



Media contact:
Leonard Allen,
sr. communications rep.
Phone: 785-575-8444
FAX: 785-575-8119
leonard.allen@WestarEnergy.com

WESTAR ENERGY CELEBRATES PROJECT SUCCESSES

Reno County substation completed and connected to Wichita with new 345kV line

Topeka, Kan., May 11, 2009 — Westar Energy today announced it will celebrate the completion of the Reno County substation south of Buhler, Kan. beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13 at the substation. Key individuals, contractors, landowners and local residents have been invited to the substation and will enjoy an evening of music provided by “Kansas Heart,” an area Bluegrass band, and dinner catered by Syl’s Catering from Colwich, Kan.. The evening will wrap up at sunset with the flip of Westar’s giant light switch lighting the substation.

Media is welcome to attend and stay for dinner and the lighting.

The 345-kilovolt transmission line was completed in December 2008 and connects the Gordon Evans Energy Center, Colwich, to the recently completed substation.

Kelly Harrison, Westar Energy vice president, transmission operations and environmental services, said, “Both of these projects need each other to work. Successful completion required cooperation and communication by a diverse group of people to make them happen, and we want to recognize their achievement.”

The Reno County substation is the largest substation on Westar's system and is the first 345kV substation construction project since the mid-1980s when Wolf Creek and Jeffrey Energy Center were placed into service. It was completed in 18 months from the first day of demolition to the day the transformer was energized. A second transformer will be added later this summer to accommodate even more power.

The line and substation will allow Westar Energy to use its power plants more efficiently, saving its customers fuel costs as well as increasing reliability in the area. Additionally, they will improve regional access to wholesale power markets.

Caroline Williams, Westar Energy vice president, distribution power delivery, said, “ We could not have made this happen without the cooperation of our employees, contractors and most of all, the landowners and residents who allowed us to work through their property and become part of their daily routines. It is an honor to recognize these people and spend an evening getting to know one another.”

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 679,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates approximately 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>.