

Approved: March 7, 2003

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:05 a.m. on January 21, 2003 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Nile Dillmore

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

April Holman, Legislative Research
Guy McDonald, Kansas Corporation Commission
Tom Gleason, Gleason & Doty Chartered

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairman Holmes welcomed April Holman, Research Analyst for the Legislative Research Department, who presented an overview of the interim report on broadband deployment from the Joint Committee on economic Development (Attachment 1). Ms. Holman detailed the meetings that took place regarding broadband deployment and the committee conclusions. The conclusions included that the need for further study, inquiry, and legislative action in the area of broadband deployment may be necessary and identified the issues central to the broadband deployment debate as economic benefits, demand for access and supply of services. She also included a brief update on the KAN-ED program during her remarks. Ms. Holman responded to questions from the committee.

Chairman Holmes introduced Tom Gleason, who provided an general overview on telecommunications that could provide a better understanding of Kansas telecommunication companies and the development of the legal and regulatory environment in which specific policy decisions may be made (Attachment 2). Mr. Gleason provided a brief history of telecommunications and how the network was built and broaden. Next he addressed the change in direction under federal and statue statutes that promoted competition in the industry. Finally, Mr. Gleason addressed the needs of the future, going beyond dial tone and into cyberspace comparing the availability of advanced services. Mr. Gleason responded to questions from the committee.

Guy McDonald, Senior Telecommunications Analyst for the Kansas Corporation Commission, appeared before the committee to provide a description of broadband service, an illustration of a common broadband network architecture, a status report on broadband deployment and a listing of Rural Utility Service (RUS) programs that offer funding for deployment in rural areas (Attachment 3). Mr. McDonald responded to questions from the committee. Additionally, Tom Bahnen and Janet Buchanan responded to questions.

Also distributed to the committee members was a booklet titled "Evolving Telecommunications Competition in Kansas - A Brief Overview," and a map showing the telephone exchange areas in the stated, both provided by the Kansas Corporation Commission (copies available from Legislative Research or the Corporation Commission).

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 22, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.