#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### FORM 8-K CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) January 10, 2018

#### WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

KANSAS	1-3523	48-0290150	
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)	
818 South Kansas Avenue, T	818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas		
(Address of principal executi	ive offices)	(Zip Code)	

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

(785) 575-6300

<u>Not Applicable</u>

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2). Emerging growth company o

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. o

#### WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

#### Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On January 10, 2018, Westar Energy, Inc. and Great Plains Energy Incorporated released an investor presentation. A copy of that investor presentation is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

This information is also available to the public on our website, http://www.WestarEnergy.com. Investors should note that we announce material financial information in Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings and press releases, and on public conference calls. In accordance with SEC guidance, we have historically utilized, and we intend to utilize in the future, the Investor Relations section of our website to communicate with investors about us. It is possible that the financial and other information we post there could be deemed to be material information. Investors should note that future investor presentations may be posted only on our website, and not filed with the SEC.

The information furnished pursuant to this Item 7.01 will not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement filed by us under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, unless specifically identified therein as being incorporated by reference.

#### Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1Investor Presentation, dated January 2018

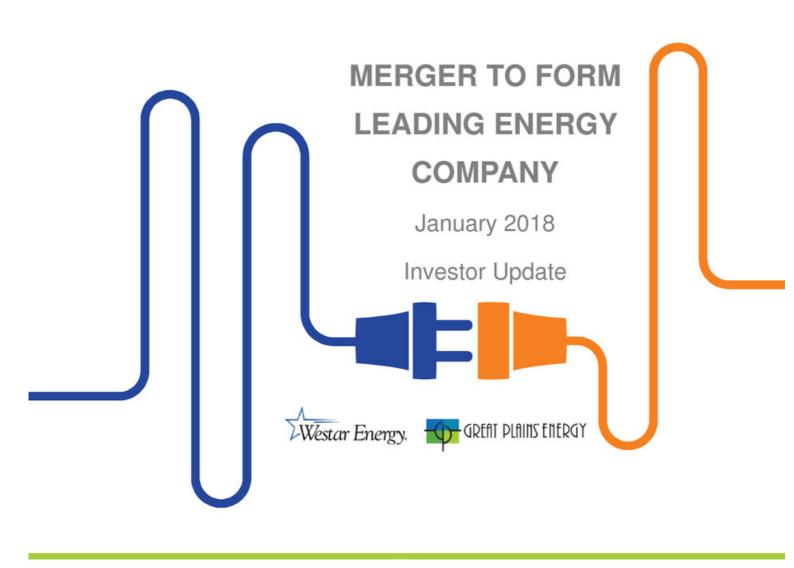
#### SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

#### WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

 Date:
 January 10, 2018
 By:
 /s/ Larry D. Irick

Name: Title: Larry D. Irick Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary



