

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on March 6, 2003 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative John Faber - excused  
Representative Donald Betts - excused  
Representative Tom Sloan - excused  
Representative Vaughn Flora - excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes  
Mary Ann Graham, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management, Kansas  
Department of Health and Environment, 1000 SW Jackson Ste  
320, Topeka, KS 66612-1366

Others attending: See attached sheet

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She called the committee's attention to minutes for January 30, February 4 and 6 meetings that had been distributed. A motion will be entertained in next Tuesday's committee meeting to approve the minutes. She suggested members watch for a revised agenda for next week, on Tuesday March 11, a hearing for **SB155** - Concerning waste tire accumulation, has been scheduled and on Thursday, March 13, possible action on bills previously heard has been scheduled which will be on **SB155**.

The Chairperson welcomed Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management, KDHE, to the committee. He briefed the committee on Kansas solid waste permitting procedures and how it relates to landfills. He believes landfill siting and permitting is always a controversial subject whenever a new landfill is established, no matter where or how large. There seems to be a lack of understanding by persons who have concerns about what the permitting process really involves and what the true risks are of a landfill following today's laws and regulations. Landfills of today really differ very much from the landfills of the past. A lot of the controversy regarding siting and permitting of landfills has to do with the past image of an open dump or of a landfill that is obviously causing contamination of surface water, groundwater and other kinds of problems. Today's landfills are not without risks but they are nothing like they were in the past because of the changes that have been made in laws and regulations. There are all kinds of safe guards that have been added in design and operation and there are requirements that never really existed in the past, regarding groundwater monitoring, gas monitoring, corrective action, and many things that are new to the process. KDHE is confident that the laws and regulations in the state are adequate protection of human health and the environment. The landfill permitting process is difficult to get through in Kansas. They are strict in design and operating requirements but it is not impossible to get to the end point in putting in a new facility. The state law right now divides

CONTINUATION SHEET

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responsibilities between local governments and the state. A flow chart, "Kansas Landfill Permitting Process", was distributed, which shows the process that must be followed by both local and state governments before a landfill can be established. (See attachment 1) A copy of "Existing Landfill Location Restrictions", was provided which lists statutory restrictions and regulatory restrictions for MSW landfills. (See attachment 2) Committee questions and discussion followed.

Dennis Degner, Section Chief, Solid Waste Management Permit Section, KDHE, in attendance, answered questions regarding earthquake potential and magnitude limit.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Bider and staff for their presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2003.