Approved: 03-11-08
Date

MINUTES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FUTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 PM on March 6, 2008, in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:
Representative Robert Olson, Excused
Representative Jason Watkins, Excused
Representative Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Excused

Committee staff present:
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Melissa Doeblin, Revisor of Statutes Office
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary K. Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Barbara Lewerenz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Paul Genoa, Director, Environmental Policy, Nuclear Energy Institute, Washington, D. C.

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Myers recognized students and teachers visiting from the science class of the Topeka Collegiate School.

Chairman Myers introduced Paul Genoa, Director, Environmental Policy, Nuclear Energy Institute, Washington, D. C., who presented a power-point presentation, "Planning for success: Reasoned Expectations for New Nuclear Plant Construction."

Mr. Genoa spoke about the reality of nuclear power and the future prospective for Kansas. There are 104 nuclear power plants in the United States that today present 20 percent of our electricity with 90 percent capacity factor (Capacity factors in the 1970s and 1980s was in the 50 percent range). The average cost is 1.68 cents per kilowatt hour. U.S. nuclear plants are approaching middle age. Half of those plants have had their licenses renewed to extend operations for another 20 years, extending operating time from 40 to 60 years. Today, in the U. S., three site permits for new plants are already approved and design certifications have been submitted and reviewed for standardized plants. Combined operating and construction licenses have been submitted for seven plants, and another 15 license applications are expected in the next year. All of this is being done by 17 companies in consortium (about 31 plants). Success will be on the order of four to eight plants on-line by approximately 2016, with new plants ready for construction at the time these plants are on line.

Today the industry has a more efficient and predicable licensing process; industry has a clear understanding of what went wrong in places such as Three Mile Island and Browns Ferry; and favorable public support is building. The potential benefits from one new nuclear reactor in Kansas would be 1,350 MW, which could meet more than half of the generation demand increase forecasted for 2030. (Attachment # 1).

Discussion followed the presentation. Mr. Genoa said plants are built in areas where the residents are amenable to a nuclear power facility; uranium most likely will be available for the next several hundred years; technology is being developed to recycle fuel in the future; and waste material is normally stored near the plant. He said the Europeans primarily use the same technology in their plants as we do in the United States.

Chairman Myers provided handouts on nuclear power (Attachment # 2).

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be on March 11, 2008. Hearings will be held on **HB-2949**, An act concerning energy.