



Media contact:

Karla Olsen,
director, corporate
communications
Phone: 316.299.7463
karla.olsen@WestarEnergy.com

Investor contact:

Bruce Burns,
director, investor relations
Phone: 785.575.8227
bruce.burns@WestarEnergy.com

WESTAR ENERGY NAMES HESSTON NATIVE TO OFFICER TEAM

Jerl Banning to serve as vice president, human resources

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 24, 2010 — Westar Energy, Inc.'s (NYSE:WR) Board of Directors today named Jerl Banning to the position of vice president, human resources.

Banning joined Westar Energy in July, 2008, as executive director, human resources, after several years of experience at Aquila in Kansas City and Koch Industries in Wichita. At Aquila, he was director of compensation and organizational development, and at Koch, he was the process leader of compensation.

“My priority is to treat our employees with the respect they deserve because they’re the most important connection to our customers and communities,” said Banning. “In HR, we focus on how to support our employees in the company’s goal to be the best-operated electric utility in the Midwest.”

Banning works at Westar Energy’s Topeka headquarters. He is a native of Hesston, and he currently resides in Lenexa.

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 684,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 7,100 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>.