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**WESTAR ENERGY TO BUILD TRANSMISSION LINE TO INTERCONNECT WITH
LINE BUILT BY NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT**

Area residents invited to open houses to learn about project.

TOPEKA, Kan., April 27, 2009 —Westar Energy will conduct two open houses to inform residents and answer questions about its Knob Hill to Steele City 115-kilovolt transmission project. Because of the potential length of the line, Westar is having two open houses for this project. However, both open houses will provide residents with the same information so attendance at only one open house is recommended. The open houses will be:

Thursday, April 30
5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Hanover USD 223 Cafeteria
209 E. North Street
Hanover, KS 66945

Tuesday, May 5
5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Marysville High School Cafeteria
1011 Walnut
Marysville, KS 66508

The proposed transmission line will connect Westar’s Knob Hill Substation, located approximately one mile south of Marysville, Kan. and the Steele City Substation located 1.3 miles east of Steele City, Neb. The new line will interconnect at the Kansas / Nebraska border with a line constructed by the Nebraska Public Power District that extends south from their Steele City Substation approximately 2.5 miles. This new line is part of Westar’s agreement to support the operation of TransCanada’s Keystone Pipeline. The Southwest Power Pool has

ordered construction of this line, as it will improve the electric transmission systems of both Westar Energy and the Nebraska Public Power District.

The open house will include representatives from Westar Energy's transmission line design and construction, substation, environmental services, real estate and communications teams, as well as representatives from the engineering firm Burns and McDonnell.

Residents near each possible route for the planned line were invited to the open houses by letter. The meetings are open to the public.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest consolidated electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to more than 679,000 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>.