

Sloan Participates in DOE Advisory Committee Meeting

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated as a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Electricity Advisory Committee (EAC) in discussions related to the Department's proposed "Vision of the Future Grid." The draft proposal seeks to define the role of the DOE in helping modernize the grid to maintain a reliable electric system. The Committee also heard panelists discuss micro-grid development, both from distributive generation like rooftop solar arrays and isolated electric users with energy storage capabilities (e.g., electric vehicles), and the impact that such micro-grids have on the larger electric system's operations.

"The DOE, through its grant funding policies and education of policy-makers and the public has significant opportunities to influence the development of new technologies (e.g., electric vehicle batteries, more efficient appliances) and consumer preferences (e.g., investments in energy conservation)," Sloan said. "The EAC members provide information and guidance in determining what priorities the DOE will establish."

Reports were also provided on the work of the Energy Storage, Interconnection-Wide Transmission Planning, and Smart Grid EAC Subcommittees. Rep. Sloan is a member of those subcommittees and participated in teleconference strategizing, drafting, and editing calls prior to the EAC meeting.

Recommendations by the EAC are provided to the Assistant Secretary of the DOE for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and ultimately the Secretary and other Senior Department officials.

"My work in Kansas to ensure a reliable, affordable, responsible (cleaner) electric energy supply carries over to the EAC discussions as I focus on encouraging the DOE to provide information to policy-makers and consumers about empowering customers to make electric use decisions that are in their best interests," said Sloan. "Policy-makers frequently make decisions based on short-term costs, while we need to make decisions on the full direct and indirect 40-60 year life-cycle costs of electric transmission and generation systems."

Rep. Sloan is serving his 9th term in the Kansas House of Representatives and is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee. He is a member of the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment Policies, the House Energy & Utilities, Local Government, and Energy & Natural Resources Budget Committees. Rep. Sloan is Co-Chairman of the Council of State Governments' Interstate Transmission

Siting Compact Task Force and a member of the National Conference of State
Legislature's Energy Supply Task Force.

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