

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
*UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**WESTAR ENERGY, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Kansas  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

4931  
(Primary Standard Industrial  
Classification Code Number)  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 575-6300

48-0290150  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Larry D. Irick  
Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary  
Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 575-6300

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

*Copy to:*  
William S. Lamb  
Andrew J. Ericksen  
Baker Botts L.L.P.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112  
(212) 408-2500

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit (1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1)	Amount of Registration Fee (2)(3)
Senior Debt Securities and Subordinated Debt Securities (collectively, "Debt Securities")				
First Mortgage Bonds				
Preferred Stock				
Depositary Shares				
Preference Stock				
Common Stock, \$5.00 par value				
Warrants				
Purchase Contracts				
Units				

- An indeterminate amount of securities to be offered at indeterminate prices is being registered pursuant to this Registration Statement.
  - The Registrant is deferring payment of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 456(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), and is omitting this information in reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r), except as set forth in note (3).
  - Pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Act, additional unused filing fees of \$5,232.11 have already been paid with respect to further unsold securities that were previously registered pursuant to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-3ASR (No. 333-187398) filed on March 20, 2013 (the "Prior Registration Statement"), and are being carried forward for the application in connection with offerings under this Registration Statement. The Registrant will pay any further required registration fees in advance or on a pay-as-you-go basis.
- The Registrant is filing this Registration Statement to replace its registration statement on Form S-3 ASR (No. 333-187398) filed on March 20, 2013, which is expiring pursuant to Rule 415(a)(5) under the Act. In accordance with Rule 415(a)(6), effectiveness of this Registration Statement will be deemed to terminate the Prior Registration Statement.

PROSPECTUS



The following are types of securities that may be offered and sold under this prospectus:

- Common stock
- Preferred stock
- Preference stock
- Depositary shares
- Unsecured senior debt securities
- Unsecured subordinated debt securities
- First mortgage bonds
- Warrants
- Purchase contracts
- Units

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "WR." On March 16, 2016, the closing price on the New York Stock Exchange for our common stock was \$47.82.

We will describe in the prospectus supplement, which must accompany this prospectus, the securities we are offering and selling, as well as the specific terms of the securities. Those terms may include:

- Maturity
- Interest rate
- Sinking fund terms
- Currency of payments
- Dividends
- Redemption terms
- Listing on a securities exchange
- Amount payable at maturity
- Conversion or exchange rights
- Liquidation amount

**Investing in these securities involves certain risks. See "Item 1A—Risk Factors" beginning on page 15 of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 which is incorporated by reference herein.**

**The Securities and Exchange Commission and state securities commissions have not approved or disapproved of these securities, or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

We may offer the securities in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. We may sell the securities directly to you, through agents we select, or through underwriters and dealers we select. If we use agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is March 18, 2016

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We have not authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale of such securities is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

We refer to Westar Energy, Inc. in this prospectus as “Westar” or “we,” “us,” “our” or comparable terms and to Kansas Gas and Electric Company as “KGE.”

## THE COMPANY

Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation incorporated in 1924, is the largest electric utility in Kansas. We provide electric generation, transmission and distribution services to approximately 700,000 customers in central and northeastern Kansas, including the cities of Topeka, Lawrence, Manhattan, Salina and Hutchinson. Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KGE), Westar Energy's wholly-owned subsidiary, provides these services in south-central and southeastern Kansas, including the city of Wichita. Both Westar and KGE conduct business using the name Westar Energy.

Our principal executive offices are located at 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612. Our telephone number is (785) 575-6300. We maintain a website at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com> where general information about us is available. We are not incorporating the contents of the website into this prospectus.

For a description of our business, financial condition, results of operations and other important information regarding us, see our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, incorporated by reference in this prospectus. For instructions on how to find copies of these and our other filings incorporated by reference in this prospectus, see the section of this prospectus captioned "Available Information."

## CAUTION CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain matters discussed in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus 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 we “believe,” “anticipate,” “target,” “expect,” “estimate,” “intend” and words of similar meaning. Forward-looking statements describe our future plans, objectives, expectations or goals. Such statements address future events and conditions concerning matters such as, but not limited to:

- amount, type and timing of capital expenditures,
- earnings,
- cash flow,
- liquidity and capital resources,
- litigation,
- accounting matters,
- possible corporate restructurings, acquisitions and dispositions,
- compliance with debt and other restrictive covenants,
- interest rates and dividends,
- environmental matters,
- regulatory matters,
- nuclear operations, and
- the overall economy of our service area and its impact on our customers’ demand for electricity and their ability to pay for service.

What happens in each case could vary materially from what we expect because of such things as:

- risks related to operating in a heavily regulated industry that is subject to unpredictable political, legislative, judicial and regulatory developments, which can impact our operations, results of operations and financial condition,
- the difficulty of predicting the magnitude and timing of changes in demand for electricity, including with respect to emerging competing services and technologies and conservation and energy efficiency measures,
- the impact of weather conditions, including as it relates to sales of electricity and prices of energy commodities,
- equipment damage from storms and extreme weather,
- economic and capital market conditions, including the impact of inflation or deflation, changes in interest rates, the cost and availability of capital and the market for trading wholesale energy,
- the impact of changes in market conditions on employee benefit liability calculations and funding obligations, as well as actual and assumed investment returns on invested plan assets,
- the impact of changes in estimates regarding our Wolf Creek Generating Station (Wolf Creek) decommissioning obligation,
- the existence or introduction of competition into markets in which we operate,
- the impact of changing laws and regulations relating to air and greenhouse gas emissions, water emissions, waste management and other environmental matters,

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- risks associated with execution of our planned capital expenditure program, including timing and receipt of regulatory approvals necessary for planned construction and expansion projects as well as the ability to complete planned construction projects within the terms and time frames anticipated,
- cost, availability and timely provision of equipment, supplies, labor and fuel we need to operate our business,
- availability of generating capacity and the performance of our generating plants,
- changes in regulation of nuclear generating facilities and nuclear materials and fuel, including possible shutdown or required modification of nuclear generating facilities,
- additional regulation due to Nuclear Regulatory Commission oversight to ensure the safe operation of Wolf Creek, either related to Wolf Creek's performance, or potentially relating to events or performance at a nuclear plant anywhere in the world,
- uncertainty regarding the establishment of interim or permanent sites for spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal,
- homeland and information and operating systems security considerations,
- changes in accounting requirements and other accounting matters,
- changes in the energy markets in which we participate resulting from the development and implementation of real time and next day trading markets, and the effect of the retroactive repricing of transactions in such markets following execution because of changes or adjustments in market pricing mechanisms by regional transmission organizations and independent system operators,
- reduced demand for coal-based energy because of actual or potential climate impacts and the development of alternate energy sources,
- current and future litigation, regulatory investigations, proceedings or inquiries,
- cost of fuel used in generation and wholesale electricity prices, and
- other factors discussed elsewhere in this report and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, including in "Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and in other reports we file from time to time with the SEC.

These lists are not all-inclusive because it is not possible to predict all factors. All forward-looking statements are qualified by the risks described in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any supplement to this prospectus. In addition, investors should consider the other information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. See "Available Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference." Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date such statement was made, and we are not obligated to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement was made except as required by applicable laws or regulations.

### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for working capital and general corporate purposes including, but not limited to, funding our operations, acquiring capital equipment and repaying debt. We may also invest the proceeds in certificates of deposit, United States government securities or certain other interest-bearing securities. If we decide to use the net proceeds from a particular offering of securities for a specific purpose, we will describe that in the related prospectus supplement.

**RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The table below sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated.

For the Fiscal Years Ended December 31,				
2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
2.85	2.80	2.64	2.60	2.36

Earnings consist of earnings from continuing operations, fixed charges and distributed income of equity investees. Fixed charges consist of all interest on indebtedness, interest on uncertain tax positions, interest on corporate-owned life insurance policies, amortization of debt discount and expense, and the portion of rental expense that represents an interest factor. Earnings from continuing operations consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes, cumulative effects of accounting changes and preferred dividends adjusted for undistributed earnings from equity investees.

**RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS**

For the Fiscal Years Ended December 31,				
2015	2014	2013	2012 (1)	2011
2.85	2.80	2.64	2.57	2.35

- (1) In May 2012, Westar Energy provided an irrevocable notice of redemption to holders of all of Westar Energy's outstanding shares of preferred stock. Accordingly, we recognized the redemption premium as a preferred stock dividend during the three months ended June 30, 2012. There are currently no shares of any series of preferred stock outstanding.

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends, earnings consist of earnings from continuing operations, fixed charges and distributed income of equity investees. Fixed charges consist of all interest on indebtedness, interest on uncertain tax positions, interest on corporate-owned life insurance policies, amortization of debt discount and expense, and the portion of rental expense that represents an interest factor. Earnings from continuing operations consists of income from continuing operations before income taxes, cumulative effects of accounting changes and preferred dividends adjusted for undistributed earnings from equity investees. Preferred dividend requirements consist of an amount equal to the pre-tax earnings that would be required to meet dividend requirements on preferred stock.

**DIVIDEND POLICY**

Holders of our common stock are entitled to dividends when and as declared by our board of directors. However, if any preferred stock is outstanding, prior to the payment of common dividends, dividends must first be paid to the holders of preferred stock based on the fixed dividend rate for each series. Our articles of incorporation restrict the payment of dividends or the making of other distributions on our common stock while any shares of our preferred stock remain outstanding unless certain capitalization ratios and other conditions are met. See "Description of Capital Stock."

Quarterly dividends on common stock and, when outstanding, preferred stock have historically been paid on or about the first business day of January, April, July and October to shareholders of record as of or about the ninth day of the preceding month. Our board of directors reviews our common stock dividend policy from time to time. Among the factors the board of directors considers in determining our dividend policy are earnings, cash flows, capitalization ratios, regulation, competition and financial loan covenants. On February 24, 2016, we declared a first-quarter 2016 dividend of \$0.38 per share on our common stock, payable on April 1, 2016.

## DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The statements made under this caption include summaries of certain provisions contained in our articles of incorporation and by-laws. These statements do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to such articles of incorporation and by-laws.

As used in this section of this prospectus under the caption "Description of Capital Stock," the terms "we," "us" and "our" refer solely to Westar Energy, Inc. and such references do not include any subsidiaries of Westar Energy, Inc.

Our authorized capital stock under the articles of incorporation consists of 275,000,000 shares of common stock, \$5.00 par value, 6,000,000 shares of preferred stock, no par value, 600,000 shares of preferred stock, \$100.00 par value, and 4,000,000 shares of preference stock, no par value.

### Common Stock

Our authorized common stock consists of 275,000,000 shares, \$5.00 par value, of which 141,353,426 shares were issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2015. The issued and outstanding shares of common stock are, and any shares of common stock issued will be, fully paid and non-assessable. Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders. As of December 31, 2015, there were 17,766 holders of record of our common stock. The articles of incorporation do not provide for preemptive or other subscription rights of the holders of common stock. Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Our articles of incorporation limit the payment of dividends or other distributions on the common stock under certain conditions. As long as there is any preferred stock outstanding, we cannot pay dividends or other distributions on common stock unless all past preferred stock dividends have been paid and all preferred stock dividends payable in the current quarter have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for their payment set aside.

In addition, as long as there is any preferred stock outstanding, dividends or distributions on our common stock may be limited depending on our capitalization ratio ("Capitalization Ratio"), which is defined in our articles of incorporation as a fraction, the numerator of which is the total of common stock, preference stock (together, "Subordinated Stock"), premium on Subordinated Stock and surplus accounts subject to certain adjustments, and the denominator of which is long term debt and the total stated capital or par value of all issued and outstanding capital stock of all classes, including premium thereon and surplus accounts subject to certain adjustments. The Capitalization Ratio is measured at the end of the second calendar month immediately preceding the date of the proposed dividend or distribution and after giving effect to such proposed dividend or distribution and is calculated on an unconsolidated basis.

If the Capitalization Ratio is less than 20%, then total dividends and distributions on all Subordinated Stock for the 12 months ending with and including the date of the proposed payment may not exceed 50% of Available Net Income, which is defined as total net income available for dividends on Subordinated Stock for the 12 calendar months ending with and including the second calendar month immediately preceding the date of the proposed payment, subject to certain adjustments. If the Capitalization Ratio is at least 20% but less than 25%, then total dividends and distributions on all Subordinated Stock may not exceed 75% of Available Net Income. Except to the extent permitted by the foregoing, we may not pay any dividends or make distributions on Subordinated Stock that would reduce the Capitalization Ratio to less than 25%, and dividends and distributions on common stock may only be paid out of surplus or net profits legally available for the payment of dividends.

