MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:11 a.m. on March 1, 2000 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Mary Compton
Rep. Tom Klein
Rep. Margaret Long
Rep. Gene O'Brien
Rep. Billie Vining

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Doug Heacock, Kansas Research & Education Network
Dave Nordlund, Kansas Research & Education Network

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Mr. Doug Heacock, Executive Director of the Kansas Research and Education Network (KAN-REN), presented information on the KAN-ED network technology design (Attachment 1). Mr. Heacock stated that the network, put into service on behalf of schools and libraries, under the KAN-ED proposal must be robust, scalable, reliable, and manageable. He said that the current Internet 2 aspect of KAN-Ed was exciting and a potentially ground-breaking possibility, however, certain complexities in the routing environment must be handled properly.

Mr. Heacock stated that KAN-ED should create one backbone that would adequately serve the state's requirements, but not specifically a technology that locks into a specific hardware, software and bandwidth using a technology called Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM). ATM is well defined by industry standards and opens the door to a variety of solutions from a variety of vendors.

Mr. Heacock explained that, based on the past experience with the KANREN network, making a particular technology a matter of law in this process would be a mistake. Without flexibility, freedom to accommodate new technology suffers. Among the possibilities for acquiring backbone bandwidth were use of KDOT installed fiber and acquired high speed circuits from national providers. Once the backbone architecture is agreed upon and vendors selected, an implementation plan would be generated. This would include a survey of all school districts and libraries to determine which were truly ready for connection. Mr. Heacock felt this project could be completed within 12 months.

Mr. Heacock responded to questions from Rep. Sloan, Rep. McClure, Rep. Myers, Rep. Dahl, Rep. Alldritt and Rep. Holmes

Mr. Dave Nordlund, Director of Networking Services for KAN-REN, provided information about Internet 2 and the infrastructure of Internet and Internet 2.

Mr. Nordlund responded to questions from Rep. Sloan, Rep. McClure, Rep. Loyd, Rep. Holmes, Rep. Krehbiel and Rep. Dahl.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 2, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.