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POWER PLANT HONORED FOR SAFETY, HEALTH PRACTICES

Murray Gill Energy Center is the third plant in its four-state region, third Westar Energy plant to receive OSHA's VPP Star designation.

WICHITA, Kan., April 21, 2010 — Murray Gill Energy Center (MGEC) in Wichita is Westar Energy's third power plant to receive the Voluntary Protection Program's (VPP) prestigious Star designation from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The Star award is the highest level of recognition in the VPP program honoring facilities committed to the health and safety of employees by exceeding OSHA's national standards.

Westar Energy invites media to attend as they celebrate receiving the Star designation on Friday, April 23, 2010, at MGEC, 6100 W 55th St. S., Wichita, beginning at noon.

Special guest Lt. Governor Troy Findley will speak as well as Westar Energy officers and a representative from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local 1523. Judy Freeman, OSHA Wichita area director, will present the VPP flag and certificate. Lunch will immediately follow.

"This is an honor to share with our entire company and our community. Recognition as a Star site in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program is indicative of the level of care and safety we value at Murray Gill and Westar Energy," Jeff Klinksick, plant superintendent, Murray Gill, said.

“The employees at Murray Gill join an elite group of just over 2,300 worksites nationwide that are VPP Star sites. When you consider that there are over 7,000,000 worksites nationwide, this is an elite group indeed. Westar Energy is honored to have three of those elite work sites in its organization.”

The VPP is a partnership between managers, employees and OSHA, and it recognizes a company’s commitment to its employees through comprehensive health and safety initiatives.

MGEC is in region seven which includes Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa.

Jeffrey Energy Center near St. Marys, Westar Energy’s largest generating facility, was the first power plant in the region to receive VPP Star designation in June 2007. Gordon Evans Energy Center near Colwich received VPP Star status in March 2008.

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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 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

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