

HB 1493 -- WATER AND ELECTRIC TERRITORIAL AGREEMENTS

SPONSOR: Rector (Emery)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Communications, Energy and Technology by a vote of 20 to 0.

Current law requires that territorial agreements specify the boundaries of the water service area of each water supplier and the electric service area of each electric service supplier. In cases where the parties cannot agree, they may petition the Missouri Public Service Commission to designate the boundaries of the service areas to be served by each party. This bill clarifies that the commission can only be petitioned when the parties cannot agree upon the boundaries of the service areas that are not specified in the agreement.

Current law states that the commission must hold an evidentiary hearing when receiving any petition, when determining whether or not a territorial agreement should become effective, and when complaints involving any commission-approved territorial agreement are presented. The bill states that these hearings can be waived if the matter is resolved by a stipulation and an agreement that is submitted to the commission. All parties must agree to waive the hearing.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will simplify the process when a petition to resolve a territorial dispute is submitted to the Missouri Public Service Commission. Allowing the hearing to be waived if all parties agree to the boundary change and if the commission approves the boundaries will save time and money because no one will be required to travel to Jefferson City. In particular, this will help small water companies when they want to change their boundaries.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Emery; and Missouri Public Service Commission.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst