Approved: March 31, 2004
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on March 9, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Gary Hayzlett- excused
Representative Larry Powell- excused

Committee staff present:
Emalene Correll Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland Legislative Research Department
Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Tim Carr, Chief of Petroleum Research, Kansas Geological Survey, Kansas University, 1930 Constant Ave.,Lawrence, KS 66047-3726

Others attending:
See Attached List.

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order. She reviewed the committee agenda for Thursday, March 11, a hearing on **SB416** - Allows cities and counties to use certain moneys for programs dealing with recyclables and a hearing on **SB396** - Creates the radiation control operations fee fund. She asked if there was a motion to approve committee minutes for January 20, 22, 27, 29, and February 3, which had been distributed to committee members on Friday, March 5, for review.

Rep. Lee Tafanelli made a motion the committee minutes for January 20, 22, 27, 29, and February 3, be approved. Rep. James Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairperson Freeborn welcomed Tim Carr, Chief of Petroleum Research, Kansas Geological Survey, Kansas University. He reviewed Geologic Carbon Sequestration, with the use of overhead slides. He provided background on green house gases (GHG) and geologic sequestration, that may have a large potential on the Kansas economy and tax base. Most energy used to meet human needs is derived from the combustion of fossil fuels (natural gas, oil, and coal), which releases carbon to the atmosphere, primarily as carbon dioxide (CO2). Based on the forecasts (e.g., EIA, IEA), fossil fuels will continue to be the primary source of energy for our advanced economies well into the middle of this century. While the processes are still not well understood, the atmospheric concentration of CO2, a greenhouse gas, is increasing. This raises concerns that solar heat will be trapped and the average surface temperature of the Earth will rise in response. There is the potential that CO2 and other GHG's may in the future be considered pollutants. It is not within his scientific expertise of interests to argue the merits of global climate change and the need to control GHG's such as CO2. However, it is within his interests to look for environmentally and economically prudent management of our energy resources that benefits Kansas. They are working to understand carbon management within integrated energy systems. Their focus is on geologic sequestration, but within a context of providing economic access to energy for Kansas. Sequestration encompasses all forms of carbon storage, including storage in terrestrial ecosystems, geologic formations, and oceans. Through the development of optimized field practices and technologies, the program seeks to quantify and improve the storage capacity of all potential reservoirs. Sequestration Goals: Expand the number and type of carbon sequestration opportunities in Kansas; Lower the cost and optimize the value-added benefits associated with CO2 storage; Develop field and management practices to minimize seepage and promote permanence of storage; and Develop capability to assess capacity for carbon storage. (See attachment 1) Committee questions and discussion followed.

Chairperson Freeborn thanked Mr. Carr for his presentation and thanked committee members and guests for their attention.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2004.