

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:07 a.m. on January 15, 2003 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Jerry Williams

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research  
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes  
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Lee Allison, State Energy Resources Coordination Council  
Larry Berg, Midwest Energy  
Colin Hansen, Kansas Municipal Utilities

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairman Holmes welcomed Lee Allison, Chairman of the State Energy Resources Coordination Council, to the committee. Mr. Allison presented an overview/executive summary of the Kansas Energy Plan 2003 (Attachment 1). Mr. Allison also distributed a copy of the complete Plan (available from Legislative Research or on-line at [www.kansasenergy.org](http://www.kansasenergy.org)). Mr. Allison outlined the brief history of the Council, its development, membership, and tasks. Specific tasks include preparing a comprehensive energy plan (which is to be updated annually) and developing forecasts of Kansas energy production and consumption for the next five years. The Council prepared recommendations to start laying the foundation for a long-term solution to the state's energy problems. Those recommendations include five items for Council action, three items for legislative action, and seven priority study items. Additionally, twenty-eight items were included for future consideration. Mr. Allison responded to questions from the committee.

The committee recessed at 9:32 to convene a joint meeting with the Senate Utilities Committee with Senate Chairman Stan Clark presiding.

Chairman Clark welcomed Larry Berg, of Midwest Energy, who addressed the joint committee on the history of the company and outlined its current issues (Attachment 2). Mr. Berg told the committee that they had recently signed an agreement with Westar Energy to purchase approximately 10,000 customers in nine western and central Kansas counties. Additionally, they have filed for a natural gas rate increase of \$5.7 million and expect a Commission decision within the next few months.

Mr. Colin Hansen, Executive Director for the Kansas Municipal Utilities, updated the committees on the organization's activities (Attachment 3). Mr. Hansen explained that the two issues continue to be of interest to the membership are availability of transmission capacity and proper training and retention of key employees.

Additionally, David Martin, Manager of Government Affairs for Empire District Electric Company, provided information to the committees (Attachment 4).

The members of the House Utilities Committee adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, January 16 at 9:00 for a tour of the SBC building.