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**WESTAR ENERGY TO BUILD TRANSMISSION LINE NEAR POTWIN
TO SUPPORT TRANSCANADA'S KEYSTONE PIPELINE**

Area residents invited to open house to learn about project

TOPEKA, Kan., May 22, 2009 —Westar Energy will conduct an open house from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, at the Potwin Community House basement, 201 N. Miller St., Potwin, to meet with residents near the possible routes of a 138-kilovolt transmission line that will be built in the area.

The new line is part of Westar Energy's agreement to support TransCanada's Keystone Pipeline. It will connect Westar's proposed TC Burns Substation, to be located approximately two miles north of Potwin, KS, to a location somewhere along the existing 161-kV transmission line located approximately 10 miles to the east.

The open house will include representatives from Westar Energy's transmission line design and construction, substation, environmental services, real estate and communications teams, as well as representatives from the engineering firm Burns and McDonnell.

Residents near each possible route for the planned line were invited to the open house by letter. Landowner input from the open house will be valuable in selecting the preferred route for this line. The meeting is open to the public.

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>.