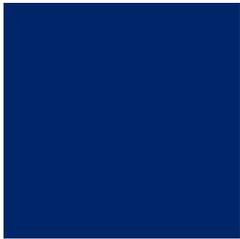




# KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION FY2023 | IN REVIEW



➤ Serving the people of Kansas by regulating the State's energy infrastructure, oil and gas production and commercial trucking to ensure public safety.



# About the Commission



**Andrew J. French**  
Chairperson



**Dwight D. Keen**  
Commissioner



**Annie Kuether**  
Commissioner

The Commission consists of three members appointed by the Governor to overlapping four-year terms. No more than two members may be of the same political party. The authority of the Kansas Corporation Commission is derived from K.S.A. 74-601 to 74-631.

The Commission regulates investor-owned utilities operating in the state, the Kansas oil and gas industry and motor carrier safety. The KCC does not regulate most electric cooperatives, water cooperatives, municipalities, wireless telephone, long distance service, cable companies, or internet services.

To carry out its multi-faceted mission, the Commission is financed from assessments, registration fees, operating charges, federal funds, and other fee funding sources. The KCC does not receive funding from the state general fund.

## FY2023

BUSINESS MEETINGS	<b>96</b>	<b>3,498</b> TOTAL ORDERS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION IN FY2023
EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS	<b>14</b>	
PUBLIC HEARINGS	<b>3</b>	



The Commission meets bi-weekly at 10 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. The meeting is broadcast live on the KCC's YouTube channel. To preview the agenda in advance, sign up for meeting notifications at:

<https://kcc.ks.gov/>



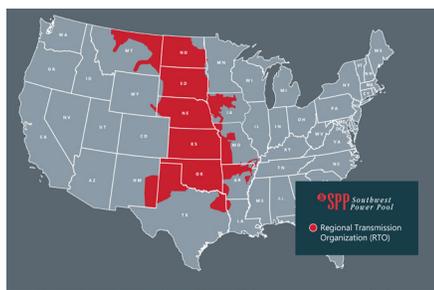
For more information, access the KCC Legislative reports at:

<https://kcc.ks.gov/commission-activity/reports-to-the-legislature/2024>

# Resource adequacy guides energy planning

Most people take for granted that the lights will come on when they flip a switch or that heat and air conditioning are always readily available by adjusting a setting on the thermostat. However, ensuring there is enough energy generating capacity to continuously meet customer needs isn't that simple. Maintaining adequate resources has its challenges due to factors such as resource mix changes, extreme weather impacts, increased demand and evolving consumer behaviors.

Kansas is a member of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), along with 13 other states that include Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. SPP is a non-profit Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). SPP's role is to ensure reliable supplies of wholesale power, adequate transmission infrastructure, and competitive pricing of electricity for its members. Resource adequacy is a critical area of focus for the KCC, the SPP, and FERC.



## RESOURCE ADEQUACY CHALLENGES

- Influx of intermittent renewable generation
- Thermal generation retirements
- Resource under-performance & unavailability
- Increasing load & volatility
- Extreme weather events
- Reducing margins

Source: Southwest Power Pool

The KCC actively engages in the SPP stakeholder process to influence sound resource adequacy policy and ensure our local utilities are effectively planning to meet their obligations. KCC Chairperson Andrew French, while serving as 2023 President of the SPP's Regional State Committee, established the Resource and Energy Adequacy Leadership (REAL) team at SPP. The team provides guidance, prioritization, and policy recommendations needed to increase assurance that energy can be continuously and cost effectively provided within the SPP Balancing Authority Area. In addition, the KCC maintains an internal working group dedicated to tracking and participating on FERC & SPP issues.



Work Study: SPP Resource Adequacy (2/24/23)



Work Study: Midwest Reliability Org. Resource Adequacy Work Study (2/8/23)

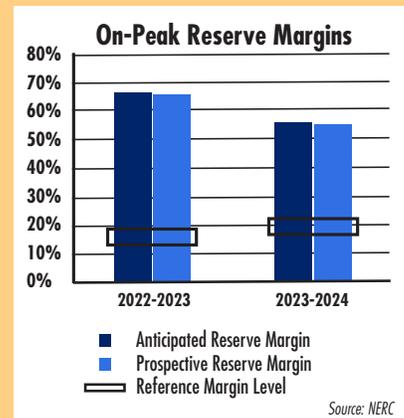


Work Study: Black & Veatch Resource Adequacy (1/25/23)

To keep the issues surrounding resource adequacy at the forefront and share information, the KCC began a series of public workshops last year. The workshops allowed industry experts to present their views and answer questions from the Commissioners and Commission Staff. Recordings of the three workshops held to date can be accessed on the KCC YouTube Channel or website at <https://www.kcc.ks.gov/resource-adequacy-work-study-series>.

# Adequate resources expected under normal conditions

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued its 2023-2024 Winter Reliability Assessment in November. The news for Kansas and the rest of the Southwest Power Pool region is mostly encouraging. However, the report cautions that unexpected weather events or outages could result in shortfalls. This possibility resulted in an "Elevated Risk" finding for the area citing the potential for insufficient reserves in above-normal conditions.