As of December 31, 2015, our Capitalization Ratio exceeded 25%.



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### **Preferred Stock**

We are authorized to issue 6,600,000 shares of preferred stock, which may be issued from time to time in one or more series, each such series to have such distinctive designation or title as may be fixed by our board of directors prior to the issuance of any shares thereof. Each series may differ from each other series already outstanding as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors in the following respects: (1) the rate of dividend; (2) the amount per share, if any, which the preferred stock shall be entitled to receive upon the redemption of such shares, our liquidation, the distribution or sale of assets or our dissolution or winding up; (3) terms and conditions of conversion, if any; and (4) terms of sinking fund, redemption or purchase account, if any.

There are currently no shares of any series of preferred stock outstanding.

The preferred stock has special voting rights that are triggered when dividends on the stock are in default in an amount equal to four or more quarterly dividends, whether or not consecutive. If dividends are not paid for four or more dividend periods on all series of preferred stock then outstanding, the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to elect the smallest number of directors necessary to constitute a majority of the full board of directors until such unpaid dividends shall be paid.

As long as any preferred stock is outstanding, we may not, without the consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the preferred stock then outstanding, voting as a class:

(1) define or specify preferences, qualifications, limitations or other rights for authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock superior to those of outstanding shares of such stock (except for differences described in items (2) through (4) in the first paragraph under the caption “—Preferred Stock”) or amend, alter, change or repeal any of the express terms or provisions of the then outstanding preferred stock in a manner substantially prejudicial to the holders thereof; or

(2) issue or sell any preferred stock or any class of stock ranking prior to or on a parity with the preferred stock other than in exchange for or for the purpose of effecting the retirement of not less than a like number of shares of preferred stock or shares of stock ranking prior to or on a parity therewith or securities convertible into not less than a like number of such shares unless:

- our aggregate capital applicable to common stock and preference stock plus surplus equals the involuntary liquidation preference of all preferred stock and any such other stock ranking prior thereto or on a parity therewith, and
- our net earnings (as defined in our articles of incorporation) for a period of 12 consecutive calendar months within the 15 calendar months preceding the date of issuance, available for the payment of dividends, shall be at least two times the annual dividend requirements on the preferred stock and on any such other stock ranking prior thereto or on a parity therewith after giving effect to the proposed issuance, and the net earnings (as defined in our articles of incorporation), for the same period, available for payment of interest shall be at least one and one-half times the sum of annual interest requirements and dividend requirements on preferred stock and such other stock ranking prior thereto or on a parity therewith after giving effect to the proposed issuance.

As long as any preferred stock is outstanding, the articles of incorporation also provide that without the consent of the holders of at least a majority of the preferred stock then outstanding, voting as a class, or if more than one-third shall vote negatively, we shall not:

(1) merge or consolidate with or into any other corporation;

(2) sell, lease or exchange all or substantially all of our property or assets unless the fair value of our net assets after completion of such transaction shall at least equal the liquidation value of all outstanding shares of preferred stock; or

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(3) reacquire or pay any dividends or make any other distribution upon shares of the preference stock or the common stock or any other class of our stock over which the preferred stock has preference with respect to the payment of dividends or the distribution of assets, unless after any such action the sum of:

- the capital represented by our outstanding preference stock, common stock or other stock over which the preferred stock has preference,
- our earned surplus, and
- our capital surplus,

in each case on an unconsolidated basis, shall not be less than the sum of \$10,500,000 plus an amount equal to twice the annual dividend requirement on all outstanding shares of preferred stock and on any such other stock ranking prior thereto or on a parity therewith.

### **Preference Stock**

We are authorized to issue 4,000,000 shares of preference stock, which may be issued from time to time in one or more series, each such series to have such distinctive designation or title as may be fixed by the board of directors prior to the issuance of any shares thereof.

Each series may differ from each other series already outstanding, as may be declared from time to time by the board of directors, in the following respects:

- the rate of dividend;
- whether shares of preference stock are subject to redemption, and if so, the amount or amounts per share which the shares of such series would be entitled to receive in case of redemption;
- the amounts payable in the case of our liquidation, the distribution or sale of our assets or our dissolution or winding up;
- terms and conditions of conversion, if any;
- terms of sinking fund, redemption or purchase account, if any; and
- any designations, preferences and relative participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof.

There are currently no shares of our preference stock outstanding.

### **Certain Provisions of Westar Energy's Articles and By-laws**

Article XVII of the articles of incorporation requires the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than 80% of the outstanding shares of common and preferred stock entitled to vote and the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority of the outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote held by any shareholders other than any shareholder, together with its affiliates and associates, which becomes the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the outstanding shares entitled to vote (an Interested Stockholder), to approve or authorize certain "business combinations" (including any merger, consolidation, self-dealing transaction, recapitalization or reclassification or issuance of stock) with an Interested Stockholder.

Article XVII does not apply to any business combination with an Interested Stockholder:

(1) that has been approved by a majority of the directors of the company who were members of our board of directors immediately prior to the time an Interested Stockholder involved in a business combination became an Interested Stockholder, or

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(2) in which the cash or fair market value of the consideration offered in such business combination is not less than the highest price per share paid by the Interested Stockholder in acquiring any of its holdings of each class of our capital stock.

Our articles of incorporation and by-laws provide for a classified board of directors consisting of not less than seven nor more than fifteen directors. The directors are divided into three classes as nearly equal in number as may be, and directors are elected to serve a term of three years. Under the by-laws, directors may be removed only for cause as set forth therein. Provisions in our by-laws relating to the classified board of directors and removal of directors may only be amended, altered or repealed by the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the outstanding shares entitled to vote in any election.

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES**

The description set forth below and in any prospectus supplement of certain provisions of the deposit agreement and of the depositary shares and depositary receipts does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the form of deposit agreement and form of depositary receipts relating to each series of the preferred stock or preference stock.

#### **General**

We may, at our option, elect to have shares of preferred stock or preference stock be represented by depositary shares. The shares of any series of the preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company selected by us as the depositary. The prospectus supplement relating to a series of depositary shares will set forth the name and address of the depositary. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable interest in the number of shares of preferred stock or preference stock underlying such depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock or preference stock underlying such depositary share, including dividend, voting, redemption, conversion, exchange and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement, each of which will represent the applicable interest in a number of shares of a particular series of the preferred stock or preference stock described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, a holder of depositary shares is not entitled to receive the shares of preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary shares.

Except as otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the following provides a description of the depositary shares and the deposit agreement.

#### **Dividends and Other Distributions**

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the preferred stock or preference stock to the record holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock or preference stock in proportion to the numbers of such depositary shares owned by such holders on the relevant record date.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary shares entitled thereto or the depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to such holders. The deposit agreement also contains provisions

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relating to the manner in which any subscription or similar rights offered by us to holders of preferred stock or preference stock shall be made available to holders of depositary shares.

### **Conversion and Exchange**

If any preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to provisions relating to its conversion or exchange as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto, each record holder of depositary shares will have the right or obligation to convert or exchange such depositary shares pursuant to the terms thereof.

### **Redemption of Depositary Shares**

If preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of the preferred stock or preference stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the aggregate redemption price payable with respect to the number of shares of preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary shares. Whenever we redeem preferred stock or preference stock from the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date a proportionate number of depositary shares representing the shares of preferred stock or preference stock that were redeemed. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as may be determined by us.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares so called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of the depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive the redemption price payable upon such redemption. Any funds deposited by us with the depositary for any depositary shares which the holders thereof fail to redeem shall be returned to us after a period of two years from the date such funds are so deposited.

### **Voting**

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting or action in lieu of any meeting at which the holders of any shares of preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary shares are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in such notice to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such preferred stock or preference stock. Each record holder of such depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock or preference stock) will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the number of shares of preferred stock or preference stock underlying such holder's depositary shares. The depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock or preference stock underlying such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will agree to take all action which may be deemed necessary by the depositary in order to enable the depositary to do so.

### **Amendment of the Deposit Agreement**

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the depositary; provided, however, that any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the existing holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding.

### **Charges of Depositary**

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges that arise solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the

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preferred stock or preference stock and any exchange or redemption of the preferred stock or preference stock. Holders of depositary shares will pay all other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges, and, in addition, such other charges as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

### **Miscellaneous**

We, or at our option, the depositary, will forward to the holders of depositary shares all reports and communications from us which we are required to furnish to the holders of preferred stock or preference stock.

Neither the depositary nor we will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstances beyond our control in performing our obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the depositary under the deposit agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of our duties thereunder and we and the depositary will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary share or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity has been furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary shares or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

### **Resignation and Removal of Depositary; Termination of the Deposit Agreement**

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the depositary, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. Such successor depositary will be appointed by us within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal. The deposit agreement may be terminated at our direction or by the depositary if a period of 90 days shall have expired after the depositary has delivered to us written notice of its election to resign and a successor depositary shall not have been appointed. Upon termination of the deposit agreement, the depositary will discontinue the transfer of depositary receipts, will suspend the distribution of dividends to the holders thereof, and will not give any further notices (other than notice of such termination) or perform any further acts under the deposit agreement except that the depositary will continue to deliver preferred or preference stock certificates, together with such dividends and distributions and the net proceeds of any sales of rights, preferences, privileges or other property in exchange for depositary receipts surrendered. Upon our request, the depositary shall deliver all books, records, certificates evidencing preferred stock, preference stock, depositary receipts and other documents relating to the subject matter of the depositary agreement to us.

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

Our debt securities, consisting of notes, debentures or other evidences of indebtedness, may be issued from time to time in one or more series:

- in the case of senior debt securities, under a senior indenture dated August 1, 1998, which we refer to as the senior indenture, between us and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, formerly known as Bankers Trust Company, as trustee (the trustee); and
- in the case of subordinated debt securities, under a subordinated indenture, which we refer to as the subordinated indenture, to be entered into between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee.

The senior indenture is included, and the subordinated indenture will be substantially in the form included, as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Because the following is only a summary of the indentures and the debt securities, it does not contain all information that you may find useful. For further information about the indentures and the debt securities, you

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should read the indentures. As used in this section of this prospectus under the caption “Description of Debt Securities,” the terms “we,” “us” and “our” refer solely to Westar Energy, Inc. and such references do not include any subsidiaries of Westar Energy, Inc.

### **General**

The senior debt securities will constitute our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and the subordinated debt securities will constitute our unsecured and subordinated obligations. A detailed description of the subordination provisions is provided below under the caption “—Certain Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities—Subordination.” In general, however, if we declare bankruptcy, holders of the senior debt securities will be paid in full before the holders of subordinated debt securities will receive anything.

When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of the securities in a prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will set forth the following terms, as applicable, of the debt securities offered thereby:

- (1) the designation, aggregate principal amount, currency or composite currency and denominations;
- (2) the price at which such debt securities will be issued and, if an index formula or other method is used, the method for determining amounts of principal or interest;
- (3) the maturity date and other dates, if any, on which principal will be payable;
- (4) the interest rate (which may be fixed or variable), if any;
- (5) the date or dates from which interest will accrue and on which interest will be payable, and the record dates for the payment of interest;
- (6) the manner of paying principal and interest;
- (7) the place or places where principal and interest will be payable;
- (8) the terms of any mandatory or optional redemption by the company or any third party including any sinking fund;
- (9) the terms of any conversion or exchange;
- (10) the terms of any redemption at the option of holders or put by the holders;
- (11) any tax indemnity provisions;
- (12) if the debt securities provide that payments of principal or interest may be made in a currency other than that in which debt securities are denominated, the manner for determining such payments;
- (13) the portion of principal payable upon acceleration of a Discounted Debt Security (as defined below);
- (14) whether and upon what terms debt securities may be defeased;
- (15) any events of default or covenants in addition to or in lieu of those set forth in the indentures;
- (16) provisions for electronic issuance of debt securities or for debt securities in uncertificated form;

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(17) the right, if any, to “reopen” a series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of such series; and

(18) any additional provisions or other special terms not inconsistent with the provisions of the indentures, including any terms that may be required or advisable under United States or other applicable laws or regulations, or advisable in connection with the marketing of the debt securities.

Debt securities of any series may be issued as registered debt securities, bearer debt securities or uncertificated debt securities, and in such denominations as specified in the terms of the series. In connection with its original issuance, no bearer security will be offered, sold or delivered to any location in the United States, and a bearer security in definitive form may be delivered in connection with its original issuance only upon presentation of a certificate in a form prescribed by the company to comply with United States laws and regulations. You may present debt securities for exchange and for transfer in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the prospectus supplement. We will provide you those services without charge, although you may have to pay any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any exchange or transfer, as set forth in the indentures.

