

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

Matt Skinner, Public Information

Phone: (405) 521-4180 m.skinner@occemail.com

January 18, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY – NEWS CONFERENCE

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation will hold a news conference this Tuesday, (January 22) to unveil details of a new project that will address the safety of Oklahoma motorists, Homeland Security concerns, the condition of Oklahoma’s highways, roads and bridges, and other areas.

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE: Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 N. Lincoln, OKC
Room 301 (Commissioners’ Courtroom)**

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January 22, 2008

GETTING OFF THE ROAD TO RUIN

Commissioners, Transportation officials announce new program to protect Oklahoma motorists, roads

(Oklahoma City) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission and Oklahoma Department of Transportation today announced a new program aimed at protecting the state's roads and bridges and those who drive on them.

At the core of the issue is the condition and location of the state's current weigh stations. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for maintaining the stations, while the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) is responsible for staffing them. There are currently seven locations, with six in operation. Because of a lack of funds, the stations are outdated, dangerous, unable to handle the massive number of trucks using Oklahoma's roads, and cannot be staffed on a 24-hour basis. It is widely known that a truck can cross from one side of the state to another and never be weighed or checked.

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chairman Jeff Cloud said officials of both agencies have long been concerned about the problem, and have been working to formulate the solution announced today: A six year, \$61 million program which will result in 9 new, state-of-the-art-truck inspection stations in key locations on the state's borders.

"This is a classic win-win. We will be able to protect the massive investment the state will be making over the coming years in our transportation infrastructure, as well as protect the driving public, all at no additional expense to the taxpayer," said Cloud.

Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Phil Tomlinson said the \$61 million dollar program means Oklahoma will have a much brighter transportation future.

"This is a great opportunity that benefits all Oklahomans," Tomlinson said. "The state of our weigh stations has been a vexing problem for some time. We are thrilled that the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has developed a solution and would like to say 'thanks.'"

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Jim Roth said the program is great news for counties and cities as well.

"As a former county commissioner, I know first hand the never-ending battle to maintain the local roads. It's thrilling to now be part of a solution that will help protect people and the public's investment in state roads, and local roads as well," Roth said.

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Bob Anthony says the program is good news for the state's truckers as well.

"These new facilities will provide effective enforcement through the use of technology that will also allow truckers to continue their business with a minimum of delay," said Anthony.

The Corporation Commission will fund \$54 million of the project. With the approval of the Oklahoma legislature, the money will come from a one cent per gallon assessment paid by the owners of fuel tanks (usually gasoline retailers) when they buy their fuel at the wholesale level.

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03-13-08

MEDIA ADVISORY

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission today approved an agreement establishing a mechanism for storm damage cost recovery for AEP/Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO).

All the parties to the case asked the Commissioners to approve the agreement. The parties were PSO, the OCC's Public Utility Division staff, the Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers (OIEC), and the Attorney General, who represents ratepayers before the Commission.

The agreement establishes a mechanism for the recovery of PSO's damage costs from the January 2007 and December 2007 storms.

Under the formula, PSO will recovery \$12.6 million for the January 2007 storm with no change in ratepayer's bills.

PSO has until August 1, 2008 to file its claimed actual cost for recovery from the December 2007 storm. All parties will have 30 days to contest the submitted costs.

In the agreement approved today, PSO estimates the total costs from the December 2007 storm will be \$70 million. If the Commission were to approve that amount, PSO estimates that would result in a monthly charge (not a rate increase) of \$1.47 for the average customer over five years. Again, these are PSO's estimates.

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June 30, 2008

AN “OK” CONNECTION

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission wants to help western U.S. residents who have Oklahoma mineral interests

(Oklahoma City) With the resurgence in the domestic oil and gas industry, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) has seen a sharp jump in the number of inquiries it receives on a daily basis from residents in California and surrounding states who have questions about their mineral holdings in Oklahoma.

Given this increase, the OCC is conducting a survey to see if sufficient interest exists for a one-day workshop to be held at a yet-to-be-determined location in Southern California on October 11, 2008. Topics would include a demonstration of and educational session on the OCC’s online oil and gas databases, basic minerals management, leasing and forced pooling, and other areas of concern to mineral owners.

Those interested or desiring more information can go to the OCC website, www.occeweb.com and complete a short survey, or contact the OCC Oil & Gas Complaints and Information Department at (405) 521-2613.

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(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occeweb.com)

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July 22, 2008

Commissioner Bob Anthony elected to NRRI leadership position

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Bob Anthony has been elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI).

The NRRI Board is responsible for establishing the annual research agenda and budget of the NRRI. The NRRI provides research, training, and technical assistance to state regulatory commissions in the areas of electricity, natural gas, water, telecommunications, consumer protection, and commission structure and operations. The NRRI is the official research arm of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

Commissioner Anthony is on the NARUC Gas Committee and has been on the NRRI Board for the past three years. He was first elected to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission in 1988.