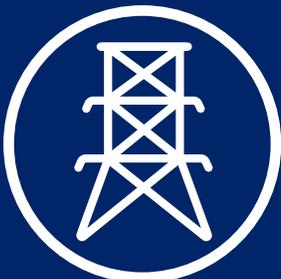
*"Southwest Power Pool (SPP): The Anticipated Reserve Margin (ARM) of 38.8% is over 30 percentage points lower than last winter; this is driven by higher forecasted peak demand and less resource capacity. While the reserve margin is adequate for normal forecasted peak demand and expected generator outages, higher demand levels and outages that have occurred during extreme cold weather result in shortfalls that can trigger energy emergencies. The vast wind resources in the area can alleviate firm capacity shortages under the right conditions; however, energy risks emerge during periods of low wind or forecast uncertainty and high electricity demand."*

- NERC 2023-2024 Winter Reliability Assessment

# UTILITIES



- Ensure sufficient and safe utility services at just rates.
- Enforce state and federal pipeline safety regulations.
- Administer Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF).



## Electric

The Kansas Corporation Commission regulates the state’s investor-owned electric companies: Evergy, Liberty-Empire, and Southern Pioneer. The KCC also has limited jurisdiction over the following: Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Prairie Wind Transmission LLC, Midwest Energy Inc., and ITC Great Plains LLC.

The KCC regularly intervenes in electric matters at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to protect the interests of Kansas ratepayers. The KCC also has representation in transmission matters at the Southwest Power Pool (SPP).

## Regionally competitive rates remain a focus

Improving the regional competitiveness of Kansas’ electric rates is a goal shared by the Commission, the Legislature, and energy stakeholders. While the State has made great progress in the last four years, the Commission will continue to look for ways to improve regional rate competitiveness over time, where our legal authority allows, while ensuring continued access to safe, reliable electric service.

KCC staff is prepared to provide an update to the Legislature on the current status of state’s regional rate competitiveness in the first few weeks of the Legislative Session. Here is a preview:

- Over the last five years, Kansas electricity rates increased in total by 6.97%, which ranks No. 40 out of 50 states during this time for the highest growth in electricity prices (No. 1 being the highest growth in prices).
- In 2022, average electricity rates in Kansas grew 9.52% compared to 2021. This ranks 24th out of 50 states for the largest increases in prices.
- Kansas electricity rates are now 7.23% lower than the national average (compared to 1.8% higher than national average in 2018).
- Kansas electricity rates have fallen from 15th highest in the Country in 2018 to 20th highest in 2021 to 24th highest in 2022.

### Residential Electric Bill Comparison | July 2022 to June 2023

	Company**	Customer Charge	Energy Charge	ECA**	Trans. Delivery Charge	Property Tax Surcharge	Total Bill Without Tax	Cost Per KWH	Utility Bill as a % of National Avg. Bill	Number of Residential Customers FY22
Investor-Owned	Empire	\$14.25	\$58.53	\$44.87	\$17.02	\$1.44	\$136.11	\$0.145	91.98%	8,217
	Evergy Metro	\$14.25	\$83.55	\$17.56	\$7.29	\$1.31	\$123.95	\$0.132	83.76%	239,597
	Evergy Central	\$14.50	\$67.34	\$32.22	\$17.76	\$1.54	\$133.55	\$0.142	90.25%	634,334
						National Average Bill*	\$147.98	\$0.158		

\* Average retail price of electricity monthly (FY2022) \*\* Utility Average ECA for the July 2022 through June 2023 period

# Renewable goals and aging electric distribution network could impact rates

Environmental concerns about greenhouse gasses emitted by fossil-fuel generation sources, as well as the significant decline in the all-in cost of energy production from renewable generation sources, is fueling the movement to decarbonize electric generation.

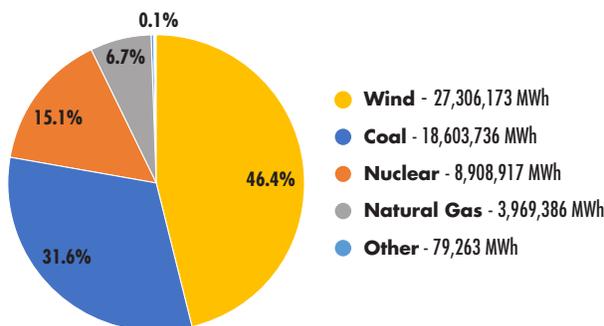


In addition, many major banks, investment firms, and rating agencies have adopted policies to limit their risk associated with utilities using coal-fired generation. As a result, significant capital investment to replace existing generation assets may happen sooner than expected. However, any decisions made are expected to be evaluated in Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Dockets or Predetermination proceedings filed with the Commission pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1239.

Another issue affecting the electric utility industry is hardening, and in some cases replacing the aging distribution network of electric utilities to improve reliability and resiliency. The aging distribution network of the Kansas-jurisdictional electric utilities is an issue that has long been discussed at the Commission, and is likely to be a major driver of additional capital investment in years to come.

The Southwest Power Pool continues to approve new transmission facilities to enhance reliability of the transmission system. Transmission assets are capital intensive and will continue to place upward pressure on utility rates to the extent corresponding reductions in fuel and purchased power do not offset these increases.

## Kansas Electric Generation Sources by Total Megawatt hours July 2022 to June 2023



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, The Energy Information Administration (EIA)

## 2023 Electric Rate Case Summary

Order Date	Utility	Requested Net Increase	Proposed Monthly Impact to Residential Customers	Approved	Monthly Impact To Residential Customers
11/21/2023	Evergy Central	\$204 million	\$14.24	\$74 million	\$4.64
11/21/2023	Evergy Metro	\$14 million	\$3.47	-\$32.9 million	-\$6.07

# Kansas receives more than \$13 million to address grid resilience and reliability

Aging infrastructure is a concern for electric utilities and their customers, who expect safe and reliable service. A Department of Energy (DOE) formula grant announced in 2023 provides funding to States to strengthen, modernize, and improve the resilience of their electric grid against disruptive events. A disruptive event, as defined by the Program, is “an event in which operations of the electric grid are disrupted, preventively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or a natural disaster.”