Debt securities will bear interest at a fixed rate or a floating rate. Securities may be issued under the senior or subordinated indentures as Discounted Debt Securities to be offered and sold at a substantial discount from the principal amount thereof. “Discounted Debt Security” means a security where the amount of principal due upon acceleration is less than the stated principal amount. Special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to any such discounted debt securities or to certain debt securities issued at par which are treated as having been issued at a discount for United States federal income tax purposes will be described in the relevant prospectus supplement.

We may issue debt securities with the principal amount payable on any principal payment date, or the amount of interest payable on any interest payment date, to be determined by reference to one or more currency exchange rates, securities or baskets of securities, commodity prices or indices. You may receive a payment of principal on any principal payment date, or a payment of interest on any interest payment date, that is greater than or less than the amount of principal or interest otherwise payable on such dates, depending upon the value on such dates of the applicable currency, security or basket of securities, commodity or index. Information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest payable on any date, the currencies, securities or baskets of securities, commodities or indices to which the amount payable on such date is linked and certain additional tax considerations will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We only have a shareholder’s claim on the assets of our subsidiaries. This shareholder’s claim is junior to the claims that creditors of our subsidiaries have against our subsidiaries (other than subsidiary guarantors). Holders of our debt securities are our creditors and not creditors of any of our subsidiaries (other than subsidiary guarantors). As a result, all the existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries (other than any subsidiary guarantors with respect to any series of debt securities that may be guaranteed), including any claims of their creditors, are effectively senior to the debt securities with respect to the assets of our subsidiaries.

Our ability to pay our obligations, including our obligation to pay interest on the debt securities, to repay the principal amount of the debt securities at maturity or upon redemption or to buy back the debt securities will depend in part upon our subsidiaries’ earnings and their distribution of those earnings to us and upon our subsidiaries repaying investments and advances we have made to them. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and, except for any subsidiary guarantors with respect to any guarantees, have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any amounts due on the debt securities or to make funds available to us to do so. Our subsidiaries’ ability to pay dividends or make other payments or advances to us will depend upon their operating results and will be subject to applicable laws and contractual restrictions. Our indentures will not limit our subsidiaries’ ability to enter into other agreements that prohibit or restrict dividends or other payments or advances to us. Our Credit Agreement, dated as of February 18, 2011 and as amended from time to time, and our

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Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of September 29, 2011 and as amended from time to time, limit our subsidiaries' ability to enter into other agreements that prohibit or restrict dividends or other payments or advances to us.

The debt securities are unsecured obligations. Our secured debt is effectively senior to the debt securities to the extent of the value of the assets securing such secured debt. Substantially all of our utility assets are subject to liens under the mortgage pursuant to which we have issued our first mortgage bonds.

### **Certain Terms of the Senior Debt Securities**

Our obligations under the senior debt securities, including the payment of principal, premium, if any, any interest, may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by one or more of our wholly-owned subsidiaries named in a prospectus supplement. Such guarantees will rank equally with all other general unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of such subsidiary guarantors.

#### ***Certain Covenants***

Any covenants which may apply to a particular series of senior debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

#### ***Successor Obligor***

The senior indenture provides that, unless otherwise specified in the securities resolution or supplemental indenture establishing a series of senior debt securities, we shall not consolidate with or merge into, or transfer all or substantially all of its assets to, any person in any transaction in which we are not the survivor, unless:

- (1) the person is organized under the laws of the United States or a State thereof or is organized under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction and consents to the jurisdiction of the courts of the United States or a State thereof;
- (2) the person assumes by supplemental indenture all of our obligations under the senior indenture, the senior debt securities and any coupons;
- (3) all required approvals of any regulatory body having jurisdiction over the transaction shall have been obtained; and
- (4) immediately after the transaction no Default (as defined in “—Default and Remedies”) exists.

The successor shall be substituted for us, and thereafter all our obligations under the senior indenture, the senior debt securities and any coupons shall terminate.

#### ***Exchange of Debt Securities***

Registered senior debt securities may be exchanged for an equal aggregate principal amount of registered senior debt securities of the same series and date of maturity in such authorized denominations as may be requested upon surrender of the registered senior debt securities at an agency maintained by us for such purpose and upon fulfillment of all other requirements of such agent.

#### ***Default and Remedies***

Unless the securities resolution or supplemental indenture establishing the series otherwise provides (in which event the prospectus supplement will so state), an “Event of Default” with respect to a series of senior debt securities will occur if:

- (1) an Obligor defaults in any payment of interest on any senior debt securities of such series when the same becomes due and payable and the default continues for a period of 60 days;



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(2) an Obligor defaults in the payment of the principal and premium, if any, of any senior debt securities of such series when the same becomes due and payable at maturity or upon redemption, acceleration or otherwise and such default shall continue for five or more days;

(3) an Obligor defaults in the payment or satisfaction of any sinking fund obligation with respect to any senior debt securities of such series as required by the securities resolution or supplemental indenture establishing such series and the default continues for a period of 60 days;

(4) an Obligor defaults in the performance of any of its other agreements applicable to the series and the default continues for 90 days after the notice specified below;

(5) an Obligor pursuant to or within the meaning of any Bankruptcy Law:

(A) commences a voluntary case,

(B) consents to the entry of an order for relief against it in an involuntary case,

(C) consents to the appointment of a custodian for it or for all or substantially all of its property, or

(D) makes a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors;

(6) a court of competent jurisdiction enters an order or decree under any Bankruptcy Law that:

(A) is for relief against an Obligor in an involuntary case,

(B) appoints a Custodian for an Obligor or for all or substantially all of its property, or

(C) orders the liquidation of an Obligor, and the order or decree remains unstayed and in effect for 60 days; or

(7) there occurs any other Event of Default provided for in such series.

The term "Bankruptcy Law" means Title 11, U.S. Code or any similar Federal or State law for the relief of debtors. The term "Custodian" means any receiver, trustee, assignee, liquidator or a similar official under any Bankruptcy Law.

"Default" means any event which is, or after notice or passage of time would be, an Event of Default. A Default under subparagraph (4) above is not an Event of Default until the trustee or the holders of at least 33-1/3% in principal amount of the series notify us of the Default and we do not cure the Default within the time specified after receipt of the notice.

For purposes of this section, the term "Obligor" shall mean each of us and any subsidiary guarantor identified in a securities resolution or supplemental indenture, in each case excluding such entity's subsidiaries.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing on a series, the trustee by notice to the Company, or the holders of at least 33-1/3% in principal amount of the series by notice to the Company and the trustee, may declare the principal of and accrued interest on all the securities of the series to be due and payable immediately. Discounted debt securities may provide that the amount of principal due upon acceleration is less than the stated principal amount.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the series by notice to the trustee may rescind an acceleration and its consequences if the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree and if all

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existing Events of Default on the series have been cured or waived except nonpayment of principal or interest that has become due solely because of the acceleration.

The trustee may require indemnity satisfactory to it before it enforces the senior indenture or the senior debt securities of the series. Subject to certain limitations, holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of the series may direct the trustee in its exercise of any trust or power with respect to such series. The trustee is required, within 90 days after the occurrence thereof, to give to the holders of the senior debt securities notice of all Defaults known to the trustee to have occurred and be continuing. Except in the case of Default in payment on a series, the trustee may withhold from holders of such series notice of any continuing Default if the trustee determines that withholding notice is in the interest of such holders. We are required to furnish the trustee annually a brief certificate as to our compliance with all conditions and covenants under the senior indenture.

The failure to redeem any senior debt securities when such redemption is subject to the occurrence of a condition prior to redemption, is not an Event of Default if any event on which such redemption is so conditioned does not occur and is not waived before the scheduled redemption date.

The senior indenture does not have a cross-default provision. Thus, a default by any Obligor on any other debt, including any other series of senior debt securities, would not constitute an Event of Default.

### ***Amendments and Waivers***

Unless the securities resolution or supplemental indenture otherwise provides (in which event the applicable prospectus supplement will so state), the senior debt securities and the senior indenture may be amended with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of all series affected voting as one class. Unless the securities resolution or supplemental indenture otherwise provides (in which event the applicable prospectus supplement will so state), a Default on a particular series may be waived with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of the series, except for a Default in payment of interest or principal or a Default in respect of a provision of the senior indenture that cannot be amended without the consent of each holder affected. However, without the consent of each holder affected, no amendment or waiver may:

(1) reduce the amount of senior debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment or waiver;

(2) reduce the interest on or change the time for payment of interest on any senior debt security;

(3) change the fixed maturity of any senior debt security;

(4) reduce the principal of any non-Discounted Debt Security or reduce the amount of the principal of any Discounted Debt Security that would be due on acceleration thereof;

(5) change the currency in which the principal or interest on a senior debt security is payable;

(6) make any change that materially adversely affects the right to convert any senior debt security; or

(7) change the provisions of the senior indenture regarding waiver of Defaults and amendments, except to increase the amount of senior debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment or waiver, or to provide that other provisions of the senior indenture cannot be amended or waived without the consent of each holder affected thereby.

Without the consent of any holder, the senior indenture or the senior debt securities may be amended:

(1) to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

(2) to provide for assumption of our obligations to securityholders in the event of a merger or consolidation requiring such assumption;

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- (3) to provide that specific provisions of the indenture shall not apply to a series of senior debt securities not previously issued;
- (4) to create a series and establish its terms;
- (5) to provide for a separate trustee for one or more series; or
- (6) to make any change that does not materially adversely affect the rights of any holder.

### ***Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance***

Senior debt securities of a series may be defeased in accordance with their terms and, unless the securities resolution or supplemental indenture establishing the terms of the series otherwise provides, as set forth below. We at any time may terminate as to a series all of our obligations (except for certain obligations, including obligations with respect to the defeasance trust and obligations to register the transfer or exchange of a debt security, to replace destroyed, lost or stolen senior debt securities and coupons and to maintain paying agencies in respect of the debt securities) with respect to the senior debt securities of the series and any related coupons and the senior indenture (legal defeasance). We at any time may terminate as to a series our obligations with respect to any restrictive covenants which may be applicable to a particular series (covenant defeasance).

We may exercise our legal defeasance option notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option. If we exercise our legal defeasance option, a series may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default. If we exercise our covenant defeasance option, a series may not be accelerated by reference to any covenant which may be applicable to a series.

To exercise either defeasance option as to a series, we must (1) irrevocably deposit in trust (the defeasance trust) with the trustee or another trustee, money or U.S. Government Obligations, (2) deliver a certificate from a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, expressing such firm's opinion that the payments of principal and interest when due on the deposited U.S. Government Obligations, without reinvestment, plus any deposited money without investment will provide cash at such times and in such amounts as will be sufficient to pay the principal and interest when due on all senior debt securities of such series to maturity or redemption, as the case may be, and (3) comply with certain other conditions. In particular, we must obtain an opinion of tax counsel that the defeasance will not result in recognition of any gain or loss to holders for Federal income tax purposes.

"U.S. Government Obligations" means direct obligations of the United States or any agency or instrumentality of the United States, the payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed by the United States, which, in either case, have the full faith and credit of the United States pledged for payment and which are not callable at the issuer's option, or certificates representing an ownership interest in such obligations.

### ***Regarding the Trustee***

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the trustee will also act as transfer agent and paying agent with respect to the senior debt securities. We may remove the trustee with or without cause if we so notify the trustee three months in advance and if no Default occurs during the three-month period. The trustee provides services to us as a depository of funds, registrar, trustee and similar services.

### **Certain Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities**

Other than the terms of the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities relating to subordination, or otherwise as described in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of subordinated debt securities, the terms of the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities are identical in all material respects to the terms of the senior indenture and senior debt securities.

### **Subordination**

The indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities is subordinate to the prior payment in full of all our Senior Indebtedness (defined below). During the continuance beyond any applicable grace period of any default in the payment of principal, premium, interest or any other payment due on any of our Senior Indebtedness, we may not make any payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities. In addition, upon any payment or distribution of our assets upon any dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, and interest on the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all our Senior Indebtedness. Because of this subordination, if we dissolve or otherwise liquidate, holders of our subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than holders of our Senior Indebtedness. The subordination provisions do not prevent the occurrence of an event of default under the subordinated indenture.

