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WESTAR ENERGY DECLARES DIVIDENDS

TOPEKA, Kan., May 18, 2011 — The Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) Board of Directors today declared a quarterly dividend of 32 cents per share payable July 1, 2011 on the company's common stock.

The board also declared regular quarterly dividends on the company's 4.25 percent, 4.5 percent and 5 percent series preferred stocks payable July 1, 2011.

The dividends are payable to shareholders of record as of June 9, 2011.

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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 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 34,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.