

Standing room only for air permit hearing

PERMIT, from Page 1a

posed emissions from the plant.

He explained the air quality regulations the plant had to meet, and said a permit was required because the emissions exceed the limits defined in state and federal regulations.

Morris listed the types of emissions being regulated, including sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide, volatile compounds, particulates and hazardous air pollutants. He said a model had been tested to determine the expected emission from the plant's stacks.

"After my review, the expected emissions are not predicted to produce any adverse impacts on the air quality in the immediate area," he said.

Brunetti opened the hearing for comments, calling on House to be first.

"As a member of five generations in Sherman County," House said, "it has been my goal and commitment that this plant be as environmentally safe and clean as is technologically feasible."

He said nitrogen compounds from the plant would be negligible compare to those produced by nature, especially by lightening.

"Needless to say the impact is very small, insignificant....," he said. "Two days of Kansans driving to work is equal to one year of the total emission from this plant."

Brunetti called on Kashka, who handed him his written comments.

Pickman, former Goodland city manger and head of the power project, was third up.

"Goodland Energy Resources has made every attempt to design this plant in accordance with the standards required to meet air quality regulations," he said. "The owners are local community residents who have taken the initiative to invest in their community and expect nothing less than a first-class operation that both they and the entire community can be proud of. The investors live here, breathe the air, drink the water and eat the food that is produced on this land....

"This project has the best interest of all Sherman County in mind and is intended to stimulate the local economy, increase the local tax base, provide needed employment, provide long-term low cost electric power to the city, create the opportunity for population growth and bring our young people back to the area. This project has exceptional community support.

"Goodland Energy Resources has made and will continue to make every attempt to address legitimate environmental concerns."

Osman said he was the engineer who developed the permit application.

"I am here to delineate the extraordinary air pollution control measures that the owners of this facility have proposed in an effort to

absolutely minimize any air emissions from its operations," he said. "There is simply no better type of air pollution control equipment available than that which is being proposed for this facility."

Osman explained federal Environmental Protection Agency emission standards, and how the agency had twice lowered the emission limits for oxides of nitrogen because they determined that the technology had improved for these units.

"The Goodland facility is proposing emission limitations that are far below those required under the EPA, and are in fact some of the lowest in the country," Osman said. "The Goodland permit will likely be used by EPA and other states to establish what levels of emission are attainable at coal-fired boilers. It will generate cleaner electricity than the large majority of coal fired plants and will be even cleaner in nitrous oxide emissions than many natural gas fired plants."

Hill handed Brunetti a proclamation the city commission had passed in support of the power plant project. Wilson was next.

"My testimony will be in favor of the permit to further this project," the hotel owner said. "As a local business owner, I would speak in favor of a project that would bring people into my door. As a businessman, it makes sense to favor area projects that would increase business....

"Local businesses require an increase in population to improve the employee pool and to expand the opportunities. We will use the profit to expand the needs of the people and improve life in the community.

"You are the experts, and I want to endorse the approval of the air permit for the Goodland Energy Center project."

Brunetti called on Walker, the last person who had registered to speak.

"Everyone knows me," Walker said. "I am the evil person in Goodland who is not afraid to ask questions. My name is David Walker, not 1016 Harrison, as Tom Betz had identified me.

"To the hearing officer, I would ask you to take more seriously your duties in reviewing this permit. We keep hearing that these are local investors, but when we have asked who they are, we are told it is none of our business. We got closer tonight to learning who they are.

"The mayor, who is an investor, wrote that proclamation. Another commissioner's husband is an attorney who is the legal advisor from the bank to the company, and another commissioner thinks this project is the same as an agriculture barn.

"I am in favor of cheap, clean energy. I ask that you question everything that comes out of these people to be sure our environment is protected. That is all I have to say."

There were no other speakers and Brunetti closed the testimony portion of the hearing.

He said the staff will transcribe the tape and written comments from the hearing and they will identify issues raised in the hearing and examine them. A summary will be developed from the evidence, and sent to the secretary.

Brunetti reminded the audience he had reopened the public comment period for the next two days for additional written comments, which can be mailed to Sherry Walker at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, Kan., or faxed to (785) 291-3953. The hearing was closed at 7:41 p.m.

A week before the hearing Morris said 20 letters in support of the project had been received in Topeka. After the hearing Wednesday Morris said more letters of support had been received, and there were a couple of letters with concerns about the project. He said all the letters and comments will become part of the public record once the decision has been made.

