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WESTAR ENERGY ADDS HUTCHINSON TO AREAS NEAR COMPLETION

Customers in these areas still without electricity are urged to call 1-800-LIGHT KS again.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 16, 2007 (9 p.m.) — Westar Energy's storm restoration effort is entering its final phases in some areas. Customers in the following areas are asked to call 1-800-LIGHT KS (1-800-544-4857) if they are still without electricity:

- Hutchinson
- Topeka, within the city
- Junction City area
- Manhattan – south of Anderson/Bluemont only
- Marysville division, which includes eastern Washington County, Marshall

County, Nemaha County and northern Pottawatomie County. Work in this area continues in four communities; customers in these communities do not need to call: Berwick, Onaga, Haven and Soldier.

Maps of these divisions are available at www.WestarEnergy.com.

Westar Energy's customer work order system is designed to make assumptions based on customer calls. If three customers on a block call in a power outage, the computer assumes the entire block is without power and the responding crew first looks for repair needs where service to that block begins. In most cases, this is the best mode of operation. However in a large storm such as this, sometimes these assumptions are incorrect. Crews in these areas think known power outages have been resolved. In order to ensure electricity has been restored to all customers, the trouble tickets for this area will be cleared, and customers without electricity are asked to report their outage once again. While this process is under way, the outage numbers on the web site for the area may not be accurate.

As Westar Energy crews and crews that have come from out of state complete work in areas of the company, they will move to areas where significant outages and repair work remain.

-30-

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 674,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,100 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates approximately 33,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.