## **Forward-Looking Statements**

Statements made in this presentation that are not based on historical facts are forward-looking, may involve risks and uncertainties, and are intended to be as of the date when made. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements relating to the anticipated merger transaction of Great Plains Energy Incorporated (Great Plains Energy) and Westar Energy, Inc. (Westar Energy), including those that relate to the expected financial and operational benefits of the merger to the companies and their shareholders (including cost savings, operational efficiencies and the impact of the anticipated merger on earnings per share), the expected timing of closing, the outcome of regulatory proceedings, cost estimates of capital projects, dividend growth, share repurchases, balance sheet and credit ratings, rebates to customers, employee issues and other matters affecting future operations. In connection with the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Great Plains Energy and Westar Energy are providing a number of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the provided forward-looking information. These important factors include: future economic conditions in regional, national and international markets and their effects on sales, prices and costs; prices and availability of electricity in regional and national wholesale markets; market perception of the energy industry, Great Plains Energy, KCP&L, and Westar Energy; changes in business strategy, operations or development plans; the outcome of contract negotiations for goods and services; effects of current or proposed state and federal legislative and regulatory actions or developments, including, but not limited to, deregulation, re-regulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry; decisions of regulators regarding rates that the companies can charge for electricity; adverse changes in applicable laws, regulations, rules, principles or practices governing tax, accounting and environmental matters including, but not limited to, air and water quality; financial market conditions and performance including, but not limited to, changes in interest rates and credit spreads and in availability and cost of capital and the effects on derivatives and hedges, nuclear decommissioning trust and pension plan assets and costs; impairments of long-lived assets or goodwill; credit ratings; inflation rates; effectiveness of risk management policies and procedures and the ability of counterparties to satisfy their contractual commitments; impact of terrorist acts, including, but not limited to, cyber terrorism; ability to carry out marketing and sales plans; weather conditions including, but not limited to, weather-related damage and their effects on sales, prices and costs; cost, availability, quality and deliverability of fuel; the inherent uncertainties in estimating the effects of weather, economic conditions and other factors on customer consumption and financial results; ability to achieve generation goals and the occurrence and duration of planned and unplanned generation outages; delays in the anticipated in-service dates and cost increases of generation, transmission, distribution or other projects; the inherent risks associated with the ownership and operation of a nuclear facility including, but not limited to, environmental, health, safety, regulatory and financial risks; workforce risks, including, but not limited to, increased costs of retirement, health care and other benefits; the ability of Great Plains Energy and Westar Energy to obtain the regulatory approvals necessary to complete the anticipated merger or the imposition of adverse conditions or costs in connection with obtaining regulatory approvals; the risk that a condition to the closing of the anticipated merger may not be satisfied or that the anticipated merger may fail to close; the outcome of any legal proceedings, regulatory proceedings or enforcement matters that may be instituted relating to the anticipated merger; the costs incurred to consummate the anticipated merger; the possibility that the expected value creation from the anticipated merger will not be realized, or will not be realized within the expected time period; difficulties related to the integration of the two companies; the credit ratings of the combined company following the anticipated merger; disruption from the anticipated merger making it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees, regulators or suppliers; the anticipated diversion of management time and attention on the anticipated merger: and other risks and uncertainties.

This list of factors is not all-inclusive because it is not possible to predict all factors. Additional risks and uncertainties are discussed in the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other materials that Great Plains Energy, Westar Energy and Monarch Energy Holding, Inc. (Monarch Energy) file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in connection with the anticipated merger. Other risk factors are detailed from time to time in quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and annual reports on Form 10-K filed by Great Plains Energy, KCP&L and Westar Energy with the SEC. Each forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date of the particular statement. Monarch Energy, Great Plains Energy, KCP&L and Westar Energy undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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### **Recent Focus**

- Merger Approval Update
  - Shareholder Approval overwhelming support with more than 90 percent of shares voted in favor at each company – November 2017
  - Received HSR antitrust clearance December 2017
- Ryan A. Silvey confirmed as Missouri Public Service Commissioner January 2018
- Tax Reform
  - Continuing to evaluate the overall impact of recently passed federal tax legislation
  - Initial review is not expected to change previously disclosed pro forma EPS and Dividend growth targets
    - Continue to expect repurchase of ~60 million shares over first two years after closing
    - Expect to maintain strong investment grade credit profile
  - Projections subject to further evaluation of tax reform legislation, guidance from various regulatory
    agencies, and the outcome from various state regulatory proceedings, including those focused on tax
    reform

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# **Merger Overview**



## **Creating A Leading Energy Company**



## Merger Of Equals

- Creates a leading energy company with a combined • equity value of ~\$14.5 billion1 - a more valuable company for shareholders and a stronger company for customers
- 100% stock-for-stock, tax-free exchange of shares with no transaction debt and no exchange of cash
- Exchange Ratio ٠
  - WR: 1:1 (52.5% ownership)
  - GXP: 0.5981:1 (47.5% ownership)
- Transaction structure directly responsive to earlier regulatory concerns

