

MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Representative Mario Goico at 08:30 A.M. on March 18, 2005 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

Members Present:

Representative Mario Goico, Chairman
Representative Judith Loganbill
Representative Judy Showalter

Members Absent:

Senator Jay Emler- excused
Senator Jim Barone- excused
Representative Joann Flower- excused
Senator Nick Jordan- excused
Representative Carl Krehbiel- excused
Senator Carolyn McGinn- excused
Senator Chris Steineger- excused

Committee staff present:

Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Dana Wurdeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Goico called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and called upon Mark Schreiber of Westar Energy who spoke as representative for Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant. He reminded the Committee of their invitation to tour Wolf Creek on April 26, 2005 and the presentation would provide additional information relating to the tour.

Mr. Schreiber provided the Committee with a slide show of the facility, and discussed the ownership of Wolf Creek, those being:

- KGE - (a subsidiary of Westar);
- KCPL - (Kansas City Power and Light), a subsidiary of Great Plains Energy; and
- KEPCo - Kansas Electric Power Co.

He stated that in 1987, the companies formed an operating corporation called Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation. The employees of Wolf Creek operate and maintain the power plant on the owners behalf.

Mr. Schreiber continued by explaining that there are one hundred and three nuclear plants in the country, and most were constructed utilizing the Standardized Nuclear Unit Power Plant System called Snupps. By doing so, the construction of a plant is more cost effective than utilizing a unique design to construct each individual plant.

There were originally five plants or five companies that were part of the Snupps project but only two remained at the end. One is Union Electric at the Calaway Plant and the other is the Wolf Creek Plant. The only visible difference between the two plants is Calaway maintains a cooling tower and Wolf Creek a cooling lake. An operator could easily maintain operations at Calaway or Wolf Creek due to the similarity between the plants, without any reduction in performance.

Mr. Waller inquired as to the control of the design plans and access to those designs. Mr. Schreiber remarked that the information is called "Safe Guards Information", and a special clearance is needed to view the documents.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Joint Committee on Kansas Security at 08:30 A.M. on March 18, 2005 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Schreiber continued his presentation with arial views of the Plant, and drew attention to the plants back up systems. He noted that there were numerous systems to ensure the continuous operation of the plant.

Mr. Schreiber also discussed the chain reaction called “fission” and the utilization of uranium in the process. He noted that the enrichment process is very complicated, and unlike a dirty bomb (an explosive device with radioactive material included) in a nuclear bomb the chain reaction is uncontrolled and produces a huge amount of power in a short amount of time.

He continued by discussing the importance of the water systems for production, cooling, and the creation of electricity. Mr. Schreiber noted that a fuel pellet represents the amount of energy in one ton of coal or about 500 barrels of oil, therefore the fuel cost for Wolf Creek is the lowest in the electrical system.

In responding to a Committee question, Mr. Schreiber discussed Yuca Mountain in Nevada, and the decision to utilize the location as storage for high level radioactive waste from commercial nuclear power plants. He noted that the construction is to be completed by 2010.

Lastly, Mr. Schreiber explained that security measures have increased at Wolf Creek and all nuclear power plants since 9-11. But, noted that due to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations, nuclear power plants have consistently maintained a high level of security.

Chairman Goico thanked Mr. Schreiber for his presentation, and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. next meeting will be On Call of the Chair.

Prepared by Dana Wurdeman
Edited by Robert Waller

Approved by Committee on:

(Date)

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