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## WESTAR ENERGY LAUNCHES WEB SITE FOR SMARTSTAR LAWRENCE

### Site will share benefits, information surrounding smart grid project.

TOPEKA, Kan., Nov. 5, 2010 — Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) today launched a new website for SmartStar Lawrence, its smart grid project. The site is available at [www.WestarEnergy.com/SmartStar](http://www.WestarEnergy.com/SmartStar).

“Our project site is filled with information to help consumers get the most benefit out of their smart meters and provides project updates and avenues for feedback,” Hal Jensen, director of SmartStar programs. “We are really excited about the tools smart meters will give customers. This site provides a fun avenue for everyone to start to get acquainted with these new services.”

The site allows customers to preview new tools to better understand their electricity usage, follow the progress of meter installation and sign up for project updates.

“Smart meters offer some valuable benefits to customers,” Jensen said. “We’ve started talking about those benefits at public venues. The website allows a broader reach as the time to actually install meters draws closer.”

Jensen, who oversees the strategic direction of the project, will be among contributors to a blog on the site. Social media feeds and email registration are also available to stay abreast of project developments.

Meter installation is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2011. When smart meters are in place, Westar will be able to respond to power outages more efficiently, and customers will be able to log onto a secure website to see their electricity use up to the prior day and see an estimate of their current month's bill.

Smart grid technology is a state-of-the-art approach to managing electricity systems. SmartStar Lawrence is partially funded by a matching funds grant from the Department of Energy under the Smart Grid Investment Grant program. The funding will also allow Westar Energy to implement the technology necessary to eventually support smart meters throughout the company's entire service territory.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 686,000 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>.