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WESTAR ENERGY CREWS CONTINUE RESTORATION WORK FOLLOWING LATEST WINTER STORM

Road conditions and snow drifts are making restoration difficult in some areas.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 26, 2013 — As the latest winter storm pushes through Kansas, Westar Energy crews and contract crews are working to restore power to thousands of customers. In addition to Westar crews, contract crews have been called in to assist with restoration efforts. As of 5 p.m., 1,288 Westar Energy customers were without electricity. The counties with more than 200 and the number of outages in that county include:

- Douglas - 293
- Greenwood – 253
- Leavenworth – 215

A complete list of outages by county can be found at www.WestarEnergy.com/outages.

In some areas, road conditions and deep snow drifts are making it difficult to move equipment and make repairs. Crews are working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power to customers, however it could be Wednesday evening before power is restored to all customers. The following are estimates on when we expect to have electricity restored by division:

- Topeka, Shawnee, Wichita, Humboldt and Independence – Tuesday evening
- Lawrence – 10 p.m. Tuesday

- Arkansas City and Leavenworth – midnight Tuesday
- Emporia – late afternoon to early evening Wednesday

Limited access because of snow drifts and weather conditions may further delay restoration. If members of your household are very young, elderly or have special needs, they may need to seek shelter at a location with electricity and heat. If you see a downed power line, stay back and immediately report it to 911.

The latest winter storm's impact was widespread, causing outages in communities across Westar's service territory. At the peak, this morning more than 12,800 Westar customers were without power. A combination of wind and heavy blowing snow caused lines to freeze and equipment to break. In some areas, strong wind downed power lines and damaged utility poles.

Westar's initial focus is to clear public hazards and make repairs to energize higher voltage lines that feed large areas. Customers may see Westar trucks in their neighborhood leave before power has been restored. Those employees are inspecting equipment and assessing damage to help determine what equipment and resources will be needed to more efficiently make repairs.

The most effective way to notify Westar Energy of a power outage is by calling 1-800-LIGHT-KS (1-800-544-4857). This automated phone line can receive up to 30,000 calls per hour making a busy signal or extended wait unlikely.

Some customers may notice that their meter box has pulled away from the structure. The customer needs to have a licensed electrician repair this before Westar Energy can restore power to the home.

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.

For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>. Westar Energy is on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/WestarEnergyInc and Twitter: www.Twitter.com/WestarEnergy.