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**WESTAR ENERGY URGES CUSTOMERS TO CONTAIN DOGS
TO PROTECT METER READERS**

Several recent injuries to employees prompt company's plea

TOPEKA, Kan., July 20, 2009 — Westar Energy is urging its customers to contain their dogs on the days that meter readers are out to obtain monthly electric usage readings. Animal attacks against Westar Energy employees are currently above yearly averages.

Westar employees typically suffer five to six dog bites during the year. This year, however, that number already has risen to ten dog bites. Attacks have occurred in Emporia, Leavenworth, Parsons, Arkansas City, Abilene, Shawnee, Topeka (two) and Manhattan (two). One of those attacks was so severe that the employee required multiple doctor visits and was unable to work for more than a week.

In accordance with tariffs filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), Westar Energy must have access to the company's equipment. By putting meter readers and field personnel in danger of being bitten, pet owners deny Westar that access. If meter readers or other field personnel are prevented from entering a customer's property to read the meter, or gain access to other Westar Energy electric facilities, Westar is allowed to discontinue or refuse electric service to that customer

Westar Energy is dedicated to the safety of its employees as well as the public's. Westar Energy employees use a variety of techniques to help with animal control, including an umbrella-like dog deterrence device called the Bite Terminator. Westar Energy is also asking customers to act as responsible pet owners and restrain their dogs on the day their meter is read.

The electric meter is read monthly, and the scheduled read date is the same as the due date on a customer's current bill.

Westar Energy has identified customer accounts where there is a potential problem. Those customers will be receiving a postcard asking for assistance in restraining their pets. If there is a continued problem, a follow-up letter will be sent and additional action may be taken.

Customers may obtain a meter reading schedule by logging into their account at WestarEnergy.com, and selecting "meter reading schedule." Customers that do not have online access may call our customer contact center at 800-383-1183, and use the automated phone system to have a schedule mailed to them.

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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.

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