

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMENT PERIOD CONCERNING RATE INCREASE REQUEST

Westar Energy has filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) requesting a \$152 million (7.9%) rate increase for Westar Energy's retail electric customers. Residential customers with average monthly consumption of 900 kilowatt hours of electricity would have an average monthly increase of \$13.

## Regulatory Responsibility

The Commission regulates public utilities, including home telephone, natural gas, electric and water companies as well as motor carriers, oil and gas pipelines, and oil and gas producers. The Commission's regulatory oversight of public utilities primarily pertains to rates and terms of service. In order to ensure that customers of regulated utilities are provided sufficient and efficient service at just and reasonable rates, utilities may not change their rates without Commission approval.

## Open Houses and Public Hearings

The Commission has scheduled public hearings on Westar Energy's proposed rate increase request.

### Tuesday, July 21, 2015

#### 4:30 p.m. Open House and 6 p.m. Public Hearing

**Topeka: Farley Elementary School, 6701 SW 33<sup>rd</sup> St., Topeka, KS 66614.**

\*Or open house and video conference hearing at these two sites:

Emporia: Flint Hills Technical College, Conference Rooms A, B & C, 3301 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Emporia, KS 66801-5957

Salina: Kansas State University, College Center, Conference Room #103, 2310 Centennial Road, Salina, KS 67401.

### Thursday July 23, 2015

#### 4:30 p.m. Open House and 6 p.m. Public Hearing

**Wichita: Wichita State University, Lowe Auditorium, 5015 E. 29<sup>th</sup> St. N., Wichita, KS 67260**

\*Or open house and video conference hearing at these two sites:

Hutchinson: Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center, Banquet Room, 1100 N. Plum St., Hutchinson, KS 67501

Pittsburg: Pittsburg High School, Auditorium, 1978 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Pittsburg, KS 66762

Each meeting will take place in two parts. Starting at 4:30 p.m. representatives from Westar and interested parties will be on hand at all locations to answer questions regarding the rate request. Attendees may come and go. At 6 p.m. the formal public hearing will begin. The hearing provides members of the public the opportunity to make their views of the application known to the Commissioners. Any person requiring special accommodations at the hearing under the Americans with Disabilities Act needs to provide notice to the Commission at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing by calling: (785) 271-3140.

## Public Comments

The Commission will accept written and oral comments from Westar Energy customers through Aug. 11, 2015. Comments regarding the rate request should reference Docket No 15-WSEE-115-RTS and be sent to the Kansas Corporation Commission, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 SW Arrowhead Rd., Topeka, KS 66604-4027. Comments may also be submitted by email at [public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov) through the Commission's website, <http://www.kcc.ks.gov>, or by calling 1-800-662-0027 or (785) 271-3140. Public comments received during the public comment period will be entered into the record in the docket.

## Westar Energy's Proposal

Westar Energy's application indicates the increase relates to costs incurred to meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements, investment related to the extended operating license for Wolf Creek and investment in distribution and generation assets partially offset by a decreased rate of return. Westar Energy is also proposing new rate options for its residential customers and optional renewable energy programs.

Westar Energy rates affect about 690,000 customers in Topeka, Lawrence, Olathe, Leavenworth, Atchison, Manhattan, Salina, Hutchinson, Emporia, Parsons, Wichita, Arkansas City, El Dorado, Newton, Fort Scott, Pittsburg and Independence, among other towns and rural areas.

## Other Information

An evidentiary hearing on Westar Energy's request is scheduled to begin Aug. 17, 2015, at 9 a.m., at the Commission's Offices, 1500 SW Arrowhead Rd., Topeka, KS 66604-4027.

A complete copy of Westar Energy's application and supporting testimony is available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.kcc.ks.gov>, searching Docket Filings for Docket No. 15-WSEE-115-RTS. If you need additional assistance or more information about the proposed rate increase or how to submit public comments to the Commission, contact the Commission's Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027, or at [public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov).