

**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) August 2, 2011

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

KANSAS
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

1-3523
(Commission
File Number)

48-0290150
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas
(Address of principal executive offices)

66612
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (785) 575-6300

Not Applicable

(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:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

As previously announced, on July 31, 2011, William B. Moore retired from our Board of Directors and as our Chief Executive Officer.

On August 1, 2011, Mark A. Ruelle assumed the position of Chief Executive Officer in addition to his existing positions as our President and member of our Board of Directors.

On July 27, 2011, our Board of Directors appointed Anthony D. Somma as our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, effective August 1, 2011, and approved an annual base salary of \$255,000 for Mr. Somma. Mr. Somma, age 48, has served since August 2006 as our Treasurer and since August, 2009 as our Vice President, Treasurer. He has also served since December 2008 as Assistant Treasurer of our wholly-owned subsidiary, Kansas Gas and Electric Company.

Additionally, on August 1, 2011, Mr. Ruelle received an award of 23,630 time-based restricted share units and associated dividend equivalents. These restricted share units will vest in one-third increments on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the grant date. Mr. Ruelle also received an award of 11,815 performance-based restricted share units and associated dividend equivalents. These restricted share units vest on January 1, 2014, with the target number adjusted downward or upward based on our total shareholder return in comparison to the total shareholder return of a peer group during a performance period from August 1, 2011 through December 31, 2013. Mr. Ruelle will not receive any portion of the target award if, during the performance period, our total shareholder return is less than 25% of the total shareholder return for the peer group, and he will receive between 25% and 200% of the target award if our total shareholder return is at least 25% and up to 90% or more of the total shareholder return for the peer group. On August 1, 2011, Mr. Somma received an award of 5,439 time-based restricted share units and associated dividend equivalents. One-quarter of the restricted share units will vest on each of the first and second anniversaries of the grant date, with the remainder vesting on the third anniversary of the grant date. Vesting of the restricted share units described above is subject to the officer's employment with us continuing uninterrupted through the vesting date, except that a prorated portion of the award will vest if the officer's employment terminates on account of death, disability or retirement. The foregoing is qualified in its entirety by reference to the forms of restricted share unit award documents and the form of amended and restated change in control agreement filed as Exhibit 10(aq), 10(ar), 10(as), 10(at) and 10(au), respectively, to our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on February 25, 2010.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

A copy of our July 29, 2011 press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release dated July 29, 2011

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: August 2, 2011

By: /s/ Larry D. Irick

Name: Larry D. Irick

Title: Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
Exhibit 99.1	Press Release dated July 29, 2011

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WESTAR ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS, ORGANIZATIONAL REALIGNMENT

TOPEKA, Kan., July 29, 2011 — Westar Energy Inc., (NYSE:WR) today announced the promotion of two officers effective Aug. 1 along with the formation of a new organization to address strategic imperatives, including stringent environmental mandates.

“While our strategy remains to be a basic electric utility, embracing the same mission, vision, and values we have held for years, we must continue sharpening our focus. This realignment brings key functions together, combining their talent and improving their effectiveness and productivity,” said Mark Ruelle, who assumes the position of president and chief executive officer Aug. 1.

Tony Somma will become senior vice president and chief financial officer. Greg Greenwood will become senior vice president, strategy.

Somma, who has served as treasurer since 2006, will retain that position, consolidating the two roles. “Combining the CFO and treasurer positions streamlines and simplifies our organization and makes us more efficient,” Ruelle said.

Greenwood, who has served as vice president, major construction projects, since 2006, will lead the strategic imperatives organization, which will comprise regulatory, environmental services and major construction.

“Addressing developments in environmental regulation is a strategic imperative,” Ruelle said. “To succeed we must navigate the changing environmental regulations, identify and execute the most cost-effective means to comply and work with our regulators to recognize the associated costs. Aligning our regulatory, environmental services and major construction teams and bringing their collective expertise to bear positions Westar to achieve this outcome.”

Somma has worked most of his career in utilities. He joined Westar Energy in 1994 in corporate development, later working with Protection One as chief financial officer and senior vice president, finance. He returned to Westar as executive director financial and strategic planning, generation and marketing. In 2006 he was named treasurer and, in 2009, vice president, treasurer. He received his MBA from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1994 and his BBA, accounting major, from Bellevue University in 1988. A certified public accountant, Somma is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Association of Financial Professionals and Financial Executives International. Tony is also on the Board for Ronald McDonald NE Kansas Charities. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Topeka. They have four children. His hometown is Papillion, Nebraska.

Greenwood has held various financial roles with Westar Energy since he joined the company as a staff accountant in 1993. Before being named vice president, major construction projects in 2006, he was treasurer. He also has held directorships in finance, corporate finance, financial strategy and planning and analysis. Prior to joining Westar he was a certified public accountant with Berberich, Trahan and Co. P.A. He received his bachelor of business administration, accounting degree from Washburn University in 1988. He is a current member of Leadership Kansas and a Leadership Greater Topeka graduate. He is on the board of directors of the Washburn University Ichabod Scholarship Fund. He is also on the Capper Foundation Easter Seals Audit Committee and a trustee of the United Methodist Home. He and his wife, Jaena, reside in Topeka. They have three children. Greenwood is a native of Chanute.

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 687,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 7,100 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.

Forward-looking statements: Certain matters discussed in this news release are “forward-looking statements.” The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 has established that these statements qualify for safe harbors from liability. Forward-looking statements may include words like “believe,” “anticipate,” “target,” “expect,” “pro forma,” “estimate,” “intend,” “guidance” or words of similar meaning. Forward-looking statements describe future plans, objectives, expectations or goals. Although Westar Energy believes that its expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, all forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty. The factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements include those discussed herein as well as (1) those discussed in the company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2010 (a) under the heading, “Forward-Looking Statements,” (b) in ITEM 1. Business, (c) in ITEM 1A. Risk Factors, (d) in ITEM 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and (e) in ITEM 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data: Notes 13 and 15; (2) those discussed in the company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed May 5, 2011 (a) in ITEM 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and (b) in Part 1, Financial Information, ITEM 1. Financial Statements: Notes 8 and 9; and (3) other factors discussed in the company’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date such statement was made, and the company does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement was made.