The term “Senior Indebtedness” of a person means with respect to such person the principal of, premium, if any, interest on, and any other payment due pursuant to any of the following, whether outstanding on the date of the subordinated indenture or incurred by that person in the future:

- all of the indebtedness of that person for money borrowed, including any indebtedness secured by a mortgage, conditional sales contract or other lien which is (1) given to secure all or part of the purchase price of property subject thereto, whether given to the vendor of that property or to another lender, or (2) existing on property at the time that person acquires it;
- all of the indebtedness of that person evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other securities sold by that person for money;
- all of the lease obligations which are capitalized on the books of that person in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- all indebtedness of others of the kinds described in the first two bullet points above and all lease obligations of others of the kind described in the third bullet point above that the person, in any manner, assumes or guarantees or that the person in effect guarantees through an agreement to purchase, whether that agreement is contingent or otherwise; and
- all renewals, extensions or refundings of indebtedness of the kinds described in the first, second or fourth bullet point above and all renewals or extensions of leases of the kinds described in the third or fourth bullet point above;

unless, in the case of any particular indebtedness, lease, renewal, extension or refunding, the instrument or lease creating or evidencing it or the assumption or guarantee relating to it expressly provides that such indebtedness, lease, renewal, extension or refunding is not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities. Our senior debt securities, and any unsubordinated guarantee obligations of ours or any subsidiary guarantor to which we and such guarantor are a party, including our, and the subsidiary guarantors', guarantees of each others' debt securities and other indebtedness for borrowed money, constitute Senior Indebtedness for purposes of the subordinated debt indenture.

### **Convertible Debt Securities**

The terms, if any, on which debt securities being offered may be exchanged for or converted into other debt securities or shares of preferred stock, preference stock, common stock or other securities or rights of ours (including rights to receive payments in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies or indices) or securities of other issuers or any combination of the foregoing will be set forth in the prospectus supplement for such debt securities being offered.

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Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to debt securities being offered that may be exchanged for or converted into capital stock:

The holder of any debt securities convertible into capital stock will have the right exercisable at any time during the time period specified in the prospectus supplement, unless previously redeemed by us, to convert such debt securities into shares of capital stock, which may include preferred stock, preference stock or common stock, as specified in the prospectus supplement, at the conversion rate for each \$1,000 principal amount of debt securities set forth in the prospectus supplement, subject to adjustment.

The holder of a convertible debt security may convert a portion thereof which is \$1,000 or any multiple of \$1,000. In the case of debt securities called for redemption, conversion rights will expire at the close of business on the business day prior to the date fixed for redemption as may be specified in the prospectus supplement, except that in the case of redemption at the option of the debt security holder, if applicable, such right will terminate upon receipt of written notice of the exercise of such option.

Unless the terms of the specific debt securities being offered provide otherwise, in certain events, the conversion rate for debt securities convertible into common stock will be subject to adjustment as set forth in the applicable indenture if we:

- pay a dividend or make a distribution on our common stock in shares of our common stock;
- subdivide our outstanding shares of common stock into a greater number of shares;
- combine our outstanding shares of common stock into a smaller number of shares;
- pay a dividend or make a distribution on our common stock in shares of our capital stock other than common stock;
- issue by reclassification of our common stock in shares of our capital stock;
- issue to all holders of our common stock rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase shares of our common stock, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our common stock, or rights, options, or warrants to subscribe for or purchase such convertible or exchangeable securities at a price per share lower than the current market price on the date of such issuance; or
- distribute to all holders of our common stock any of our assets or debt securities or any rights or warrants to purchase our assets or debt securities.

No adjustment of the conversion rate will be required unless an adjustment would require a cumulative increase or decrease of at least 1% in such rate. The conversion rate for debt securities convertible into securities other than our common stock may be subject to adjustment pursuant to the applicable securities resolution.

Convertible debt securities surrendered for conversion between the record date for an interest payment, if any, and the interest payment date, except convertible debt securities called for redemption on a redemption date during such period, must be accompanied by payment of an amount equal to the interest thereon which the registered holder is to receive.

### **DESCRIPTION OF FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS**

The first mortgage bonds will be issued under and secured by the Mortgage and Deed of Trust, dated July 1, 1939, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to BNY Midwest Trust Company, as successor to Harris Trust and Savings Bank, as trustee, as supplemented and amended by supplemental indentures. We refer to the original mortgage, as so supplemented and amended, as the mortgage. All the first mortgage bonds issued or issuable under the mortgage are referred to as the “bonds.” We have summarized below the material provisions of the mortgage and the bonds or indicated which material provisions

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will be described in the related prospectus supplement. These descriptions are only summaries, and you should refer to the mortgage itself, which describes completely the terms and definitions summarized below and contains additional information about the bonds.

### **Issuance of Additional Bonds**

The bonds, when issued, may rank equally with the bonds of other series then outstanding, and may be issued having dates, maturities, interest rates, redemption prices and other terms as may be determined by our board of directors. Additional bonds may be issued under the mortgage in principal amounts not exceeding the sum of:

(1) 60% (so long as any bonds issued prior to January 1, 1997 remain outstanding, and thereafter 70%) of the net bondable value of property additions not subject to an unfunded prior lien;

(2) the principal amount of bonds retired or to be retired (except out of trust monies); and

(3) the amount of cash deposited with the trustee for such purpose, which may thereafter be withdrawn upon the same basis that additional bonds are issuable under (1) or (2) above.

Additional bonds may not be issued on the basis of property additions subject to an unfunded prior lien.

In addition to the restrictions discussed above, so long as any bonds issued prior to January 1, 1997 remain outstanding, additional bonds may not be issued unless our unconsolidated net earnings available for interest, depreciation and property retirements for a period of any 12 consecutive months during the period of 15 calendar months immediately preceding the first day of the month in which the application for authentication and delivery of additional bonds is made shall have been not less than the greater of two times (two and one-half times after all bonds issued prior to January 1, 1997 are no longer outstanding) the annual interest charges on, and 10% of the principal amount of, all bonds then outstanding, all additional bonds then applied for, all outstanding prior lien bonds and all prior lien bonds, if any, then being applied for.

The net earnings test referred to in the previous paragraph need not be satisfied to issue additional bonds:

- on the basis of property additions subject to an unfunded prior lien which simultaneously will become a funded prior lien, if application for the issuance of the additional bonds is made at any time after a date two years prior to the date of the maturity of the bonds secured by the prior lien; and
- on the basis of the payment at maturity of bonds heretofore issued by us, or the redemption, conversion or purchase of bonds, after a date two years prior to the date on which those bonds mature.

We have reserved the right to amend the mortgage to eliminate the foregoing requirement. See “—Modification of the Mortgage.”

### **Release and Substitution of Property**

The mortgage provides that, subject to various limitations, property may be released from the lien thereof on the basis of cash deposited with the trustee, bonds or purchase money obligations delivered to the trustee, prior lien bonds delivered to the trustee, or unfunded net property additions certified to the trustee. The mortgage also permits the withdrawal of cash against the certification to the trustee of gross property additions at 100%, or the net bondable value of property additions at 60% (so long as any bonds issued prior to January 1, 1997 remain outstanding, and thereafter 70%), or the deposit with the trustee of bonds we have acquired. The mortgage contains special provisions with respect to the release of all or substantially all of our gas and electric properties. We have reserved the right to amend the mortgage to change the release and substitution provisions. See “—Modification of the Mortgage.”

## **Priority and Security**

The bonds when issued will be secured, equally and ratably with all of the bonds now outstanding or hereafter issued under the mortgage, by the lien on substantially all of our fixed property and franchises purported to be conveyed by the mortgage including after-acquired property of the character intended to be mortgaged property, subject to the exceptions referred to below, to certain minor leases and easements, permitted liens, exceptions and reservations in the instruments by which we acquired title to our property and the prior lien of the trustee for compensation, expenses and liability.

Excepted from the lien of the mortgage are:

- cash and accounts receivable;
- contracts or operating agreements;
- securities not pledged under the mortgage;
- electric energy, gas, water, materials and supplies held for consumption in operation or held in advance of use for fixed capital purposes; and
- merchandise, appliances and supplies held for resale or lease to customers.

There is further expressly excepted any property of any other corporation, all the securities of which may be owned or later acquired by us. The lien of the mortgage does not apply to property of KGE so long as KGE remains our wholly-owned subsidiary, to the stock of KGE owned by us or to the stock of any of our other subsidiaries. The mortgage permits our consolidation or merger with, or the conveyance of all or substantially all of our property to, any other corporation; provided, among other things, that the successor corporation assumes the due and punctual payment of the principal and interest on the bonds of all series then outstanding under the mortgage and assumes the due and punctual performance of all the covenants and conditions of the mortgage.

## **Ranking**

We only have a shareholder's claim on the assets of our subsidiaries. This shareholder's claim is junior to the claims that creditors of our subsidiaries have against our subsidiaries. Holders of our bonds are our creditors and not creditors of any of our subsidiaries. As a result, all the existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, including any claims of their creditors, are effectively senior to the bonds with respect to the assets of our subsidiaries.

The bonds are our obligations exclusively. To the extent that our ability to service our debt, including the bonds, may be dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries, our ability to do so will be dependent on the ability of our subsidiaries to distribute those earnings to us as dividends, loans or other payments. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any amounts due on the bonds or to make funds available to us to do so. Our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends or make other payments or advances to us will depend upon their operating results and will be subject to applicable laws and contractual restrictions. The mortgages will not limit our subsidiaries' ability to enter into other agreements that prohibit or restrict dividends or other payments or advances to us. Our Credit Agreement, dated as of February 18, 2011 and as amended from time to time, and our Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of September 29, 2011 and as amended from time to time, limit our subsidiaries' ability to enter into other agreements that prohibit or restrict dividends or other payments or advances to us.

## **Modification of the Mortgage**

The mortgage may be modified or altered, subject to our rights and obligations and the rights of holders of bonds, by the written consent of the holders of at least 60% in principal amount of all of the bonds outstanding thereunder, and, if the rights of one or more, but less than all, series of bonds then outstanding are to be affected by action taken pursuant to such consent, then also by consent of the holders of at least 60% in principal amount of each series of bonds so affected. No modification or alteration may be made which will permit the extension

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of the time or times of payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, or interest (including additional interest) on any bond or a reduction in the rate of interest thereon, or otherwise affect the terms of payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, or interest (including additional interest) on any bond or reduce the percentages required for the taking of any action thereunder. Bonds owned by us or any affiliated corporation are excluded for the purpose of any vote, determination of a quorum or consent.

The mortgage also provides that without the consent of any holder of any bond issued thereunder, the right of such holder to receive payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, or interest (including additional interest) on, on or after the respective due dates expressed in such bond, or to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after such respective due dates shall not be impaired or affected.

We have reserved the right, subject to appropriate corporate action, but without the consent or other action of holders of bonds of any series created after January 1, 1997, to make amendments to the mortgage to permit, unless an event of default shall have happened and be continuing, or shall happen as a result of making or granting an application:

(1) the release from the lien of the mortgage of any mortgaged property if the fair value of all of the property constituting the trust estate (excluding the mortgaged property to be released but including any mortgaged property to be acquired by us with the proceeds of, or otherwise in connection with, such release) equals or exceeds an amount equal to 10/7ths of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding bonds and any prior lien bonds outstanding at the time of such release;

(2) in the event we are unable to obtain a release of property as described in clause (1), the release from the lien of the mortgage of any property constituting part of the trust estate if the fair value thereof is less than 1/2 of 1% of the aggregate principal amount of bonds and prior lien bonds outstanding at the time of such release; provided, that the aggregate fair value of the property released pursuant to this clause (2) in any period of 12 consecutive calendar months shall not exceed 1% of such bonds and prior lien bonds;

(3) the deletion of the net earnings test for the issuance of additional bonds or merging into another company;

(4) the deletion of a financial test to be met by another corporation in the event of our consolidation or merger into or our sale of our property as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to such other corporation; and

(5) the deletion of the requirement to obtain an independent engineer's certificate in connection with certain releases of property from the lien of the mortgage.

We have also reserved the right, subject to appropriate corporate action, but without the consent or other action of holders of bonds of any series created on or after June 1, 2004, to:

(1) Amend the mortgage to allow us or any successor entity to issue substitute bonds (or similar instruments) for any outstanding bonds, provided that such substitute bonds (or similar instruments) carry ratings equal to or better than the then current ratings of the bonds which are being replaced and that certain other conditions are satisfied. The mortgage and deed of trust under which any such substitute bonds (or similar instruments) may be issued may contain terms and conditions different from the mortgage;

(2) Eliminate as an event of default the failure to discharge or stay within 30 days a final judgment against us for the payment of money in excess of \$100,000;

(3) Eliminate the net earnings test in connection with certain acquisitions of property;

(4) Add nuclear fuel to the definition of property additions; and



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(5) Make certain amendments to modernize and clarify the terms of the mortgage. These amendments will not adversely affect the rights of holders of bonds and may include the following provisions, among others: (i) simplification of the trustee provisions; (ii) the addition of a governing law clause; (iii) the addition of defeasance provisions for future issuances of bonds; (iv) elimination of maintenance and improvement fund requirements for future issuances of bonds (which requirements will instead be added to specific series of bonds); (v) simplification of the release provisions for obsolete property, *de minimis* property releases and substitution of property and unfunded property; (vi) the ability to issue global or uncertificated securities; (vii) clarification of our ability to issue variable rate bonds under the mortgage and (viii) amendment of the definitions of excepted property and permitted liens.

