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WESTAR ENERGY USES HELICOPTERS TO SURVEY TRANSMISSION LINES

TOPEKA, Kan., Nov. 29, 2011 — The hum of helicopters will follow along hundreds of miles of transmission lines as aerial crews take to the skies to examine Westar Energy, Inc.'s transmission system. The project will involve helicopters flying along routes, sometimes as low as 300 to 350 feet above the ground, to check that select transmission lines are working as designed. Crew members will gather information about the transmission lines utilizing several methods, including laser measurement, photography and coordination with teams working on the ground.

Work will be performed through the end of the year in and around Abilene, Junction City, Lawrence, Lenexa, Manhattan, Olathe, Salina, Topeka and Wichita, as well as rural areas. The project is in accordance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements.

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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.

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