People crowded into the back of the city commission room Wednesday evening to show support for the Goodland Energy Center's air permit application. Everyone who came in was asked to register so the State Department of Health and Environment had an attendance record. The decision on the construction permit is expected in about two weeks.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

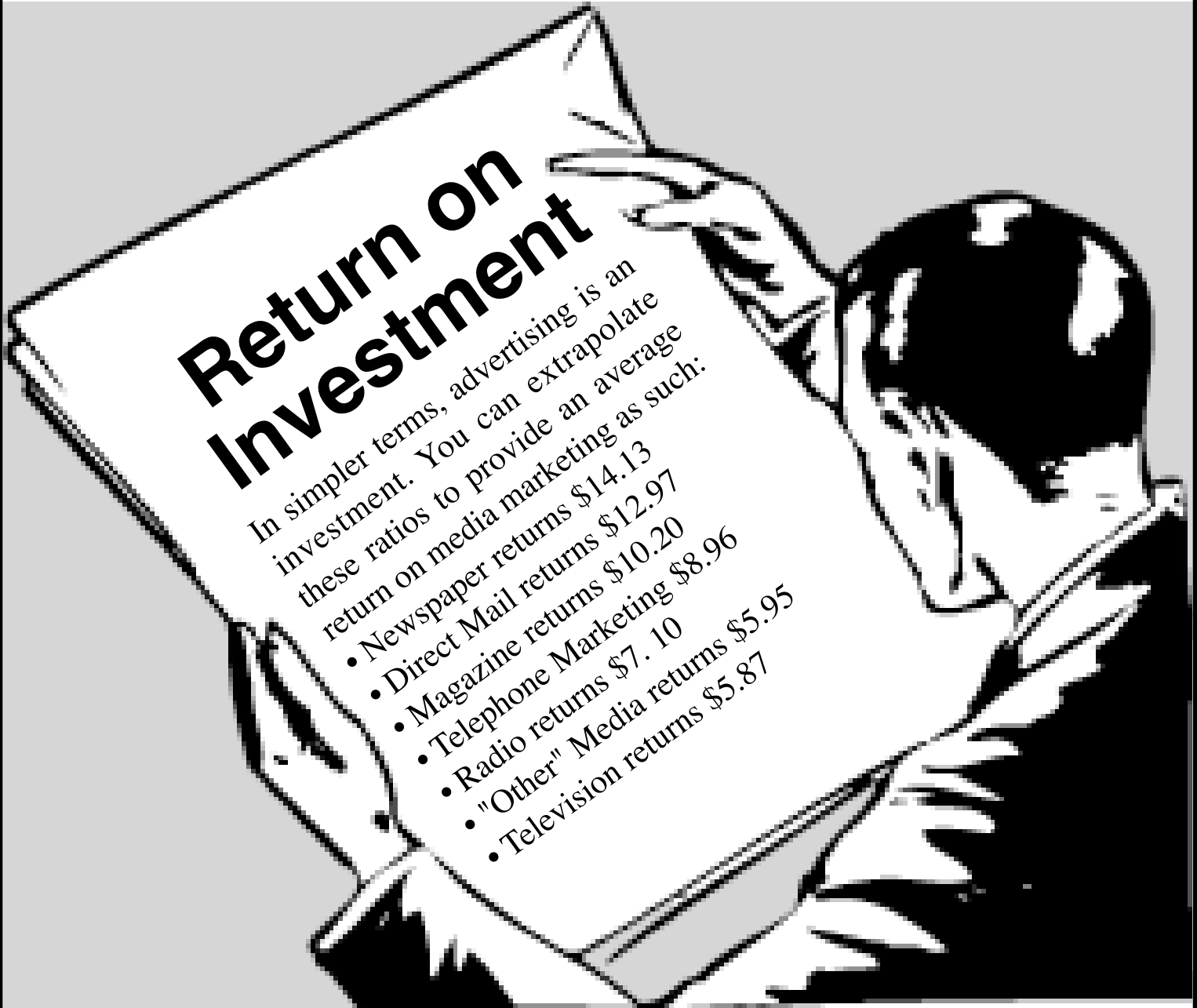


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public notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
FILED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF THE KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROGER W. GIBSON, Deceased.

Case No. 06 PR 03

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on the 8th day of February, 2006, a petition was filed in this Court by Jill Deeds, an heir, devisee and legatee, and executor named in the Last Will and Testament of Roger W. Gibson, deceased, dated January 15, 2003, praying the Will filed with the petition be admitted to probate and record; petitioner be appointed as executor, without bond; petitioner be granted Letters Testamentary, and the "Consent of Spouse," filed herein, be determined a valid consent.

You are required to file your

written defenses thereto on or before the 7th day of March, 2006, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Goodland, Sherman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Jill Deeds, Petitioner

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