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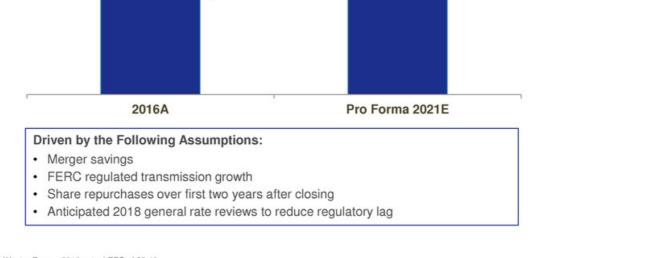
Closing expected second quarter 2018

Combined Service Area <sup>2</sup>	Key Operating Metrics <sup>3</sup>			
		Great Plains Energy	Westar Energy	Pro Forma Combined
	Rate Base (\$billion)4	\$6.6	\$6.5	\$13.1
	Electric Customers	864,400	707,000	1,571,400
	Owned Generation Capacity (MW)	6,524	6,573	13,097
2	Renewables <sup>5</sup> (MW)	1,455	1,661	3,116
Westar Energy • Energy Centers 📕 Great Plains Energy	Transmission Miles	3,600	6,400	10,000
ergy and Westar Energy combined market cap as of 12/29/17.	Distribution Miles	22,700	29,000	51,700
reat Plains Energy's Crossroad Energy Center in the Mississippi Delta and Westar's netrics as of 9/30/17. ate base based on ordered and settled rate cases. s both owned and purchase power agreements as of 12/31/17.	Spring Creek Energy Center in Lo	gan County, OK.		

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# Stronger Platform For Earnings Growth



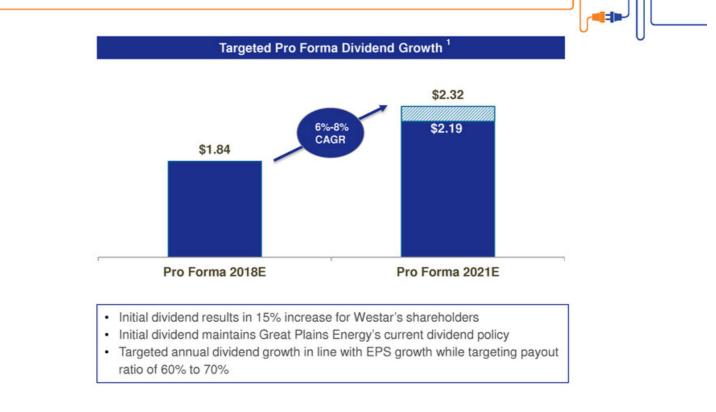
1. EPS growth based on Westar Energy 2016 actual EPS of \$2.43.

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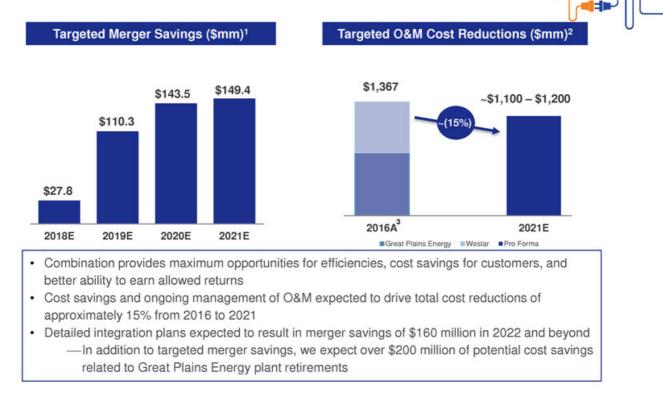
## Stronger Platform For Dividend Growth



1. Based on most recent Great Plains Energy quarterly dividend payment annualized of \$1.10 per share divided by the 0.5981 exchange ratio.



