

Approved: March 28, 2002  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Tom Sloan at 9:05 a.m. on February 12, 2002 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Carl Holmes  
Representative Judy Morrison  
Representative Tricia Lightner

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ron Hammerschmidt, Kansas Department of  
Health & Environment  
James O'Connell, Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Others attending: See Attached List

Representative Dillmore moved to approve the minutes of January 15 and January 16. Representative Dreher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Sloan opened the briefing on low level radioactive waste and the Central Interstate Low Level Radioactive Waste Compact.

Ron Hammerschmidt, KDHE's Director of Division of Environment, addressed the committee (Attachment 1). Mr. Hammerschmidt provided a breakdown of what constitutes radioactive materials. Items such as research equipment, shoe covers and cleaning items are routinely generated in facilities using radioactive materials. Low level radioactive waste is classed in one of three categories and can currently be disposed of at any one of three facilities. He then explained the Compact, which includes the states of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana and was formed in 1983. The costs of participation have been for both the operation of the commission and the development of the license. Operational costs are paid by assessments on the member states and a fee is assessed on waste generators. Disposal options available to Kansas generators include several commercial facilities. Included with the testimony was a copy of the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commissions Annual Report for 2000-2001. Additionally, copies of the LLRW Forum Summary and the Legislative Post Audit Report are available from Legislative Research.

James O'Connell, Kansas Commissioner and Chairman of the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact, addressed the committee (Attachment 2). Mr. O'Connell provided a history of the Compact. He also detailed the lawsuit concerning Nebraska's decision to withdraw from the Compact.

Mr. Hammerschmidt and Mr. O'Connell responded to questions from the committee. Additionally, Mr. Patrick Hurley, representing Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant, answered questions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

The next meeting will be February 13, 2002.