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**WESTAR ENERGY CREWS PREPARE TO ASSIST OKLAHOMA UTILITY
WITH PROBABLE POWER OUTAGE RESTORTION EFFORTS
FROM IMPENDING WINTER STORM**

Parts of Oklahoma expecting significant ice accumulation

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 28, 2010 — Westar Energy employees are preparing to leave for Tulsa, Okla. to assist American Electric Power (AEP) with likely power outages from an impending winter storm.

Much of Oklahoma is under a winter storm warning or a winter storm watch – with some areas expecting one-half to one inch of ice accumulation through Friday.

Westar is sending between 85 and 90 employees, including line personnel, management, safety personnel, material handlers, fleet personnel and safety personnel. The first group of employees will meet and leave around 10 Thursday morning from at the Belle Plaine service center on the Turnpike, just south of Wichita. Another group of employees will leave from Independence around 10 a.m. Thursday. The groups expect to reach Tulsa prior to icy and snowy conditions. Assisting employees are from Abilene, Atchison, Emporia, Lawrence, Olathe, Parsons, Pittsburg, Topeka and Wichita.

Westar also released all distribution line contractors and 100 line clearance contract employees to assist AEP.

The winter weather is not expected to have as much of an impact on the Westar service territory. However, crews will immediately return should conditions here deteriorate.

Earlier this week, Westar released approximately 84 employees to assist Mid American Energy Company with power restoration efforts in Iowa following a winter storm that left thousands in Iowa without power. Those crews have returned home.

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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>.