### **Strong Platform For Merger Savings**



1. Excludes Great Plains Energy plant retirements announced June 2017 and potential capital expenditure savings. Planned merger savings include non-fuel O&M and Other shown net of costs to achieve. See appendix slide for projected merger savings by type and year. 2. Inclusive of targeted O&M merger savings and expected O&M cost savings of Great Plains Energy announced plant retirements. 3. Represents Great Plains Energy utility O&M and Westar's O&M and SG&A as reported in GAAP financials.

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## **Financial Benefits**

- Projected significant earnings accretion to Great Plains Energy and Westar Energy
- Expect to offer top quartile total shareholder return amongst electric utilities: ٠
  - Target EPS growth of 6% to 8%, 2016 to 2021<sup>1</sup>
  - Target dividend growth in line with EPS growth, 60% to 70% target payout ratio
- Initial 15% dividend increase for Westar Energy
- Diversifies and enhances earnings stream •
- Opportunity to improve earned returns relative to authorized ٠
- Target rate base growth of 3 to 4% through 2022<sup>2</sup>
  - Over \$6 billion in investment from 2018 through 2022
    - Including, over \$1 billion in FERC regulated transmission investment
- Capital structure rebalancing post-closing •
  - Expect to repurchase ~60 million, or ~22% of pro forma shares outstanding, in the first two years after closing<sup>3</sup>
  - Rebalancing supported by strong balance sheet with expected \$1.25 billion of cash at closing
  - Combined company expected to maintain strong investment-grade credit ratings

2. Based on 2016 pro forma rate base currently reflected in rates of \$13.1 billion 3. Anticipated initial pro forma shares of approximately 272 million at merger closing.

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<sup>1.</sup> Targeted EPS growth based on Westar Energy 2016 actual EPS of \$2.43.

## Strong Credit with Capacity for Share Repurchases

- Great Plains Energy completed unwind of prior debt and mandatory convertible preferred equity acquisition financing following July 2017 merger of equals announcement
- Merger of equals structure with no merger debt results in a strengthened credit profile and positive rating agency action - Credit metrics for combined company expected to be in-line with those of Great Plains Energy pre-merger
- Expect to repurchase ~60 million shares (~22% of pro forma shares outstanding) in the first two years after closing1 .
- Projected consolidated FFO / Total Debt of ~18% to 20% in 2019 20212
- Projected consolidated Debt / Capitalization of ~48 to 50% in 2019 20212

	Ratings / Outlook <sup>3</sup>	Westar Energy	Great Plains Energy	KCP&L	GMO
	Issuer Rating	BBB+	BBB+	BBB+	BBB+
٩	Senior Secured Debt	A	-	A	-
S&P	Senior Unsecured Debt	•	BBB	BBB+	BBB+
	Outlook	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
ø	Issuer Rating	Baa1	2	2	
Moody's	Senior Secured Debt	A2		A2	
Ŵ	Senior Unsecured Debt	-	Baa2	Baa1	Baa2
	Outlook	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable

1. Anticipated initial pro forma shares of approximately 272 million at merger closing.

2. Projected FFO/Debt and Debt/Capitalization could be impacted by recently passed tax legislation. 3. Credit ratings as of 11/1/2017.

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## Merger Expected To Close Second Quarter of 2018

Stakeholder	Filed	Approval Anticipated	Additional Information
GXP and WR shareholders	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	Approved November 21, 2017
КСС	$\checkmark$	2Q18	Docket: 18-KCPE-095-MER
MPSC	$\checkmark$	2Q18	Docket: EM-208-0012
FERC	$\checkmark$	1Q18 – 2Q18	Docket: EC-171-000
NRC	$\checkmark$	1Q18 – 2Q18	Docket: 50-482
U.S. DOJ/FTC (HSR)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	Received December 12, 2017
FCC	1Q18 – 2Q18	1Q18 – 2Q18	

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## **State Merger Procedural Schedules**

