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WESTAR ENERGY CERTIFIES BUILDING OPERATORS

Fourteen building operators receive Level II certification.

WICHITA, Kan., Feb. 20, 2013 — After a rigorous round of training sessions, homework and exams, 14 area building operators and facility managers have earned their Building Operator Certification (BOC) Level II designation from Westar Energy. This nationally recognized certification in building operation efficiency educates employees responsible for maintenance and operations of large buildings and their complex heating, mechanical and electrical systems. BOC provides training to keep building operators current on the newest energy technology available and share best practices from experts in the field.

“These employees and their employers are committed to reducing energy use, which benefits their organization and has a positive impact on the environment,” said Kim Gronniger, manager, consumer services. “Previous participants have reduced their facility costs by thousands of dollars, so the payback to employers can be immediate.”

Using the tools and methods taught in class, participants compiled records on their organization's electrical systems, HVAC operations, lighting levels and controls and annual profiles of energy consumption. Upon the program's completion, BOC graduates retain these in-depth reference manuals and gain access to BOC's nationwide network of participants, experts and resources to leverage for troubleshooting, best practices and advice.

The following building operators have successfully completed the BOC Level II course series that began in July 2012 and ended in December 2012:

- Kevin Anderson, Cessna Aircraft
- Eusebio Chavez, Newton Housing Authority
- Bill Farthing, Spirit AeroSystems
- Jim Fischer, Newton Housing Authority
- Luke Hecht, Newton Housing Authority
- Robert Hunter, Catholic Care Center
- Eldon Keith, Koch Business Solutions
- Kevin Leinart, City of El Dorado
- Rodney Moore, USD 375, Circle
- Phil Murray, Koch Business Solutions
- Don Rose, Hutchinson Community College
- Joseph Tucker, Spirit AeroSystems
- Phil Verdecchia, Cessna Aircraft
- Troy Williams, CNH America

Westar Energy has entered into a joint licensing agreement with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), Kansas City Power and Light, Midwest Energy, Inc., Empire District Electric, Kansas Municipal Utilities, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. and the Kansas Energy Office to make the BOC program available to all Kansas building operators.

The cost for the course series is \$1,150. Upon BOC certification, Westar Energy, Midwest Energy, Inc. and Empire District Electric customers are eligible to receive a \$575 reimbursement toward the \$1,150 tuition. Reimbursements by rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities are determined on an individual basis. For information about upcoming courses, visit www.westarenergy.com/boc or call Karen Smith at 316.261.6570 for more information.

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Original development for the BOC program was provided by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), a non-profit group of electric utilities, state governments, public interest groups and industry representatives committed to promoting affordable, energy-efficient products and services. Today, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) is leading efforts to make BOC a nationally recognized standard. MEEA administers BOC in the Midwest. BOC courses are currently available in twenty-two states across the US and in these Midwestern states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Kansas, Wisconsin and Michigan.

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 7,400 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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