The KCC’s allocation from the DOE totals \$13,313,126 for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The allocation for each fiscal year thereafter, for the next three fiscal years, is expected to be approximately \$6,647,000.

The KCC will allocate funds to eligible entities which could include an electric grid operator, an electricity storage operator, an electricity generator, a transmission owner or operator, a distribution provider, a fuel supplier, and other entities. Details about the grant and eligible resilience measures are available on the [KCC website](#).



For detailed information on utility regulation, access the KCC Legislative reports at:

<https://kcc.ks.gov/commission-activity/reports-to-the-legislature/2024>

# UTILITIES



FY2023

**19**

**Pipeline Safety Penalty Orders**  
with **\$30,750**  
in assessed fines.\*

\*Fines are payable to state general fund.  
The KCC receives no funding from the state general fund.



For detailed information on utility regulation,  
access the KCC Legislative reports at:

<https://kcc.ks.gov/commission-activity/reports-to-the-legislature/2024>



## Natural Gas and Pipeline Safety

KCC Energy Operations and Pipeline Safety staff play an important role in keeping Kansans safe in their homes and neighborhoods. They enforce federal and state pipeline safety regulations ensuring the safe operation of all gas utilities. The staff also provides technical expertise relating to electric utility operations, reliability, safety, electric transmission siting, and electric and gas consumer service, as well as analyzing requested changes to natural gas and electric certificates.

The KCC regulates three large (annual operating revenue greater than \$10 million) natural gas distribution utilities: Atmos Energy Corporation, Black Hills/ Kansas Gas Utility Co., and Kansas Gas Service, a Division of ONEOK, Inc. In addition, the Commission Staff monitors the rate and tariff activities of several interstate pipelines that serve Kansas local distribution companies, towns, and other large volume gas users.

## On-Site inspections ensure best practices

Pipeline safety staff conducts on-site inspections of intrastate natural gas facilities to monitor the gas systems for any areas of noncompliance with safety regulations. A typical audit covers the operator's management of the integrity of the pipeline delivery system including a review of emergency response plans, odorization requirements, cathodic protection, leak surveys, and operator qualification requirements.

Engineers and pipeline safety inspectors also investigate any incident where natural gas is suspected to be the cause or there is an alleged violation of the Kansas Underground Utilities Damage Prevention Act (KUUDPA). Their findings are reported to the Commission.

In calendar year 2022, the Commission levied fines to 23 excavators for failure to notify utilities prior to excavating over buried facilities and to 4 utility operators for failure to provide timely or accurate locates. The fines assessed totaled \$12,500.



### Underground Damage Prevention Statistics for Calendar Year 2022

LOCATION	TOTAL GAS DAMAGE INCIDENTS	GAS DAMAGES INVESTIGATED	GAS LOCATES REQUESTED	DAMAGES PER 1000 LOCATES
Johnson County	165	321	175,306	1.83
Sedgwick County	167	225	158,912	1.6
Remaining State	109	617	236,547	2.1



### Continuing safety education

The KCC hosts an annual Pipeline Safety Seminar to help professionals managing pipeline operations, maintenance, and emergency response hone their techniques, learn new skills and stay up-to-date with current regulations. Seminar presentations are available on the [KCC website](#).





# Telecommunications

KCC Telecommunications staff is responsible for administering the Kansas Universal Service Fund as well as researching, investigating, analyzing and making recommendations to the Commission on all telecommunications matters. Staff is also involved in Federal Communications Commission cases and participates on National Association of Regulatory Utility Commission (NARUC) subcommittees and Federal-State Joint Boards.

## Kansas Universal Service Fund

The Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) was established by the Commission in 1996, as required by the Kansas Telecommunications Act. Now in its 27th year, the KUSF continues to provide much needed services to Kansans. Those services include telephone discounts to low-income families, phone services and adaptive equipment for persons with disabilities, and network enhancements and upgrades in rural areas.

All telecommunications companies must contribute to the KUSF. Assessments are a percentage of intrastate (within Kansas) retail revenues. Companies are allowed to pass the assessment on to its customers, but not required to. Effective March 1, 2023, the current KUSF funding requirement is \$38.3 million. The carrier assessment rate is 11.37%.



### How are KUSF dollars used?\*

Enhancements/upgrades in rural areas	<b>\$37.1 million</b>
Lifeline Program	<b>\$174,800</b>
Kansas Relay 711	<b>\$241,900</b>
Telecommunications equipment program	<b>\$253,600</b>
Fund administration/carrier audits	<b>\$536,600</b>

\* Annual budget effective March 1, 2023

## Lifeline/ACP keep Kansas families connected

Thanks to the Lifeline program, nearly 30,000 Kansans have access to telephone service allowing them to access healthcare, find jobs, stay in touch with family and call for help in an emergency. Those who qualify, based on income or participation in other assistance programs, receive up to \$17.02 per month in combined federal and state assistance. The state portion of the benefit comes from the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF), administered by the KCC.

Anyone who qualifies for Lifeline also qualifies for the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Participants receive a service discount of up to \$30 per month for broadband service and a one-time device discount of up to \$100. More information on Lifeline and ACP is available on the [KCC website](#).



