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****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

WESTAR ENERGY'S GREEN TEAM, CEO TO PLANT TREES IN CHAPMAN

Saturday's event part of ongoing efforts to revitalize Chapman.

TOPEKA, Kan., April 30, 2009 — Volunteers with Westar Energy's Green Team and Chapman residents will help restore Chapman's vegetation by planting trees in the town on Saturday, May 2, starting at 9 a.m. Much of Chapman was devastated last year by a tornado that ripped through town on June 11, leaving behind a trail of destruction. Bill Moore, Westar Energy president and CEO, will be in Chapman on Saturday to assist with planting trees.

"Many Chapman residents not only lost their homes but had their property completely disfigured by the tornado," Moore said. "The value of trees in a community is often understated. They provide so much, from wildlife habitat and beauty to energy conservation through shade. There is a real need in this community for trees and as residents rebuild their houses, we want to help them feel more at home."

Green Team volunteers will plant nearly 50 trees in various locations, including some public areas and private yards, throughout the center of town where many homes and trees were lost.

Brad Loveless, director, biology and conservation programs, said the variety of trees provided by Westar have been selected for their differing growth potential. He added, "Short growth and tall growth trees will be placed keeping the location of existing power lines in mind. This should help alleviate problems when the trees grow to their full height.

The Green Team planted trees in Chapman last fall and will continue its effort over the next couple years as more and more residents rebuild their homes.

** The media contact on Saturday will be Brad Loveless, director, biology and conservation programs for Westar Energy. He can be reached by cell phone at 785.633.2118.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest consolidated electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to more than 679,000 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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