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

**STUDENTS HELP RETIRE INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULB AS PART OF EARTH DAY  
EVENTS AT KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

**Westar Energy will host a retirement ceremony for the light bulb on April 23.**

TOPEKA, Kan., April 21, 2009 — Westar Energy will say goodbye to the incandescent light bulb during a retirement party at the Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Topeka, on Thursday, April 23.

As part of the festivities planned for the museum's History & Environmental Fair, (<http://www.kshs.org/teachers/fieldtrips/historyfair.htm>) Westar's energy efficiency division asked elementary school students to complete an activity sheet explaining what they thought the incandescent light bulb could do during its retirement. These activity sheets will be displayed at the Westar Energy booth during the day.

At 10 a.m. in the museum classrooms, students will flip a giant light switch to turn off an incandescent light bulb and turn on a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), representing the new generation of energy efficient lighting. CFLs use 75 percent less energy than traditional bulbs and last up to five times as long.

"Most incandescent lighting as we know it will be phased out by 2014," said Laura Lutz, account manager, Westar Energy. "A regular incandescent bulb uses too much energy to comply

with this new law, so it will no longer be manufactured. Westar is educating its consumers on the benefits of CFLs as well as the emerging LEDs, which use even less energy than a CFL.”

The phase out of the incandescent light will begin with the 100-watt bulb in 2012, and by 2014, bulbs using 40 watts will no longer be available. All light bulbs must use 25 percent to 30 percent less energy by 2014. By 2020, bulbs must be 70 percent more efficient than they are today.

“Having the students create a retirement plan for the incandescent is a fun way to help promote the next generation of lighting,” Lutz said.

- 30 -

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.

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