



**Media contact:**  
Karla Olsen,  
director, corporate  
communications  
Phone: 316.299.7463  
karla.olsen@WestarEnergy.com

---

## **WESTAR ENERGY CREWS COMPLETE REPAIRS TO COTTONWOOD FALLS SUBSTATION TRANSFORMER**

### **Customers may resume normal electricity usage today**

EMPORIA, Kan., July 23, 2009 — Westar Energy crews worked overnight to complete repairs and testing of a Cottonwood Falls substation transformer that failed Wednesday. The transformer repairs were estimated to take until 6 p.m. today. However, they have been completed ahead of schedule, and customers in Cottonwood Falls, Strong City, Elmdale and Clements may immediately resume normal electricity usage.

About 750 Cottonwood Falls customers lost power at about 4:20 p.m. Wednesday. Westar Energy dispatchers transferred customers to a Strong City substation, restoring power to a majority of customers at about 5:45 p.m. As a precaution to ensure that the Strong City substation could support electricity needs while repairs were performed, the company asked customers to conserve electricity usage today.

Westar Energy would like to thank customers and community leaders in Cottonwood Falls, Strong City, Elmdale and Clements for alerting friends and neighbors of this precaution and for conserving their electricity usage. Westar Energy would also like to thank the media for getting this information out to viewers and listeners.

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 681,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,800 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>.