

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant [X]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant []

Check the appropriate box:

[X] Preliminary Proxy Statement [] CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED BY RULE 14A-6(E)(2))

[] Definitive Proxy Statement

[] Definitive Additional Materials

[] Soliciting Material Pursuant to (S) 240.14a-11(c) or (S) 240.14a-12

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

[X] No fee required.

[] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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[] Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

[] Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

May , 2002

Dear Shareholder:

I cordially invite you to the 2002 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Western Resources, Inc. The meeting this year is at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, on Tuesday, June 11, 2002 at The Embassy Suites at 102 North End Avenue, New York, New York.

The Board of Directors has nominated the two present directors whose terms of office expire this year to continue to serve as Class III directors. As required by our bylaws, the Board of Directors has also nominated one director appointed to the Board of Directors in 2001 to serve as a Class I director. The Board of Directors recommends that you vote for the nominees.

The enclosed notice of the meeting and proxy statement contain detailed information about the business to be transacted at the meeting.

We urge you to read the proxy statement carefully. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, please take time to vote as soon as possible by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card or by using the telephone or Internet voting procedures.

I extend my thanks for your continued investment in the Company.

Sincerely,

/s/ David C. Wittig

DAVID C. WITTIG
Chairman of the Board, President,
and Chief Executive Officer

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.
818 South Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Time: 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Daylight Saving Time) on Tuesday, June 11, 2002
Place: The Embassy Suites
102 North End Avenue
New York, New York
Purpose: .To elect two Class III directors to serve for a term of three years
.To elect one Class I director to serve for a term of one year
.To consider and act upon a proposal to amend the Articles of Incorporation to
change the name of Western Resources, Inc. to Westar Energy, Inc.
.To conduct other business properly raised before the meeting and any
adjournment or postponement of the meeting
Record Date: You may vote if you were a shareholder of record on April 19, 2002
Proxy Voting: Your vote is important. You may vote in person at the meeting or by proxy in one of
three ways:
.by signing, dating and returning your proxy card in the enclosed envelope
.by calling the toll-free number on the enclosed proxy card
.via the Internet using instructions on the proxy card

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Larry Irick

LARRY D. IRICK
Corporate Secretary

Topeka, Kansas
May , 2002

PROXY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors of Western Resources, Inc. (the "Company") is soliciting proxies for the 2002 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. This proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card contain information about the items you will vote on at the annual meeting. We began mailing these documents to shareholders on or about May , 2002.

VOTING PROCEDURES--QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Who may vote and how many votes do I have?

Common and preferred shareholders of record at the close of business on April 19, 2002 may vote. For each matter presented for vote, you have one vote for each share you own.

On that date there were outstanding and entitled to vote 71,721,906 shares of our common stock, 125,118 shares of our 4 1/2% series preferred stock, 56,110 shares of our 4 1/4% series preferred stock, and 37,780 shares of our 5% series preferred stock. Shares of our common stock owned by Westar Industries, Inc. ("Westar"), our wholly owned subsidiary, and shares of our common stock and preferred stock owned by Protection One, Inc. ("Protection One"), our approximately 88% owned subsidiary, are not entitled to vote and do not count for quorum purposes.

How do proxies work?

The Board of Directors is asking for your proxy. Giving the persons named as proxies your proxy means you authorize them to vote your shares at the meeting in the manner you direct. You may vote for all, some or none of our director nominees. If you sign and return the enclosed proxy card but do not specify how to vote, the persons named as proxies will vote your shares for our director nominees and to change our corporate name.

How do I vote?

You may vote in person by attending the meeting or by proxy. If you are a shareholder of record, you may vote by proxy through the Internet, by telephone or by mail. Please follow the instructions on the proxy card for voting by one of these methods. Please help us save time and postage costs by voting through the Internet or by telephone. If your shares are held in "street name" by a broker or other nominee, you will receive instructions from the holder of record that you must follow in order to vote your shares. Whether you plan to attend the meeting or not, we encourage you to vote by proxy as soon as possible.

What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

You may receive more than one proxy card depending on how you hold your shares. You will receive a proxy card for shares registered in your name. If you hold shares through someone else, such as a bank or broker, you may also receive material from them asking how you want to vote. If you participate in our Direct Stock Purchase Plan or the Employee Stock Purchase Plan, you will receive one proxy card for all shares of common stock held in or credited to your accounts as of the record date, if the account names are exactly the same. If your shares are registered differently and are in more than one account, you will receive more than one proxy card. We encourage you to have all accounts

registered in the same name and address whenever possible. You can do this by contacting our shareholder services department at 800-527-2495 or 785-575-6394 (in the Topeka area) or by e-mail at sharsvcs@wr.com.

You will also receive a proxy card if you hold shares in our Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan. The plan trustee will vote these shares in accordance with your proxy. The plan trustee will not vote your shares if you do not vote.

Can I change my vote?

You can revoke your proxy before the time of voting at the meeting in several ways (the revocation has to be received before the meeting to be counted):

- . by mailing a revised proxy dated later than the prior proxy
- . by voting again at the Internet web site
- . by notifying our Corporate Secretary in writing that you are revoking your proxy

You can also revoke your proxy by voting in person at the meeting.

Who can attend the annual meeting?

Only shareholders on April 19, 2002 or their duly appointed proxies and our guests may attend the meeting. Registered shareholders are asked to bring the "Admission Ticket" found at the top of the proxy card. If you hold your shares in the name of a bank, broker or other holder, please bring proof of ownership with you to the meeting. A bank or brokerage account statement showing you owned common or preferred stock on April 19, 2002 would be acceptable proof.

What constitutes a "quorum" for the meeting?

A quorum is necessary to conduct business at the meeting. A quorum requires the presence of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote, in person or represented by proxy. You are part of the quorum if you have voted by proxy.

Abstentions, broker non-votes and votes withheld from director nominees count as "shares present" at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum. However, abstentions and broker non-votes do not count in the voting results. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker or other nominee who holds shares for another does not vote on a particular item because the nominee does not have discretionary voting authority for that item and has not received instructions from the owner of the shares.

How many votes are needed?

Director nominees receiving the most votes will be elected. Approval of any other item being considered requires a majority of the quorum present at the meeting.

Corporate Election Services, Inc., the independent proxy tabulator we use, counts the votes and acts as the inspector of election for the meeting.

Who pays for the solicitation of proxies?

We pay the cost of soliciting proxies. We retained Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc. to assist with the solicitation for an estimated fee of \$9,500 plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. We will reimburse brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for sending proxy materials to shareholders and obtaining their votes. In addition to the use of the mail, proxies may be solicited personally, or by telephone or electronic media by our regular employees.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
(Item 1 on Proxy Card)

Directors and Nominees for Directors

Our Board of Directors currently consists of eight directors divided into three classes (Class I, Class II and Class III). At each annual meeting of shareholders, the directors constituting one class are elected for a three-year term. The terms of the directors of Class III expire with this meeting. Our bylaws require each class to be as nearly equal in number as possible, with no class to include fewer than two directors. Our bylaws also provide that a director appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors will hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders. Mr. R.A. Edwards was appointed to the Board of Directors on August 27, 2001 and his term expires with this meeting.

Each nominee has consented to being named as a nominee and to serve, if elected. While it is not expected that any of the nominees will be unable to qualify or accept office, if for any reason one or more are unable to do so, the proxies will be voted for substitute nominees selected by our Board of Directors.

Nominees (Class III)--Term Expiring in 2005

Frank J. Becker (age 66)

Mr. Becker is President of Becker Investments, Inc. in Lawrence, Kansas. Mr. Becker is a director of the Douglas County Bank, Martin K. Eby Construction Company and IMA Insurance, Inc., and a trustee of the University of Kansas Endowment Association. He has served as our director since 1992.

Douglas T. Lake (age 51)

Mr. Lake is our Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer (since September 1998). Mr. Lake was Senior Managing Director at Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., an investment banking firm, from 1995 to September 1998. Mr. Lake is also Chairman of the Board of Protection One and a director of ONEOK, Inc. and Guardian International, Inc. He has served as our director since October 2000.

