

Approved: JAN. 19, 1999
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sen. Pat Ranson at 1:30 p.m. on January 14, 1999 in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Hensley was excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
None

Others attending:
See attached list

Senator Ranson welcomed committee members, staff and guests and introduced staff members and her new secretary, Pam Boetcher. She noted the change in chairmanship of the House Utilities Committee and stated she has met with Rep. Holmes and referred to a list of proposals (Attachment 1) they have discussed, and noted that several of the bills have already been introduced in the House.

Senator Ranson announced the committee's agenda for next week and the following week. She also announced the possibility of a proposal dealing with the transport of gas for schools only and the potential for other legislation dealing with the transport of gas.

She invited committee members' input for future meetings and issues that are important to them. Senator Steffes stated he would like to meet the new chairman of Western Resources. Sen. Morris referred to legislation passed last year regarding rebating ad valorem taxes and stated the Federal Energy Regulatory Council did not like the bill that was passed and have, essentially, ignored it. He also referred to the gas gathering legislation that was passed two years ago and stated there is the possibility of having to revisit the irrigation problem. He also stated there are problems with gas gathering in domestic use. Sen. Ranson stated she understands there has been a complaint filed regarding the gas gathering/irrigation problem.

Sen. Ranson announced the public hearing on the KPL merger will be held on January 19 at the Kansas Corporation Commission office in the public hearing room.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55.

Next meeting will be January 19.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES
PROPOSED BILLS FOR INTRODUCTION

FYI
1/12/98
Dy

Nonprofit utilities not subject to Corporation Commission (KCC) regulation; size, merger

Retail Wheeling Task Force bill (1998 HB 2619)

KCC authorized to provide competition in retail electric service (1998 HB 2779)

KCC authorized to provide competition in retail natural gas service (1998 HB 2780)

Retail electric and natural gas service; application by consumer or provider to have competition, subject to restrictions

Municipal franchise fees applicable to certain sales within three miles outside city limits

Retail Wheeling Task Force extended for two years

Off-system electric sales contracts required to be interruptible

Industrial electric customers with interruptible contracts allowed to purchase from alternative providers

KCC required to establish uniform base rates for telephone customers within service territory and within same class of company (based on company size)

Universal Service Fund (KUSF); disallow use for construction; disallow use for technology "upon customer demand" and instead allow when technology required by KCC

Deregulate new electric generation; tax as industry rather than utility; proposed siting subject to oversight by Department of Health and Environment

Decrease limitation on time for KCC action in rate cases from 240 days to 180 days with no extensions permitted

Further restrictions on slamming and cramming

Further restrictions on telephone solicitations

Amendments to electric generation facility siting act

Senate Utilities
1-14-99
Attach. 1