

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on February 5, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 320, Topeka, KS 66612-1366
Randall Allen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Counties, 6206 SW 9th Terrace, Topeka, KS 66615
Kenneth Meier, Chairman, Board of Harvey County Commissioners, Courthouse, PO Box 687, Newton, KS 67114-0687
Stanley Rasmussen, US Army, CREO, 601 E. 12th, Ste. 647, Kansas City, MO 64106
John Peterson, Waste Connections of Kansas, Inc. 1206 W. 10th, Topeka, KS 66604
Steve Kearney, Waste Management, 1200 W. 10th, Topeka, KS, 66604

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order. She reviewed the committee agenda for next week. On Tuesday, February 10, a hearing on **HB2583** - Recreational trails; noncompliance by responsible party; remedies. On Thursday, February 12, a review on Federal Watershed Program by Jeff Gross, Assistant State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Services and a hearing on **HB2674** - Loan program to pay certain costs of rehabilitation of watershed dams.

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department, gave a review of **HB2607**.

Chairperson Freeborn opened the hearing on **HB2607**.

HB2607: Solid waste permits; preliminary site evaluation; time limits for review of applications; permit fees.

Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management, KDHE, was welcomed. He testified in support of the bill which was introduced by KDHE as a step toward improving the landfill permitting process in Kansas. The bill was developed by HDHE in cooperation with a landfill permitting task force consisting of public and private landfill operators, local government officials, and representatives of environmental interest groups and state agencies. The proposed bill does not represent total consensus of the task force, but it does take into consideration the concerns and opinions of task force members. (See attachment 1)

Randall Allen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Counties, was welcomed to the committee and presented testimony in support of the bill. He believes the bill provides for a new process preliminary to the formal permitting process, in which a facility applicant provides a preliminary site evaluation report to KDHE, for its early review for determination as to whether the site satisfies the minimum requirements set forth in rules and regulations. Any acceptance of the report by the Secretary cannot be considered final approval of the proposed waste disposal area. Rather, the preliminary report provides early guidance to the county before the county undergoes the usually controversial zoning process and any other decision-making processes associated with siting a solid waste facility. (See attachment 2)