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**** PHOTO OPPORTUNITY ****

**WESTAR ENERGY CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF LAWRENCE SERVICE CENTER
RENOVATION WITH OPEN HOUSE MAY 14**

Building features many energy efficient components

TOPEKA, Kan., May 13, 2009 — Westar Energy, along with the Lawrence Chamber, will conduct an open house and ceremonial flipping of Wally, the giant light switch, at the company's newly renovated Lawrence Service Center, 746 E. 27th St., on Thursday, May 14, 2009, starting at 4:30 p.m. Legislators, Chamber members and media are invited to attend.

The building was redesigned and constructed in accordance with many U.S. Green Building Council standards. Pat Tryon, Westar Energy's project architect, said, "This building will use 23 percent less energy than similar buildings of its size that have not been constructed to USGBC standards."

Tryon said Westar incorporated many green features during construction that can ultimately lead to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) designation for the facility.

Visitors to the Lawrence Service Center will be able to tour the building and learn more about its green features, including energy efficient lighting operated by advanced motion and lighting sensors; a geothermal heat pump system that heats and cools the building; special lighting in the truck bay areas that minimizes the need for artificial light; and low-emitting VOC materials

that were used in the carpet, furnishings, paint and finishes, to provide cleaner air throughout the facility.

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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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