

### **Sloan Speaks at DOE Transmission Workshop**

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) spoke at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Electric Transmission Congestion Study Workshop in St. Louis. Rep. Sloan joined three Public Utility Commissioners in presenting comments from the policy-maker and consumer perspective.

The DOE is required by Congress to develop national transmission status and projection reports every five years. The goal is to improve the delivery capability of the nation's electric grid system.

"My comments focused on two primary messages: 1) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing a de facto national energy plan and the DOE should be helping states and utilities determine where new or improved transmission lines will be necessary to move electricity from new low-carbon generators to customer load centers; and 2) that transmission congestion can be viewed from two perspectives: a) as a technical problem of trying to move more electricity through a line than is physically possible, and b) as a political problem as policy-makers must decide whether to invest in new transmission lines or develop energy conservation or distributive generation (e.g., roof-top solar units) to alleviate the need for new transmission lines," Sloan said.

"Utilities are accustomed to solving technical problems related to the electric system; public officials are slowly coming to the realization that they must also address the availability and cost of electricity," said Sloan. "Too many elected officials complain about the lack of a national energy plan from Congress without realizing that the EPA is constructing one. Public officials and the DOE must ensure that responsible electric generators are connected to the national grid or develop alternative plans to ensure adequate electricity to our homes and businesses."

Rep. Sloan is serving his ninth term in the Kansas House of Representatives. He is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee, and a member of the Joint Committee on Energy & Environment Policies, the House Energy & Utilities, Local Government, and Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committees. He also serves on the DOE's Electricity Advisory Committee and the Federal Communication Committee's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee.

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