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****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

**WESTAR ENERGY CREWS PREPARE TO ASSIST
ALABAMA UTILITY WITH POWER RESTORTION**

TOPEKA, Kan., April 27, 2011 — Westar Energy employees are preparing to leave for Alabama to help Alabama Power, a Southern Company, with power outages after tornadoes ripped through the state leaving many communities without power.

Westar is sending about 41 people, including line personnel, management, safety personnel, material handlers, fleet personnel and safety personnel. The employees will meet and leave around 9 a.m. Thursday at the Belle Plaine service center on the Turnpike, just south of Wichita.

Westar contractors are also sending personnel to assist in Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas. Contract crews that usually work on Westar property assisted with power restoration in St. Louis last weekend and Arkansas earlier this week.

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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.

For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.