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WESTAR ENERGY NAMES BRIDSON TO OFFICER TEAM

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 25, 2011 — The Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) Board of Directors named John Bridson vice president, generation at its meeting Feb. 23, 2011. Bridson, of Topeka, has served as executive director, generation since May 2010. Bridson leads the overall operations of Westar Energy's coal and gas-fired generating facilities.

Bridson began his career at Westar in 1993 as an engineer at the Jeffrey Energy Center. He filled various engineering and supervisory roles at the plant and later became director, operations. Bridson became executive director, gas-fired generation in 2001, successfully managing the great amount of change that occurred in those plants at that time. In 2007, Bridson became executive director, Lawrence Energy Center.

“My priority leading our generation team is to ensure that we are operating our plants efficiently, safely and reliably to extract maximum value for our customers and shareholders,” said Bridson.

Bridson, a native of Harveyville, Kan., earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Kansas State University. He serves on the boards of directors for the Kansas State Power Affiliates Program and the Powder River Basin Coal Users Group.

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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 7,100 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.