "Homes' gas lines broken, replaced", dated March 7, 1998, both relating to the bill being heard today. She announced the committee will hear testimony on the following bill:

**HB 2743-Kansas underground utility damage prevention act**

The following appeared as proponents:

Rep. Larry Campbell  
Steve Coleman

She then introduced Rep. Campbell, who requested the bill, and he stated that the bill applies to gas and electric lines. The law, as it is now written, provides that in case of damage to lines, the utility company be notified. This bill clarifies that the call should be directed to 911, if available in that area, or the appropriate municipal, city or county emergency officials. Sen. Jones called attention to one of the amendments in the bill on Page 2, Line 43 and the word, "integrity", and questioned what it meant. Sen. Clark also questioned the other amendment, on Page 1, Line 43, regarding notification of emergency personnel.

Sen. Ranson then asked Mary Torrence to brief the committee on the bill. She also stated the bill is intended to clarify who to call in an emergency situation and explained the two amendments made by the House Utilities Committee. Sen. Clark stated before any excavation is started, the operator is to call 1-800-DIG-SAFE; he also pointed out the bill involves gas and electrical lines, but does not include telecommunications. Ms. Torrence responded that the purpose of the bill is to protect the public in an emergency situation and that telephone lines do not present a hazard as gas and electric lines. Sen. Ranson explained this legislation does not deal with notification before excavation begins, but who to notify in case of an emergency. The committee discussed the proposed amendment on Page 2, Line 43. Sen. Jones made the motion on Page 2, Line 43, the words, "the integrity of" be stricken, and it was seconded by Sen. Steffes; the motion passed.

Sen. Ranson then recognized Steve Coleman, who briefly spoke to the committee (Attachment 1) and stated he has been working with Rep. Campbell on the bill to clarify who to notify in cases of emergency and to enhance public safety. The committee continued by discussing procedures followed by excavators prior to excavation and customers who have special needs, such as life support systems, etc., and that is part of the utility's customer records. Sen. Brownlee told of emergency situations in Johnson County and expressed support for the bill, and Sen. Barone discussed security systems, which alerts the customer and company that lines have been cut. Sen. Brownlee made the motion the bill be passed as amended, and it was seconded by Sen. Clark. Roll call vote was taken, and the bill passed unanimously.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES, Room 531- -N, Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on March 10, 1998.

Sen. Ranson then introduced Cindy Lash, Legislative Division of Post Audit, who reviewed the audit conducted on Activities of the Corporation Commission's Conservation Division: A K-GOAL Audit (copy is available from the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit). Ms. Lash went through the audit with the committee and explained recommendations made by the Audit committee. She also called attention to the response from the Corporation Commissioners and Maurice Korphage, Director of the Conservation Division. Committee members questioned her regarding over production of wells, if production records are public and any action taken by the Conservation Division.

Mr. Korphage briefly spoke to the committee regarding the Audit and recommendations in it. He referred to the documentation recommendation and explained the new data base system, which was purchased by funding from the Department of Energy. One of the programs, which has been upgraded, consists of a means to monitor salt-water injection wells by the Underground Injection Control Department. He also explained the data base is a customized system, which will allow them to implement other programs; one of those will be a tracking system. He also explained upgrading of the Licensing Division, with more than 400 operators required to provide more than the \$50.00 minimum required by law. He agreed with the Audit that the Legislature did not provide where money collected would go, or how much money would go to the Conservation Fund. Don Schnacke referred to the Financial Assurance money that is collected and stated that, after the effective date of the Act, monies collected will pay for plugging wells; that the problem of plugging wells up to this time is pre-1935-40's.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 1998.



H-1

**Before the Senate Utilities Committee  
Comments by the  
Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission  
March 9, 1998**

**House Bill 2743**

Thank you Madam Chair, I am Steve Coleman, Supervisor of Pipeline Safety for the Kansas Corporation Commission and I'm appearing today on behalf of the Staff of the KCC. My comments will be extremely brief. Over the past few weeks, Glenn Smith and I have been working with Representative Campbell on House Bill 2743. The Commission supports the language which modifies K.S.A. 66-1802 and 1810. We believe the changes will clarify the requirements and provide a higher level of public safety. The existing statute does not specify whether local emergency personnel or the operator's emergency personnel should be contacted in case of a hazard to public safety. With the language modification proposed by Rep. Campbell, excavators know that emergency personnel from the local municipality should be contacted, thereby enhancing safety.

*Senate Utilities  
3-10-98  
Attach. 1*