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**WESTAR ENERGY CREWS ASSIST NEIGHBORING UTILITY
WITH POWER RESTORATION FOLLOWING WINTER STORM**

Storm leaves thousands without power in Iowa

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 21, 2010 — Westar Energy is responding to a request for assistance from MidAmerican Energy Company, which was affected by a recent winter storm. The storm hit Iowa on Wednesday coating areas of the state in ice and causing widespread power outages.

MidAmerican Energy is reporting more than 22,000 customers remain without electricity across Iowa. MidAmerican Energy is the largest utility in Iowa providing electric service to more than 723,000 customers in Iowa and Illinois.

Westar is sending approximately 84 employees to assist, including line personnel, managers, material handlers, fleet personnel and safety personnel. Assisting Westar crews are out of Atchison, El Dorado, Emporia, Independence, Lawrence, Newton, Olathe, Salina, Topeka and Wichita. Westar also released 86 line clearance contractors to assist in Iowa.

Crews are heading to Des Moines today and may be gone for up to one week.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 684,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 7,100 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines. For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.