Nominees (Class I)--Term Expiring in 2003

R.A. Edwards (age 56)

Mr. Edwards is the President and Chief Executive Officer and a director of the First National Bank of Hutchinson, Kansas. Mr. Edwards is also a director of Douglas County Bank, Data Center,

Inc., Kansas Venture Capital, Inc. and Michellhill Seed Company. He is also a member of the University of Kansas Business School Advisory Board and a trustee of the University of Kansas Endowment Association.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE IN FAVOR OF ALL OF THE ABOVE NOMINEES

Continuing Directors
(Class II)--Term Expiring in 2004

Gene A. Budig (age 63)

Dr. Budig is Senior Advisor to the Commissioner of Baseball, American League of Professional Baseball Clubs in New York, New York (since March 2000) and a professor at Princeton University (since July 2000). Prior to that time, Dr. Budig was President of the American League of Professional Baseball Clubs. Dr. Budig is a director of the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, the Ewing Marion Kaufman Foundation, the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame and the Media Studies Center-Freedom Forum. Dr. Budig is also a director of Protection One. He has served as our director since July 1999. He also served as our director from January 1987 to May 1998.

John C. Nettels, Jr. (age 45)

Mr. Nettels is a Partner with the law firm of Morrison & Hecker, L.L.P. in Overland Park, Kansas. He has served as our director since March 2000.

David C. Wittig (age 46)

Mr. Wittig is our Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer (since January 1999, March 1996 and July 1998, respectively). Prior to that time, Mr. Wittig was our Executive Vice President of Corporate Development. Mr. Wittig is a director of WACO Instruments, Inc. and Fox Run Holdings, Inc. Mr. Wittig is a trustee of the University of Kansas Endowment Association and Boys Harbor, Inc. He has served as our director since February 1996.

(Class I)--Term Expiring in 2003

Charles Q. Chandler, IV (age 48)

Mr. Chandler is Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of INTRUST Bank, N.A. and President of INTRUST Financial Corporation. Both companies are located in Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Chandler is a director of INTRUST Financial Corporation, the First National Bank of Pratt, Kansas, the Will Rogers Bank in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and the Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. He is also a trustee of the Kansas State University Endowment Foundation. Mr. Chandler has served as our director since January 2000.

John C. Dicus (age 68)

Mr. Dicus is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Capitol Federal Savings Bank. Mr. Dicus is also Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Capitol Federal Financial and Capitol Federal Savings Bank MHC (since March 1999). These companies are located in Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Dicus is a director of Security Benefit Life Insurance Company and Columbian National Title Company, and a trustee of Stormont-Vail Health Care, Inc. and the University of Kansas Endowment Association. He has served as our director since May 1990.

Compensation of Directors

Directors who are our employees do not receive additional compensation for their services as directors. In 2001, directors who were not our employees received an annual cash retainer fee of \$25,000, paid quarterly, an annual stock award of \$18,500, and an annual restricted share unit award of \$19,000. The restricted share unit award vests ratably over three years from the date of grant. Directors who were not our employees were also paid a fee of \$1,200 for each meeting of the Board of Directors and a fee of \$1,000 for each committee meeting they attended (\$600 in each case if they participated by telephone). Effective January 1, 2002, the annual cash retainer fee was reduced to \$20,000 and the fee for attendance at each telephone meeting was reduced to \$500. Also effective January 1, 2002, the chairman of each committee of the Board of Directors receives an annual cash fee of \$4,000. Directors are also reimbursed for expenses incurred by them which are incidental to attending meetings.

Pursuant to our Outside Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Deferred Compensation Plan"), an outside director may elect to defer all or a portion of any fee received for services. The Deferred Compensation Plan is a voluntary participation plan administered by the Human Resources Committee of our Board of Directors. In addition, an outside director may elect to have all or a portion of any cash fees paid in stock pursuant to our Long Term Incentive and Share Award Plan.

Board Meetings and Committees of the Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors met ten times during 2001. All directors attended at least 75% of the total number of board and committee meetings held while they served as a director or member of a committee. We have an Audit and Finance Committee, a Human Resources Committee, a Nominating Committee and a Corporate Public Policy Committee.

The Audit and Finance Committee is currently composed of Dr. Budig, Chairman, Mr. Chandler and Mr. Edwards. Each of these persons is an independent director as required by the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. The principal responsibilities of the committee are described in the Audit Committee Charter which is reviewed annually by the committee. A copy of the Charter is available from our Corporate Secretary. The committee reviews the nature of all services performed by the external auditors, including the scope and general extent of their audit examination and the basis for their compensation. It also recommends the independent auditor for approval by the full Board of Directors. This committee held six meetings during 2001.

The Human Resources Committee is currently composed of Mr. Becker, Chairman, Dr. Budig and Mr. Dicus. This committee reviews the performance of corporate officers and changes in officer compensation and benefits. This committee held six meetings during 2001.

The Nominating Committee is currently composed of Mr. Nettels, Chairman, Mr. Becker and Mr. Edwards. This committee reviews and recommends nominees for election to our Board of Directors including nominees recommended by shareholders if nominations are submitted in accordance with the procedures for shareholder proposals discussed later in this proxy statement. This committee held one meeting in 2001.

The Corporate Public Policy Committee is currently composed of Mr. Dicus, Chairman, Mr. Chandler, and Mr. Lake. This committee reviews our major strategic programs relating to community relations, customer relations, corporate contributions and other public affairs issues. This committee held one meeting during 2001.

Audit and Finance Committee Report

The Company's Audit and Finance Committee of the Board of Directors consists of directors who, in the business judgment of the Board of Directors, are independent under the New York Stock Exchange listing standards. In addition, in the business judgment of the Board of Directors, at least one of the members has accounting or related financial management experience required under the listing standards. The Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, a copy of which is available from the Company's Corporate Secretary. As required by the charter, the Committee reviews and reassesses the charter annually and recommends any changes to the Board of Directors for approval.

Under the charter, the Company's management has the primary responsibility for preparing the Company's financial statements and establishing and maintaining an appropriate system of internal controls related to the financial reporting process. The independent accountants have the responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements based on an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The Committee has the responsibility to monitor and provide oversight of management's responsibility. The Committee is not providing any expert or special assurance as to the Company's financial statements or any professional certification as to the independent accountants' work.

In fulfilling its responsibilities for the year ended December 31, 2001, the Committee:

- . recommended to the Board of Directors the selection of the Company's independent accountants, Arthur Andersen LLP;
- . reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements with management;
- . discussed with Arthur Andersen LLP the matters required to be communicated under Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees, as then in effect;
- . received from Arthur Andersen LLP the written disclosures and letter required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees, as then in effect;
- . discussed with Arthur Andersen LLP its independence; and
- . received a report from the Company's Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on Arthur Andersen LLP's qualifications, independence and responses to the Company's due diligence questions.

In addition, the Committee met with management and representatives of Arthur Andersen LLP to review the Company's audited financial statements and the overall quality of the Company's accounting and financial reporting.

Based on the actions detailed in this report, the Committee authorized the audited financial statements to be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 and for such report to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Committee's authorization considered the Committee's review of Arthur Andersen LLP's qualifications as independent accountants for the Company. In addition, the review included matters required to be considered under Securities and Exchange Commission rules on auditor independence, including the nature and extent of non-audit services. In the Committee's business judgment, the nature and extent of non-audit services performed by Arthur Andersen LLP during the year did not impair the firm's independence.

The Audit and Finance Committee

Gene A. Budig, Chairman
Charles Q. Chandler, IV
R.A. Edwards

Human Resources Committee Report

The executive compensation programs of the Company are administered by the Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Committee"), which is composed of three non-employee directors. The Committee reviews and approves all issues pertaining to executive compensation. The objective of the Company's three compensation programs (base salary, short term incentive and long term incentive) is to provide compensation that enables the Company to attract, motivate and retain talented and dedicated executives, foster a team orientation toward the achievement of business objectives, and directly link the success of our executives with that of our shareholders.

