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**WESTAR ENERGY SCHEDULES CONFERENCE CALL
TO DISCUSS 2011 RESULTS**

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 1, 2012 – On Feb 23, 2012, Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) plans to release fourth-quarter and year end 2011 earnings after market close. On Friday Feb. 24, 2012, the company plans to host its quarterly conference call and audio webcast to discuss the operating results.

Event: Westar Energy Year End 2011 Earnings Conference Call and Webcast

Date: Feb. 24, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. Eastern (9:00 a.m. Central)

Location: 1) Phone conference call at 800-638-4817, participant code 56020630 or
2) Log on to the webcast at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>

In conjunction with the earnings release and conference call, the company plans to post on its website supplemental financial information related to fourth quarter and year end performance. The materials will be available under Supplemental Materials in the Investors section of the company website at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.

A replay of the conference call will be available from about 12:00 p.m. Eastern Feb. 24 through Mar. 5 at 888-286-8010, conference ID #50400149. The replay also will be available on the Westar Energy website at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest consolidated electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to more than 687,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 7,100 megawatts of electric generation resources 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>.