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**WESTAR ENERGY BEGINS PHASE TWO OF TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD
PROJECT NEAR TECUMSEH**

Area residents invited to open house to learn about project.

TOPEKA, Kan., Nov. 17, 2010 —Westar Energy will conduct an open house from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 18, at Tecumseh South Elementary School, 3346 SE Tecumseh Rd., Tecumseh, to meet with landowners regarding a project to rebuild a 115 kilovolt transmission line that stretches from the Westar Energy substation near 27th and Croco Road to the Westar Energy substation near 41st and California.

In the more than 75 years since this line was originally constructed, the electrical load in the Topeka area has increased to the point that this transmission line must be rebuilt to provide substantially more capacity. Rebuilding this line and other planned transmission projects in the Topeka area are part of Westar's long-term commitment to maintaining reliable service.

This transmission line goes down the median of Lakeshore Boulevard. There may be short periods of time when sections of that road will either be closed or narrowed and sections of the turnaround connectors will be blocked as crews work on structures.

At the open house, large project maps will be displayed and Westar representatives from transmission engineering, real estate and various other departments will be available to answer questions. Landowners along the existing line received a letter inviting them to the open house; however, 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 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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