Key Dates (2018)	Kansas Corporation Commission	Missouri Public Service Commission
January 16		Rebuttal Testimony Due
January 22	Public Hearing	
January 29	Staff/Intervenor Direct Testimony Due	
February 19	Rebuttal Testimony Due	
February 21		Surrebuttal Testimony Due
Week of February 26	Settlement Conferences	
March 7	Deadline to Submit Settlement Agreement	
March 12-16		Evidentiary Hearings
March 19-27	Evidentiary Hearings	
March 30		Initial Briefs Due
April 10	Initial Brief Due	
April 13		Reply Briefs Due
April 20	Staff/Intervenor Responsive Brief Due	
April 28	Reply Brief Due	
June 5	Commission Order Due	

1. The Missouri Public Service Commission's procedural schedule was silent on an expected order date but is supportive of an end of May, 2018 order effective date.

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## Regulatory and Legislative Priorities

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## **Regulatory Initiatives**

#### Westar General Rate Review Considerations:

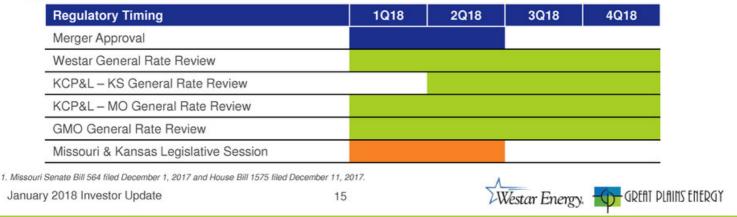
- Western Plains Wind Farm
- · Expiration of wholesale contracts currently reflected in rates as offsets to retail cost of service
- · Expiring production tax credits from initial wind investments
- · Federal income tax reform
- · Updated depreciation study

#### KCP&L/GMO General Rate Review Considerations:

- · Drivers include new customer information system and other infrastructure investments since rates were last set
- · Federal income tax reform

#### **Energy Legislative Priorities:**

- · Supporting comprehensive regulatory reform in Missouri in 20181
- · Not expecting major Kansas legislative activities in 2018



## **Constructive Ratemaking**

Cost Recovery Mechanisms	Westar Kansas	KCP&L Kansas	KCP&L Missouri	GMO Missouri
Energy Cost Adj. Rider (KS) / Fuel Adj. Clause Rider (MO)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Pension and OPEB Tracker	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Property Tax Surcharge Rider	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Rider	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act Program Rider			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Renewable Energy Standards Tracker			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Renewable Energy Standard Rate Adj. Mechanism Rider				$\checkmark$
Transmission Delivery Charge Rider	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards / Cybersecurity Tracker	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
Abbreviated Rate Case	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		

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## State Commissioners

#### Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC)



Mr. Daniel Y. Hall (D) Chair (since August 2015) Term began: September 2013 Term expires: September 2019



#### Mr. William P. Kenney (R) Commissioner Term began: January 2013 Term expires: January 2019



Mr. Scott T. Rupp (R) Commissioner Term began: March 2014 Term expires: March 2020



Ms. Maida J. Coleman (D) Commissioner Term began: August 2015 Term expires: August 2021



Mr. Ryan A. Silvey (R) Commissioner Term began: January 2018 Term expires: January 2024

MPSC consists of five (5) members, including the Chairman, who are

- appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Members serve six-year terms (may continue to serve after term expires until reappointed or replaced)
- Governor appoints one member to serve as Chairman 1. Chair Pat Apple has indicated he will not serve past his term.