### **Events of Default**

An event of default under the mortgage includes:

- default in the payment of the principal of any bond when the same shall become due and payable, whether at maturity or otherwise;
- default continuing for 30 days in the payment of any installment of interest on any bond or in the payment or satisfaction of any sinking fund obligation;
- default in performance or observance of any other covenant, agreement or condition in the mortgage continuing for a period of 60 days after written notice to us thereof by the trustee or by the holders of not less than 15% of the aggregate principal amount of all bonds then outstanding;
- failure to discharge or stay within 30 days a final judgment against us for the payment of money in excess of \$100,000;
- default in the payment of the principal of any prior lien bond when the same shall become due and payable, whether at maturity or otherwise, or default in the payment of any installment on interest on any prior lien bond beyond the applicable grace period specified in such prior lien bond; and
- certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization.

The trustee is required, within 90 days after the occurrence thereof, to give to the holders of the bonds notice of all defaults known to the trustee unless such defaults shall have been cured before the giving of such notice; provided, however, that except in the case of default in the payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, or interest (including additional interest) on any of the bonds, or in the payment or satisfaction of any sinking or purchase fund installment, the trustee shall be protected in withholding notice if and so long as the trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of notice is in the interests of the holders of the bonds. The trustee is under no obligation to defend or initiate any action under the mortgage which would result in the incurring of non-reimbursable expenses unless one or more of the holders of any of the outstanding bonds furnishes the trustee with indemnity satisfactory to it against such expenses. In the event of a default, the trustee is not required to act unless requested to act by holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the bonds then outstanding. In addition, a majority of the holders of the bonds have the right to direct all proceedings under the mortgage provided the trustee is indemnified to its satisfaction.

If an event of default shall have happened and be continuing, the trustee may, in its discretion and, upon written request of not less than 25% of the bondholders, shall by notice in writing delivered to us declare the principal amount of all bonds, if not already due and payable, to be immediately due and payable; and upon any such declaration of all bonds shall become and be immediately due and payable. This provision, however, is subject to the condition that, if at any time after the principal of the bonds shall have been so declared due and payable and prior to the date of maturity thereof as stated in the bonds and before any sale of the trust estate shall have been made, all arrears of interest upon all such bonds (with interest at the rate specified in such bonds on any overdue installment of interest and the expenses of the trustee, its agents and attorneys) shall either be paid by us or be collected and paid out of the trust estate, and defaults as aforesaid (other than the payment of

principal which has been so declared due and payable) shall have been made good or secured to the satisfaction of the trustee or provision deemed by the trustee to be adequate shall be made therefor, then, and in every such case, a majority of the bondholders may waive such default and its consequences and rescind such declaration; but no such waiver shall extend to or affect any subsequent default or impair or exhaust any right or power consequent thereon.

## DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

### General

We may issue warrants to purchase securities or other securities or rights of ours, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies or indices, or securities of other issuers or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any securities and may be attached to or separate from such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of any warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

- the title of such warrants;
- the aggregate number of such warrants;
- the price or prices at which such warrants will be issued;
- the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the price of such warrants may be payable;
- the securities or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies or indices, or securities of other issuers or any combination of the foregoing, purchasable upon exercise of such warrants;
- the price at which and the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the securities purchasable upon exercise of such warrants may be purchased;
- the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants which may be exercised at any one time;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which such warrants are issued and the number of such warrants issued with each such security;
- if applicable, the date on and after which such warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- if applicable, a discussion of certain United States federal income tax considerations;
- if applicable, the identity of any of our subsidiaries guaranteeing our obligations with respect to such warrants; and
- any other terms of such warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of such warrants.

## DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of:

- our securities or securities of an entity unaffiliated or affiliated with us, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement;
- currencies or composite currencies; or
- commodities.

Each purchase contract will entitle the holder thereof to purchase or sell, and obligate us to sell or purchase, on specified dates, such securities, currencies or commodities at a specified purchase price, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may, however, satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any purchase contract by delivering the cash value thereof or, in the case of underlying currencies, by delivering the underlying currencies, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will also specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell such securities, currencies or commodities, any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions or other provisions relating to the settlement of a purchase contract and, if applicable, the identity of any of our subsidiaries guaranteeing our obligations with respect to such purchase contracts.

Purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations thereunder when the purchase contracts are issued. Our obligation to settle such pre-paid purchase contracts on the relevant settlement date may constitute indebtedness. Accordingly, the pre-paid purchase contracts will be issued under one of the indentures.

## DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, units will consist of one or more purchase contracts, warrants, debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or any combination thereof. Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement for:

- all terms of the units and of the purchase contracts, warrants, debt securities, shares of preferred stock, shares of common stock, or any combination thereof, comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may or may not be traded separately;
- a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units; and
- a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units.

## GLOBAL SECURITIES

We may issue the first mortgage bonds, debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts and units of any series in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depository or with a nominee for a depository identified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series and registered in the name of the depository or its nominee. In that case, one or more global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of outstanding registered securities of the series to be represented by such global securities. Unless and until the depository exchanges a global security in whole for securities in definitive registered form, the global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository to a nominee of the depository or by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository or by the depository or any of its nominees to a successor of the depository or a nominee of such successor.

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The specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any portion of a series of securities to be represented by a global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to persons that have accounts with the depositary for such global security known as “participants” or persons that may hold interests through such participants. Upon the issuance of a global security, the depositary for such global security will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants’ accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities represented by such global security beneficially owned by such participants. The accounts to be credited shall be designated by any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of such securities. Ownership of beneficial interests in such global security will be shown on, and the transfer of such ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary for such global security (with respect to interests of participants) and on the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons holding through participants). The laws of some states may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such limits and such laws may impair the ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in global securities.

So long as the depositary for a global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of such global security, such depositary or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by such global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement, purchase contract or unit agreement. Except as set forth herein, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by such global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of such securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement, purchase contract or unit agreement. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for such global security and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement, purchase contract or unit agreement. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security desires to give or take any action which a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement, purchase contract or unit agreement, the depositary for such global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take such action, and such participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through such participants to give or take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities or first mortgage bonds, and any payments to holders with respect to warrants, purchase contracts or units represented by a global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be made to such depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of such global security. None of us, the trustees, the warrant agents, the unit agents or any of our other agents, agent of the trustees or agent of the warrant agents or unit agents will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in such global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary for any securities represented by a global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distributions of underlying securities or commodities to holders in respect of such global security, will immediately credit participants’ accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in such global security as shown on the records of such depositary. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in such global security held through such participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in “street name,” and will be the responsibility of such participants.

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If the depositary for any securities represented by a global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and we do not appoint a successor depositary registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act within 90 days, we will issue such securities in definitive form in exchange for such global security. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion determine not to have any of the securities of a series represented by one or more global securities and, in such event, will issue securities of such series in definitive form in exchange for all of the global security or securities representing such securities. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a global security will be registered in such name or names as the depositary shall instruct the relevant trustee, warrant agent or other relevant agent of ours. We expect that such instructions will be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in such global security.

### **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the securities being offered hereby in four ways:

- directly to purchasers;
- through agents;
- through underwriters; and
- through dealers.

We may distribute the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at:

- a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- prices related to prevailing market prices; or
- negotiated prices.

We may directly solicit offers to purchase securities, or we may designate agents to solicit such offers. We will, in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering, name any agent that could be viewed as an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and describe any commissions we must pay. Any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment or, if indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, on a firm commitment basis. Agents, dealers and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

If any underwriters or agents are utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will enter into an underwriting agreement or other agreement with them at the time of sale to them, and we will set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering their names and the terms of our agreement with them.

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell such securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale.

We may engage in at-the-market offerings into an existing trading market in accordance with Rule 415(a)(4). Any at-the-market offering will be through an underwriter or underwriters acting as principal or agent for us.

Remarketing firms, agents, underwriters and dealers may be entitled under agreements which they may enter into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

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In order to facilitate the offering of the securities, any underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities or any other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on such securities. Specifically, any underwriters may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position for their own accounts. In addition, to cover overallocations or to stabilize the price of the securities or of any such other securities, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the securities or any such other securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of the securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. Any such underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third parties may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third parties in such sale transactions will be underwriters or sales agents and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or a post-effective amendment).

We or one of our affiliates may loan or pledge securities to a financial institution or other third party that in turn may sell the securities using this prospectus. Such financial institution or third party may transfer its short position to investors in our securities or in connection with a simultaneous offering of other securities offered by this prospectus or otherwise.

Any underwriter, agent or dealer utilized in the initial offering of securities will not confirm sales to accounts over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of its customer.

### **LEGAL MATTERS**

As to matters governed by Kansas law, Larry D. Irick, Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Westar Energy and, as to matters governed by New York law, Baker Botts L.L.P., New York, New York, will pass upon the validity of the securities to be offered by this prospectus. As of March 18, 2016, Mr. Irick beneficially owned a number of shares of our common stock, including restricted share units, which represented less than 0.1% of the total outstanding common stock.

### **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements, and the related financial statement schedule, incorporated in this Prospectus by reference from Westar Energy, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K and the effectiveness of Westar Energy, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

### **AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

We have filed this prospectus as part of a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC. The registration statement contains exhibits and other information that is not contained in this prospectus. In particular, the

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registration statement includes as exhibits forms of our underwriting agreements, a copy of our senior indenture, a form of subordinated indenture, a copy of our mortgage, forms of our senior debt security and subordinated debt security and specimen common stock, preferred stock and preference stock certificates. We will file a form of unit agreement, purchase contract and pledge agreement, warrant agreement for warrants sold separately, warrant for warrants sold separately, warrant agreement for warrants sold attached to securities, warrant for warrants sold attached to securities, deposit agreement and depositary share under cover of a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with any issuance of such securities. Our descriptions in this prospectus of the provisions of documents filed as exhibits to the registration statement or otherwise filed with the SEC are only summaries of the documents' material terms. If you want a complete description of the content of the documents, you should obtain the documents by following the procedures described below.

We file annual, quarterly and special reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings, including the complete registration statement and all of the exhibits to it are available through the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale of such securities is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

### **INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus. In addition, information we file with the SEC in the future will automatically update and supersede information contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement.

This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that we have previously filed with the SEC:

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, filed on February 24, 2016.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, excluding, in each case, information deemed furnished and not filed until we sell all of the securities we are offering. Any statements contained in a previously filed document incorporated by reference into this prospectus is deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in a subsequently filed document also incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes that statement.

You may request a copy of any of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
Attn: Investor Relations  
(785) 575-8227

**PART II**  
**INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS**

**Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the estimated costs and expenses payable by the Registrant in connection with the sale of the securities being registered hereby.

	<b>Amount to be Paid</b>
Registration fee	\$ *
Legal fees and expenses (including Blue Sky fees)	**
Trustee fees	**
Rating Agency fees	**
Printing and engraving fees	**
Accounting fees and expenses	**
Miscellaneous	**
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ **</b>

\* Omitted because the registration fee is being deferred pursuant to Rule 456(b).

\*\* These fees and expenses depend on the securities offered and the number of issuances, and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

Article XVIII of the articles of incorporation provides that a director shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director except for liability (1) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (2) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (3) for paying a dividend or approving a stock repurchase in violation of the Kansas General Corporation Law or (4) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. This provision is specifically authorized by Section 17-6002(b)(8) of the Kansas General Corporation Law.

Section 17-6305 of the Kansas General Corporation Law (the "Indemnification Statute") provides for indemnification by a corporation of its corporate officers, directors, employees and agents. The Indemnification Statute provides that a corporation may indemnify such persons who have been, are, or may become a party to an action, suit or proceeding due to his or her status as a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation. Further, the Indemnification Statute grants authority to a corporation to implement its own broader indemnification policy. Article XVIII of the articles of incorporation requires us to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent provided by Kansas law. Further, as is provided for in Article XVIII, we entered into indemnification agreements with our directors, which provide indemnification broader than that available under Article XVIII and the Indemnification Statute.

We maintain standard policies of insurance under which coverage is provided (a) to our directors and officers against loss rising from claims made by reason of breach of duty or other wrongful act, and (b) to us with respect to payments which may be made by us to such officers and directors pursuant to the above indemnification provision or otherwise as a matter of law.

