



Media contact:
Sherii Farmer
account manager, consumer services
Phone: 316.201.7762
Sherii.c.farmer@WestarEnergy.com

****PLEASE NOTE DATE CORRECTION****

**STUDENTS HELP RETIRE INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULB AS PART OF EARTH DAY
AT THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO**

Westar Energy will host a retirement ceremony for the light bulb on April 23.

WICHITA, Kan., April 20, 2009 — Westar Energy will be saying goodbye to the incandescent light bulb during a “retirement party” at the Sedgwick County Zoo (SCZ) on April 23. As part of the festivities planned for Earth Day at the Zoo, Westar’s energy efficiency division asked third through fifth grade students to complete an activity sheet explaining what they thought the incandescent light bulb could do during its retirement. These activity sheets will be displayed at the Westar Energy booth during the day. At 1 p.m. on the main stage at the Zoo, representatives from Westar will send off the incandescent light bulb into retirement and make way for the next generation of lighting, the higher efficiency compact fluorescent lights (CFL) and LED or light emitting diodes, which use less energy and last much longer.

“Many people don’t know that in 2007 President Bush signed into law a bill that will phase out all current incandescent lighting by the year 2014. The regular incandescent as we know them uses too much energy in order to comply with this new law therefore it will no longer be manufactured,” said Sherii Farmer, account manager in Westar’s energy efficiency department.

The phase out of the current incandescent light will begin with the 100-watt bulb in 2012 and by 2014 the 40-watt bulb will no longer be available. All light bulbs must use 25 percent to 30 percent less energy by 2014. By 2020 bulbs must be 70 percent more efficient than they are today.

“Having the students create a “retirement plan” for the incandescent is a fun way to help get the word out about this new law,” Farmer said.

During the ceremony the incandescent bulb will be packed into a recycling box and sent off to retirement at a local recycling facility.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 679,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates approximately 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

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