

WESTAR ENERGY INC /KS
Form 425
July 08, 2016

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Subject Company: Westar Energy, Inc.

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Date: July 8, 2016

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Greetings,

Recently, Great Plains Energy, the parent company of Kansas City Power and Light, announced its intention to acquire Westar Energy. You may have questions about how this will affect you as a Westar retiree, particularly as it pertains to your benefits and pension.

While we're very early in the acquisition process, which will take until at least next spring, we can assure you that your pension benefits are protected by law and won't change. Retiree medical benefits won't change prior to the merger, but may be considered in the years ahead as benefits are reviewed on an annual basis. We will continue to communicate with you as information becomes available.

Here are the basic details of the acquisition announcement:

What: Great Plains Energy has announced plans to acquire Westar Energy

Combines two largest Kansas energy companies

Westar shareholders will receive \$60.00 per share of total consideration for each share of Westar common stock, consisting of \$51.00 in cash and \$9.00 in Great Plains Energy common stock, subject to a 7.5 percent collar based upon the Great Plains Energy common stock price at the time of the closing of the transaction, with the exchange ratio for the stock consideration ranging between 0.2709 to 0.3148 shares of Great Plains Energy common stock for each Westar share of common stock, representing a consideration mix of 85 percent cash and 15 percent stock.

Who: Pending approvals, Westar Energy will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Plains Energy

Great Plains is the parent company of KCP&L

Great Plains has operated in Kansas longer than we have

Where: Kansas!

Keeps downtown Topeka headquarters

Continues community involvement and charitable giving

When: We expect to complete the transaction in late spring or early summer 2017, pending approvals

Requires approvals from Westar and Great Plains shareholders, KCC, and others

Additional information will be shared in phases, as the details of the transaction are developed. Thank you for your patience as we work through this process. If you have any questions, please contact HR at (888) 974-0016.

Sincerely,

Mark Ruelle

President/CEO, Westar Energy

Important Information for Investors and Shareholders

This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. In connection with the transactions referred to in this material, Great Plains Energy Incorporated (Great Plains) expects to file a registration statement on Form S-4 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) containing a preliminary joint proxy statement of Great Plains and Westar Energy, Inc. (Westar Energy) that also constitutes a preliminary prospectus of Great Plains. After the registration statement is declared effective Great Plains and Westar Energy will mail a definitive proxy statement/prospectus to shareholders of Great Plains and shareholders of Westar Energy. This material is not a substitute for the joint proxy statement/prospectus or registration statement or for any other document that Great Plains or Westar Energy may file with the SEC and send to Great Plains and/or Westar Energy's shareholders in connection with the proposed transactions. INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF GREAT PLAINS AND WESTAR ENERGY ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Investors and security holders will be able to obtain free copies of the proxy statement/prospectus (when available) and other documents filed with the SEC by Great Plains or Westar Energy through the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Great Plains will be available free of charge on Great Plains' website at www.greatplains.com, in the Investor Relations tab near the bottom of the page, or by contacting Great Plains' Investor Relations Department at 1-800-245-5275. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Westar Energy will be available free of charge on Westar Energy's website at www.westarenergy.com or by contacting Westar Energy's Investor Relations Department at 785-575-8227.

Great Plains and Westar Energy and their respective directors and certain of their respective executive officers may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies with respect to the proposed transactions under the rules of the SEC. Information about the directors and executive officers of Great Plains may be found in its 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 24, 2016, and definitive proxy statement relating to its 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders filed with the SEC on March 24, 2016. Information about the directors and executive officers of Westar Energy may be found in its 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 24, 2016, and definitive proxy statement relating to its 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders filed with the SEC on April 1, 2016. These documents can be obtained free of charge from the sources indicated above. Additional information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitations and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, will also be included in any proxy statement and other relevant materials to be filed with the SEC when they become available.

Forward Looking Statements

This communication contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 in connection with the proposed merger of Great Plains and Westar Energy. These statements include statements regarding describe nature of future statements, e.g. the anticipated closing date of the transaction or anticipated future results. 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 Great Plains and Westar Energy believes that these statements 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, without limitation, delays in completing the merger, including as a result of delays in obtaining regulatory approval or shareholder approval, changes in general economic conditions and regulatory and legislative changes that adversely affect the business in which Great Plains and Westar Energy are engaged. These forward looking statements speak only as of the date of this communication, and Great Plains and Westar Energy expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to disseminate any updates or revisions to any forward-looking

statement contained herein to reflect any change in Great Plains or Westar Energy's expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based. Please refer to the publicly filed documents of Great Plains and Westar Energy, including the most recent Forms 10-K and 10-Q, for additional information about Great Plains and Westar Energy and about the risks and uncertainties related to the business of each of Great Plains and Westar Energy which may affect the statements made in this communication.