The proposed forms of Underwriting Agreement incorporated by reference as Exhibits 1.1 and 1.2 to this Registration Statement provide for indemnification of our directors and officers by the underwriters against certain liabilities.



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### **Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

(a) The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Document</u>
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units)*
1.2	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Depositary Shares, Common Stock)*
3.1	By-laws of the Registrant, as amended April 28, 2004 (filed as Exhibit 3(a) to June 2004 Form 10-Q)
3.2	Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant, as amended through May 25, 1988 (filed as Exhibit 4 to Form S-8 Registration Statement, SEC File No. 33-23022)
3.3	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(g) to December 1998 Form 10-K)
3.4	Certificate of Correction to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(b) to December 1991 Form 10-K)
3.5	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(c) to December 31, 1994 Form 10-K)
3.6	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3 to June 1994 Form 10-Q)
3.7	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(a) to June 1996 Form 10-Q)
3.8	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3 to March 1998 Form 10-Q)
3.9	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(l) to the December 31, 2002 Form 10-K)
3.10	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(m) to the December 31, 2002 Form 10-K)
3.11	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(m) to the Form S-3 Registration Statement No. 333-125828)
3.12	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(m) to the December 31, 2011 Form 10-K)
4.1	Mortgage and Deed of Trust dated July 1, 1939 between the Registrant and Harris Trust and Savings Bank (filed as Exhibit 4(a) to Registration Statement No. 33-21739)
4.1.1	First and Second Supplemental Indentures dated July 1, 1939 and April 1, 1949, respectively (filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Registration Statement No. 33-21739)
4.1.2	Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated October 4, 1951 (filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Registration Statement No. 33-21739)
4.1.3	Fourteenth Supplemental Indenture dated May 1, 1976 (filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Registration Statement No. 33-21739)
4.1.4	Twenty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated July 1, 1992 (filed as Exhibit 4(o) to the December 1992 Form 10-K)

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<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Document</u>
4.1.5	Thirty-Second Supplemental Indenture dated April 15, 1994 (filed as Exhibit 4(s) to the December 31, 1994 Form 10-K)
4.1.6	Thirty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated June 28, 2000 (filed as Exhibit 4(v) to the December 31, 2000 Form 10-K)
4.1.7	Thirty-Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated June 1, 2004 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the January 18, 2005 Form 8-K)
4.1.8	Thirty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated January 18, 2005 (filed as Exhibit 4.3 to the January 18, 2005 Form 8-K)
4.1.9	Thirty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture dated June 30, 2005 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the June 30, 2005 Form 8-K)
4.1.10	Forty-Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 1, 2012 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the February 28, 2012 Form 8-K)
4.1.11	Forty-Second Supplemental (Reopening) Indenture dated May 17, 2012 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the May 16, 2012 Form 8-K)
4.1.12	Forty-Third Supplemental Indenture, dated March 28, 2013 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the March 22, 2013 Form 8-K)
4.1.13	Forty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated August 19, 2013 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the August 14, 2013 Form 8-K)
4.1.14	Forty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 13, 2015 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the November 6, 2015 Form 8-K)
4.2	Senior Indenture dated August 1, 1998 between the Registrant and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the June 30, 1998 Form 10-Q)
4.2(a)	Form of Senior Note (included in Exhibit 4.2)
4.3	Form of Subordinated Indenture between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee*
4.4	Form of Subordinated Note (included in Exhibit 4.3)
4.5	Form of Purchase Contract Agreement relating to Purchase Contracts (included in Exhibit 4.6)
4.6	Form of Unit Agreement**
4.7	Form of Warrant Agreement for Warrants sold separately**
4.8	Form of Warrant for Warrants sold separately (included in Exhibit 4.7)
4.9	Form of Warrant Agreement for Warrants sold attached to other Securities**
4.10	Form of Warrant for Warrants sold attached to other Securities (included in Exhibit 4.9)
4.11	Form of Pledge Agreement***
4.12	Form of Deposit Agreement**
4.13	Form of Depositary Share (included in Exhibit 4.12)
5.1	Opinion of Larry D. Irick, Esq., General Counsel of the Registrant*
5.2	Opinion of Larry D. Irick regarding the legality of the common stock*
5.3	Opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P.*

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<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Document</u>
12	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividend Requirements*
23.1	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP*
23.2	Consent of Larry D. Irick, Esq. (included in Exhibit 5.1)
23.3	Consent of Larry D. Irick, Esq. (included in Exhibit 5.2)
23.4	Consent of Baker Botts L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.3)
24.1	Powers of Attorney (included on the signature pages hereof)
25.1	Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee under the Subordinated Indenture*
25.2	Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee under the Mortgage and Deed of Trust*
25.3	Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as successor to Bankers Trust Company*

\* Filed herewith.

\*\* To be filed by Current Report on Form 8-K.

### **Item 17. Undertakings**

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made of securities registered hereby, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price) represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) above do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

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(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the

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Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrants pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrants have been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrants will, unless in the opinion of their counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.



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<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<hr/> <u>/s/ JERRY B. FARLEY</u> Jerry B. Farley	Director	March 18, 2016
<hr/> <u>/s/ RICHARD L. HAWLEY</u> Richard L. Hawley	Director	March 18, 2016
<hr/> <u>/s/ B. ANTHONY ISAAC</u> B. Anthony Isaac	Director	March 18, 2016
<hr/> <u>/s/ SANDRA A.J. LAWRENCE</u> Sandra A.J. Lawrence	Director	March 18, 2016
<hr/> <u>/s/ S. CARL SODERSTROM, JR.</u> S. Carl Soderstrom, Jr.	Director	March 18, 2016

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Document</u>
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units)*
1.2	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Depositary Shares, Common Stock)*
3.1	By-laws of the Registrant, as amended April 28, 2004 (filed as Exhibit 3(a) to June 2004 Form 10-Q)
3.2	Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant, as amended through May 25, 1988 (filed as Exhibit 4 to Form S-8 Registration Statement, SEC File No. 33-23022)
3.3	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(g) to December 1998 Form 10-K)
3.4	Certificate of Correction to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(b) to December 1991 Form 10-K)
3.5	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(c) to December 31, 1994 Form 10-K)
3.6	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3 to June 1994 Form 10-Q)
3.7	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(a) to June 1996 Form 10-Q)
3.8	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3 to March 1998 Form 10-Q)
3.9	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(l) to the December 31, 2002 Form 10-K)
3.10	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(m) to the December 31, 2002 Form 10-K)
3.11	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(m) to the Form S-3 Registration Statement No. 333-125828)
3.12	Certificate of Amendment to Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3(m) to the December 31, 2011 Form 10-K)
4.1	Mortgage and Deed of Trust dated July 1, 1939 between the Registrant and Harris Trust and Savings Bank (filed as Exhibit 4(a) to Registration Statement No. 33-21739)
4.1.1	First and Second Supplemental Indentures dated July 1, 1939 and April 1, 1949, respectively (filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Registration Statement No. 33-21739)
4.1.2	Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated October 4, 1951 (filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Registration Statement No. 33-21739)
4.1.3	Fourteenth Supplemental Indenture dated May 1, 1976 (filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Registration Statement No. 33-21739)
4.1.4	Twenty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated July 1, 1992 (filed as Exhibit 4(o) to the December 1992 Form 10-K)
4.1.5	Thirty-Second Supplemental Indenture dated April 15, 1994 (filed as Exhibit 4(s) to the December 31, 1994 Form 10-K)



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\* Filed herewith.

\*\* To be filed by Current Report on Form 8-K.

**UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT**  
**(Debt Securities)**

[ , 20 ]

Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Sirs:

We (the “**Managers**”) are acting on behalf of the underwriter or underwriters (including ourselves) named below (such underwriter or underwriters being herein called the “**Underwriters**”), and we understand that Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation (the “**Company**”), proposes to issue and sell \$[ ] aggregate principal amount of [ ]% Notes Due [ ] (the “**Offered Securities**”). The Offered Securities are to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the [specify the indenture].

Subject to the terms and conditions and in reliance upon the representations and warranties, terms and conditions set forth or incorporated by reference herein, the Company hereby agrees to sell and each of the Underwriters agrees to purchase from the Company, severally and not jointly, the aggregate principal amount of the Offered Securities set forth below opposite their names at a purchase price of [ ], plus accrued interest, if any, from [ ] to the date of payment and delivery (the “**Purchase Price**”).

Underwriter	Number of Offered Securities To Be Purchased
[Insert syndicate list]	
Total	

For purposes of the Underwriting Agreement, Applicable Time means [ ] (New York time) on the date hereof.

The Underwriters will pay for the Offered Securities upon delivery thereof at the offices of [ ], [ ] at 10:00 a.m. (New York time) on [ ], or at such other time, not later than 1:00 p.m. (New York time) on [ ] as shall be designated in writing by the Underwriters and the Company. The time and date of such payment and delivery are hereinafter referred to as the “**Closing Date.**”

The Offered Securities shall have the terms set forth in the Prospectus dated [ ], 2016 and the Prospectus Supplement dated [ ], including the following:

Terms of Offered Securities

Maturity Date:

Interest Rate:

Redemption Provisions:

Interest Payment Dates: [ ], commencing [ ] (Interest accrues from [ ])

Form and Denomination:

Ranking:

Conversion Provisions:

Other Terms:

Capitalized terms used above and not defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement referred to above.

All communications hereunder shall be in writing and effective only upon receipt and (a) if to the Underwriters, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile in care of [ ], facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ], or (b) if to the Company, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile to 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ].

The Company acknowledges and agrees that the Underwriters are acting solely in the capacity of an arm's length contractual counterparty to the Company with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby (including in connection with determining the terms of the offering) and not as a financial advisor or a fiduciary to, or an agent of, the Company or any other person and will not claim that the Underwriters are acting in such capacity in connection with the offering of the Offered Securities contemplated hereby. Additionally, none of the Underwriters is advising the Company or any other person as to any legal, tax, investment, accounting or regulatory matters in any jurisdiction with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby. The Company shall consult with its own advisors concerning such matters and shall be responsible for making its own independent investigation and appraisal of the transactions contemplated hereby, and the Underwriters shall have no responsibility or liability to the Company with respect thereto. Any review by the Underwriters of the Company, the transactions contemplated hereby or other matters relating to such transactions will be performed solely for the benefit of the Underwriters and shall not be on behalf of the Company.

Except as set forth herein, all provisions contained in the document entitled Westar Energy, Inc. Underwriting Agreement Standard Provisions (Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units) dated [ ], (the "**Standard Provisions**"), a copy of which is attached hereto, are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety and shall be deemed to be a part of this Agreement to the same extent as if such provisions had been set forth in full herein, except that (i) if any term defined in such document is otherwise defined herein, the definition set forth herein shall control, (ii) all references in such document to a type of security that is not an Offered Security shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement and (iii) all references in such document to a type of agreement that has not been entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement.

Please confirm your agreement by having an authorized officer sign a copy of this Agreement in the space set forth below.

Very truly yours,

[Names of Lead Managers]

On behalf of themselves and the other  
Underwriters named herein

By \_\_\_\_\_ ]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

Accepted:

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

TIME OF SALE PROSPECTUS

1. Base Prospectus dated [ ] relating to the Offered Securities and included in the Registration Statement (File No. [ ])
2. The preliminary prospectus supplement dated [ ] relating to the Offered Securities.
3. Final term sheet containing the final terms of the Offered Securities as set forth in Schedule II hereto and filed with the Commission under Rule 433

FINAL PRICING TERMS





Interest Rate:

Redemption Provisions:

Interest Payment Dates: [ ], commencing [ ] (Interest accrues from [ ])

Form and Denomination:

Ranking:

Other Terms:

Capitalized terms used above and not defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement referred to above.

All communications hereunder shall be in writing and effective only upon receipt and (a) if to the Underwriters, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile in care of [ ], facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ], or (b) if to the Company, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile to 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ].

The Company acknowledges and agrees that the Underwriters are acting solely in the capacity of an arm's length contractual counterparty to the Company with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby (including in connection with determining the terms of the offering) and not as a financial advisor or a fiduciary to, or an agent of, the Company or any other person and will not claim that the Underwriters are acting in such capacity in connection with the offering of the Offered Securities contemplated hereby. Additionally, none of the Underwriters is advising the Company or any other person as to any legal, tax, investment, accounting or regulatory matters in any jurisdiction with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby. The Company shall consult with its own advisors concerning such matters and shall be responsible for making its own independent investigation and appraisal of the transactions contemplated hereby, and the Underwriters shall have no responsibility or liability to the Company with respect thereto. Any review by the Underwriters of the Company, the transactions contemplated hereby or other matters relating to such transactions will be performed solely for the benefit of the Underwriters and shall not be on behalf of the Company.