FY2023

**273**

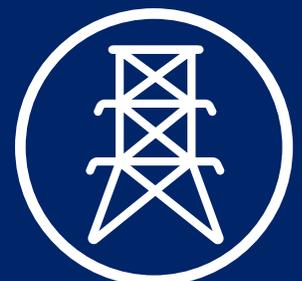
Telecom Orders

**1**

Show Cause Order

with **No** fines accessed.\*

\*Fines are payable to state general fund. The KCC receives no funding from the state general fund.



# TRANSPORTATION



- > Provide regulatory oversight of motor carriers.
- > Conduct audits, inspections and licensing.
- > Promote safety through education.



FY2023

**573**

**Transportation Penalty Orders**

with **\$455,600**  
in assessed fines.\*

\*Fines are payable to state general fund.  
The KCC receives no funding from the state general fund.



## Focus on education and enforcement drives safety

The role of the KCC Transportation Division is to ensure appropriate and effective regulatory oversight of motor carriers, with the goal of protecting the public interest and promoting safety through comprehensive planning, licensing, education, and inspection. Transportation Staff conducts both comprehensive and focused off-site investigations and audits on new and existing motor carriers, taking appropriate action upon discovering unsafe conditions. The staff works closely with the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to reduce crashes involving motor carriers through promotion of safety education.

## Agencies team up to make Kansas roads safer

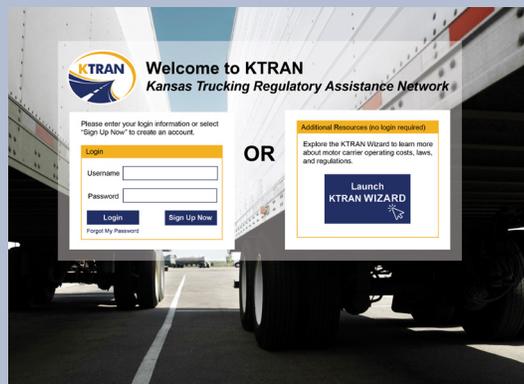
The combined efforts of four state agencies are making it safer to travel Kansas roads. The KCC Transportation Division reports that nearly 99% of the state's motor carriers met Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) requirements for 2022. The national average is currently 88.95%.



Kansas has been the top performer in UCR registrations among 41 participating states since the program's inception in 2007. It is a team effort. The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP), the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), and Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) partner with the KCC to ensure compliance and promote safety. KHP identifies UCR violations and documents it on Driver Vehicle Examination Reports during roadside inspections. KHP ranks 7th in the nation in enforcement efficiency of UCR violations, according to a new report. For 2024, KDOR will verify UCR compliance for interstate companies with Kansas Commercial registration prior to issuing credentials.

The UCR fees collected fund safety education and motor carrier enforcement efforts. Those efforts are paying off. Statistics show Kansas-based motor carriers were involved in fewer crashes from 2020-2022 than the national average and the average of similarly situated Midwest states.

## KTRAN - Kansas Trucking Regulatory Assistance Network



KTRAN, an online tool launched by the KCC in 2017, benefits the industry and regulators alike. Motor carriers have the ability to view and manage their operating authority, driver waiver and UCR registration 24/7. They also receive messages, emails and timely alerts. Regulators and law enforcement have access to the database to help ensure safety compliance leading to safer roadways for the motoring public.





# Safety & Compliance

## Safety seminars prepare drivers for success on the road ahead

Educating motor carriers about potential hazards they may encounter, as well as teaching ways to mitigate risk and stay up-to-date on compliance requirements, makes travel in Kansas safer for everyone.

The KCC conducts free educational safety seminars every week. The classes are designed to help new motor carriers get off to a good start and to educate out of compliance motor carriers, about current rules and regulations. The classes are held virtually, which provides easy access from any location. Motor Carriers are notified of seminar dates at the time they apply for KCC authority. Information is also available on the [KCC website](#) and is included in various transportation association newsletters and websites.

## Local assistance is never far away

Motor carriers in rural areas don't have to look far for assistance. The KCC employs a team of Special Investigators (SIs) located in assigned regions throughout the state. The SIs are involved in teaching at educational safety seminars, doing roadside inspections, and offering local assistance to motor carriers in their area. That assistance may range from answering questions in the field to conducting individual "refresher" safety programs when requested by a motor carrier.



Investigators are located in the following cities: Concordia, Colby, Garden City, Hutchinson, Kansas City, Parsons, Lawrence, La Crosse, Paola, Topeka and Wichita. Contact information for each location can be found [here](#).

For detailed information on motor carriers, access the KCC Legislative reports at:

<https://kcc.ks.gov/commission-activity/reports-to-the-legislature/2024>

### % Commercial Motor Vehicles Involved in Crashes

	CY2020	CY2021	CY2022
Midwest	2.32	2.60	2.44
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>2.26</b>	<b>1.96</b>
Iowa	2.53	2.89	2.64
Illinois	2.80	3.24	3.11
Indiana	2.31	2.60	2.50
Michigan	2.86	3.21	3.14
Minnesota	1.65	1.91	1.96
Missouri	2.49	2.68	2.55
Ohio	2.08	2.37	2.03
Wisconsin	2.12	2.39	2.31
Nebraska	2.47	2.46	2.19

### Roadside Inspections & Out-of-Service (OOS) rates

KANSAS INSPECTIONS	FEDERAL	STATE	TOTAL
Driver's Inspections*	99	39,395	39,494
with Driver OOS Violation	2	2,430	2,432
Driver OOS Rate	2.02%	6.17%	6.16%
Vehicle Inspections**	96	27,961	28,057
with Vehicle OOS Violation	12	4,117	4,129
Vehicle OOS Rate	12.50%	14.72%	14.72%
Hazmat Inspections***	17	2,961	2,978
with Hazmat OOS Violation	0	175	175
Hazmat OOS Rate	0%	5.91%	5.88%

\* Driver Inspections were computed based on inspection levels I, II, III and VI.

