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****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

FALCON CHICK BANDING AND ADULT PEREGRINE FALCON ON DISPLAY

Falcons may be viewed on Westar Energy's Web site

TOPEKA, Kan., June 1, 2009 — Media is invited to Westar Energy's General Office, 818 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, on Tuesday, June 2, starting at noon, to see the banding of this year's peregrine falcon chick and to also view up close an adult peregrine from Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence. Media is asked to meet in the lobby shortly before noon.

This year the parents' nesting on Westar's rooftop produced one chick which is growing quickly thanks to the downtown pigeon and starling populations the falcons are preying upon. The falcon chick is expected to fledge, or leave the nest, either the third or fourth week of June. The public is welcome to watch the family's behavior and the chick's progress on Westar's web site, www.WestarEnergy.com/greenteam.

As this Web site has become popular with bird enthusiasts, Westar has gotten feedback and detailed updates on the birds' activities from avid watchers from across the United States as well as Europe and Australia. It was a viewer from North Carolina that made the notification of the chick's hatching at 4:32 a.m. on May 14.

As part of banding the chick, a blood sample will be taken for analysis by the Midwest Peregrine Project in Minnesota. The sex of the bird will be determined by looking at the size of

its feet. Since adult female peregrines are about 50 percent larger than the males, foot size at 18-21 days is a reliable indicator of sex.

Due to increases in the peregrine population, this species was removed from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Service's threatened species list in 1999 and its numbers continue to expand.

Later on this fall, if all goes well, the chick and its parents will head south to overwinter in Central or South America.

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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.

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