

**Bill Draft to Reduce the Time for a
Designation by the Public Service Commission of a Route for a Transmission Facility
From Six Months to Three Months**

Presented by: Kevin Cramer
Public Service Commission

Before: Energy Development and Transmission Committee
Honorable Rich Wardner, Chairman

Date: August 5, 2008

TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Public Service Commissioner Kevin Cramer. I am testifying on behalf of the Public Service Commission.

The Commission has reviewed and discussed the bill draft and the Commission opposes the reduction of time for a designation by the Commission of a route for a transmission facility from six months to three months. The Commission is unsure what the motivation for this change may be, however the Commission makes every effort to issue a route certificate as efficiently as possible within the required time.

The Commission is required by law to hold a public hearing in each county in which any portion of a route is proposed to be located in an application for a certificate or a permit. The Commission may

hold a consolidated hearing in one or more of the affected counties. Notice of this public hearing must be published twice, once at least twenty days prior to the hearing, and once within twenty days prior to the hearing. This means that almost one month of the time allowed for reaching a decision in these cases is consumed by hearing notice publication requirements.

The public appears to be very comfortable and confident that the Commission is completing an adequate review of these projects under the current timeframe. Reducing the time allowed for the public to review and comment on a project contradicts the true spirit of the public hearing process.

This concludes my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.