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**\*\*PHOTO OPPORTUNITY\*\***

**RELIABILITREE FIRST YEAR RESULTS SHOW SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION  
IN TREE-RELATED OUTAGES**

**Media are invited to Westar's System Control Center on July 28 at 1 p.m.  
to learn about ReliabiliTree's preliminary impact in the Wichita area.**

WICHITA, Kan., July 26, 2011 — In its first year, ReliabiliTree, Westar Energy's revitalized vegetation management program, reduced tree-related power outages in targeted areas by nearly 70 percent, compared to the previous two years. Those areas have also had a nearly 8 percent overall reduction in power outages, which includes outages caused by lightning, wildlife and equipment failure.

Westar Energy is inviting media to its System Control Center, 777 W. Central, Wichita, on Thursday, July 28, starting at 1 p.m., to learn more about ReliabiliTree's impact in the Wichita area. Westar's line clearance and outage experts will be available to answer questions. Media will be allowed to tour the distribution systems operations floor to see how outages are handled internally.

ReliabiliTree began in 2010 as a pilot program in the Wichita metro area. The pilot program will take about four years to complete. The intent is to clear (remove) or prune trees first through the entire project area and then maintain the vegetation by returning about every four to five years. The program also supports Westar's core value of safety for its employees, contractors and the public.

“ReliabiliTree is helping to provide our customers with the highest quality, safest electric service,” said Jeff Martin, director, reliability and resource scheduling. “Wind storms and severe weather this spring and summer pounded the Wichita area and really put ReliabiliTree to the test. Results indicate the program is making a difference in reducing the number of power outages.”

The program divides the Wichita Division into quadrants. The northeast quadrant was selected to be the first area targeted for work because it had the highest number of tree outage of any quadrant. Work in this quadrant was completed in June 2011. Crews have since moved into the northwest quadrant.

Westar Energy representatives are available to discuss ReliabiliTree with neighborhood or homeowners’ associations. To schedule an appointment, contact Lila Halabi at (316) 299-7453 or by email at [Lila.Halabi@WestarEnergy.com](mailto:Lila.Halabi@WestarEnergy.com).

**Directions to the System Control Center:** The System Control Center is located at 777 W. Central. From Kellogg, take the Seneca exit and go north on Seneca. Follow Seneca past the Indian Center, around the curve, where it turns in to Central. The System Control Center is located on the south side of Central. Building access is on the south, facing the river.

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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>.