The Company extends participation in its long term and short term incentive programs to certain key employees in addition to executive officers based on their potential to contribute to increasing shareholder value.

In structuring the Company's compensation plans, the Committee takes into consideration Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (which disallows the deduction of compensation in excess of \$1.0 million except for certain payments based upon performance goals) and other factors the Committee deems appropriate. As a result, if such compensation in excess of \$1.0 million is paid under the Company's compensation plans, a portion may not be deductible under Section 162(m).

Base Salary Compensation

A base salary range is established for each executive position to reflect the potential contribution of each position to the achievement of the Company's business objectives and to be competitive with the base salaries paid for comparable positions in the national market by diversified consumer services companies, with emphasis on electric energy and monitored security services with annual total revenues comparable to ours. Some, but not all, of such companies are included in the Standard & Poor's Electric Companies Index. The Committee utilized industry information for compensation purposes. Not all companies comprising such index participate in making available such industry information. In addition, the Committee considers information about other companies with which the Committee believes the Company competes for executives, but which are not part of such industry information. The mid-point for each base salary range is intended to approximate the average base

salary for the relevant position in the national market. Industry surveys by national industry associations are the primary source of this market information. The Committee also utilizes the services of an independent compensation consultant to provide national market data for executive positions and to evaluate the appropriateness of the Company's executive compensation and benefit programs.

Within the established base salary ranges, actual base salary is determined by the Company's financial performance in relation to attainment of specific goals, such as earnings per share and total return to shareholders, and a subjective assessment of each executive's achievement of individual objectives and managerial effectiveness. The Committee annually reviews the performance of the Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers. The Committee, after consideration of the Company's financial performance, and such other subjective factors as the Committee deems appropriate for the period being reviewed, establishes the base compensation of such officers.

In reviewing the annual achievement of each executive and setting the new base annual salary levels for 2001, the Committee considered each individual's contribution toward meeting the board-approved budgeted financial plan for the previous year, total return to shareholders, earnings per share, customer satisfaction, compliance with the Company's capital financial plan, the Company's budgets, the individual's management effectiveness and the individual's base compensation compared to the national market. In October 2001, several executive officers retired, and other officers were promoted or new officers were appointed to assume their responsibilities. The base compensation of these officers was increased effective November 1, 2001 to be commensurate with their new responsibilities.

Annual Incentive Compensation

All executive officers are eligible for annual incentive compensation.

The primary form of short term incentive compensation is the Company's Short Term Incentive Plan for employees selected by the Committee, including the named executive officers, who have an opportunity to directly and substantially contribute to the Company's achievement of short term objectives. Short term incentives are structured so that potential compensation is comparable with short term compensation granted to comparable positions in the national market. Short term incentives are targeted to approximate the median in the national market. Some, but not all, of such companies are included in the Standard & Poor's Electric Companies Index. Awards in excess of the targets may be payable if the financial goals set by the Committee are exceeded. The Committee may grant performance based awards to the Chief Executive Officer and the other four most highly compensated officers of the Company who are or may be subject to Section 162(m) of the Code without being subject to the \$1 million limitation on deductibility for federal income tax purposes.

For 2001, Mr. Wittig was eligible for an annual short term incentive target of 90% of base salary. Other participants were eligible for annual short term incentive targets ranging from 15% to 80% of base salary. For executive officers, 20% to 40% of the annual incentive was tied to the attainment of individual goals and management skills. The balance was based upon the Company's achievement of financial goals that are established annually by the Committee.

Changes in annual incentive compensation to the named executive officers in 2001 compared to 2000 resulted from an individual's relative attainment of his or her goals, the achievement of certain

performance standards for business units over which an executive officer had responsibility, and the Company failing to achieve budgeted adjusted earnings per share and shareholder value goals.

Long Term Incentives

Long term incentive compensation is offered to employees who are in positions which can affect the Company's long term success through the formation and execution of its business strategies. Long term incentive compensation currently takes the form of grants of restricted share units and dividend equivalents under the Company's 1996 Long Term Incentive and Share Award Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan has been established to advance the interests of the Company and its shareholders by providing a means to attract, retain, and motivate employees and directors upon whose judgment, initiative and effort the Company's continued success, growth and development is dependent. The purposes of long term incentive compensation are to: (1) focus key employees' efforts on performance which will increase the value of the Company to its shareholders; (2) align the interests of management with those of the Company's shareholders; (3) provide a competitive long term incentive opportunity; and (4) provide a retention incentive for key employees.

All non-union employees are eligible for grants under the Plan. Under the Plan, awards are provided to such participants and in such amounts as the Committee deems appropriate. The number and form of awards vary on the basis of position and pay grade. The level of total compensation for similar executive positions in companies considered comparable by the Committee was used as a reference in establishing the level of awards.

The use of restricted share units and dividend equivalents as a significant component of compensation creates a strong and direct linkage between the financial outcomes of the employees and the shareholders. Restricted share units require specified appreciation in the share price of the Company's common stock and the continued employment of the executive until the specified appreciation occurs, unless the executive's employment terminates due to retirement, death, disability, termination without cause by us, for good reason by the executive or a change in control of the Company. Restricted share units granted in 2001 vest if the share price of the Company's common stock remains at or above \$27.83 for any period of twenty consecutive trading days beginning on February 8, 2001, the date of grant, and ending on February 7, 2011. Dividend equivalents are paid on the restricted share units from the date of grant. The value of a single dividend equivalent is equal to the dividends that would have been paid or payable on a share of common stock from the date of grant.

In April 1999, the Committee adopted a stock for compensation program which allowed the Company's executive officers and other key employees to receive up to a specified percentage of base compensation in the form of restricted share units. The percentage of base compensation allowed to be paid in restricted share units ranged from approximately 5% to approximately 60% depending on the salary of the individual. Restricted share units were valued based upon 85% of the closing price for the Company's common stock on the date of payment. In 2001, this program was modified to allow participants to purchase shares of the Company's common stock, rather than receive restricted share units, at 85% of the closing price for the Company's common stock on the date of purchase. In addition, the limitations on the percentage of base compensation allowed to be used to purchase shares and certain deferral requirements were eliminated. In 2001, Mr. Wittig elected to purchase shares of the Company's common stock with approximately 58.5% of his base compensation under the program.

In the event of a change in control, restricted share units and dividend equivalents may accelerate and vest with performance criteria deemed satisfied.

Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Wittig's base salary and his annual short term incentive compensation are established annually. In recommending the base salary to be effective in 2001, while not utilizing any specific performance formula and without ranking the relative importance of each factor, the Committee took into account relevant salary information in the national market and the Committee's subjective evaluation of Mr. Wittig's overall management effectiveness in his position as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and his achievement of individual goals. Factors considered included his continuing leadership of the Company and his contribution to strategic direction, management of change in an increasingly competitive environment, management of operations, and the overall productivity of the Company. The Committee also took into account the recommendations made by an independent compensation consultant. Mr. Wittig's base salary was not changed in 2001.

The Committee took no action with respect to Mr. Wittig's 2001 short term incentive compensation. The Committee may re-examine whether to make an award in the future based upon an evaluation of the effectiveness of various management and operational changes made late in 2001. The long term incentive compensation of Mr. Wittig included restricted share units and dividend equivalents granted based upon the factors described under Long Term Incentives above.