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#### Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC)



Mr. Pat Apple (R) Chair (since January 2017) Term began: March 2014 Term expires: March 20181



Ms. Shari Feist Albrecht (I) Commissioner Term began: June 2012 Reappointed: January 2017 Term expires: March 2020



Mr. Jay S. Emler (R) Commissioner Term began: January 2014 Reappointed: May 2015

Term expires: March 2019

KCC consists of three (3) members, including the Chairman, who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

- Members serve four-year terms (may continue to serve after term expires D,
- until reappointed or replaced) Commissioners elect one member to serve as Chairman

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# **Clean Energy Leader**



## **Sustainable Energy Portfolio**

- Combined wind portfolio will be one of the largest in the United States: ~3,200 MW<sup>1</sup>
- · Renewable energy ~30% of retail sales
  - Emission-free energy (renewable and nuclear) nearly half of retail sales
- Well ahead of renewable portfolio standards in Missouri and voluntary goals in Kansas<sup>3</sup>
- Focused on growing renewables while retiring end-of-life fossil plants
- Strong platform to grow renewables and take advantage of abundant local natural resources
  - Kansas ranks 5th in the nation for installed wind capacity<sup>2</sup>

#### **Combined Company Projections Renewables as Percent of Retail Sales** Anticipated Emission Reduction 2005 - 2020 SO 40% 100% 989 30% 30% 75% 50% 20% 10% 25% 0% 0% 2005 2018 2008 2014 2017E 2020E 2005 2011 1. Includes owned generation and power purchase agreements based on nameplate capacity of the facility. Source: American Wind Energy Association. Missouri RPS requires 15% of electricity sales to customers with renewable sources by 2021. Kansas has voluntary goal of 20% of utility's peak by 2020. January 2018 Investor Update Westar Energy. OREAT PLAINS ENERGY 19



Merger Savings by Type and Year (\$mm) <sup>1,2</sup>								
	2016- 2017	2018E	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	Total	
NFOM Labor	-	\$38.3	\$66.6	\$78.1	\$83.2	\$85.3	\$351.5	
NFOM Non- Labor		\$8.6	\$41.4	\$55.1	\$54.3	\$61.1	\$220.5	
Fuel	-	\$0.7	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$1.3	\$2.3	\$6.4	
Other		\$2.2	\$7.9	\$12.3	\$13.3	\$13.4	\$49.0	
Gross Efficiencies	-	\$49.7	\$116.9	\$146.5	\$151.9	\$162.0	\$627.0	
Transition Costs	(\$35.6)	(\$21.9)	(\$6.6)	(\$3.0)	(\$2.5)	(\$2.2)	(\$71.8)	
Net Savings	(\$35.6)	\$27.8	\$110.3	\$143.5	\$149.4	\$159.8	\$555.2	

Some numbers may not add due to rounding.
 Source: Steven Busser, Kansas direct testimony filed August 25, 2017; page 15 (Docket: 18-KCPE-095-MER). Steven Busser, Missouri direct testimony filed August 31, 2017; page 14 (Docket: EM-2018-0012).

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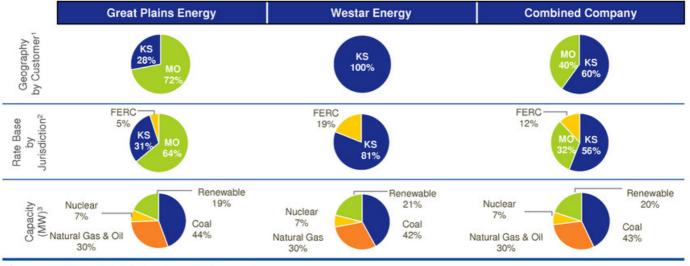
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## Creating a Leading Midwest Energy Utility



## Compelling Strategic and Geographic Fit

- Better positioned to meet customer's energy needs, provide clean energy and optimize investments to achieve improved long-term financial returns
- · Increased scale and jurisdictional diversity with enhanced platform to drive value for shareholders and customers
- Strong geographic fit, complementary operations with contiguous territories and existing shared assets produce economies of scale and significant savings and efficiencies



