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## WESTAR ENERGY CERTIFIES BUILDING OPERATORS

### Twelve building operators receive Level I *Building Operator Certification*.

SALINA, Kan., January 17, 2011 —Westar Energy is pleased to announce 12 area building operators and facility managers have completed a 7-class course series to earn their Level I Building Operator Certification (BOC) designation. 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 of 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

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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, money and energy.

The following building operators have successfully completed the BOC Level I course series that began in July 2010 and ended in December 2010:

- Rod Bobzien, Geary County Hospital
- Jerry Devine, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center
- Byron Erickson, City of Salina
- Mike Humes, Geary County Hospital
- Bill Kroll, City of Topeka
- Mitchell Loder, USD 305, Salina
- Dave Marlow, Westar Energy
- Trenton Ross, USD 320, Wamego
- Patrick Schaffer, Philips Lighting
- Martin Tibbets, Excel Industries
- Bryce Woelk, USD 373, Newton

Westar Energy has entered into a joint licensing agreement with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), Kansas City Power and Light, and Midwest Energy to bring the BOC program to Kansas. Empire District Electric will soon join the licensing agreement, as well.

In 2011, the BOC Level I and Level II course series will be offered in four locations throughout the Westar Energy service territory including Wichita, Topeka, Parsons and Pittsburg.

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The cost for the course series is \$1,150, with half of that amount being reimbursed upon the participant's certification. In addition, grant funding may also be available to offset the remaining tuition cost. Register online 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.

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