Except as set forth herein, all provisions contained in the document entitled Westar Energy, Inc. Underwriting Agreement Standard Provisions (Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units) dated [ ], (the "**Standard Provisions**"), a copy of which is attached hereto, are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety and shall be deemed to be a part of this Agreement to the same extent as if such provisions had been set forth in full herein, except that (i) if any term defined in such document is otherwise defined herein, the definition set forth herein shall control, (ii) all references in such document to a type of security that is not an Offered Security shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement and (iii) all references in such document to a type of agreement that has not been entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement.

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Very truly yours,

[Names of Lead Managers]

On behalf of themselves and the other  
Underwriters named herein

By [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

Accepted:

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

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3. Final term sheet containing the final terms of the Offered Securities as set forth in Schedule II hereto and filed with the Commission under Rule 433

FINAL PRICING TERMS



Price to Public:

Warrant Exercise Price:

Dates upon which Warrants may be exercised:

Expiration Date:

Form:

Currency in which exercise payments shall be made:

Minimum number of Warrants exercisable by any holder on any day:

Maximum number of Warrants exercisable on any day:

Formula for determining Cash Settlement Value:

Exchange Rate (or method of calculation):

Exchange on which Warrants are to be listed:

Other Terms:

Capitalized terms used above and not defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement referred to above.

All communications hereunder shall be in writing and effective only upon receipt and (a) if to the Underwriters, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile in care of [ ], facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ], or (b) if to the Company, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile to 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ].

The Company acknowledges and agrees that the Underwriters are acting solely in the capacity of an arm's length contractual counterparty to the Company with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby (including in connection with determining the terms of the offering) and not as a financial advisor or a fiduciary to, or an agent of, the Company or any other person and will not claim that the Underwriters are acting in such capacity in connection with the offering of the Offered Securities contemplated hereby. Additionally, none of the Underwriters is advising the Company or any other person as to any legal, tax, investment, accounting or regulatory matters in any jurisdiction with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby. The Company shall consult with its own advisors concerning such matters and shall be responsible for making its own independent investigation and appraisal of the transactions contemplated hereby, and the Underwriters shall have no responsibility or liability to the Company with respect thereto. Any review by the Underwriters of the Company, the transactions contemplated hereby or other matters relating to such transactions will be performed solely for the benefit of the Underwriters and shall not be on behalf of the Company.

Except as set forth herein, all provisions contained in the document entitled Westar Energy, Inc. Underwriting Agreement Standard Provisions (Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units) dated [ ], (the "**Standard Provisions**"), a copy of which is attached hereto, are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety and shall be deemed to be a part of this Agreement to the same extent as if such provisions had been set forth in full herein, except that (i) if any term defined in such document is otherwise defined herein, the definition set forth herein shall control, (ii) all references in such document to a type of security that is not an Offered Security shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement and (iii) all references in such document to a type of agreement that has not been entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement.

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[Names of Lead Managers]

On behalf of themselves and the other  
Underwriters named herein

By \_\_\_\_\_ ]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

Accepted:

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

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FINAL PRICING TERMS



The Company acknowledges and agrees that the Underwriters are acting solely in the capacity of an arm's length contractual counterparty to the Company with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby (including in connection with determining the terms of the offering) and not as a financial advisor or a fiduciary to, or an agent of, the Company or any other person and will not claim that the Underwriters are acting in such capacity in connection with the offering of the Offered Securities contemplated hereby. Additionally, none of the Underwriters is advising the Company or any other person as to any legal, tax, investment, accounting or regulatory matters in any jurisdiction with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby. The Company shall consult with its own advisors concerning such matters and shall be responsible for making its own independent investigation and appraisal of the transactions contemplated hereby, and the Underwriters shall have no responsibility or liability to the Company with respect thereto. Any review by the Underwriters of the Company, the transactions contemplated hereby or other matters relating to such transactions will be performed solely for the benefit of the Underwriters and shall not be on behalf of the Company.

Except as set forth herein, all provisions contained in the document entitled Westar Energy, Inc. Underwriting Agreement Standard Provisions (Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units) dated [ ] (the "Standard Provisions"), a copy of which is attached hereto, are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety and shall be deemed to be a part of this Agreement to the same extent as if such provisions had been set forth in full herein, except that (i) if any term defined in such document is otherwise defined herein, the definition set forth herein shall control, (ii) all references in such document to a type of security that is not an Offered Security shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement and (iii) all references in such document to a type of agreement that has not been entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement.

Please confirm your agreement by having an authorized officer sign a copy of this Agreement in the space set forth below.

Very truly yours,

[Names of Lead Managers]

On behalf of themselves and the other  
Underwriters named herein

By [\_\_\_\_\_]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted:

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF SALE PROSPECTUS

1. Base Prospectus dated [ ] relating to the Offered Securities and included in the Registration Statement (File No. [ ]).
2. The preliminary prospectus supplement dated [ ] relating to the Offered Securities.
3. Final term sheet containing the final terms of the Offered Securities as set forth in Schedule II hereto and filed with the Commission under Rule 433.

FINAL PRICING TERMS

**UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT  
(Units)**

[           , 20    ]

Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Sirs:

We (the “**Managers**”) are acting on behalf of the underwriter or underwriters (including ourselves) named below (such underwriter or underwriters being herein called the “**Underwriters**”), and we understand that Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation (the “**Company**”), proposes to issue and sell [number and title of units] Units (the “**Offered Securities**”) consisting of [\$            aggregate principal amount of   % Notes Due           ] [number and title of Warrants] [number and title of Purchase Contracts]. The Offered Securities are to be issued pursuant to the provisions of a Unit Agreement (the “**Unit Agreement**”) dated as of [           ] among the Company, [           ], as Agent, and the holders from time to time of the Units. [The Debt Securities included in the Offered Securities will be issued pursuant to the [specify the indenture].] [The Warrants included in the Offered Securities will be issued pursuant to the [specify the warrant agreement.]] [The Purchase Contracts included in the Offered Securities will be issued pursuant to the Unit Agreement.]

Subject to the terms and conditions and in reliance upon the representations and warranties, terms and conditions set forth or incorporated by reference herein, the Company hereby agrees to sell and each of the Underwriters agrees to purchase from the Company, severally and not jointly, the aggregate number of Offered Securities set forth below opposite their names at a purchase price of \$[           ], plus accrued interest, if any, from [           ] to the date of payment and delivery (the “**Purchase Price**”).

<u>Underwriter</u>	<u>Number of Offered Securities To Be Purchased</u>
[Insert syndicate list]	
Total	

For purposes of the Underwriting Agreement, Applicable Time means [           ] (New York time) on the date hereof.

The Underwriters will pay for the Offered Securities upon delivery thereof at the offices of [           ], [           ] at 10:00 a.m. (New York time) on , , or at such other time, not later than 1:00 p.m. (New York time) on , , as shall be designated in writing by the Underwriters and the Company. The time and date of such payment and delivery are hereinafter referred to as the “**Closing Date**.”

The Offered Securities shall have the terms set forth in the Prospectus dated [           ], 2016, and the Prospectus Supplement dated [           ], including the following:

**Terms of Debt Securities**

Maturity Date:

Interest Rate:

Redemption Provisions:

Interest Payment Dates: [           ], commencing [           ] (Interest accrues from [           ])

Form and Denomination:

Ranking:

Conversion Provisions:

Other Terms:

**Terms of Warrants**

Designation of the Series of Warrants: [Call] [Put] Warrants

Warrant Property:

Aggregate Number of Warrants:

Warrant Exercise Price:

Dates upon which Warrants may be exercised:

Expiration Date:

Currency in which exercise payments shall be made:

[Maximum number of Warrants exercisable on any day:]

Formula for determining Cash Settlement Value:

Exchange Rate (or method of calculation):

Other Terms:

**Terms of Purchase Contracts**

Designation of the Series of Purchase Contracts: [Purchase][Sale]

Purchase Contracts

Purchase Contract Property:

Aggregate Number of Purchase Contracts:

Price to Public:

Settlement Date:

[Purchase/Sale] Price of Purchase Contract Property

Form:

Other Terms:

Capitalized terms used above and not defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement referred to above.

All communications hereunder shall be in writing and effective only upon receipt and (a) if to the Underwriters, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile in care of [ ], facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ], or (b) if to the Company, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile to 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ].

The Company acknowledges and agrees that the Underwriters are acting solely in the capacity of an arm's length contractual counterparty to the Company with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby (including in connection with determining the terms of the offering) and not as a financial advisor or a fiduciary to, or an agent of, the Company or any other person and will not claim that the Underwriters are acting in such capacity in connection with the offering of the Offered Securities contemplated hereby. Additionally, none of the Underwriters is advising the Company or any other person as to any legal, tax, investment, accounting or regulatory matters in any jurisdiction with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby. The Company shall consult with its own advisors concerning such matters and shall be responsible for making its own independent investigation and appraisal of the transactions contemplated hereby, and the Underwriters shall have no responsibility or liability to the Company with respect thereto. Any review by the Underwriters of the Company, the transactions contemplated hereby or other matters relating to such transactions will be performed solely for the benefit of the Underwriters and shall not be on behalf of the Company.

Except as set forth herein, all provisions contained in the document entitled Westar Energy, Inc. Underwriting Agreement Standard Provisions (Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units) dated [ ], (the "**Standard Provisions**"), a copy of which is attached hereto, are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety and shall be deemed to be a part of this Agreement to the same extent as if such provisions had been set forth in full herein, except that (i) if any term defined in such document is otherwise defined herein, the definition set forth herein shall control, (ii) all references in such document to a type of security that is not an Offered Security shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement and (iii) all references in such document to a type of agreement that has not been entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement.

Please confirm your agreement by having an authorized officer sign a copy of this Agreement in the space set forth below.

Very truly yours,

[Names of Lead Managers]

On behalf of themselves and the other  
Underwriters named herein

By \_\_\_\_\_]

By: \_\_\_\_\_]

Name:

Title:

Accepted:

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:



TIME OF SALE PROSPECTUS

1. Base Prospectus dated [ ] relating to the Offered Securities and included in the Registration Statement (File No. [ ])
2. The preliminary prospectus supplement dated [ ] relating to the Offered Securities.
3. Final term sheet containing the final terms of the Offered Securities as set forth in Schedule II hereto and filed with the Commission under Rule 433

FINAL PRICING TERMS

## UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT

## STANDARD PROVISIONS

## (DEBT SECURITIES, FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS, WARRANTS, PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND UNITS)

[ , ]

From time to time, Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation (the “**Company**”), may enter into one or more underwriting agreements that provide for the sale of designated securities to the several underwriters named therein. The standard provisions set forth herein may be incorporated by reference in any such underwriting agreement (an “**Underwriting Agreement**”). The Underwriting Agreement, including the provisions incorporated therein by reference, is herein referred to as this Agreement. Terms defined in the Underwriting Agreement are used herein as therein defined.

The Company proposes to issue from time to time (a) its senior debt securities (“**Senior Debt Securities**”), (b) its subordinated debt securities (“**Subordinated Debt Securities**” and with the Senior Debt Securities, the “**Debt Securities**”), (c) its First Mortgage Bonds (“**First Mortgage Bonds**”), (d) warrants (“**Warrants**”) and (e) purchase contracts (“**Purchase Contracts**”) requiring the holders thereof to purchase or sell (i) securities of an entity unaffiliated with the Company, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above, (ii) currencies or composite currencies or (iii) commodities. Debt Securities, Purchase Contracts and Warrants or any combination thereof may be offered in the form of Units (“**Units**”). As used herein, the term “**Debt Securities**” includes Purchase Contracts.

The Company has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”) a registration statement including a prospectus relating to the Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units (collectively, the “**Securities**”) and has filed with, or transmitted for filing to, or shall promptly after the date of the Underwriting Agreement file with or transmit for filing to, the Commission a prospectus supplement (the “**Prospectus Supplement**”) pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”), specifically relating to the Securities offered pursuant to this Agreement (the “**Offered Securities**”). The term “**Registration Statement**” means the registration statement as amended to the date of the Underwriting Agreement including any additional registration statement filed by the Company pursuant to Rule 462(b). The term “**Base Prospectus**” means the prospectus included in the Registration Statement. The term “**Prospectus**” means the Base Prospectus together with the Prospectus Supplement. The term “**preliminary prospectus**” means a preliminary prospectus supplement specifically relating to the Offered Securities, together with the Base Prospectus. The term “**free writing prospectus**” has the meaning set forth in Rule 405 under the Securities Act. The term “**issuer free writing prospectus**” has the meaning set forth in Rule 433 under the Securities Act. The term “**Time of Sale Prospectus**” means the Base Prospectus and preliminary prospectus, if any, together with any additional documents or other information identified in Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement. As used herein, the terms “**Base Prospectus**,” “**Prospectus**,” “**preliminary prospectus**” and “**Time of Sale Prospectus**” shall include in each case the documents, if any, incorporated by reference therein. As used herein, the term “**Applicable Time**” means the time and date set forth in the Underwriting Agreement or such other time as agreed in writing by the Company and the Managers. The terms “**supplement**,” “**amendment**” and “**amend**” as used herein shall include all documents deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Prospectus that are filed subsequent to the date of the Base Prospectus by the Company with the Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “**Exchange Act**”).

