



Media contact:
Leonard Allen
Senior Communication Rep.
Phone: 785-575-8444
Leonard.Allen@WestarEnergy.com

****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

FALCON CHICKS TO BE BANDED, NAMING CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Falcons may be viewed on Westar Energy's Web site

TOPEKA, Kan., May 26, 2010 — Media is invited to Westar Energy's General Office, 818 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, on Thursday, May 27, beginning at 8:30 a.m., to see the banding of this year's peregrine falcon chicks. Media is asked to meet in the lobby at that time for questions and answers about the banding and then the group will proceed to the roof for the procedure.

Westar Energy will conduct a contest to name the new birds. (details are included below)

This is the fourth year the parents nesting on Westar's rooftop produced offspring and the two surviving chicks are doing well. As part of banding, the chicks, blood samples will be taken for analysis by the Midwest Peregrine Project in Minnesota.

The sex of the bird may be determined by looking at the size of their feet. Since adult female peregrines are about 50 percent larger than the males, foot size at 18-21 days is, usually, a reliable indicator of sex. Brad Loveless, Director, Biology & Conservation Programs, said, "We'll do our best to determine the sex of each bird but at this early age we may not be completely certain. Since they hatched three days apart, any difference in the size of the feet could just be due to those extra days of growth."

Loveless said the parents both are from the same area and the male hatched at Woodman Tower in Omaha Neb. He has been in contact with personnel there who informed him the male falcon nesting here has been referred to by the wrong name of "Zeus," and his actual name is "Doorly." The male was named for Henry Doorly, former chairman of the World Publishing Company and publisher of the *Omaha World-Herald* in Omaha, Nebraska. Omaha's zoo was renamed in his memory in 1963.

The female has been positively identified as "Hope."

Due to increases in the peregrine population, this species was removed from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Service's threatened species list in 1999 and its numbers continue to expand.

Later on this fall, if all goes well, the chicks and parents will head south to overwinter in Central or South America.

Falcon Naming Contest Details

- Open to any falcon watcher.
- Entries may only be submitted via e-mail.
- Only one entry may be submitted per person.
- Entries must be received by June 4th, 2010.

How the contest will work

- In 100 words or less, e-mail CorpCom@WestarEnergy.com the chosen names for each falcon chick, your location, and why you think that is the best name.
- A five member group of Westar Energy employees will choose top five names from those submitted.

- Westar Energy will establish an online poll where users will be able to vote for their favorite names from the five finalists.
- The online poll will stay up until the first falcon leaves the nest, once he/she fledges the nest, the names with the most votes will be given to the birds.

To stay up-to-date on the naming contest and Westar Energy's peregrine falcons, please subscribe to [Westar Energy Peregrine Falcon Notification e-mails](#). The public is welcome to view a live stream of the falcon family by visiting Westar Energy's Web site www.WestarEnergy.com/Greenteam.

- 30 -

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 684,000 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>