

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:14 a.m. on January 11, 2000 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Judy Morrison

Committee staff present: Jo Cook, Secretary
Lynne Holt, Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor

Conferees appearing before the committee: none

Others attending: See attached guest list

Chairman Holmes introduced the two new members of the House Utilities Committee. He welcomed Rep. Carl Krehbiel and Rep. Judy Morrison.

Chairman Holmes introduced Mary Torrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes who presented an overview of the interim Environment Committee report on underground storage of natural gas. (Attachment 1). Mary explained that the interim committee was charged with studying the bill that was introduced last year (**HB 2045**) and looked at by both the Utilities Committee and a Utilities subcommittee. A substitute bill was recommended by the subcommittee.

Mary explained the current law regarding underground storage and the condemnation procedure for use of an underground formation for the storage of natural gas. The report explains the procedure required by the Kansas Corporation Commission. She also explained the Eminent Domain proceedings that must be followed.

Information was also included in the report on the current law regarding migrated natural gas.

Within the report was a list of issues raised during past legislative sessions. These issues include, but are not limited to: 1) determination of suitability of formation for storage, 2) property interest condemned. 3) compensation and damages, and 4) migrated natural gas.

Interim Committee activities included holding a hearing on a bill and with compromise language developed by property owners and gas industry representatives (**HB 2597**). The committee recommended the introduction of the bill and that it be sent to the House Committee on Utilities.

During the presentation, Mary explained some of the compromises reached between the land owners and the gas storage industry. She also stated there was a provision in the bill presented to the committee that was inadvertently left out of **HB 2597**. The provision was that the remedy proposed under the bill for resolving disputes would be the exclusive remedy for recovery for migrating gas. She stated that this would have to be inserted by amendment if the Committee wished to have that provision included in the bill.

Mary then responded to questions from Chairman Holmes, Rep. Dahl, Rep. McClure, and Rep. Sloan.

Chairman Holmes then opened the floor for committee bill requests.

Rep. Alldritt requested the committee sponsor a bill regarding cable operators who hold a franchise to provide cable service to provide any requesting Internet service provider access to its broadband Internet access transport services. Rep. Alldritt moved and Rep. Loyd seconded that the committee sponsor this bill. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES, Room 522-S, at 9:14 a.m. on January 11, 2000.

Chairman Holmes stated that if there were any individual bills that may be assigned to this committee, he would like them introduced as soon as possible. His intention is to have, over the next two weeks, background briefings on what's taken place over the summer and with the Corporation Commission. The third week of the session we will start having hearings on bills and start working bills. There will be committee bill requests on Thursday.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 12, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.