\*\* Vehicle Inspections were computed based on inspections levels I, II, III and VI.

\*\*\* Hazmat Inspections were computed based on inspection levels I, II, III, IV, V, and VI, when HM is present.

*Inspections uncover violations that can put both drivers and vehicles out of service until the issue is remedied.*

### Kansas scores high in Unified Carrier Registration compliance

CY2022 Midwest Region as of 10/11/2023

JURISDICTION	REGISTERED CARRIERS	PERCENT COMPLIANT
Nebraska	8,660	87.96%
Missouri	14,035	85.95%
Ohio	24,186	79.43%
Illinois	32,734	84.81%
Indiana	17,329	84.94%
Iowa	11,039	86.38%
Wisconsin	11,658	81.97%
Michigan	13,346	83.03%
Minnesota	14,834	81.63%
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>9,158</b>	<b>95.60%</b>
Nationwide	647,556	80.26%

Source: National Registration System

# CONSERVATION



- > Regulate oil and natural gas exploration and production.
- > Inspect, license and monitor drilling and production operations.
- > Oversight of abandoned well plugging and site remediation.



FY2023  
**256**  
 Conservation Penalty Orders  
 with **\$656,050**  
 in assessed fines.\*  
\*Fines are payable to state general fund.  
 The KCC receives no funding from the state general fund.



## Oil & Gas

The KCC Conservation Division regulates, enforces laws, and supervises activities associated with the exploration and production of oil and natural gas. Conservation staff works to prevent degradation of land and water resources, prevent waste in the production of crude oil and natural gas resources, and protect correlative rights of mineral owners and royalty interest holders. The Conservation Division's main office is located in Wichita, with District Offices in Chanute, Dodge City, Hays and Wichita.

## Federal grant to plug thousands of abandoned wells

The KCC received a \$25 million Initial Grant under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to plug abandoned wells. It is estimated the grant will fund the plugging of 2,295 wells. The sale of salvage from completed plugging projects brought in enough money to add another 218 wells to the plugging list for a total of 2513 wells. As of November 28, the work was nearly 75% complete with 1869 wells plugged at a cost of \$19.5 million. The map below shows the number of wells plugged in each county. The legend shows of the number of wells in each project that was put out for bid.

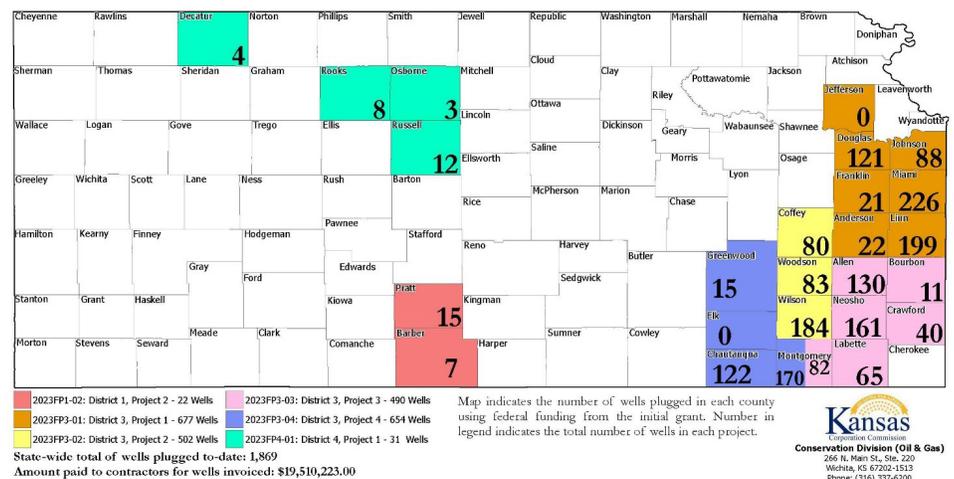


U.S. Representative Sharice Davids and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland visited well plugging sites in Olathe and Gardner on July 10. KCC District 3 Supervisor, Troy Russell explained the process and answered questions.

In addition to the current Initial Grant, Kansas is eligible to receive a Formula grant of up to \$33.6 million payable in two parts. KCC staff is currently working on the application for Phase 1 (\$25 million). The funds are expected to be available in early 2024.

Kansas may also qualify for Performance Grants, which are awarded based on regulatory improvements and as matching grants to cover plugging activity over the average number of wells plugged from 2011-2019. Information on the application process is not yet available.

### Kansas' Federal Plugging Projects Preview



# State plugging fund remains critical

The influx of Federal funds has greatly increased the number abandoned wells being plugged, but it doesn't eliminate the need for the state program, which is supported by the Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Fund. There are still more wells to be plugged than the Federal grants will cover. The plan is to plug as many wells as possible using both Federal and State funds.

At the close of 2023, there were 5285 wells requiring action in the Abandoned Well database. The number may increase as staff responds to complaints, new well location techniques are adopted, and companies become insolvent. A well is considered "abandoned" when it has been permanently taken out of production, is not properly plugged to prevent possible air or groundwater pollution, and the rightful legal owner cannot be determined or located to take responsibility.

