

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Don Sallee at 8:00 a.m. on January 28, 1993 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present or excused:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes
Clarene Wilms, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Dr. Robert C. Harder, Secretary
Kansas Department Health & Environment

Others attending: See attached list

The chairman alerted committee members to the fact that there could be a problem concerning underground tanks and the deductible provision in legislation passed last year.

There was discussion concerning a trip to Jeffrey Energy Center in order that members could see a coal generated power plant is working in good environmental conservation. After considering time constraints it was suggested that perhaps a slide program could be used during a scheduled committee time.

Senator Janis Lee introduced Dr. Robert E. Harder to the committee citing his experience and extensive service to the state of Kansas and recommending him for confirmation as Secretary to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The chairman asked Dr. Harder for his thoughts on changes within the department. Dr. Harder touched on unrest concerning possible separation of the department and later said that as of now he doubted there would be any strong move to separate the agencies. He noted that one of his first acts following his appointment was to set up four committees to study the department. The first, an executive committee composed of KDHE bureau chiefs, health, environmental and administration, to look at goals, visions and administrative procedures. A second committee composed of non-agency people was formed to deal with the environmental side of the agency. A third comparable committee on the health side of the agency was formed of non-agency people to look at goals, visions, objectives, strategies the agency should be following. A fourth group, a synthesizing committee, was formed to take an overview and push the findings together into a report.

Dr. Harder told the committee he would be working over the next 2 or 3 years to make the agency stronger. He made the observation that both health and environment need to plan for the 21st century by developing solid policy. Industry is encountering great difficulty in dealing and complying with the numerous organizations within the department whose regulations they must meet.

During discussion it appeared groups felt the department's position was adversarial rather than helping groups comply. Another perception put forth was that the department has been throttled from doing their job. Dr. Harder noted it was his hope to achieve a balance between a regulatory and adversarial stand. He further noted that he did view the department's tasks as regulatory but did desire to educate personnel to be responsive to the public.

The comment was made that the department needed to start thinking about issues such as water and incinerators on a regional basis rather than making decisions in a narrower context.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 423-S Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m. on January 28, 1993.

Dr. Harder told the committee he had attended a meeting on the Central States Low-level Radioactive Compact in Oklahoma.

Senator Martin made a motion to confirm Dr. Harder's appointment as Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Senator Hardenburger seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 1993.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

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