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HEAT DRIVES POWER DEMAND TO RECORD LEVEL

Westar customer advisers staff Care Stations across service area;

Topeka Care Station added to schedule.

TOPEKA, Kan., July 29, 2011 —As temperatures continue to hover above 100 degrees across the service territory, Westar Energy’s customers demanded record energy production on Wednesday, July 27. The system-wide peak is projected to be 5,563 megawatts (MW), which is 89 MW, or 1.6 percent , higher than the previous peak of 5,474 MW set last year.

“Our power plants have been generating at near-record levels several days this summer to meet our customers’ needs, which set a new record yesterday,” John Bridson, vice president, generation, said. “We invest in regular maintenance of our power plants to ensure they are ready for the rigors of hot Kansas summers, and they have performed admirably this summer as Mother Nature has put them to the test. With forecasts continuing to show high temperatures, we are prepared to maintain this high output and ensure our customers have the electricity they need.”

With the summer’s prolonged heat wave, Westar Energy announced earlier this week that it is reaching out to customers who need assistance managing their budgets.

“We understand that with so many customers demanding more energy to cool their homes hot weather can stretch a budget,” Peggy Ricketts, vice president, customer care, said.

“Westar also offers several energy efficiency options to help customers better manage their

electricity use. Westar payment options provide flexibility to assist customers' with their summer budget.”

Westar Energy customer advisers, who are specially trained to assist customers who are having financial difficulty, will be setting up Care Stations throughout the area to meet with customers one on one and discuss payment assistance and options. In addition to previously announced locations, a Westar Care Station will be at the Topeka SRS office, 500 S.W. Van Buren, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 8. A list of care stations can be found at www.WestarEnergy.com/carecampaign.

Westar offers energy efficiency tips on its website along with energy calculators that help customers determine which energy efficiency investments provide the most benefit.

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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 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 34,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines. For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.