

Rep. Sloan Hosts Assistant Secretary of the Army at State Capitol

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) hosted Ms. Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and the Environment, and MG MacWilley from Ft. Riley at a meeting on renewable energy opportunities in Kansas and environmental remediation at closed Army ammunition plants. The meeting included presentations on existing Kansas laws that permit the State to partner with federal agencies and their contractors to develop renewable energy and energy conservation facilities and technologies, two specific proposed renewable energy projects, and remediation options at the Sunflower and Parsons Army Ammunition Plant sites.

Governor Sam Brownback participated in the meeting to emphasize the serious desire of the State to partner with Ft. Riley, Ft. Leavenworth, and the U.S. Army in general to meet Presidential and Congressional directives to increase the use of renewable energy at military installations.

"I presented information about a proposed wind-solar-energy storage project and a municipal waste to energy project, both of which the State is researching," Sloan said. "A major problem with renewable energy is that it is intermittent - the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine all the time. I discussed how combining multiple renewable energy generation options in a comprehensive manner and combining those with energy storage can meet the reliability and sustainability needs of the Army and Kansas citizens in a long-term cost-effective manner."

Ms. Hammack has created an Energy Task Force and those persons, in cooperation with Ft. Riley personnel, will be examining the proposals and substantiating data provided in the briefing document. "It is too early to know whether our specific proposals will meet the needs of the Army, but the Defense Department persons participating in the meeting expressed appreciation for the State's willingness to partner and our ability to think creatively," Sloan said.

Rep. Sloan is serving his 9th term in the Kansas House of Representatives and is a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee. He also is a member of the GridWise Architecture Committee and was a member of the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative's Steering Committee.

###