



Neutral Testimony Regarding SB 92
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For the Senate Committee on Utilities

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to appear before you today regarding Senate Bill 92. We are testifying neutral on today's bill. However, as a Kansas company that has interacted with landowners for decades on infrastructure siting, we wanted to take the opportunity to speak briefly to the impact this bill could have.

We have a strong history of engagement with Kansas landowners, and the existing, shorter timeline within which we've worked for years has served the process well.

Lengthening the approval process has the potential to impact electric reliability. While 60 additional days may not seem like a lot of time, it can dramatically slow the process on everything else we need to do when siting infrastructure, including acquiring equipment. That 60 days can make a difference when we are competing with everyone else for transformers, conductors and even labor.

Or, as another example, we may have a large load customer locating in our service territory, and our ability to timely site the infrastructure that company needs must be considered in the overall project timeline. From an economic development perspective, perhaps there could be an exemption in the law to allow the original shorter timeframe to apply in situations where the load is determined important to the State.

To reiterate, any extension to the approval process is an additional barrier to timely completion of any new or extended 230 kV and above transmission line greater than 5 miles in length. We would be happy to discuss with Staff some alternatives to the extension, such as having it only apply to 345 kV lines greater than 5 miles in urban areas but increasing the rural distance to 20 or 50 miles, or only having the 180 days apply if the line is not classified as a Reliability or Economic Development project.

At a minimum, should this bill move forward, we would propose language to allow KCC staff some discretion in asking for an extension. Rather than mandate a 60-day extension, could Staff be allowed to request for good cause an extension up to 60 days?

Mr. Chairman and Committee, I thank you again for your attention and am pleased to stand for questions at the appropriate time.