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WESTAR ENERGY INCREASES DIVIDEND

New quarterly dividend of 31 cents per share reflects a 3.3 percent increase

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 24, 2010 — The Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) Board of Directors today declared a quarterly dividend of 31 cents per share payable April 1, 2010, on the company's common stock. The new dividend is 3.3 percent higher than the company's previous quarterly dividend of 30 cents per share, and results in an indicated annual rate of \$1.24 per share.

“Westar is committed both to returning value to our shareholders and investing in our facilities to ensure we are providing safe, reliable electric energy to our customers at a reasonable price,” said Bill Moore, president and chief executive officer. “This increase is consistent with our dividend payout guidelines and business expectations.”

The board also declared regular quarterly dividends on the company's 4.25 percent, 4.5 percent and 5 percent series preferred stocks payable April 1, 2010.

The dividends are payable to shareholders of record as of March 9, 2010.

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 685,000 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>.