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WESTAR ENERGY TO RECEIVE FUNDING TO IMPROVE DIESEL EMISSIONS EQUIPMENT ON TRUCK FLEET

Funds are part of KDHE's grant under American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

TOPEKA, Kan., July 30, 2009 — Westar Energy today announced that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will provide funding to retrofit several of the company's line trucks with improved diesel emissions equipment. KDHE recently announced it received a \$4 million grant under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. Of that, Westar Energy will receive about \$200,000 for this project.

KDHE will work with Westar Energy and the Kansas Department of Transportation to retrofit about 70 line trucks with diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC), which reduce diesel emissions.

“It is important to customers that we are good environmental stewards, and that is why we are installing more than \$1 billion of emission-reduction equipment on our power plants. The grant to install emission-removal equipment on our trucks is a natural extension of Westar Energy's environmental stewardship mission,” said Kelly Harrison, vice president, transmission operations and environmental services.

"In addition to the creation of much-needed jobs in our state and the improvement in air quality, these clean diesel projects will have a positive impact on the health of Kansans," said Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary of KDHE.

Installation of the diesel emission reduction equipment will begin on Westar Energy's trucks in the next two months and will be completed in early 2010.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 681,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

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