## Abandoned Wells in Kansas

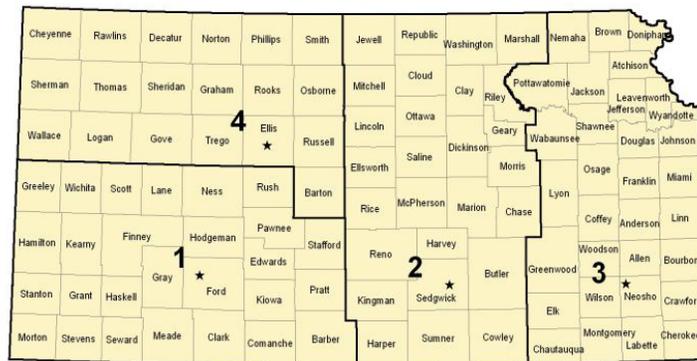
		2023**	2024**	CHANGE
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>				
Priority One	4	<b>Total Wells Requiring Action*</b> 5,290	5,285	5
Priority Two	0	<b>Total Wells Plugged with State Funds*</b> 11,121	11,240	119
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>			

\* Since creation of the Abandoned Well Plugging funds in 1996.  
\*\* Calendar year

<b>DISTRICT 2</b>	
Priority One	106
Priority Two	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>

<b>DISTRICT 3</b>	
Priority One	4,683
Priority Two	404
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,087</b>

<b>DISTRICT 4</b>	
Priority One	85
Priority Two	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>



\* Based on 5-year average

# What does it cost?

The cost to plug an abandoned well depends on where it is located. Wells in western Kansas are typically deeper and cost more to plug. In the eastern part of the state, they tend to be shallow.

<b>\$</b>	<b>District 1 - Dodge City</b> <b>\$11,755.70*</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>District 2 - Wichita</b> <b>\$14,123.48*</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>District 3 - Chanute</b> <b>\$5,990.39*</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>District 4 - Hays</b> <b>\$10,817.64*</b>

# How to report an abandoned well

Oil and gas drilling in Kansas began in the 1860s. Record keeping by early operators was not as precise as it is today. It is not uncommon for older abandoned wells to be discovered by landowners who were unaware they existed.

The KCC is actively looking for abandoned oil and gas wells. Staff investigates these wells in order to determine if they pose a risk to public safety or the environment.

If you find an abandoned well, please report it. A [form](#) on the KCC website makes it easy.

For detailed information on oil and gas regulation, access the KCC Legislative reports at:

<https://kcc.ks.gov/commission-activity/reports-to-the-legislature/2024>

# Remediation sites prioritized based on risk

The KCC Conservation Division manages an inventory of contamination sites that have varying degrees of impact to groundwater, surface water, soil or wells. These sites have no responsible parties related to oil and gas exploration and production activities. The current evaluation period, January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, ended with no sites resolved or added, resulting in a total of 47 active sites. The 2024 Remediation Site Status report contains a description and evaluation of each site.



IMPACTED RESOURCES	NO. OF REMEDIATION SITES
Groundwater, Surface Water, Soil & Well Problems (Cavity, Abandoned)	67
Public Water Supply	7
Domestic Supply	19
Stock Supply	13
Irrigation Supply	9

Note: Some sites have impacts to multiple resources.

IMMEDIACY LEVEL	NO. OF SITES
Low & Low to Moderate	20
Moderate	9
Moderate to High & High	14
Other (Under Remediation)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

# ENERGY



- Energy audit and grant assistance for small business and ag producers.
- Classroom teaching tools and student activities.
- Efficiency ideas for everyone.



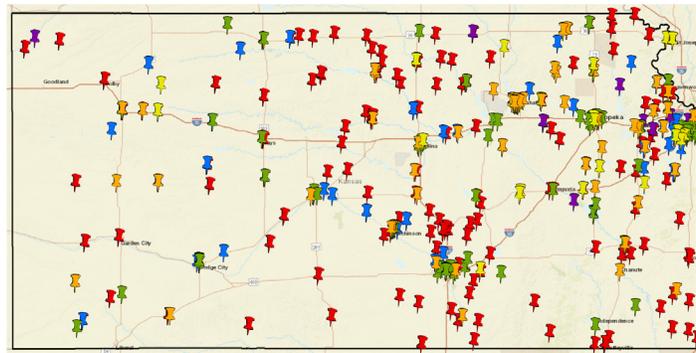
## Energy Division

The Kansas Corporation Commission Energy Division continues to encourage energy efficiency, help make small businesses more successful, and provide innovative educational opportunities for K-12 students. The Division is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) State Energy Program (SEP) funds. The KCC has contracted with the Kansas State Engineering Extension since 2016 to provide technical and program implementation support.

## Energy Program provides statewide benefits

The Kansas State Energy Program (SEP) offers programs and services across the state reaching students, parents, teachers, and business owners. The map below shows a pin drop in all areas of the state that have benefited from SEP programs.