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September 11, 2008

A CHANGE IN THE WIND

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioners approve orders on proposed transmission lines vital to wind-power, ratepayers to see benefits quickly

(Oklahoma City) Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) customers will soon begin seeing renewable energy credits on their bills, the result of a wind-power related order approved today by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC).

Calling it a critical step forward toward making Oklahoma a leader in wind power, the OCC today gave unanimous approval to an order that will allow recovery of costs of a wind-power transmission line planned by Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E), and an order that clears the way for ITC Great Plains to build transmission lines in Oklahoma.

Chairman Jeff Cloud said today's action will pay benefits to the state many times over.

"In the case of OG&E customers, they will actually receive some of the benefits of the planned Woodward-to-Oklahoma City wind-power transmission line before construction is completed." Cloud noted. "The project allows the use of renewable energy credits. As a result, in about 60 days credits will appear on OG&E customers' bills, even though construction on the line will not be completed until 2010. Meanwhile, the ITC order will result in badly-needed transmission lines needed if Oklahoma is to take its rightful place as a leading exporter of electricity to other states."

Vice-chair Bob Anthony explained the two orders will work in tandem, providing power developers the means of moving electricity to market.

"Taken together these two orders represent an important step in creating infrastructure needed to make wind power, and possibly other renewable energy sources, available for the future electric needs of Oklahoma," Anthony said.

Commissioner Jim Roth said the state's economy will benefit by such infrastructure development.

"I am proud to move Oklahoma into a new era of competitive energy development, where our state's wind power becomes a huge source of cleaner, cheaper energy for our future and where we take the steps forward to create thousand of new jobs for our citizens," said Roth. "The idea that our power can be 'cleaner and cheaper' is not far-fetched."

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October 17, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY

Commission staff has prepared a chart for media use showing the current status of the Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC) for the state's two largest electric utilities. It is attached.

The FAC is used by the utility to recover the cost of the fuel used for electric generation. This includes both coal and natural gas. Under state law, the utility is forbidden from making a profit on the FAC. Commission staff audits the monthly FAC filings of the utilities.

NOTE: The designation "under" on the attached means the utility has yet to recover all its cumulative fuel costs.

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FAC Monthly Fuel Adjustment Over and Under Review

PSO Over/Under FAC Collections by Period End

Filing Date	6/18/2008		*7-21-2008		8/19/2008		9/23/2008		**10/1/2008	
	\$		\$		\$		\$		\$	
PSO	46,954,414	Under	61,618,689	Under	\$ 99,282,016	Under	79,529,603	Under	35,500,000	Under
PSO totals are pulled from the monthly FAC filing.										

OGE Over/Under FAC Collections by Period End

Filing Date	6/29/2008		***7/25/2008		8/22/2008		9/30/2008	
	\$		\$		\$		\$	
OG E	53,620,588	Under	86,371,955	Under	122,158,155	Under	124,742,241	Under
Balances are pulled from the monthly FAC filing.								

*PSO implemented their new factor for June Billings. This factor implemented the entire forecasted increase in fuel costs.

**For the October 2008 filing, PSO projects the balance to be \$35,500,000 under collected. This official filing will come in next week.

***OGE implemented their new factor for July Billings. This factor only implemented half of the forecasted increase in fuel costs.

Compiled by Commission Staff 10-17-2008

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December 22, 2008

A GOOD WAY TO START THE NEW YEAR

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chairman Jeff Cloud today had words of praise for the Commission and staff of the OCC's Public Utility Division and OG&E officials for their work to lower fuel costs borne by OG&E customers.

"Some months ago, OG&E agreed to hold off on immediately passing through all its fuel costs in the hopes that those costs would come down. As most know, natural gas prices have indeed decreased. OG&E has been required to use data from October 31st in setting its fuel recovery rate for the new year. But in a great example of being proactive to benefit ratepayers, the utility requested that the requirement be waived to allow OG&E to instead use the much lower costs as of December 31st. The OCC staff, demonstrating the flexibility needed in dealing with today's volatile energy costs, has granted that request."

Cloud said fuel costs have grown to be a major part of the customer's bill.

"Not that many years ago, fuel costs were a relatively minor consideration. But now they make up the majority of one's bill. Fuel costs are not like the rates for service which are directly under the jurisdiction of the Commission. While the Commission can and does audit fuel costs to be sure the law is followed, the actual cost of fuel is set by the market. State law allows the utility to pass its fuel costs on to the consumer, at no profit."

Commissioner Bob Anthony said the agreement between OG&E and the Commission will more rapidly reflect dropping fuel costs on customer bills.

"This change in the OG&E tariff will help bring immediate relief to consumers," Anthony said.

Commissioner Jim Roth called OG&E's handling of its fuel costs "noteworthy."

"We appreciate OG&E's effort to put ratepayers first," said Roth.