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WESTAR ENERGY URGES SAFETY DURING SUMMER HEAT

Customer demand rises with the temperature.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jul 21, 2011 — Westar Energy is urging customers to be mindful of summer heat as 100-degree and higher temperatures continue to swelter the area.

“With temperatures dangerously high, we ask customers to look out for each other – check on those who are especially vulnerable to make sure they are staying cool and hydrated,” said Peggy Ricketts, vice president, customer care. “Safety is one of Westar’s core values and that concern extends beyond our facilities.”

Westar strives to maintain reliable electric energy service, however power outages still occur. If you experience a power outage, please report the outage to 1-800-LIGHT-KS. As with winter weather and severe storms, Westar encourages customers to have an outage plan in place during extreme heat. Tips include:

- Keep bottles of water or beverages such as Gatorade on hand;
- Think ahead about places to seek shelter from the heat. If a friend or family member’s home is not available, community centers or shopping centers can offer respite;
- Check on vulnerable loved ones and neighbors, such as the elderly and young children;
- Make sure pets have plenty of water and a safe, cool place to seek shelter from the heat.

Summer energy demand

Westar's power plants have not set a new operational peak in 2011, but are producing electricity at levels near the company's record peak set last summer. Westar asks customers to be prudent with their electricity use, especially during high-demand hours in the afternoon and evening. Customers can help Westar control demand, and also save money on their electric bill, with the following tips:

- Turn up the thermostat if health permits or when you are going to be away from your home for an extended amount of time;
- While at home, set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher as comfort and health allow;
- Use fans to help stay cool when you are in a room;
- Run appliances, such as dryers, dishwashers and ovens, in the morning or at night. These appliances require significant energy as well as produce heat;
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with [compact fluorescent bulbs](#) (CFLs). CFLs use one-fourth the energy and don't put off near as much heat as incandescent;
- Keep shades and blinds shut to keep the sunlight out.

Summer electric energy bills

Hot weather often results in higher electric energy bills. Customers can visit the company's website at www.WestarEnergy.com and calculate money and energy savings through the Home and Commercial Energy Suites. Energy, lighting and appliance calculators, as well as energy saving tips, are available online. These are interactive tools a customer can use to see how even small adjustments can make a difference in monthly bills.

Westar strongly encourages customers who may be struggling with high bills to contact the Customer Relations Center by telephone at 1-800-383-1183. Westar has a team of customer service representatives available to individually work with customers concerned about high bills.

Customers wanting to help a friend or loved one pay their bill can make a gift payment by calling the Customer Relations Center at 1-800-383-1183. For privacy reasons, Westar cannot disclose the recipient's account information including the name on the account, address, balance, account number, etc. so please have the recipient's information handy. You may remain anonymous.

Many Westar customers join Westar in making contributions to Project DESERVE, a utility assistance program sponsored by Westar and administered by the Red Cross. Customers who want to donate to help the elderly, disabled and those struggling to make ends meet can do so by designating an amount and checking a box on their Westar utility bill.

For additional energy efficiency tips, or for information about Project DESERVE and bill payment options, visit WestarEnergy.com.

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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>.

Forward-looking statements: Certain matters discussed in this news release are "forward-looking statements." The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 has established that these statements qualify for safe harbors from liability. Forward-looking statements may include words like "believe," "anticipate," "target," "expect," "pro forma," "estimate," "intend," "guidance" or words of similar meaning. Forward-looking statements describe future plans, objectives, expectations or goals. Although Westar Energy believes that its expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, all forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty. Therefore, actual results could vary materially from what we expect. Please review our Form 10-K for the period ended Dec. 31, 2009 and our Form 10-Q for the period ended Sept. 30, 2010 for important risk factors that could cause results to differ materially from those in any such forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date such statement was made, and the company does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement was made except as required by applicable laws or regulations.