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**WESTAR ENERGY TO BUILD TRANSMISSION LINES NEAR HOPE TO SUPPORT  
TRANSCANADA'S KEYSTONE PIPELINE**

**Area residents invited to open house to learn about project.**

TOPEKA, Kan., April 20, 2009 —Westar Energy will conduct an open house from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, at the Hope Schools Varsity Gym, 200 N. Poplar, Hope, to meet with residents near the possible routes of a 115-kilovolt and a 230-kV, high-capacity transmission line that will be built in the area.

The new lines are part of Westar Energy's agreement to support the TransCanada's Keystone Pipeline. The proposed 115-kV transmission line will connect Westar's proposed Union Ridge Substation, to be located approximately two miles northeast of Hope, to TransCanada's proposed Hope Substation, located approximately two miles south of the Union Ridge Substation. The project will also involve connecting the Union Ridge Substation to an existing 230-kV transmission line located approximately one mile north. This new line will be a loop, consisting of either a double-circuit 230-kV line or two single-circuit 230-kV lines.

The open house will include representatives from Westar Energy's 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. The meeting is open to the public.

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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.

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