Westar Energy earns Region VII VPPPA “Dale Randall Award” for exceptional safety commitment.

Topeka, Kan., May 21, 2014 – The Region VII Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association (VPPPA) has awarded Westar Energy with the Dale Randall Award – the top safety award given each year to one of Region VII’s 159 member companies. The VPPPA, an outgrowth of the Occupational Safety & Health Association (OSHA), is the premier global safety and health organization dedicated to workplace safety and health.

The award honors Westar for its unwavering commitment to employee safety and support of VPPPA’s mission. Working safely is the No. 1 core value at Westar, where employees look out for each other and work hard to achieve “Zero” unsafe acts – a way of life at the company. Additionally, 2013 was Westar’s safest work year on record. Jeffrey Energy Center, St. Marys, has demonstrated world-class safety performance among peers, including two consecutive years’ recognition as a Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Star of Excellence, the highest possible award among VPP sites. Gordon Evans Energy Center and Murray Gill Energy Center – both in Wichita -- have also achieved VPP Star status.

John Bridson, vice president, generation, said, “At Westar, we know that achieving excellence in safety is a matter of forming the right habits, never letting our guard down and continuously working to get better. OSHA’s VPP has helped us come up with better solutions and more people going home safe every day.”

The Dale Randall Award was established in 2006 in memory of Dale Randall, safety director for CF Industries. The award is presented annually to honor a Region VII member organization. Randall’s career at CF Industries – one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of liquid nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers – focused on a commitment to safety. Through his efforts, CF Industries became a safety leader, achieving more than 13 Voluntary Protection Program sites. He dedicated his life to raising safety awareness and always challenged others to do so. The award is given in honor of his memory to companies who demonstrate his same qualities of unwavering dedication to the VPP and VPPPA mission of improving workers’ safety, health and environment.

Headquartered in St. Louis, Mo., Region VII VPPPA is a member-based association with more than 159 member companies. It is one of 10 chapters of the National VPPPA, each one serving a presence in the 10 Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) regions. Region VII’s geographical area is Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The purpose of Region VII VPPPA is to be a leader in health, safety and environmental excellence through cooperation among communities, workers, industries and governments. More information on the Region VII conference, at which Westar Energy received the Dale Randall Award, is available at: http://www.regionviivpp.org/

The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) was established by OSHA to promote effective safety and health management systems through a partnership between management, labor, and OSHA. Approval into VPP is OSHA’s official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health at their worksite.
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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is Kansas’ largest electric utility. For more than a century, we have provided Kansans the safe, reliable electricity needed to power their businesses and homes. Every day our team of professionals takes on projects to generate and deliver electricity, protect the environment and provide excellent service to our nearly 700,000 customers. Westar has 7,200 MW of electric generation capacity fueled by coal, uranium, natural gas, wind and landfill gas. We are also a leader in electric transmission in Kansas. Our innovative customer service programs include mobile-enabled customer care, a smart meter pilot project and paving the way for electric vehicle adoption. Our employees live, volunteer and work in the communities we serve.


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