

Public Hearings Testimony Best Practices

Westar Customer Charge Increase



Climate and Energy Project believes that every voice counts when testifying or submitting your comments to the Kansas Corporation Commission. We encourage you to testify in person during the [public hearings](#) on July 21st and 23rd. Public testimonies are an effective and impactful way to share your perspective and engage in the rate decision making process.

Each meeting will take place in two parts. Starting at 4:30 p.m. representatives from Westar and interested parties will be on hand at all locations to answer questions regarding the rate request. Attendees may come and go. At 6 p.m. the formal public hearing will begin. The hearing provides members of the public the opportunity to make their views of the application known to the Commissioners.

Testimony Best Practices

- Do your research on the topic and be prepared, you can find helpful resources at
 - <http://climateandenergy.org/page.52.utility-bill-increases>
 - [FAQ](#)
 - [Letter to the Editor Sample](#)
- If you are using numbers or statistics, make sure they are from legitimate sources
- Practice/rehearse your testimony
- Be respectful and empathetic to opposing views
- Dress professionally, this will demonstrate that the issue is important to you
- Speak clearly and concisely, we advise keeping your testimony between 3-5 minutes
- Bring a copy of your remarks, this will help with:
 - Staying on topic
 - Having a list of sources you may be using in the testimony
 - Being able to read your testimony if you choose to
- Be sincere and speak "from the heart", authenticity is paramount to your credibility
- Tell a story: how does the proposed change affect you and your family, speak from experience
- Make this issue personal, but don't let negative emotions overshadow your credibility
- Sample Testimony outline:
 - Identify yourself and the organization you represent (if that applies)
 - State your position as "for" or "against" the proposed Westar rate increase, refer to [Docket No 15-WSEE-115-RTS](#)
 - Explain why you are taking this position
 - Summarize your recommendations for alternative solutions
 - Restate your position at the end of your testimony
 - Thank the Kansas Corporation Commission for the opportunity to speak

You can submit comments, by phone, email, or snail mail through August 11, 2015.

By email: public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov

By phone: 1-800-662-0027 or (785) 271-3140

By mail: Kansas Corporation Commission, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 SW Arrowhead Rd., Topeka, KS 66604-4027.

[Reference Docket No 15-WSEE-115-RTS](#)