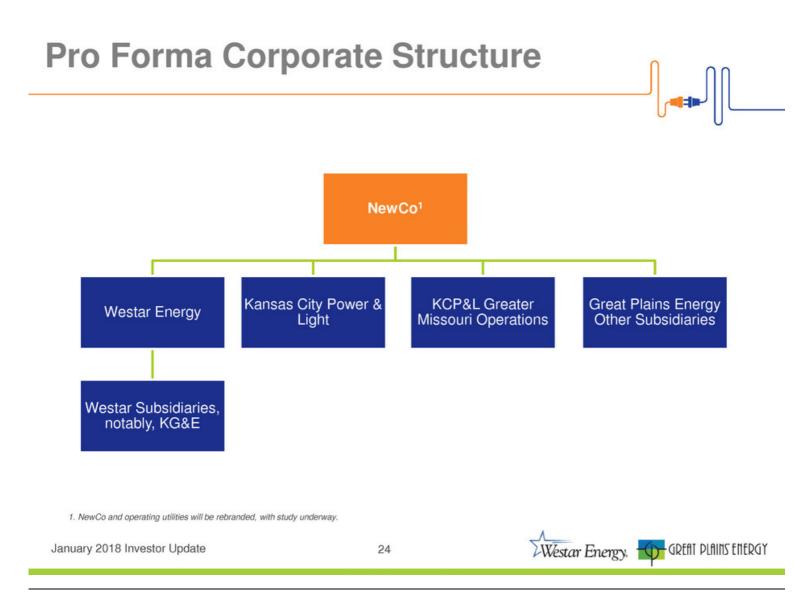
1. Customer breakdown by jurisdiction based on retail sales generation.

 KCP&L,GMO, Westar and KG&E are also subject to regulation by The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with respect to transmission, wholesale sales and rates, and other matters.

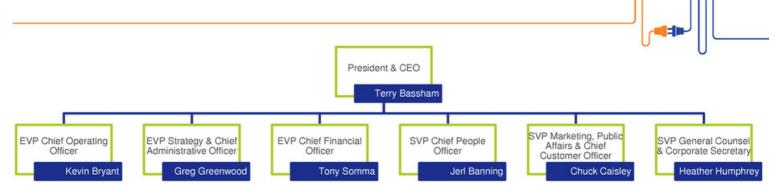
3. As of year-end 2017.

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## **Pro Forma Executive Officer Team**



- Board of Directors to be comprised equally of Westar Energy and Great Plains Energy board members.
- Both Mark Ruelle and Terry Bassham will be members of the Board of Directors.
- · Mark Ruelle will serve as non-executive Chairman of the Board.
- Charles Q. Chandler IV, currently non-executive chairman of Westar Energy's Board, will be lead independent director.

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## **Key Terms**

<ul> <li>All stock merger of equals (100% stock-for-stock tax-free exchange); combined equity va ~\$14.5<sup>1</sup> billion</li> <li>New company to be jointly named prior to close</li> </ul>	lue of
New company to be jointly named prior to close	1
Westar Energy: 1:1	
Exchange Ratio • Great Plains Energy: 0.5981:1	
Approximate Pro   • Westar Energy 52.5%	
Forma Ownership • Great Plains Energy 47.5%	
Pro Forma Dividend • Adjust to maintain current Great Plains Energy dividend	
Results in 15% dividend uplift for Westar Energy	
Reverse break-up fee of \$190 million in favor of Westar Energy	
Mutual fiduciary out break-up fees of \$190 million in favor of the other	
Mark Ruelle (Westar Energy CEO) to be non-executive chairman	
• Terry Bassham (Great Plains Energy Chairman, President & CEO) to be President & CEO	о
• Tony Somma (Westar Energy CFO) to be CFO; Kevin Bryant (Great Plains Energy CFO)	to be COO
Equal board representation from each company, including Bassham and Ruelle	
Corporate Headquarters – Kansas City, Missouri	
Headquarters     Operating Headquarters – Topeka, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri	
Expected to close second quarter 2018	
Timing / Approvals     Shareholders, federal and state regulators	1

1. Great Plains Energy and Westar Energy combined market cap as of 12/29/17.

January	2018	Investor	U	pdate
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### **Investor Relations Information**

#### NYSE: WESTAR ENERGY (WR)

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