The Human Resources Committee

Frank J. Becker, Chairman
Gene A . Budig
John C. Dicus

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF VOTING SECURITIES

Certain Beneficial Owners of Common Stock

Other than as set forth in the following table, we know of no other beneficial owner of more than five percent of our outstanding common stock. The information provided is as of April 16, 2002.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner of	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class
Westar Industries, Inc.(1) 818 S. Kansas Avenue Topeka, KS 66612	15,769,508	22.0%(2)
Mario J. Gabelli(3) Marc J. Gabelli One Corporate Center Rye, NY 10580	3,540,600	5.0%
Wallace R. Weitz and Company(4) 1125 S. 103rd Street, Suite 600 Omaha, NE 68124-6008	6,578,100	9.4%

- (1)Westar is our wholly owned subsidiary. We have shared investment power with respect to, and are deemed to beneficially own these shares under Rule 13d-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Under Kansas law, the shares held by Westar are not entitled to vote as long as Westar remains our majority owned subsidiary.
- (2)The percent is calculated pursuant to Section 13(d)(4) of the Exchange Act, which excludes from outstanding shares any shares held by us or any of our subsidiaries. The percent is 18.0% if the shares held by Westar and Protection One are included in outstanding shares.
- (3)As reported in a Schedule 13D filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 11, 2002 by Mario J. Gabelli and Marc J. Gabelli and various entities which either one directly or indirectly controls or for which either one acts as chief investment officer.
- (4)As reported in a Schedule 13D/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 5, 2002.

Certain Beneficial Owners of Preferred Stock

Protection One owns 3,890 shares of our 41/4% series preferred stock, representing 6.9% of such class, 13,458 shares of our 41/2% series preferred stock, representing 10.8% of such class, and 12,220 shares of our 5% series preferred stock, representing 32.3% of such class. The percent is calculated pursuant to Section 13(d)(4) of the Exchange Act, which excludes from outstanding shares any shares held by us or any of our subsidiaries. If the shares held by Protection One are included in the outstanding shares, Protection One owns 6.5% of our 41/4% series preferred stock, 9.7% of our 41/2% series preferred stock, and 24.4% of our 5% series preferred stock. Under Kansas law, the shares held by Protection One are not entitled to vote as long as Protection One remains our indirect majority owned subsidiary.

Change in Control

On November 8, 2000, we entered into an agreement with Public Service Company of New Mexico ("PNM") pursuant to which PNM would acquire our electric utility businesses in a stock for stock merger. Under the terms of the agreement, both we and PNM would become subsidiaries of a new holding company, subject to customary closing conditions, including shareholder and regulatory approvals. On January 7, 2002, PNM sent a letter to us purporting to terminate the merger in accordance with the terms of the merger agreement. We have notified PNM that we believe the purported termination of the merger agreement was ineffective and that PNM remains obligated to perform thereunder. Based upon PNM's actions and the related uncertainties, we believe the closing of the proposed merger is not likely to occur.

Security Ownership of Management

The following information is furnished with respect to each of our current directors and named executive officers individually, and with respect to our current directors and executive officers as a group, as to ownership of shares of our common stock and the common stock of Protection One. The information provided is as of April 16, 2002.

Name of Beneficial Owner -----	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership of Western Resources Stock (1)	Percentage of Ownership (2)	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership of Protection One Stock (3)
Frank J. Becker	38,801(4)(5)	--	31,800(4)
Gene A. Budig	12,864(5)	--	5,014(6)
Charles Q. Chandler, IV	3,917(5)	--	3,333(6)
John C. Dicus	7,335(5)(7)	--	--
R.A. Edwards	8,169(8)	--	--
Paul R. Geist	34,128(5)	--	6,500
Thomas L. Grennan	80,761(5)	--	--
Carl M. Koupal, Jr.	154,184(5)	--	--
Douglas T. Lake	299,362(5)	--	38,800
Shane A. Mathis	57,466(5)	--	--
John C. Nettels, Jr.	6,140(5)(8)	--	13,833(6)(9)
Douglas R. Sterbenz	23,400(5)	--	--
David C. Wittig	807,788(1)(5)(10)	1.1%	237,500(11)
All directors and executive officers as a group (13 individuals)	1,545,832(12)	2.2%	336,780(13)

-
- (1) No director or executive officer, except Mr. Wittig, owns any of our equity securities other than our common stock. Includes beneficially owned shares held in employee savings plans and shares deferred under the Long Term Incentive and Share Award Plan, the Stock for Compensation Program and the Outside Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan. Mr. Wittig holds 2,800 shares of our 4.25% series preferred stock indirectly through his sons, 2,400 shares of our 4 1/4% series preferred stock directly, and 1,458 shares of our 4 1/2% series preferred stock directly. The shares of our 4 1/4% series preferred stock and 4 1/2% series preferred stock beneficially owned by Mr. Wittig represent 9.3% and 1.2% of the outstanding shares of each series, respectively.
 - (2) Percentages are omitted if a person owns less than one percent of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Percentages are calculated excluding shares held by Westar and Protection One.
 - (3) Each individual and the group owns less than one percent of the outstanding shares of Protection One's common stock. No director or executive officer owns any equity securities of Protection One other than Protection One's common stock.
 - (4) Includes 2,800 shares of our common stock and 5,000 shares of Protection One common stock held in trusts of which Mr. Becker is a co-trustee with shared voting and investment power and excludes shares held in trust by Douglas County Bank, of which Mr. Becker is a director.
 - (5) Includes restricted share units as follows: Mr. Becker, 798; Dr. Budig, 798; Mr. Chandler, 798; Mr. Dicus, 498; Mr. Geist, 9,200; Mr. Grennan, 45,300; Mr. Koupal, 151,724; Mr. Lake, 207,999; Mr. Mathis, 36,199; Mr. Nettels, 798; Mr. Sterbenz, 6,970; Mr. Wittig, 412,022; and 13,586 restricted share units granted to one other executive officer in the group.
 - (6) Includes stock options exercisable currently or within sixty days: Dr. Budig, 1,014 shares; Mr. Chandler, 3,333 shares; and Mr. Nettels, 10,833 shares.
 - (7) Includes 500 shares held by Mr. Dicus' spouse, not subject to his voting or investment power.
 - (8) Includes 1,709 shares held by Mr. Edwards' spouse, not subject to his voting or investment power.
 - (9) Includes 500 shares held in a trust in which Mr. Nettels has shared investment and voting power.

- (10) Includes 31,484 shares held by Mr. Wittig's spouse, not subject to his voting or investment power.
- (11) Mr. Wittig holds the shares indirectly through his two sons, who each hold 118,750 shares.
- (12) Includes shares referred to in items (1), (4), (5), (7), (8) and (10) above.
- (13) Includes shares referred to in items (3), (4), (6), (9) and (11) above.

COMPENSATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth the compensation of our named executive officers for the last three completed fiscal years:

Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation		Long Term Compensation Awards			
		Salary \$	Bonus \$	Other Annual Compensation \$(1)	Restricted Stock Awards \$(2)	Securities Underlying Options #	All Other Compensation \$(3)
David C. Wittig (4) Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer	2001	313,026	--	163,936	2,643,245	--	489,896
	2000	303,400	1,171,170	134,794	2,155,781	58,500	486,969
	1999	408,683	--	105,909	1,738,625	114,000	5,756,753
Douglas T. Lake Executive Vice President, Chief Strategic Officer	2001	463,344	178,000	18,536	1,546,360	--	5,758
	2000	224,476	642,706	57,417	1,317,813	9,000	700,999
	1999	266,849	--	31,494	948,219	40,000	429,664
Douglas R. Sterbenz Senior Vice President, Generation and Marketing	2001	190,963	150,256	22,080	24,200	--	7,362
	2000	115,000	165,735	3,602	15,625	2,700	19,327
	1999	113,573	318,207	573	--	2,700	7,463
Shane A. Mathis Senior Vice President, Commodity Strategy	2001	226,276	74,600	2,628	338,800	--	18,933
	2000	158,756	149,180	5,922	391,288	3,500	40,806
	1999	150,625	30,900	4,575	--	3,500	28,778
Carl M. Koupal, Jr. Retired Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer	2001	273,453	--	16,770	1,010,810	--	817,254
	2000	290,740	427,078	9,847	930,000	9,000	48,318
	1999	307,020	--	13,045	612,313	28,000	42,327
Thomas L. Grennan Retired Executive Vice President, Electric Operations	2001	212,533	--	52,171	692,207	--	589,832
	2000	175,750	299,702	56,375	496,875	6,000	69,953
	1999	187,708	--	35,965	445,000	20,000	64,292
Paul R. Geist Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	2001	167,111	50,000	1,014	77,440	--	13,562
	2000	118,000	31,221	125	93,750	--	1,033
	1999	12,962	11,290	--	--	--	354

