



Media contact:

Karla Olsen,
director, corporate
communications
Phone: 316.299.7463
karla.olsen@WestarEnergy.com

Investor contact:

Bruce Burns,
director, investor relations
Phone: 785.575.8227
bruce.burns@WestarEnergy.com

WESTAR ENERGY ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GENERATION

TOPEKA, Kan., May 18, 2010 — Westar Energy today announced that John Bridson has been named executive director, generation. In this role, Bridson will lead 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, and in 2007, he was named executive director, Lawrence Energy Center.

“John has demonstrated tremendous leadership and has the engineering and business acumen needed to lead the people in generation,” said Doug Sterbenz, executive vice president and chief operating officer. “We’ve achieved a number of plant successes under John’s leadership.”

Bridson will immediately take over generation responsibilities filling the void created by Ken Johnson’s departure from Westar last month.

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>.