

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Holmes at 9:10 a.m. on March 11, 2010, in Room 785 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Dan Johnson- excused
Representative Margaret Long - excused
Representative Mike Slattery - excused

Committee staff present:

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Iraida Orr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Artur Bagyants, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Hansen, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mike Shepard, Babcock and Wilcox

Others attending:

Twenty-three including the attached list.

Presentation on:

Modular Nuclear Energy

Clare Guston, Sunflower Energy, introduced the speaker from Babcock and Wilcox.

Mike Shepard, Babcock and Wilcox, (Attachment 1), spoke to the committee on their involvement in modular nuclear energy. He gave a historical overview of Babcock and Wilcox in relationship to the energy industry in the United States. He noted that they moved into this area of business because they were looking for a new niche to build energy construction projects. Mr. Shepard spent a considerable amount of time explaining how they decided to include this type of energy production in their business plan. He noted that the beginnings for this system began in the nuclear powered submarines. Additionally the military were putting money into the potential development of independent base energy production. Mr. Shepard noted that one of the key things they were looking at in their design was safety. The design they came up with is a 125 Megawatt unit that could be transported from the production plant to the energy site using the existing traditional rail system. He commented that this could be used to complement the Kansas' growing wind energy production. Because the system is totally put underground, the security of the plant is much safer than existing large nuclear power plants. Normal time for the construction cycle for this type of plant is about 36 months compared to the traditional time of 44-45 months for traditional power plants. These plants are designed to produce energy for about 60 years. He also noted that the price of the transmission lines needed for this size of power plant would be only a half a million dollars a mile compared to the \$1 to \$1.5 million dollar mile for bigger plants. He commented that the regulatory process for this size of plant has to be reevaluated. They believe they have repackaged existing technology for nuclear energy in an innovative way.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Don Myers, Milack Talia, Vern Swanson, Tom Sloan, Tom Moxley, and Carl Holmes.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.