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****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

WESTAR ENERGY HELPS TUCKER THE HIPPO START HIS JOURNEY WEST

Westar will pick up Tucker from the Topeka Zoo on Tuesday, Jan. 4.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 3, 2011 — Tucker the hippopotamus will embark on a journey to his new home in San Francisco with help from Westar Energy. Media is invited to watch Tucker bid farewell to Topeka when Westar picks up the hippo at the Topeka Zoo on Tuesday, Jan. 4 starting around 2:30 p.m. The 5,500 pound, 8-year-old hippo will be in his own crate, which will then be placed in a Conex box on a flatbed trailer provided by Westar. Westar will transport Tucker to the Kansas City International Airport where he'll make his trip west.

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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.

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