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**WESTAR ENERGY DECLARES DIVIDENDS**

TOPEKA, Kan., Aug. 27, 2009 — The Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) Board of Directors today declared a quarterly dividend of 30 cents per share payable Oct. 1, 2009 on the company's common stock.

The board also declared regular quarterly dividends on the company's 4.25 percent, 4.5 percent and 5 percent series preferred stocks payable Oct. 1, 2009.

The dividends are payable to shareholders of record as of Sept. 9, 2009.

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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 6,800 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>.