Kansas SEP Results | FY2016 - FY2023

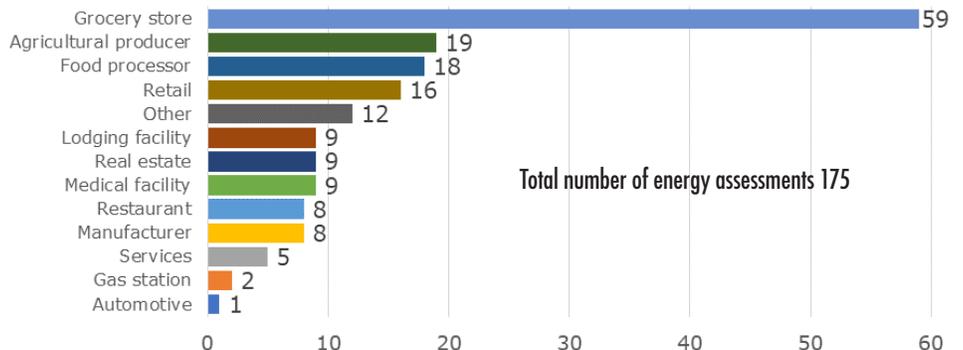


- Educational Events (300)
- FCIP (14)
- K-12 Benchmarking (23)
- KidWind (88)
- Loans (129)
- Small Business Energy Assessments (175)

## Free energy audits lead to savings

Small business owners and agricultural producers located in areas with a population of less than 50,000 are eligible for no cost energy audits, renewable energy site assessments and assistance applying for federal programs such as Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants.

Energy Assessment by Industry



# A record breaking year for KidWind!

The Kansas KidWind Challenge has grown from a single event with 56 students in 2016 to six regional events with a record breaking 341 student participants on 94 teams in 2023. Twenty-two teams advanced to the state finals. Six of those teams went on to compete in the KidWind Nationals in Colorado. Two teams earned top honors.



## KidWind 2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

**Hutch STEM Blue**  
Elementary Division  
Allen Stem Magnet School | USD 308  
Dalton Urban, Liam Clark, Gatlin Leopp  
and Zoey Schletzbaum | Coach Tara Urban

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

**W2 (W squared)**  
Middle School Division  
Oakley School District | USD 274  
Maddox Hubert, Gage Eberle, Jayde Kahle, Emma Mandeville,  
Zoe Meyers & Kylee Hodge | Coach Morgan Berggren (not pictured)



To participate in the KidWind Challenge, students in grades 4-12 form teams and work together to design, build and test a wind turbine using the materials of their choice. Each team's turbine is put to the test in a wind tunnel. Scoring is based on turbine performance, a knowledge quiz, a presentation to judges where the team explains its design process, and an instant challenge. More information and registration links for the 2024 event are available on the [KCC website](#).

Coming soon!  
**KidWind  
2024**

<b>Colby</b> February 29	<b>Manhattan</b> February 21	<b>Overland Park</b> February 15
<b>Dodge City</b> February 27	<b>Hutchinson</b> February 13	<b>Burlington</b> February 23

YouTube



### See KidWind in action

KidWind is about wind energy. It's also about STEM and all the life skills that derive from the practical application of STEM in our lives – problem solving, teamwork, and the thrill of scientific discovery. It is also a lot of fun as you'll see in this video.



FY2023

**1,544**  
Complaints

**\$95,530.02**

in disputed charges  
returned to customers

**795**  
Public  
Comments  
recorded



## Public Affairs and Consumer Protection (PACP)

The KCC Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection (PACP) supports the core mission of the agency by educating and protecting the general public on regulatory issues. PACP staff assists Kansas utility customers when they have questions or need help in resolving a service or billing issue with a regulated utility. In addition, the staff provides information about assistance programs and encourages community involvement and input through public hearings and comment sessions on matters important to Kansans.

## Community outreach plays an important role

Public input is an important part of the regulatory process. PACP plans and promotes public hearings and comment periods on issues important to Kansas ratepayers, giving them a forum to share their opinions and get more information. Rate change requests from utilities are the most common matters discussed at public hearings. However, public meetings are also held on some types of transmission line siting projects.



*Commissioners listened as members of the public shared their thoughts on a proposed route for a new transmission line during a public hearing at Lola High School on March 2, 2023.*

Public Hearings may be held in-person, virtually (offering members of the public an opportunity to be an active participant from home) or a combination offering both options. For those that prefer to watch without participating, livestreaming and recordings are available for online viewing on the [KCC YouTube channel](#).

In addition to public hearings, the Commission offers many convenient ways for the Kansans to submit a public comment on rate cases and other dockets with comment periods – online, email, via letter or a phone call to the Public Affairs office.

## Identifying needs and offering help

PACP staff is instrumental in making Kansans aware of programs and services available to help them. Explaining the protections offered by the Cold Weather Rule, phone and internet discounts offered by the Lifeline program, and making referrals to public assistance agencies are just a few examples.

### STAY WARM. STAY CONNECTED.



#### Cold Weather Rule | November 1 – March 31

The Cold Weather Rule is designed to keep your utilities connected during the winter months, even when you're unable to pay your bill in full. Contact your utility company to see if you qualify to make payment arrangements under the Cold Weather Rule.

