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WESTAR ENERGY RESTORES POWER IN SALINA, ABILENE AND EMPORIA AREAS AFTER POWERFUL THUNDERSTORMS ROLL THROUGH

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 10, 2009 — Westar Energy crews tonight are working to restore power to areas hardest hit by today's thunderstorms, including Saline, Lyon, Dickinson and Morris counties. Straight line winds reaching more than 80 mph knocked down power lines and caused power outages earlier today. Currently, there are about 4,800 customers without power. Crews expect to have all customers restored by early Thursday morning at the latest.

Westar has restored power to more than 25,000 customers since the storm began. Some of those customers may have experienced multiple outages.

Westar experienced considerable damage from this storm. Damage includes 120 distribution and 160 transmission poles throughout the territory that need to be replaced. Westar line crews from unaffected areas, as well as additional line and vegetation contractor crews have been called in to assist with clearing lines and restoring power.

Westar encourages customers to keep safety in mind while outdoors. In addition to reporting and avoiding downed power lines, people should also be aware of low-hanging power lines. If people see a downed power line or one sagging dangerously low, they should report it to Westar Energy or call 911.

If the meter box on a home or building is pulled away from the house, it will need to be repaired by a licensed electrician before power can be restored. This repair is the responsibility of the home or building owner.

The counties with more than 500 customers without power and the number of outages in that county include:

- Saline – 2,269
- Dickinson – 786
- Lyon – 627
- Morris – 541

The current number of outages by county is available at www.WestarEnergy.com.

The most effective way to notify Westar Energy of a power outage is by calling 1-800-LIGHT-KS (1-800-544-4857). This automated phone line can receive up to 30,000 calls per hour making a busy signal or extended wait unlikely.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest consolidated electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to more than 684,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,500 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 33,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

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