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WESTAR ENERGY CERTIFIES BUILDING OPERATORS

Thirteen building operators receive Level I *Building Operator Certification*.

LAWRENCE, Kan., April 21, 2011 —Westar Energy is pleased to announce 13 area building operators and facility managers have completed a 7-class course series to earn their Level I Building Operator Certification (BOC) designation. The program educates employees responsible for maintenance and operations of large buildings and their complex heating, mechanical, and electrical systems.

“We commend these employees and their employers for making an investment that demonstrates their commitment to reducing their energy use,” said Paula Carvell, manager of demand side management programs. “Facility operations and maintenance activities are critical to the efficient operation of commercial and industrial buildings. The BOC program provides an opportunity for Westar Energy to help train our customers’ employees who, in turn, can have a significant impact on their company’s energy use. Previous BOC participants have reduced their facility costs by thousands of dollars, so the payback to employers can be immediate.”

Participants receive a nationally-recognized certification by completing a series of monthly training sessions, exams and take-home project assignments. They gain firsthand experience using the tools and methods taught in class to build records on their organization's electrical systems, HVAC operations, lighting levels and controls, and annual profiles of energy consumption. Upon

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completion, they have in-depth reference manuals as well as access to BOC's wide network of participants, experts and resources to leverage for troubleshooting, best practices and advice.

BOC graduates cite benefits that include gaining a comprehensive, strategic perspective; increased knowledge and confidence on the job; access to tools that allow them to be more responsive and proactive at work; and saving time, money and energy.

The following building operators have successfully completed the BOC Level I course series that began in August 2010 and ended in March 2011:

- David Auten, USD 450, Shawnee Heights
- Curtis Campbell, Lawrence Paper Company
- Dennis Fuller, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas
- Mark Gettys, Westar Energy
- John Gress, City of Lawrence
- Brad Hauber, Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- Jim Heiman, U.S. Foodservice
- Nathan Hofstra, USD 450, Shawnee Heights
- David King, City of Lawrence
- Brian Lemon, Lawrence Paper Company
- Keith Sanders, Greenamyre Rentals, Inc.
- Dale Seele, City of Lawrence
- Sam Todd, Lawrence Memorial Hospital

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Westar Energy has a joint licensing agreement with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), Kansas Energy Office (KEO), Kansas City Power and Light (KCPL), Midwest Energy, Empire District Electric Co., rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities to bring the BOC program to Kansas.

Since November 2009, 91 building operators have become certified. A course will be offered in Topeka June 21 through Dec. 6 at the Kansas Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Ave. The cost for the course series is \$1,150, with half of that amount being reimbursed upon the participant's certification. In addition, grant funding may also be available to offset the remaining tuition cost. Register on-line at www.westarenergy.com/boc, or call 1.888.WORKS.50 for more information.

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Original development for the BOC program was provided by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), a non-profit group of electric utilities, state governments, public interest groups and industry representatives committed to promoting affordable, energy-efficient products and services. Today, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) is leading efforts to make BOC a nationally recognized standard. MEEA administers BOC in the Midwest. BOC courses are currently available in twenty-two states across the US and in these Midwestern states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Kansas, Wisconsin and Michigan.

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>.