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## **WESTAR ENERGY PROMOTES MARTIN TO VICE PRESIDENT**

TOPEKA, Kan., March 1, 2013 — The Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) board of directors named Jeff Martin vice president, regulatory affairs at its meeting Feb. 28, 2013. Martin has served as executive director, regulatory affairs since March 2012. As the leader of Regulatory Affairs, Martin has responsibility for all regulatory matters of the company including those related to the Kansas Corporation Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and North American Electric Reliability Corp.

Before leading Regulatory Affairs, Martin worked as director, reliability and resource scheduling; director, division operations in Hutchinson; and in other roles in operations.

“Jeff’s background in operations gives him a deep understanding of just what it takes to keep the lights on,” Mark Ruelle, president and CEO, said. “Jeff understands the importance of making sure regulators have the information they need to make constructive decisions about the reliability and efficiency of electric service.”

Martin, a native of Hesston, Kan., earned a master of business administration from Kansas State University and a bachelor of science in electronics engineering technology from Pittsburg State University. He is a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership’s Leadership Development Program, Leadership Wichita and Leadership Reno County. He is a member of the 2013 Leadership Kansas class.

Martin lives in Meriden with his wife, Kelly, and two sons, Colton and Jerrett.

Note: Photo available upon request.

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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 7,400 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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