- (1) Other Annual Compensation for 2001 includes the following items: (a) payments for federal and state taxes associated with personal benefits and financial and tax planning (Mr. Wittig, \$32,762, Mr. Lake, \$17,383, Mr. Mathis, \$1,995, Mr. Koupal, \$11,459, Mr. Grennan, \$9,427, and Mr. Geist, \$1,005); (b) interest on deferred compensation in excess of the applicable federal long term interest rate (Mr. Wittig, \$42,999, Mr. Sterbenz, \$270, Mr. Mathis, \$293, Mr. Koupal, \$1,928, and Mr. Grennan, \$31,337); and (c) value of discounts received on stock compensation (Mr. Wittig, \$88,175, Mr. Lake, \$1,153, Mr. Sterbenz, \$21,810, Mr. Mathis, \$340, Mr. Koupal, \$3,383, Mr. Grennan, \$11,407, and Mr. Geist, \$9).
- (2) The reported dollar value of restricted share units is equal to the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant, multiplied by the total number of restricted share units granted to the named executive officer. See the Human Resources Committee Report for a discussion of vesting of these restricted share units. The aggregate restricted share units held by each of the named executive officers as of December 31, 2001 were as follows: Mr. Wittig, 412,022, Mr. Lake, 207,999, Mr. Sterbenz, 3,310, Mr. Mathis, 36,199, Mr. Koupal, 151,724, Mr. Grennan, 85,777, and Mr. Geist, 9,200. Based on the closing price of our common stock on December 31, 2001 of \$17.20 per share, the restricted share units had an aggregate value on that date of: Mr. Wittig, \$7,086,778, Mr. Lake, \$3,577,583, Mr. Sterbenz, \$56,932, Mr. Mathis, \$622,623, Mr. Koupal,

\$2,609,653, Mr. Grennan, \$1,475,364, and Mr. Geist, \$158,240. This value may not represent the ultimate value of the restricted share units to the employee or us. Dividend equivalents are paid on the restricted share units from the date of grant.

- (3) All Other Compensation for 2001 includes the following items: (a) company contributions under our 401(k) savings plan, a defined contribution plan (Mr. Wittig, Mr. Sterbenz, Mr. Mathis and Mr. Geist, \$5,100 each, Mr. Lake, \$4,371, Mr. Koupal, \$4,985, and Mr. Grennan, \$3,575); (b) premiums paid on term life insurance policies (Mr. Wittig, \$1,608, Mr. Lake, \$1,387, Mr. Sterbenz, \$187, Mr. Mathis, \$275, Mr. Koupal, \$727, Mr. Grennan, \$552, and Mr. Geist, \$171); (c) imputed income on split dollar life insurance policies (Mr. Wittig, \$42,967 and Mr. Koupal, \$16,365); (d) value of shares received under our stock for compensation program in lieu of cash compensation (Mr. Wittig, \$440,220, Mr. Koupal, \$9,726, and Mr. Grennan, \$29,129); and (e) \$773,378 paid to Mr. Koupal and \$544,502 payable to Mr. Grennan in connection with their retirements.
- (4) See the Human Resources Committee Report for a discussion of Mr. Wittig's 2001 short term incentive compensation.

Retirement Plans

We maintain a qualified non-contributory defined benefit pension plan and a non-qualified supplemental retirement plan for certain of our management employees, including executive officers, who are selected by the Human Resources Committee of our Board of Directors. Benefits payable from the qualified pension plan are limited by provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. The non-qualified supplemental retirement plan provides for the payment of retirement benefits in addition to those provided under the qualified pension plan.

The following table sets forth the estimated annual benefits payable to the named executive officers upon specified remuneration based on age 65 as of January 1, 2002. The amounts presented do not take into account any reduction for joint and survivorship payments.

ANNUAL PENSION BENEFIT FROM QUALIFIED AND NON-QUALIFIED PLANS

Average Applicable Compensation	Pension Benefit	Average Applicable Compensation	Pension Benefit
\$150,000	\$ 92,550	\$1,150,000	\$ 709,550
\$200,000	\$123,400	\$1,200,000	\$ 740,400
\$250,000	\$154,250	\$1,250,000	\$ 771,250
\$300,000	\$185,100	\$1,300,000	\$ 802,100
\$350,000	\$215,950	\$1,350,000	\$ 832,950
\$400,000	\$246,800	\$1,400,000	\$ 863,800
\$450,000	\$277,650	\$1,450,000	\$ 894,650
\$500,000	\$308,500	\$1,500,000	\$ 925,500
\$550,000	\$339,350	\$1,550,000	\$ 956,350
\$600,000	\$370,200	\$1,600,000	\$ 987,200
\$650,000	\$401,050	\$1,650,000	\$1,018,050
\$700,000	\$431,900	\$1,700,000	\$1,048,900
\$750,000	\$462,750	\$1,750,000	\$1,079,750
\$800,000	\$493,600	\$1,800,000	\$1,110,600
\$850,000	\$524,450	\$1,850,000	\$1,141,450
\$900,000	\$555,300	\$1,900,000	\$1,172,300
\$950,000	\$586,150	\$1,950,000	\$1,203,150
\$1,000,000	\$617,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,234,000
\$1,050,000	\$647,850	\$2,050,000	\$1,264,850
\$1,100,000	\$678,700	\$2,100,000	\$1,295,700

The supplemental retirement plan provides a retirement benefit at or after age 65, or upon disability prior to age 65, in an amount equal to 61.7% of final three-year average cash compensation (including share awards under the Stock for Compensation Program) and annual incentive bonuses, reduced by the benefits under the qualified pension plan (but not social security benefits), such amount to be paid to the employee or his designated beneficiaries for the employee's life with a 15-year term certain. The percentage of final three-year average compensation to be paid commencing at age 65, before reduction for qualified pension plan benefits, is 50% for a person retiring at age 50 increasing to 61.7% at age 65. An employee retiring at or after age 50, but before age 65, may receive a reduced benefit, payable in the same form commencing prior to age 65. The age 65 benefits are reduced by 5% per year if commenced prior to age 60, but no earlier than age 50. The supplemental plan vests 10% per year after five years of service until fully vested with 15 years of service or at age 65. Under the qualified plan, full vesting occurs after 5 years of service. The supplemental plan also pays a death benefit if death occurs before retirement, equal to 50% of the employee's previous three year average compensation (or the vested retirement benefit percentage, whichever is higher) to his or her beneficiary for fifteen years following his or her death. All of the individuals listed in the compensation table are covered by the qualified plan and all such individuals other than Mr. Sterbenz and Mr. Geist are covered by the supplemental retirement plan. In the event of a change in control of us, participants may be deemed to be 65 years of age as of the date of such change in control for purposes of vesting and benefits.

The years of service as of January 1, 2002 for the named executive officers are as follows: Mr. Wittig, six years; Mr. Lake, three years; Mr. Sterbenz, four years, Mr. Mathis, four years, Mr. Koupal, ten years; Mr. Grennan, twenty-seven years; and Mr. Geist, two years.

Split Dollar Life Insurance Program

We established a split dollar life insurance program for our benefit and for the benefit of certain of our officers, including executive officers. Under the split dollar life insurance program, we purchase a life insurance policy on the insured's life and, upon termination of the policy or the insured's death, the insured's beneficiary is entitled to a death benefit in an amount equal to the face amount of the policy reduced by the greater of (i) all premiums paid by us and (ii) the cash surrender value of the policy, which amount, at the death of the insured or termination of the policy, as the case may be, will be returned to us. We retain an equity interest in the death benefit and cash value of the policy to secure this repayment obligation.

