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## **WESTAR ENERGY CERTIFIES BUILDING OPERATORS**

### **Twenty-seven building operators receive Level I Certification.**

WICHITA, Kan., Nov. 10, 2011 —Westar Energy is pleased to announce that 27 area building operators and facility managers have completed a series of classes to earn their Building Operator Certification (BOC) Level I designation. Co-sponsored by Empire District Electric, Empire's first customers in Kansas as well as Kansas' first municipal utility customer also completed the series. The program educates employees responsible for maintenance and operations of large buildings and their complex heating, mechanical and electrical systems.

“We commend these employees and their employers for making an investment that demonstrates their commitment to reducing their energy use,” said Paula Carvell, manager, demand side management programs. “Facility operations and maintenance activities are critical to the efficient operation of commercial and industrial buildings. The BOC program provides an opportunity for Westar Energy to help train our customers’ employees who, in turn, can have a significant impact on their company’s energy use. Previous BOC participants have reduced their facility costs by thousands of dollars, so the payback to employers can be immediate.”

Participants receive a nationally-recognized certification by completing a series of monthly training sessions, exams and take-home project assignments. They gain firsthand experience using the tools and methods taught in class to build records on their organization's electrical systems,

HVAC operations, lighting levels and controls and annual profiles of energy consumption. Upon completion, they have in-depth reference manuals as well as access to BOC's wide network of participants, experts and resources to leverage for troubleshooting, best practices and advice.

BOC graduates cite benefits that include gaining a comprehensive, strategic perspective; increased knowledge and confidence on the job; access to tools that allow them to be more responsive and proactive at work; and saving time, energy and money.

The following building operators have successfully completed the BOC Level I course series that began in February 2011 and ended in August 2011 in Pittsburg:

- Monty Cowardin, Jayhawk Fine Chemicals, Galena
- Gary Falcetto, Via Christi Hospital, Pittsburg
- Fred Goertzen, Countertop Trends, Gridley
- Laurl Hendricks, The Flesh Company, Parsons
- Mark Hughes, Knights of Columbus Tower, Pittsburg
- Dante McGrew, Westar Energy, Shawnee
- Joel Ramsey, Fort Scott Community College, Fort Scott
- Scott Stanley, USD 257, City of Iola
- Galen Zook, Class LTD, Columbus

The following building operators have successfully completed the BOC Level I course series that began in March 2011 and ended in September 2011 in Parsons:

- Josh Boring, Labette Health, Parsons
- Jashen Coles, Good Samaritan Society, Parsons
- Hal Erwin, Power Flame, Parsons
- Kevin Feagan, Labette Health, Parsons

- Barry Johnson, Parsons Foursquare Church
- Casey Madden, Neosho County, Erie
- Karen Madden, Parsons Housing Authority
- Mark Mall, Good Samaritan Society, Parsons
- Tim Peoples, City of Parsons
- James Ramsey, USD 503, Parsons
- David Reel, Parsons Housing Authority
- Eddie Robinson, USD 503, Parsons
- Roy Russell, Parsons Recreation Commission
- Ben Shadley, Labette Health, Parsons
- Bryan Shears, Power Flame, Parsons
- Michael Starr, Labette Health, Parsons
- Brock Sutherland, Labette Health, Parsons
- David Winchell, USD 503, Parsons

Westar Energy has entered into a joint licensing agreement with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), Kansas City Power and Light, Midwest Energy, Inc., Empire District Electric, Kansas Municipal Utilities, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. and the Kansas Corporation Commission Energy Division to make the BOC program available to all Kansas building operators.

In 2012, the BOC Level I and Level II course series will be offered in four locations throughout the Westar Energy service territory including Wichita, Topeka, Salina and Parsons. The cost for the course series is \$1,150. Upon BOC certification, Westar Energy, Midwest Energy, Inc. and Empire District Electric customers are eligible to receive a \$575 reimbursement toward

the \$1,150 tuition. Reimbursements by rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities are determined on an individual basis. Participants will need to check with their respective utilities. Grant funding as a courtesy of the Kansas Corporation Commission Energy Division may also be available to help offset training coordination costs for rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. Register on-line at [www.westarenergy.com/boc](http://www.westarenergy.com/boc), or call 1.888.WORKS.50 for more information.

- 30 -

Original development for the BOC program was provided by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), a non-profit group of electric utilities, state governments, public interest groups and industry representatives committed to promoting affordable, energy-efficient products and services. Today, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) is leading efforts to make BOC a nationally recognized standard. MEEA administers BOC in the Midwest. BOC courses are currently available in twenty-two states across the US and in these Midwestern states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Kansas, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 687,000 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.

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