

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Scott Emler at 9:30 A.M. on March 16, 2005 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes' Office  
Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes' Office  
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General  
Richard Good, Westar Energy  
Steve Johnson, Kansas Gas Service  
Donna Quillin, Kansas City Power and Light

Others in attendance: See attached list

Chairman Emler opened the hearing on

**HB 2461 - Exemption of utility service trucks from hours of service limits in time of disaster emergencies**

Proponents:

Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General, spoke in support of **HB 2461** which would allow the Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) of the Adjutant General's Department to declare an "emergency" in all or part of the state to allow the exemption of drivers of utility vehicles (as defined in 49 CFR) from the federal limitation on the hours of service they operate. (Attachment 1)

Richard Good, Director Disaster Recovery/Infrastructure Security, Westar Energy, and also representing Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Midwest Energy, Aquila, Empire District Electric Company, Kansas Municipal Utilities, the KCC and the Kansas Motor Carriers Association, spoke in support of **HB 2461** which addresses the need of the utilities to have a single 24/7 number to call to request an emergency declaration. (Attachment 2)

Steve Johnson, Manager, Government Affairs, Kansas Gas Service, briefly voiced the same concerns as the other proponents and urged passage of the bill. (Attachment 3)

Donna Quillin, Manager of Safety & Medical, Kansas City Power and Light, noted the utilities have the responsibility to maintain the country's critical energy infrastructure. **HB 2461** would significantly assist the utilities in meeting their commitment to public safety, providing emergency service to their customers, expediting their ability to restore service and comply with governmental regulations. (Attachment 4)

Written testimony from Paul E. Lira, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 304, supported the adoption of **HB 2461**. (Attachment 5)

Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2461**.

Moved by Senator Taddiken, seconded by Senator Reitz, **HB 2461** be passed out favorably. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Reitz, seconded by Senator Petersen, minutes of the meeting of the Senate Utilities Committee held on March 14, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. be approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachment - 5