Subject to certain conditions, beginning on the earlier of (i) three years from the date of the policy or (ii) the first day of the calendar year next following the date of the insured's retirement, the insured is allowed to transfer to us from time to time, in whole or in part, his interest in the death benefit under the policy at a discount equal to \$1 for each \$1.50 of the portion of the death benefit for which the insured may designate the beneficiary, subject to adjustment if the participant does not retire within six months of the date of agreement based on the total return to shareowners from the date of the policy. Any adjustment would result in an exchange of no more than \$1 for each \$1 of death benefit nor less than \$1 for each \$2 of death benefit. At December 31, 2001, our liability under this program was approximately \$18.6 million. Mr. Koupal retired in October 2001 and received a payment in January 2002 of approximately \$4.6 million under the program in exchange for his assignment to us of approximately \$9.1 million of insurance benefits. The program has been designed such that upon the insured's death we will recover our premium payments from the policy and any amounts paid by us to the insured for the transfer of his interest in the death benefit.

Employment and Change in Control Agreements

We have entered into employment agreements with Mr. Wittig and Mr. Lake, each of which contains change in control provisions, and change in control agreements with Mr. Mathis and Mr. Geist and other of our officers and key employees. The agreements have three year terms with an automatic extension of one year on each anniversary, unless prior notice is given by the officer or by us. The agreements are intended to insure the officers' continued service and dedication to us and to ensure their objectivity in considering on our behalf any transaction which would result in a change in control of us.

Under the employment agreements, an officer is entitled to benefits, if his or her employment is terminated by us other than for Cause or upon death, disability or retirement, or by the officer for Good Reason, each as defined in the agreements. Under the change in control agreements, benefits are provided for such terminations only if they occur within two years of a change in control. Under the employment agreements, benefits would also be provided if the officer were to terminate his or her employment, regardless of the reason, within 90 days of a change in control or if, in connection with a change in control, the officer were to leave our employ and become an employee of a former subsidiary which is then a separate, publicly traded company. A termination that would result in payments becoming payable is referred to as "Qualifying Termination."

The employment agreements provide for annual salaries at the executive's base salary on September 19, 2000, the date of the agreements, with annual reviews by the Board of Directors, and participation in all employee benefit and incentive plans, programs and perquisites offered to our senior executives and reimbursement of business expenses. In addition to performing their duties, the executives have also agreed to keep certain company information confidential, not to solicit certain employees to leave our employ, and not to disparage us or our representatives.

Upon a Qualifying Termination, we, or our successor, must make a lump-sum cash payment to the officer, in addition to any other compensation to which the officer is entitled, of two (2.99 in the case of Mr. Wittig and Mr. Lake) times the higher of such officer's base salary and 90% of the position's job value ("Adjusted Salary"); two (2.99 in the case of Mr. Wittig and Mr. Lake) times the higher of the highest bonus paid to such officer for the last three fiscal years and the officer's target bonus ("Bonus Amount"); and for officers not participating in our executive salary continuation plan, the actuarial equivalent of the excess of the officer's accrued pension benefits, computed as if the officer had two additional years of benefit accrual service, over the officer's vested accrued pension benefits utilizing the officer's current salary without regard for any salary limits imposed for qualified pension plans.

In addition, we must offer health, disability and life insurance coverage to the officer and his or her dependents on the same terms and conditions that existed immediately prior to the termination for two (three in the case of Mr. Wittig and Mr. Lake) years, or, if earlier, until such officer is covered by equivalent benefits, continuation of financial and legal counseling services, participation in our matching gift program for two (three in the case of Mr. Wittig and Mr. Lake) additional years, and outplacement services. The employment agreements also provide for additional payments, if required, to make the individuals whole for any excise tax imposed under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, to pay certain relocation costs within eighteen months of the officer's termination of employment, and provision of retiree medical benefits.

In the event of a Qualifying Termination, dividend equivalents, restricted share units and other stock based incentives or compensation accelerate and vest and restrictions or performance criteria lapse.

Our supplemental retirement plan described above under "Annual Pension Benefit from Qualified and Non-Qualified Plans" provides supplemental retirement benefits to designated participants, including the named executive officers other than Mr. Sterbenz and Mr. Geist. The plan provides in the event of a change in control, all active participants in the plan will be deemed to be 65 years of age for purposes of determining the maximum percentage of retirement benefits and 100% vesting of such benefits with benefits commencing not earlier than age 50. In addition, the plan provides for the funding of the plan benefits through our contributions into a rabbi trust under certain circumstances, including a change in control. The employment agreements for Mr. Wittig and Mr. Lake, provide that full benefits under the plan shall commence immediately upon a Qualifying Termination and shall be calculated using the officer's Adjusted Salary and Bonus Amount.

Under the employment agreements, if the officer is entitled to benefits under any split dollar life insurance agreement, a Qualifying Termination will result in the vesting of the base amount benefit (as defined in the split dollar agreement) under the program. Upon a Qualifying Termination, benefits payable under the split dollar life insurance program are required to be deposited into a rabbi trust.

"Cause" is defined as the willful and continued failure to perform substantially his or her duties or the willful engaging in illegal conduct demonstrably and materially injurious to us. "Good Reason" is defined as any material and adverse change in the executive's position or responsibilities; a reduction in base salary, annual target bonus opportunity or targeted long term incentive value; relocation; reduction in benefits; or termination of the agreement.

Mr. Lake's agreement with us relating to his initial employment provides for a payment of \$1 million on September 15, 2002 if he remains in our employ or is terminated by us without Cause or by Mr. Lake for Good Reason. Upon a Qualifying Termination, this payment will become due on the date of termination.

In connection with the retirements of Mr. Koupal and Mr. Grennan, we made lump sum payments to Mr. Koupal and Mr. Grennan of \$773,378 and \$544,502, respectively, which included amounts for accumulated but unused vacation and in the case of Mr. Koupal a \$25,000 payment for accounting and legal expenses. In addition, Mr. Koupal and Mr. Grennan may continue to participate on the same terms as active employees in our group medical and dental plans until the earlier of October 31, 2004 or the date on which they become eligible for coverage through employment with another employer, and are entitled to reimbursement for outplacement services and relocation expenses up to \$50,000 each. Mr. Koupal and Mr. Grennan retained restricted share units granted to them, which will vest on the same basis as if they had remained in our active employment. Mr. Koupal and Mr. Grennan also retained their benefits under our defined benefit pension plan and supplemental retirement plan.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with Protection One

Contribution Agreement

Pursuant to the Contribution Agreement between Protection One and us dated July 30, 1997, we contributed our monitored security businesses to Protection One and acquired an ownership interest in

Protection One. As a result, we owned, through Westar, approximately 85% of Protection One's common stock at December 31, 1997.

The Contribution Agreement provided that during the 10-year period following November 24, 1997, a merger or a sale of all or substantially all of Protection One's assets involving us or any affiliate of us generally will require the prior approval of a majority of the "Independent Directors" (as defined in the Contribution Agreement), and we may not acquire beneficial ownership of more than 85% of Protection One's outstanding shares of Common Stock or other voting securities except under specified circumstances and subject to specified limitations. On June 2001, Protection One's "Continuing Directors" (as defined in the Contribution Agreement), approved an amendment to the Contribution Agreement which permits our beneficial ownership of Protection One's outstanding common stock to exceed 85% provided that our beneficial ownership on a fully diluted basis does not exceed 81% of the outstanding shares. On March 18, 2002, Protection One's "Continuing Directors" approved a waiver of the ownership limitation for the period March 11, 2002 through July 1, 2002. As of December 31, 2001, the shares of Protection One common stock owned by Westar represented approximately 88% of the outstanding shares on a non-diluted basis.

On October 18, 2001, Protection One's "Continuing Directors" approved an amendment to the Contribution Agreement that decreased the size of its Board of Directors and modified the persons for whom we have agreed to vote our shares in the election of directors. As a result of the amendment, so long as we directly or indirectly own more than 50% of the outstanding shares of Protection One's common stock, Protection One's Board of Directors will have not less than nine nor more than twelve directors, and we will vote all such shares we own to elect as directors one individual selected by us from Protection One's executive officers, at least three "Independent Directors" (as defined in the Contribution Agreement) and the number of additional individuals nominated by us to fill the remaining positions on the Board of Directors.

