



Media contact:

Erin La Row,
communications representative
Phone: 316.299.7429
erin.m.la.row@westarenergy.com

Investor contact:

Bruce Burns,
director, investor relations
Phone: 785.575.8227
bruce.burns@WestarEnergy.com

****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

**WESTAR ENERGY INVITES MEDIA TO JEFFREY ENERGY CENTER ON MAY 19
FOR PLANT TOUR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

Sulfur dioxide removal systems are in full operation.

TOPEKA, Kan., May. 18, 2009 — Westar Energy invites members of the media to Jeffrey Energy Center (JEC) on Tuesday, May 19, beginning at 10 a.m., for a plant tour focusing on the recently completed sulfur dioxide removal (scrubber) systems. Members from Westar Energy's officer team as well as representatives from construction, plant operations, environmental services and communications teams will be available to provide information and answer questions.

The scrubber systems are in full operation on all three units at JEC. As a result of the scrubbing process, a whitish plume of water vapor can be seen coming from the three unit's stacks. Upgrades to the plant meet requirements under the Clean Air Visibility Rule, also known as Regional Haze Rule, and reduce emissions at JEC by eliminating more than 95 percent of sulfur dioxide and more than 25 percent of mercury.

In August of 2007, Westar Energy announced its plan to install the latest equipment to further reduce emissions from JEC with the scrubber system being the largest of the projects proposed. The scrubber project represents an investment of about \$435 million in environmental upgrades.

Jeffrey Energy Center is Westar Energy's largest power plant with a generating capacity of more than 2,100 megawatts. In June 2007, JEC was the first power plant in its four-state region to receive the Voluntary Protection Program's prestigious Star designation from the Occupation Safety and Health Association.

Directions to Jeffrey Energy Center: 25905 Jeffrey Road: Take Highway 63 north of St. Marys about seven miles. Turn left on Jeffrey Road and proceed to plant entrance. At the plant, a guard will direct you to the appropriate location.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 679,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates approximately 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>.