



**Media contact:**

Gina Penzig  
Director, Corporate Communications  
Phone: 785.575.8089  
Gina.Penzig@WestarEnergy.com

---

**WESTAR ENERGY SUBMITS ROUTE FOR 345KV  
TRANSMISSION PROJECT TO THE KCC FOR REVIEW**

TOPEKA, Kan., May 3, 2013 — Working with landowners and area residents Westar Energy has chosen a proposed final route for an improved high capacity transmission line project. The line reaches from the Summit Substation, just southeast of Salina to central Ottawa County where it will be extended by ITC Great Plains to the Elm Creek Substation southeast of Concordia.

With the final route proposed, the project will now move to the next step in the process. Landowners along each of the proposed routes should receive letters in the next few days informing them if their land is part of the preferred route or if it is not. The preferred route, submitted to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) today, will be reviewed by the commission, and the KCC will decide the final route within 120 days. Landowners along the final proposed route and the public will have the opportunity to voice their opinions on the project to the KCC during public hearings schedule by the Commission.

Landowners along three proposed routes met with representatives from Westar to assist in the selection process by providing input about the pros and cons of each route.

Kelly Harrison, vice president, transmission, said, “We brought in an external firm to analyze the feedback from landowners and that feedback led to the selection of a preferred route.” He added, “Nobody knows the land better than the people who live on it. and the role these landowners play in this process can’t be understated. We want to be good neighbors, and neighbors talk to each other about what’s best for the land.”

The new line improves reliability of the entire grid in central Kansas. This allows the grid to continue meeting standards of reliability required by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the organization designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to oversee the grid in the multi-state region that includes Kansas.

Because the line benefits the entire region, the costs for the project will be recovered from all customers in the SPP region, which includes six states in addition to Kansas.

Communities along the route will also benefit from the influx of money associated with lodging, food and recreation for workers on the project. The improved capacity and reliability may have a positive impact on local business.

“This line will allow for the expansion of industrial, commercial and residential loads in the Cloud County area by alleviating a constraint created by the possibility of a failure of the present line,” Lowell Thoman, President, Cloud Corp, said in a letter to Westar.

- 30 -

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](http://www.Facebook.com/WestarEnergyInc) and Twitter: [www.Twitter.com/WestarEnergy](http://www.Twitter.com/WestarEnergy).