

Environmental Management Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2007

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 2nd Floor, Westview Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: John Ware, Faith Brennan, Marty Kraft, Jim van Eman, Stephen Hopkins, Carol Adams, Rachel Treanor

Others present: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino & Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; Scott Cahail – Water Services; Matt Gigliotti, Law Department; Ron McLinden – Sierra Club; Dustin Jensen – Metropolitan Energy Center; Tom Jacobs - MARC; Paul Ling - KCPL; Susan Brown - CCPC; Melissa Hope - Sierra Club; Yvonne Huff – Aquaterra Environmental

A. Presentation about the KCPL-Sierra Club-CCPC Agreement

Paul Ling, Melissa Hope and Susan Brown, representing their respective organizations, made a presentation to the EMC about the agreement signed earlier in 2007. Paul Ling focused on the historical elements of the KCPL Energy Plan. He indicated that KCPL currently has 100 MW capability for wind power. This is sufficient power for about 33,000 households. They will adding another 400 MW and will ultimately have wind generating capacity in both Kansas and Missouri.

Environmental improvements are being made to the Iatan 1 plant which should be complete in 2008. Mr. Ling also detailed a list of improvements being made to the La Cygne power plant. These improvements will reduce NOX emissions by about 85%, there will be a new scrubber and a new fabric filter, among other improvements.

The new Iatan 2 power plant will be a new generation power plant with new technology that will make it more efficient than other KCPL facilities. The plant will cost \$1.8 billion and will add 850 MW of capacity of which 465 MW will be for KCPL use.

KCPL is now doing planning for 2010-2015.

The goal of the agreement with CCPC and Sierra Club is to offset 6 million tonnes CO₂ through wind power (400 MW) and energy efficiency (300 MW). They need regulatory approval for new program elements. Dennis Murphey stated the OEQ recommendations to the City Council for legislative action is focused on this need.

Susan Brown, Chair, Concerned Citizens of Platte County said this is a collaborative agreement that is being worked on by all 3 parties. The agreement, when fully implemented, will reduce air pollution at both Iatan 1 and La Cygne. The recent Energy Efficiency Forum, sponsored by KCPL, was the first major step in obtaining public input. The question remains, however, what to do with the Montrose power plant – the oldest in the system. Everyone agreed the forum was successful and that energy and environmental groups recognized the importance of the event and supported it.

KCPL is looking at using switchgrass and other renewables as power sources. KCPL will make \$180,000 available in support of implementation efforts from the KCMO Climate Protection Plan Phase 1. KCPL is asking for input on landfills issues specifically with regard to ash disposal not otherwise currently usable. The waste is currently going to a monofill landfill which can be mined later when there is a market.

The KCPL greenhouse gas (GHG) Emissions reduction goal is: 20% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 relative to 2006.

Melissa Hope, Sierra Club, noted that there are negotiations in process now regarding proposed coal fired power plants – 2 in Kansas and 1 in Missouri. The negotiations are with Associated Electrical Cooperatives, Inc – a top tier of 50 co-ops in the state.

KCPL will be seeking legislative allowance to decouple rates from electricity production, thereby allowing them to promote and make a profit on investments in high energy efficiency programs. Of concern is how to protect low and fixed income households from adverse cost impact.

KCPL is far ahead of most other power companies. They are establishing the new bar for what can be achieved. The proposed wind and energy efficiency programs will still fall about 700,000 tons short of the agreement requirements in GHG offsets and they will need to look for it in the balance of their system.

Sierra Club is helping KCPL implement statewide changes which means bringing along other utility companies. New regulations and new legislation will be needed, but will be hard to secure. In all this, KCPL will be seeking, as guided by Sierra Club and CCPC, a fair rate of return. The partners will also be looking at building codes and lighting and appliance standards.

There was discussion about the fact the Iatan 2 plant has been located in a flood plain. The plant, in essence, is located in a secondary flood plain, with its own berms, behind the already existing agricultural berms which help to channel the river and reduce any flood potential related to this landfill.

Both Susan and Melissa noted that this process has the full backing and support of the Sierra Club, which is helping with the analysis. The partners are looking at 3 models for energy efficiency programs to be proposed.

Dennis noted that this potentially represents 10-15% of the community-wide GHG emissions calculated in the climate protection planning process. This also means that KCPL will be changing its fuel mix with the addition of wind power sources. Energy efficiency, however, is more direct.

There was further discussion on several issues including: how do we know we need Iatan 2 power generating capacity. Paul Ling responded that we will need more capacity just with population growth for 2010. Energy efficiency improvements will avoid the need for even more capacity by 2015.

B. Action Items

1. Carol Adams presented a draft letter to the Mayor and City Council in support of the stream buffer setback provision detailed in the new Development Ordinance proposal. The members wanted the letter to also be sent to Wayne Cauthen, City Manager, and Tom Coyle, Director, City Planning & Development. Carol Adams made a motion, seconded by Jim van Eman, to endorse the letter of support and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the letter on behalf of the EMC. The motion passed.
2. Carol Adams presented a draft letter for EMC authorization commending the Mayor and City Council, with a copy to the City Manager, for their recent adoption of the Green Solutions Position Paper developed by the Wet Weather Community Panel. The letter also commends them for their recent formation of an interdepartmental Green Solutions Team. Carol made a motion, seconded by Stephen Hopkins, to endorse the letter of support and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the letter on behalf of the EMC. The motion passed.

C. Conflict of Interest – Matt Gigliotti

Matt distributed a memo, dated August 8, 2007, to the EMC regarding conflict of interest and the Code of Ethics. There was general discussion about the issue. Matt agreed to provide the document electronically so that it could be posted on the EMC library site (emckansascity@gmail.com). Key points include: (1) There is an annual requirements for members of commissions to submit a signed conflict of interest statement. (2) There is an Ethics Commission for Boards and Commissions to which questions and issues can be submitted. The Ethics Commission has the power to issue advisory statements based on the 2006 changes to the Kansas City Charter.

D. No-Till Workshop – Marty Kraft distributed a flyer which is to be distributed for the No-Till, Organic Gardening Workshop to be held October 27th.

E. Faith Brennan will circulate a sheet for everyone to choose one or more City Council members to represent the EMC and to build better relationships.

F. Dennis Murphey told the EMC about the press conference, held this morning, at which Sen. Christopher Bond helped to announce a new, state of the art battery manufacturing business in Lee's Summit. There is a Congressional earmark in the Transportation bill of \$2 million for implementation of an electric vehicle and plug-in vehicle program in a partnership including the City, The University of Missouri at Rolla and KOKAM, the battery manufacturer.

Due to the Bridging The Gap Annual Environmental Excellence Awards event, John Ware asked that Committee Reports be held over to the next meeting and that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm. Next meeting is November 14, 2007 at 4:00 pm. at the Westview Room at MARC (2nd Floor).