

Approved: March 21, 2012
(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carl Holmes at 9:00 AM on Thursday, March 8, 2012 in 785 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe Seiwert-excused

Committee staff present:

Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research

Matt Sterling, Kansas Revisor of Statutes

Renaë Hansen, Committee Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Phil Wages, KEPCo

Matthew Sunseri, President and CEO, Wolfcreek Nuclear Power Plant

Others in attendance:

Twenty including the attached list.

Update on:

NRC report on the Wolfcreek outage

Phil Wages, KEPCo, introduced the representative from Wolfcreek Nuclear Power Plant.

Matthew Sunseri, President and CEO, Wolfcreek Nuclear power plant, explained to the committee the conditions for which the power plant experienced an outage starting in mid January 2012 on the 13th. The NRC did an augmented inspection shortly thereafter. The NRC concluded that the plant performed as expected and that the utility was taking the matter serious. NRC did recommend that the company do a few things in advance that might have made this outage easier. He noted that plant safety is the number one requirement of the company, including the workers and the safety of the people that live around the plant. He believes that their industry has a strong ability to learn and apply anything they learned from this outage. They are currently replacing 18,000 feet of underground pipe by 2014. They are expediting important replacement of aging equipment. He explained to the committee that the NRC has scheduled 2 more public meetings concerning the outage between now and mid-summer. He commented that the plant will come back on line at the end of the month. He noted that

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Wolfcreek is always working on details that need to be repaired. He commented on their mitigation strategy to keep the impending zebra mussels from entering the plant itself. Additionally, he commented that the addition of a forth power line being build into the plant is still under study.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Vern Swanson, Forrest Knox, Don Schroeder, Tom Sloan, Don Hineman, Carl Holmes, and Stan Frownfelter.

Mr. Wages noted that this outage is estimated to cost the KEPCo customers a 1 % increase over 12 months.

Action on:

SB 419-Requiring the KCC to annually determine the cumulative retail rate impact of nonrenewable alternative sources of electricity supply and report to the legislature.

A proposed amendment by Representative Forrest Knox, (Attachment 1) was passed out.

Matt Sterling, Kansas revisor, noted this proposed amendment, amends statute 66-2005 and it asks that the KCC be required to give the legislature a report that includes information compiled by the KCC.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Annie Kuether, Vern Swanson, Forrest Knox, Nile Dillmore, Tom Sloan, Stan Frownfelter, and Carl Holmes.

Representative Nile Dillmore, moved to amend SB 419 (Attachment 1), seconded by Representative Tom Sloan.

Discussion ensued between Representatives: Forrest Knox, Greg Smith, Mike Burgess, Mike Slattery, Tom Sloan, Annie Kuether, Don Hineman, Vern Swanson, and Nile Dillmore.

Motion to amend failed.

A proposed amendment was passed out (Attachment 2) by the Revisor.

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Representative Tom Sloan moved to adopt the amendment (Attachment 2) for **SB 419**, seconded by Representative Vern Swanson.

Discussion ensued between Representatives: Annie Kuether, Mike Burgess, Tom Sloan, Stan Frownfelter, Vern Swanson, and Forrest Knox.

Motion to amend fails 6-10.

Representative Tom Sloan moved to table **SB419**, seconded by Representative Annie Kuether. Motion carried.

Action on **SB 419** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.