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WESTAR ENERGY NEARING END OF STORM RESTORATION

Outages remain in Arkansas City, El Dorado and Eureka, public urged to call in

WICHITA, Kan., March 31, 2009 — Westar Energy crews have nearly completed power restoration efforts following last weekend's snow and ice storm that knocked out power to about 53,000 customers. As of 10 a.m. Tuesday, about 1,700 customers remained without power.

The majority of outages occurred in the southwest region of Westar's service territory, including Butler, Cowley, Greenwood and Sedgwick Counties. Outages remain in Arkansas City, El Dorado and Eureka. Westar Energy encourages anyone who remains without power to call 1-800-LIGHT-KS (1-800-544-4857). Property owners should also be aware that 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.

Westar crews have restored power to more than 60,000 customers since the storm began. Some customers experienced multiple outages due to heavy equipment damage and rapid ice and snow melting on Sunday. Some areas saw ice as much as two inches thick. The damage from the storm included 228 distribution and 140 transmission poles.

Media are encouraged to visit www.WestarEnergy.com (click on “Outage Restoration” and then “Outage Numbers by County”) for the latest information. If you need further assistance, call the Westar Energy Media Line at 1-888-613-0003. A voice mail message will direct you to the Corporate Communications staff member on call after hours and on weekends.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest consolidated electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to more than 680,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,500 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>.