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WESTAR ENERGY MODERNIZING TOPEKA'S GRID

New transmission line key part of larger grid modernization project

for Topeka and Shawnee County

TOPEKA, Kan., April 3, 2013 — A new transmission line in Southwest Topeka is latest among 15 projects totaling more than \$150 million in investment aimed at modernizing the capital city's power grid and improving reliability and security.

After conducting public meetings and surveys, Westar Energy has selected the route for a new 115 kilovolt transmission line that will form the backbone of a major grid upgrade for about a third of the city, all as part of a much larger grid improvement project for Topeka and Shawnee County. This line will connect the substation at S.W. 17th and Fairlawn with the Education Substation under construction at Kanza Education and Science Park near S.W. 6th and MacVicar and allow Westar to retire five World War II era neighborhood substations that with time, circumstances and massive growth in our community's electrical needs have become obsolete. Neighborhood substations that will be removed are at S.W. 7th and Fairlawn, S.W. 7th and Watson, Potwin, S.W. 12 and Lakeside, and the former grounds of Topeka State Hospital.

“This is the most substantial investment in west Topeka's electrical infrastructure in 30 years,” said Doug Sterbenz, chief operating officer, adding, “The line, coupled with state of the art equipment at our new Education Station substation will improve the reliability of our electric service. It will limit the frequency and duration of power outages, keep our grid more secure and

resilient and position Topeka's and Shawnee County's infrastructure to support economic growth and development for decades to come."

Westar considered multiple routes for the line, but ultimately adopted the proposed route based on input it received from homeowners and landowners at a community open house and from survey information it solicited from landowners. The proposed line will exit Westar's new Education Substation at Kanza Education and Science Park heading west just south of Interstate 70 to Gage Blvd. It will then follow along Gage to S.W. 6th Street, then along S.W. 6th to S.W. Fairlawn Road, at which point it will follow Fairlawn to the existing substation at S.W. 17th and Fairlawn. A map of the route is attached.

Landowners along the route will be notified by U.S. mail. To minimize traffic disruption, Westar will begin construction summer of 2014 and work to complete it by the end of 2014.

To highlight the grid modernization on Westar's system, the new Education Station will serve as an educational feature at [Kanza Education and Science Park](#) by providing students a closer look at a working electric substation. Westar plans include stations positioned around the park's perimeter with information about electricity and how electrical grids work. Westar is partnering with Topeka Public Schools to enhance science and environmental education for students throughout the region. Last year, Westar Energy's Green Team helped erect a 160-foot wind turbine at the park. Additional information about the educational features of the substation is available at www.WestarEnergy.com/kanza.

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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 7,100 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.

Westar Energy Education Station to 17th & Fairlawn Substation



LEGEND

 Selected Route

 Segment End Point



 Parks

 Substation