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**WESTAR ENERGY TO BUILD TRANSMISSION LINE, SUBSTATIONS NEAR UDALL
TO SUPPORT TRANSCANADA'S KEYSTONE PIPELINE**

Area residents invited to open house to learn about project.

TOPEKA, Kan., April 17, 2009 —Westar Energy will conduct an open house from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 20, at the Udall High School Commons, 305 S. Seymour, Udall, to meet with residents near the possible routes of a 138-kilovolt, high-capacity transmission line that will be built in the area.

The new line is part of Westar Energy's agreement to support the TransCanada's Keystone Pipeline. The new transmission line will run from the proposed Sumner County Substation (initially called Belle Plaine Substation in open house invitation letters to landowners), to be located approximately 10 miles northeast of Wellington, to the proposed Timber Junction Substation, to be located approximately two miles southeast of Udall. From the Timber Junction Substation, the new line will head east approximately two miles to the proposed TransCanada Rock Substation. This line will supply the electricity to a pump station needed to transport crude oil from Alberta, Canada to markets in the central United States.

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 electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 669,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,000 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates approximately 33,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

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