

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kay O'Connor at 3:30 p.m. on January 20, 2000 in Room 521-S of the State Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Carlos Mayans, excused
Rep. Cindy Hermes, excused
Rep. Ethel Peterson, excused
Rep. Peggy Palmer, excused
Rep. Joe Shriver, excused
Rep. John Toplikar, excused

Committee staff present: Michael Heim, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Lisa Montgomery, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Lois Hedrick, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Christine Clarke, Legislative Division of Post Audit
Leo Haynos, Kansas Corporation Commission's Office
of Pipeline Safety

Others attending: See Guest List ([Attachment 1](#))

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman O'Connor, who introduced Christine Clarke, Auditor, Legislative Division of Post Audit.

Ms. Clarke briefly described the state's underground utility damage prevention act (K.S.A. 66-1801); current organizational makeup, administration, and enforcement activities; the centralized notification center located in Wichita and its process for the statewide one-call system; and legislative concerns raised about the Kansas Corporation Commission's responsibilities and the law's provisions that may limit the systems effectiveness. (The division's report, entitled "*Reviewing the One-Call System in Kansas*," may be obtained through the Legislative Division of Post-Audit.)

Representative Horst asked if large utilities pay a membership fee for all of their offices or only a single \$25 fee for each entity. Ms. Clarke did not know so was asked to determine the answer and advise Representative Mayans' office as early as practicable.

Leo Haynos, Chief of KCC's Office of Pipeline Safety, indicated KCC is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the law. There is an average of 41,000 calls each month to the Wichita center, which in turn are reported to the involved utilities and from which five additional calls are generated to cause the marking of lines. He noted that when Overland Park became a member, it was overwhelmed with 40-50 calls per day, each at a cost of \$1.14. The city decided to stop its membership. They have not experienced an increase in the number of damages to utility lines since it quit the system. Wichita does not belong. He was asked if municipalities should be required to be members of the system. Mr. Haynos' answer was "yes." He was asked if it would be of help to legislate "depth layers" for each of the utilities, and he answered "it would be of great help to the call center."

Chairwoman O'Connor thanked the conferees for their presentations. She then asked the committee if there were any bills to be considered for introduction. Representative Dahl recommended the committee sponsor a bill to amend K.S.A. 1999 Supp. 65-3407 (regarding construction and operation of a regional solid waste processing facility or disposal area) to require that the county's qualified electors approve it prior to the filing for a permit to construct or operate such a site. There being no objection, the bill was approved for introduction.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2000.