Service Agreement

Protection One is a party to a service agreement with us. Pursuant to this agreement, we provide administrative services including accounting, tax, audit, human resources, legal, facilities and technology services. Protection One incurred charges of approximately \$8.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. These charges were based upon various hourly charges, negotiated fees and out-of-pocket expenses. At December 31, 2001, Protection One had a net intercompany balance due to us of approximately \$1.7 million for these services.

Tax Sharing Agreement

We have a tax sharing agreement with Protection One. This pro rata tax sharing agreement allows Protection One to be reimbursed for current tax benefits utilized in our consolidated tax return. We and Protection One are eligible to file on a consolidated basis for tax purposes as long as we maintain an 80% ownership interest in Protection One. In 2001, we reimbursed Protection One \$11.8 million for tax year 2001 and \$7.4 million for tax year 2000 for the tax benefit.

At December 31, 2001, we had a payable balance to Protection One of \$1.7 million, which reflected the balance of the estimated tax benefit to be utilized by us in our 2001 consolidated income tax return less an estimated amount for alternative minimum tax carry forwards. We paid this amount to Protection One in February 2002.

Office Space

Protection One leases office space from us in our general offices in Topeka and Wichita, Kansas. During 2001, we billed Protection One approximately \$546,459 for office space.

During the fourth quarter of 2001, Kansas Gas and Electric Company ("KGE"), our wholly owned subsidiary, entered into an option agreement to sell an office building located in downtown Wichita, Kansas, to Protection One. Protection One paid KGE approximately \$0.5 million pursuant to this agreement. The sales price was determined by management based on three independent appraisers' findings.

Purchases of Securities

In the latter part of 2001 through March 15, 2002, Protection One purchased in the open market 27,495 shares of our preferred stock for approximately \$1.7 million, 13,300 shares of our Quarterly Income Preferred Securities for approximately \$0.3 million, approximately \$9.7 million of our 6.25% Put/Call Notes (the "6.25% Notes"), approximately \$0.1 million in ONEOK common stock and approximately \$3.0 million of our common stock. In March 2002, we purchased the ONEOK stock, the 6.25% Notes and the Quarterly Income Preferred Securities from Protection One for approximately \$9.8 million.

Transactions with Westar

We had a payable to Westar of approximately \$67.7 million at December 31, 2001 on which we paid interest at the rate of 8.5% per annum. On February 28, 2001, Westar converted \$350.0 million of the then outstanding payable balance into approximately 14.4 million shares of our common stock, representing 16.9% of our outstanding common stock after conversion. These shares are reflected as treasury stock in our consolidated balance sheets. During the first quarter of 2002, we repaid the remaining balance owed to Westar. The proceeds were used by Westar to purchase our outstanding debt in the open market.

We have submitted a financial plan to the Kansas Corporation Commission ("KCC"). If the KCC approves our financial plan, at the closing of the proposed rights offering we would enter into an option agreement that grants Westar an option to purchase the stock of Westar Generating, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary that owns our interest in the State Line generating facility. The option would be exercisable at any time during the three year period following execution of the agreement, subject to extension for two additional one year periods. The option price is based on net book value at the time of exercise. The option would be exercisable only if Westar is unable to obtain a permanent exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

If the KCC approves our financial plan, Westar may extend loans, or guarantee payment of loans being extended by a bank or other lender, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$20 million for the purchase of shares of its common stock upon the exercise of rights by its officers and directors and certain of our officers and directors.

Transactions Between Westar and Our Subsidiaries

Protection One Credit Facility

Westar is the lender under Protection One's senior credit facility. Protection One had outstanding borrowings under the facility of \$137.5 million as of December 31, 2001. Protection One accrued interest expense of \$10.5 million and made interest payments of \$10.4 million on borrowings under the facility for the year ended December 31, 2001.

In the second quarter of 2001, Protection One requested and Westar agreed to modifications to the facility which excluded from EBITDA the costs associated with certain work force reductions and office consolidations resulting in expenses that otherwise would have resulted in the violation of certain financial covenants. In addition, the leverage ratio was amended to increase the maximum ratio to 5.75 to 1.0 and the interest coverage ratio was amended to decrease the minimum ratio to 2.1 to 1.0.

On November 1, 2001, the facility was amended to, among other things, extend the maturity date to January 3, 2003. On March 25, 2002, the facility was further amended to increase the amount of the facility to \$180 million. As of April 19, 2002, approximately \$142.5 million was drawn under the facility.

Purchases of Securities

During 2001, Protection One purchased 16,101,892 shares of its common stock from Westar at then current market prices for \$19.5 million.

In 2001, Protection One purchased from Westar \$93.7 million face value of Protection One bonds at their market value of \$61.8 million. The prices paid by Protection One for the debt securities were established by the board of directors of Protection One so as not to exceed the ten day average of the market price for such securities as quoted by a reputable New York broker who makes a market in the debt securities. Protection One relied on these quotes in order to meet the guidelines set by the Protection One board of directors in establishing the purchase prices.

In 2001, Protection One purchased 1,696 shares of our preferred stock from Westar for \$0.1 million. In March 2002, Protection One purchased from Westar approximately \$8.3 million face amount of Protection One's Senior Subordinated Discount Notes for approximately \$7.5 million and \$6.5 million face amount of Protection One's Senior Subordinated Notes for approximately \$4.5 million.

Other Transactions

On November 1, 2001, Protection One entered into an agreement pursuant to which it will pay to Westar, beginning with the quarter ending March 31, 2002, a fee for financial advisory and management services, payable quarterly, equal to 0.125% of Protection One's consolidated total assets at the end of each quarter. This agreement entitles Protection One, at its option, to aviation services from Westar Aviation, Inc. ("Westar Aviation"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Westar. This agreement was approved by the independent members of Protection One's board of directors.

Protection One compensates Westar Aviation for the use of corporate aircraft. During 2001, Westar Aviation billed Protection One approximately \$0.6 million for aircraft use.

Loans to Officers

In 2001, our Board of Directors approved stock ownership target levels for officers and other members of senior management. In December 2001, our Board of Directors also approved a loan program to assist officers in meeting their target levels. Pursuant to the program, each officer can borrow from us an amount up to one to three times the maximum base salary for his or her respective pay grade to purchase shares of our common stock in the market. Each loan has a term of three years, has a variable interest rate equal to our short term borrowing rate, requires quarterly interest payments

and requires payment in full at maturity. The loans are unsecured. In 2001, the following named executive officers had loans outstanding under the program with the indicated highest amount outstanding during the year: Mr. Lake, \$1,000,000; Mr. Mathis, \$300,000; and Mr. Geist, \$300,000. At April 29, 2002, the loans had the same outstanding balances, except that the outstanding balance of the loan to Mr. Geist was \$400,000.

PERFORMANCE GRAPH

[CHART]

	Western Resources	S&P 500	S&P Electrics
	-----	-----	-----
12/31/1996	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
12/31/1997	148.27	133.36	126.24
12/31/1998	121.18	171.48	147.11
12/31/1999	67.56	207.56	122.98
12/31/2000	107.00	188.64	189.19
12/31/2001	78.76	166.22	157.45

* Assumes \$100 invested on December 31, 1996. Total return assumes reinvestment of dividends.

AMENDMENT OF THE RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
(Item 2 on Proxy Card)

Proposal to Amend the Restated Articles of Incorporation to Change Our Name

The Board of Directors has unanimously approved an amendment to Article II of our Restated Articles of Incorporation that will change our name to Westar Energy, Inc. The Board of Directors recommended that the amendment be submitted to the shareholders for approval at the 2002 annual meeting of shareholders. For the reasons described below, the Board of Directors believes that approval of the amendment changing the name to Westar Energy, Inc. is in the best interests of us and our shareholders.

