

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING & COMMENT PERIOD CONCERNING RATE REQUEST

Westar Energy has filed an Application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) requesting a \$1.56 million rate decrease effective September 2018 and a \$54.2 million rate increase in February 2019 for Westar Energy's retail electric customers. The two adjustments combined would increase prices about \$52.6 million (2.6%). Residential customers with average monthly consumption of 900 kilowatt hours of electricity would have an average monthly increase of \$5.91 beginning in February 2019. Westar's request also includes updated tariffs for customers who installed their own source of electric power generation after Oct. 28, 2015.

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. 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.

Public Hearing

The Commission has scheduled a public hearing to provide Westar Energy customers an opportunity to learn more about the proposed rates, as well as ask questions and make comments about the proposal. The public hearing is scheduled for: Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 6 p.m. CDT

Washburn Institute of Technology
Main Conference Center, Building A
5724 SW Huntoon
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Members of the public can attend the hearing in-person or watch a live broadcast of the hearing on the Commission's website: www.kcc.ks.gov. In the event of technical difficulty or for those unable to watch live, a recording of the public hearing will be available on the Commission's website beginning May 30. Any person requiring special accommodations at the hearing site under The Americans with Disabilities Act must notify the Commission at least 10 days prior to the scheduled public hearing by calling 800-662-0027.

Public Comments

The Commission will accept comments regarding the proposed rate changes through July 18, 2018* at 5 p.m. CDT. There are three convenient ways to submit a comment:

1. Go to the Commission's website (www.kcc.ks.gov) and click on the "Your Opinion Matters" link to enter your comment.
2. Send a written letter to the Kansas Corporation Commission, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604-4027. Be sure to reference Docket No. 18-WSEE-328-RTS.
3. Call the Commission's Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027.

Westar Energy's Proposal

Westar Energy's Application requests updated prices to include lower expenses from federal taxes and financing and savings from its anticipated merger with Great Plains Energy, and higher expenses related to depreciation, the Western Plains Wind Farm, and the expiration of wholesale contracts and production taxes related to Westar's owned wind farms that have benefitted customers for a decade.

Westar Energy serves about 704,000 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 July 23, 2018*, 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. 18-WSEE-328-RTS. If you need additional assistance regarding the proposed rate increase or submission of 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.

**These dates are contingent on approval of the proposed merger between Westar Energy and Great Plains Energy. If the merger is not completed, these dates will change.*