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**WESTAR ENERGY'S LAWRENCE SERVICE CENTER AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS
LEED® GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION**

Certificate ceremony and tour to take place Dec. 3 at 3:30 p.m.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 2, 2009 — Westar Energy today announced that it has been awarded a LEED Silver Certification established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

“With each new LEED-certified building, we get one step closer to USGBC's vision of a sustainable built environment within a generation,” said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair, USGBC. “As the newest member of the LEED family of green buildings, Westar Energy's Lawrence Service Center is an important addition to the growing strength of the green building movement.”

Pat Tryon, Westar Energy's project architect, said, “This building will use 34 percent less energy than USGBC's baseline standard for efficient buildings.” LEED certification of the Lawrence Service Center was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the building's energy use, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to a healthier environment for workers and the larger community. The building's green features include energy efficient lighting operated by advanced motion and lighting sensors; a geothermal

heat pump system that heats and cools the building; special lighting in the truck bay areas that minimizes the need for artificial light; and low-emitting VOC materials that were used in the carpet, furnishings, adhesives and finishes, to provide cleaner air throughout the facility.

A certificate ceremony will take place at 3:30 p.m., Dec. 3rd, at the Lawrence Service Center, 746 E. 27th St.

Guest speakers include Westar Energy and USGBC officials. Project architects and contractors on the project will be recognized.

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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 6,800 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>.

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for America through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. Green building is a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity, and greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy while generating millions of jobs in the process. The LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings.

For more information about USBGC and LEED, visit www.usgbc.org.