Reasons for Amendment

Historically, we have conducted our utility operations using the name "KPL" in northeastern Kansas and the names "Kansas Gas and Electric Company" or "KGE" in Wichita and southeastern Kansas. This is a result of our 1992 acquisition of the Kansas Gas and Electric Company, which exists as a wholly owned subsidiary. Despite these distinct names and the existence of Kansas Gas and Electric Company as a separate subsidiary, over time our day-to-day operations have become increasingly integrated. At the present time, we operate all of our regulated electric utility operations as a single, integrated business. To reflect this fact, we began using the name Westar Energy throughout Kansas beginning on January 1, 2002. We believe adopting this name as our corporate name will accurately reflect our integrated operations and our common culture.

Our name change will not in any way affect the validity of currently outstanding stock certificates. Shareholders will not be required to surrender or exchange any stock certificates currently held. Our ticker symbol on the New York Stock Exchange will continue to be "WR." New share certificates issued upon transfer of shares will bear the name "Westar Energy, Inc." and will have a new CUSIP number. Delivery of existing stock certificates will continue to be accepted in transactions made by shareholders after the corporate name is changed.

The full text of Article II of the Restated Articles of Incorporation, as proposed to be amended, is as follows:

"Article II

The name of the Surviving Corporation is and shall be Westar Energy, Inc."

Vote Required

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the annual meeting is required to approve this amendment to our Restated Articles of Incorporation.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE ABOVE AMENDMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

The rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission require our directors and executive officers to file reports of their holdings and transactions in our common stock. Based solely on our review of the copies of reports filed under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act and written representations that no other reports were required, we believe that, during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, all required filings applicable to our executive officers, directors and owners of more than ten percent of our common stock were made and that such persons were in compliance with the Exchange Act requirements.

Shareholder Proposals

The 2003 Annual Meeting of Shareholders is tentatively scheduled to be held on June 10, 2003. Specific proposals of shareholders intended to be presented at the 2003 meeting must comply with the requirements of the Exchange Act and our amended Restated Articles of Incorporation. In order to be included in our 2003 proxy materials mailed to shareholders, shareholder proposals must be received by our Corporate Secretary by December 30, 2002. If a shareholder intends to present a proposal at the 2003 annual meeting other than pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act, the proposal must be received by our Corporate Secretary between April 21, 2003 and May 7, 2003. If the proposal is not received during such period, the proxies designated by our Board of Directors for the 2003 annual meeting may vote in their discretion on any such proposal any shares for which they have been appointed proxies without mention of such matter in the proxy statement for such meeting or on the proxy card for such meeting.

Independent Public Accountants

Arthur Andersen LLP has acted as our independent auditors since 1958. Representatives of Arthur Andersen LLP will be in attendance at the annual meeting, will be available to respond to appropriate questions from shareholders, and will be permitted to make a statement at the meeting if they desire to do so.

In addition to performing the audit of our consolidated financial statements, Arthur Andersen LLP provided various other services during 2001. The aggregate fees billed for 2001 for each of the following categories of services are set forth below:

Audit fees.....	\$1,041,622
Financial information systems design and implementation	\$ 0
All other fees	
Audit-related fees.....	2,357,014
Other fees.....	948,646

Total all other fees.....	3,305,660
Total fees.....	\$4,347,282
	=====

"All other fees" includes consultation and audit work performed with respect to strategic restructuring and business transactions, general and subsidiary accounting matters, compensation matters and benefit plans of us and our subsidiaries, and tax-related matters.

The Audit and Finance Committee of our Board of Directors reviewed the services provided by Arthur Andersen LLP, along with the fees related to such services. The Audit and Finance Committee is evaluating whether to engage Arthur Andersen LLP or another independent public accounting firm to audit our financial statements for the fiscal year 2002. The Committee will review the fees to be paid to and the services to be provided by the independent public accounting firm selected. The Committee has considered, and will consider, whether the provision of non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the independence of our independent accounting firm.

Annual Report to Shareholders

Our Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2001 accompanies this proxy statement. The Annual Report contains financial statements audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants. The Annual Report is not to be considered as a part of the proxy solicitation material or as having been incorporated by reference.

Other Business

Under the laws of Kansas, where we are incorporated, no business other than procedural matters may be raised at the annual meeting unless proper notice to the shareholders has been given. We do not expect any business to come up for shareholder vote at the meeting other than the election of directors. If, however, any other matters properly come before the meeting, your proxy card authorizes the persons named as proxies to vote in accordance with their judgment on such other matters.

Questions

If you have any questions or need more information about the annual meeting, write to:

Shareholder Services
Western Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 750320
Topeka, Kansas 66675-0320

or call us at (800) 527-2495 or (785) 575-6394 in the Topeka area.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Larry Irick
Larry D. Irick
Corporate Secretary

Topeka, Kansas
May , 2002

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Western Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 750320
Topeka, KS 66675-0320
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Submit Voting Instructions by TELEPHONE Submit Voting Instructions by INTERNET Submit Voting Instructions by MAIL
Call toll-Free using a touch-tone telephone: 1-800-542-1160 Access the Website and cast your vote: <http://www.voteFAST.com> Return the proxy card below in the postage-paid envelope provided.

SUBMIT VOTING INSTRUCTIONS 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK!
PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

=====
Your Control Number is:
=====

PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH CARD AT PERFORATION BEFORE MAILING.

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC. PROXY
THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS ON JUNE 11, 2002.

David C. Wittig, Paul R. Geist and Larry D Irick, and each of them with full power to act alone and with full power of substitution, are hereby authorized to represent the undersigned at the Western Resources, Inc. Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on June 11, 2002, or at any adjournment thereof, and to vote, as indicated on the reverse side, the shares of Common Stock and/or Preferred Stock which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at said meeting. The above named individuals are further authorized to vote such stock upon any other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournment thereof, in accordance with their best judgment. This proxy also provides voting instructions for shares held by the undersigned in the Western Resources, Inc. 401(k) Employees' Savings Plan and the Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Date: _____, 2002

Signature

Signature

Please sign exactly as your name appears to the left. Joint owners should each sign. When signing on behalf of a corporation or partnership or as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such.

===== ADMISSION TICKET =====

Please bring this ticket to the Annual Meeting,
Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders
WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

2002 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

For the purpose of considering and acting upon the election of two Class III directors and one Class I director, to serve amend the articles of incorporation changing the company name to Westar Energy, Inc. and such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time

The Embassy Suites
102 North End Avenue

Please Admit New York, New York Non-Transferable

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PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH HERE.

You have the option to access future annual reports, proxy statements, and other proxy solicitation materials over the Internet, instead of receiving those documents in paper form. Participation is voluntary. If you give your consent, in the future when such material is available over the Internet, you will receive notification which will contain the Internet location where the material is available. The material will be presented in PDF format. There is no cost to you for this service other than any charges imposed by your Internet provider, telephone and/or cable company. Once you give your consent, it will remain in effect until you inform us otherwise in writing. You may revoke your consent, or request paper copies of the material, at any time by notifying Western Resources' Shareholder Services in writing at PO Box 750320, Topeka, KS 66675-0320.

To give your consent, follow the prompts when you vote by telephone or over the Internet or check the appropriate box located at the bottom of the attached proxy card when you vote by mail.

PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH HERE.

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR all proposals. All shares, including full and partial shares of stock credited to your Plan account, will be voted as directed below. If no direction is given when the duly executed proxy is returned, all shares will be voted FOR all proposals.

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

01 Frank J. Becker	02 Douglas T. Lake	03 R. E. Edwards, III
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED ABOVE (EXCEPT AS MARKED TO THE CONTRARY BELOW).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED ABOVE.

If you wish to withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, write that nominee's name or number in the space provided below.

2. AMEND THE COMPANY'S RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION CHANGING THE NAME OF THE COMPANY TO WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN

I consent to access future annual reports, proxy statements and other proxy soliciting material over the Internet as described above.

Will attend Annual Meeting to be held in New York

PLEASE SIGN ON THE REVERSE SIDE AND RETURN PROMPTLY.