### Lifeline

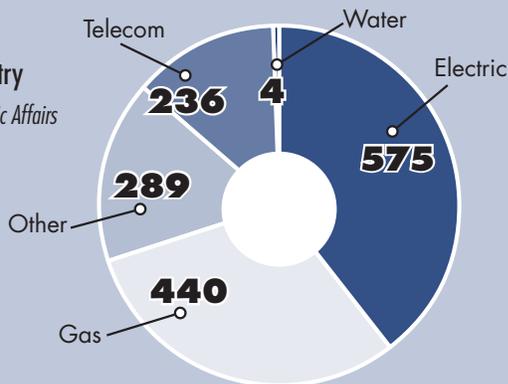


Lifeline connects eligible low-income families and individuals to the services they need to live, learn, earn and participate fully in their communities. Federal and state discounts of up to **\$17.02** per month on phone or internet services are available.\*

# Advocating for Kansas Customers

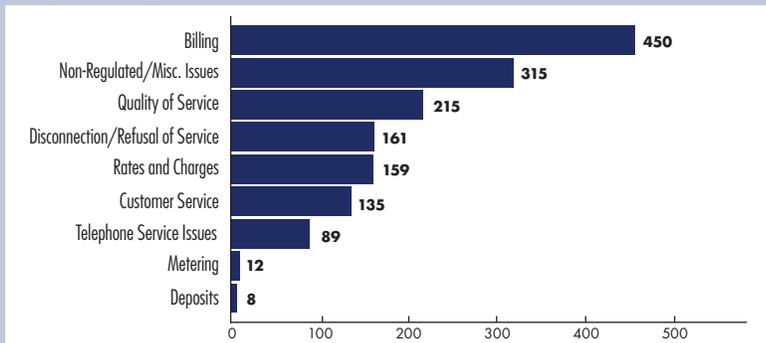
Consumers from all parts of the state turn to the KCC for help with utility issues. Our Public Affairs staff answers consumer questions, investigates complaints, and works to reduce the amount of time it takes to resolve disputes between the customer and the utility. Nearly 80% of complaints worked are resolved in one day.

**Utility Complaints by Industry**  
received by the Commission's Public Affairs and Consumer Protections staff in FY2023.

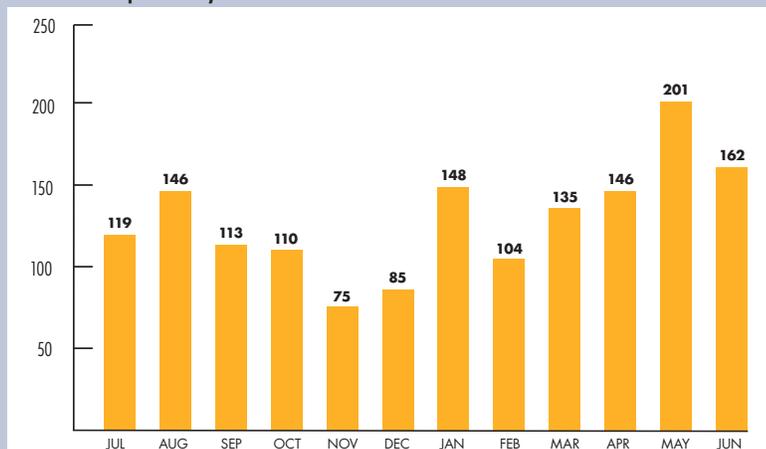


**Total Complaints**  
**1,544**

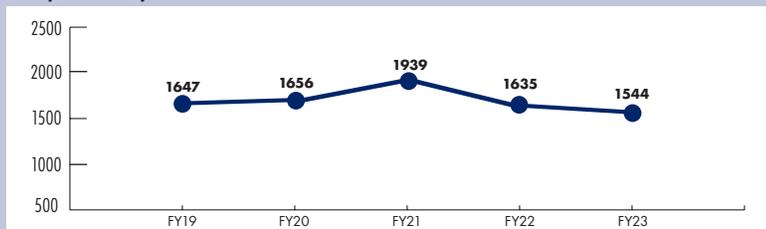
## Complaint Categories



## FY2023 Complaints by Month



## Complaint - 5 year Trends



# Need assistance? We're here to help.

**Utility Assistance Programs**

**Consumer Information**

**File a Complaint**



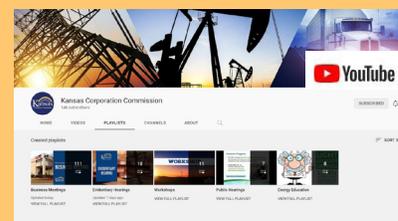
For more information contact PACP at:

800-662-0027 or 785-271-3140

1500 SW Arrowhead Rd., Topeka, KS 66604

[public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov)

# Commission Events



*View live or later on YouTube*

- > Commission Business Meetings
- > Evidentiary Hearings
- > Public Hearings
- > Informational Workshops

**Subscribe to Commission meeting notifications**



# KCC | Quick Reference

## Main Office

1500 SW Arrowhead Road  
Topeka, KS 66604-4027  
(785) 271-3100

## Consumer Inquiries/Complaints

(800) 662-0027  
(785) 271-3140  
[public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov)

## Conservation Division

266 N. Main St., Ste. 220  
Wichita, KS 67202-1513  
(316) 337-6200

## Transportation Division

(785) 271-3145  
[transportation@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:transportation@kcc.ks.gov)

## Legislative Contacts

➤ Lynn Retz, Executive Director  
(785) 271-3170  
(785) 806-4047  
[l.retz@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:l.retz@kcc.ks.gov)

➤ Peter Barstad, Legislative Liaison  
(785) 271-3188  
(785) 633-6226  
[p.barstad@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:p.barstad@kcc.ks.gov)

## KCC Website

<https://kcc.ks.gov/>

### Visit our website to find:

- Business meeting calendar
- File a utility complaint
- View a Docket
- Latest regulatory statistics
- Legislative Reports
- Details on public hearings and comment opportunities
- Energy Education resources



Follow us on Twitter and YouTube



*We serve the people of Kansas...*

