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**WESTAR ENERGY CONTRACTORS TO REMOVE
BRUSH CREATED IN RESTORATION EFFORTS**

TOPEKA, Kan., June 17, 2009 — Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) announced that crews will remove brush created as a result of their efforts to restore power to their customers following Monday night's storms.

Don Reinert, manager, Vegetation, said, "We are aware of the locations where we dropped brush and will have all of it removed by the end of next week"

Crews contracted by Westar Energy will be circulating through the Manhattan and Hutchinson areas to pick up only brush that was created when clearing lines to complete restoration. Trees and limbs brought down as a result of storm damage will not be removed by these crews. Limbs trimmed from a fallen tree in order to restore power will be removed but the tree will not.

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