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**** PHOTO OPPORTUNITY ****

**WESTAR ENERGY DONATES WIND TURBINE TO CLOUD COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Turbine previously located at Jeffrey Energy Center.

TOPEKA, Kan., May 6, 2009 — Westar Energy is donating one of two wind turbines, located at Jeffrey Energy Center near St. Marys, Kan., to Cloud County Community College, Concordia, Kan., to help advance educational opportunities in Kansas for students interested in engineering, operations and maintenance of wind energy generation. The turbine has been dismantled and it will be loaded for transport from Jeffrey Energy Center on Thursday, May 7, starting at 9 a.m. About seven trucks will transport the dismantled turbine, going west on Highway 24, north on Highway 99, west on Highway 36 and south on Highway 81 into Concordia. Transport to Concordia is expected to take about one day. The second JEC turbine will likely be donated to a local university.

“These turbines have served their purpose for Westar Energy and its customers,” said Ken Johnson, vice president, generation. “Within the past year, the completion of construction of new wind generation has helped rank Westar among the top 10 utilities in the nation for wind power per customer. It’s exciting to see these machines serve yet another purpose – helping educate prospective future employees in the expanding wind energy field, right here in Kansas.”

The 750 kilowatt wind turbines were installed at Jeffrey Energy Center in the late 1990s for testing and development of commercial wind power in Kansas. The turbines produced approximately 2.9 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually – enough electricity to meet the needs of more than 300 households. These units were the first commercially operated wind turbines in the state used by a utility and they have helped Westar develop the largest wind energy program of its kind in Kansas. Westar Energy added nearly 300 megawatts of clean, renewable energy to its grid with the construction of three wind farms: Central Plains in Wichita County, Flat Ridge in Barber County and Meridian Way in Cloud County. Earlier this year, Westar announced it was seeking proposals to add up to an additional 500 MW of renewable energy to its generation portfolio.

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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>.