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**WESTAR FILES FOLLOW-UP RATE REQUEST TO RECOVER
ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS**

TOPEKA, Kan., April 15, 2013 — Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) today filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) a request to increase rates by \$31.7 million or about 1.7 percent. Westar is incurring about \$42 million more in costs as a result of EPA requirements to upgrade one of its power plants; but will offset about \$10 million of that with cost reductions elsewhere.

Westar's request also includes re-examining how rates are set for different types of customers, a more flexible economic development program and a fund to assist low income customers.

“Electricity provides great value, and we are looking to the commission to allow us tools that help keep it affordable as costs rise,” Mark Ruelle, president and CEO, said. “First, we need to make sure rates are fair and reflect the cost of providing service to each type of customer. Second, we would like more flexibility in partnering with our communities to attract expanding and new business. Finally, we recognize that some of our customers simply need help managing the costs of living, including their energy bills.”

Overall, Westar Energy's rates remain a good value and competitive when compared with the nation and neighboring states. However in recent years, rates for larger businesses have risen higher than those in some neighboring states and no longer reflect the cost of providing electricity to these firms. Westar's proposal takes steps toward correcting this to help Kansas remain competitive.

In addition, Westar is proposing a program to allow more flexibility and opportunity to partner with community economic development offices to attract businesses and encourage expansion.

"Many of the investments we must make to meet federal laws are the same regardless of how many units of electricity we sell. If we can help expand the state's economy, these costs are spread over a broader base and everyone benefits," Ruelle said.

Correcting the cost allocation means that costs for residential customers will increase. For about a quarter of our residential customers, about 150,000 homes that use less than 500 kilowatt hours per month, the proposed increase will be \$4 per month, or about 13 cents per day. For households with higher consumption of about 900 kilowatt hours per month, the proposed increase will be about \$7.50 per month, or about 25 cents per day.

"We know that even a few cents more per day can strain some budgets, so we have suggested a low-income fund that would be administered by a third party to help those community members most in need," Peggy Ricketts, vice president, Customer Care, said. The fund will complement Westar's long-standing commitment to Project DESERVE.

Westar's filing is based on the results of a 2011 rate review.

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.

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.

Forward-looking statements: Certain matters discussed in this news release are "forward-looking statements." The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 has established that these statements qualify for safe harbors from liability. Forward-looking statements may include words like "believe," "anticipate," "target," "expect," "pro forma," "estimate," "intend," "guidance" or words of similar meaning. Forward-looking statements describe future plans, objectives, expectations or goals. Although Westar Energy believes that its expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, all forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty. The factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements include those discussed herein as well as (1) those discussed in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2012 (a) under the heading, "Forward-Looking Statements," (b) in ITEM 1. Business, (c) in ITEM 1A. Risk Factors, (d) in ITEM 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and (e) in ITEM 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data: Notes 13 and 15; and (2) other factors discussed in the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date such statement was made, and the company does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement was made.