1. *Representations and Warranties.* The Company represents and warrants to each of the Underwriters as of the date of the Underwriting Agreement that:

(i) The Registration Statement is an “automatic shelf registration statement” as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act and has become effective; the Company has not received any notice from the Commission objecting to the use of the automatic shelf registration form; no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement is in effect and no proceedings for such purpose are pending before or threatened by the Commission; the Company is a “well-known seasoned issuer” as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act and otherwise meets the requirements for the use of the Registration Statement form.

(ii) Each document filed or to be filed pursuant to the Exchange Act and incorporated by reference in the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus complied or will comply when so filed in all material respects with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

(iii) Each of the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus comply in all material respects with the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission. (A) Each part of the Registration Statement, when such part became effective, did not contain, and each such part, as amended or supplemented, if applicable, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, (B) the Time of Sale Prospectus as of the Applicable Time did not contain or as amended or supplemented, if applicable, as of the Closing Date, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, and (C) the Prospectus as of its date does not contain, or as amended or supplemented, if applicable, as of the Closing Date will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The foregoing representations and warranties in this Section I (iii) do not apply to (A) that part of the Registration Statement which shall constitute the Statement of Eligibility of the Trustee on Form T-1 (the “**Form T-1**”) or (B) statements or omissions in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto based upon information furnished to the Company in writing by any Underwriter through the Managers expressly for use therein.

(iv) The Company has been duly incorporated, and is validly existing, as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of Kansas.

(v) The Offered Securities have been duly authorized by the Company and, when executed and delivered to and paid for by the Underwriters in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, will be valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors’ rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability, and will be entitled to the benefits of the [Senior Debt Indenture, the Subordinated Debt Indenture, the Amended Mortgage (as defined herein)].

(vi) The Company has an authorized and outstanding capitalization as set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus.

(vii) The Company is not an “ineligible issuer” in connection with the offering pursuant to Rules 164, 405 and 433 under the Securities Act. The Company has not made, used, prepared, authorized, approved or referred to any offer relating to the Offered Securities that would constitute a free writing prospectus other than (a) any written communications furnished in advance to the Managers, to which the Managers shall have the right to reasonably object in writing; (b) an electronic road show, if any, furnished to the Managers before first use; or (c) free writing prospectuses identified on Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement relating to the Offered Securities, including any term sheet as may be set forth in Schedule II to the Underwriting Agreement relating to the Offered Securities. Any such free writing prospectus as of its issue date complied in all material respects with the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder and was filed with the Commission in accordance with the Securities Act (to the extent required pursuant to Rule 433(d) thereunder).

(viii) The execution and delivery by the Company of, and the performance by the Company of its obligations under, this Agreement, the Senior Debt Indenture, the Subordinated Debt Indenture, the Amended Mortgage (as defined herein), the Offered Securities, any Warrants, any Purchase Contracts and any Units will not contravene any provision of applicable law or the articles of incorporation or by-laws of the Company or any agreement or other instrument binding upon the Company or any of its subsidiaries that is material to the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or any judgment, order or decree of any governmental body, agency or court having jurisdiction over the Company or any of its consolidated subsidiaries, and no consent, approval, authorization or order of, or qualification with, any governmental body or agency is required for the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement, the Senior Debt Indenture, the Subordinated Debt Indenture, the Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities, except such as may be required by the securities or blue sky laws of the various states in connection with the offer and sale of the Offered Securities.

(ix) Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is (a) in violation of its articles of incorporation or by-laws (or similar organizational documents), (b) in default in the performance or observance of any obligation, covenant or condition contained in any contract or (c) in violation of any law or statute or any judgment, order, rule or regulation of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority, except in the case of clause (b) or (c), to the extent such violation or default would not have a material adverse effect.

(x) There has not occurred any material adverse change, or any development involving a prospective material adverse change, in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business or operations of the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, from that set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus (exclusive of any amendments or supplements thereto effected subsequent to the date of this Agreement).

(xi) There are no legal or governmental proceedings pending or threatened to which the Company or any of its consolidated subsidiaries is a party or to which any of the properties of the Company or any of its consolidated subsidiaries is subject that are required to be described in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or Prospectus and are not so described or any statutes, regulations, contracts or other documents that are required to be described in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or Prospectus or to be filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the Registration Statement that are not described, filed or incorporated as required.

(xii) Each of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries has all necessary consents, authorizations, approvals, orders, certificates, licenses and permits of and from, and has made all declarations and filings with, all federal, state, local and other governmental authorities, all self-regulatory organizations and all courts and other tribunals, to own, lease, license and use its properties and assets and to conduct its business in the manner described in the Time of Sale Prospectus, except to the extent that the failure to obtain or file would not have a material adverse effect on the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

(xiii) The Company maintains a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that (A) transactions are executed in accordance with management's general or specific authorizations; (B) transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to maintain asset accountability; (C) access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management's general or specific authorization; and (D) the recorded accountability for assets is compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences.

(xiv) The Company and its subsidiaries maintain "disclosure controls and procedures" (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act); such disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

(xv) The consolidated historical financial statements and schedules of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries included in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus present fairly in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of the dates and for the periods indicated, comply as to form with the applicable accounting requirements of the Securities Act and have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved (except as otherwise noted therein). The interactive data in eXtensible Business Reporting Language included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Time of Sale Prospectus fairly presents the information called for in all material respects and has been prepared in accordance with the Commission's rules and guidelines applicable thereto.

(xvi) Except as set forth in or contemplated in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus (exclusive of any amendment or supplement thereto), the Company and the Principal Subsidiary (as defined herein) have not received written notice of any actual or potential liability for the investigation or remediation of any disposal or release of hazardous or toxic substances or wastes, pollutants or contaminants, except where such liability would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

(xvii) The operations of the Company and its subsidiaries are and have been conducted at all times in compliance with the applicable financial recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act of 1970, as amended, the money laundering statutes of all jurisdictions, the rules and regulations thereunder and any related or similar rules, regulations or guidelines, issued, administered or enforced by any governmental agency (collectively, the “**Money Laundering Laws**”) and no action, suit or proceeding by or before any court or governmental agency, authority or body or any arbitrator involving the Company or any of its subsidiaries with respect to the Money Laundering Laws is pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened.

(xviii) Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries nor, to the knowledge of the Company, any director, officer, agent, employee or affiliate of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is currently subject to any sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department (“**OFAC**”); and the Company will not directly or indirectly use the proceeds of the offering, or lend, contribute or otherwise make available such proceeds to any subsidiary, joint venture partner or other person or entity, for the purpose of financing the activities of any person currently subject to any U.S. sanctions administered by OFAC.

2. *Public Offering.* The Company is advised by the Managers that the Underwriters propose to make a public offering of their respective portions of the Offered Securities as soon after this Agreement has been entered into as in the Managers’ judgment is advisable. The terms of the public offering of the Offered Securities are set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus.

3. *Purchase and Delivery.* Except as otherwise provided in this Section 3 or in the Underwriting Agreement, payment for the Offered Securities shall be made to the Company in Federal or other funds immediately available in New York City at the time and place set forth in the Underwriting Agreement, upon delivery to the Managers for the respective accounts of the several Underwriters of the Offered Securities registered in such names and in such denominations as the Managers shall request in writing not less than one full business day prior to the date of delivery, with any transfer taxes payable in connection with the transfer of the Offered Securities to the Underwriters duly paid.

4. *Conditions to Closing.* Unless waived by the Managers, the several obligations of the Underwriters hereunder are subject to the accuracy of the representations and warranties on the part of the Company contained herein as of the date of the Underwriting Agreement and the Closing Date (as if made on the Closing Date) and the performance by the Company of all the obligations to be performed by it under this Agreement on or prior to the Closing Date and the satisfaction of the following conditions:

(a) Subsequent to the Applicable Time and prior to the Closing Date, there shall not have occurred any downgrading, nor shall any notice have been given of any intended or potential downgrading or of any review for a possible change that does not indicate the direction of the possible change, in the rating accorded the Company or any of the securities of the Company by any “nationally recognized statistical rating organization,” as such term is defined in Section 3(a)(62) of the Exchange Act.

(b) No stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall be in effect, and no proceedings for such purpose shall be pending before or threatened by the Commission, and there shall not have occurred any change, or any development involving a prospective change, in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business, properties or operations of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole, from that set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus, that, in the judgment of the Managers, is material and adverse and that makes it, in the judgment of the Managers, impracticable or inadvisable to market or deliver the Offered Securities on the terms and in the manner contemplated in the Time of Sale Prospectus; and the Managers shall have received, on the Closing Date, a certificate, dated the Closing Date and signed by either the chief executive officer or chief financial officer of the Company, to the foregoing effect. Such certificate will also provide that the representations and warranties of the Company contained herein are true and correct as of the Closing Date and that the Company has complied with all agreements and satisfied all conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied hereunder at or prior to the Closing Date. The officer making such certificate may rely upon the best of his knowledge as to proceedings threatened.

(c) The Managers shall have received on the Closing Date an opinion of Larry D. Irick, Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Company (or another lawyer of the Company reasonably satisfactory to the Underwriters), dated the Closing Date, addressed to the Managers to the effect (as applicable) that:

(i) each of the Company and Kansas Gas and Electric Company (the “**Principal Subsidiary**”) has been duly incorporated, is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of Kansas and is duly qualified to transact business and is in good standing in each jurisdiction in which the conduct of its business or its ownership or leasing of property requires such qualification (except where the failure to so qualify would not have a material adverse effect upon the business or financial condition of the Company and its subsidiaries, as a whole);

(ii) all of the issued shares of capital stock of the Principal Subsidiary have been duly and validly authorized and issued, are fully paid and non-assessable, and (except for directors’ qualifying shares and except as otherwise set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus) are owned directly and indirectly by the Company, free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, equities or claims (such counsel being entitled to rely in respect of the opinion in this clause upon opinions of local counsel and in respect of matters of fact upon certificates of officers of the Company or its subsidiaries, provided that such counsel shall state that he believes that both the Managers and he are justified in relying upon such opinions and certificates);

(iii) the Company has an authorized capitalization as set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus, and all of the issued shares of capital stock of the Company have been duly and validly authorized and issued and are fully paid and non-assessable;

(iv) each of the indenture dated as of August 1, 1998 (the “**Senior Indenture**”) between the Company and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as successor to Bankers Trust Company, as trustee (the “**Senior Debt Trustee**”), the indenture to be dated as of a date indicated in a relevant prospectus supplement (the “**Subordinated Indenture**”) between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (the “**Subordinated Debt Trustee**”), the Mortgage and Deed of Trust, dated July 1, 1939, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to Harris Trust and Savings Bank, as trustee (the “**Mortgage Bond Trustee**”), as amended and supplemented by [ ] indentures supplemental thereto (such Mortgage and Deed of Trust, as heretofore amended and supplemented, the “**Mortgage**”) and as to be amended and supplemented by the supplemental indenture, to be dated as of a date indicated in a relevant prospectus supplement (the “**Supplemental Indenture**”) (the Mortgage, as so amended and supplemented by such supplemental indentures, the “**Amended Mortgage**”), has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company;

(v) assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery by the other parties thereto, the Amended Mortgage constitutes a valid and binding agreement of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors’ rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability;

(vi) the Amended Mortgage has been duly recorded and filed in each place in which such recording or filing is required to protect and preserve the lien of the Amended Mortgage, and all taxes and recording or filing fees required to be paid in connection with the execution, recording or filing of the Amended Mortgage have been duly paid;

(vii) the Company has good and sufficient title to, or a satisfactory easement in, all the real property, and has good and sufficient title to all the personal property described in the Amended Mortgage as owned by it and subject to the lien of the Amended Mortgage, except any which may have been released from the lien thereof pursuant to the provisions thereof, subject only to (a) minor leases and liens of judgments not prior to the lien of the Amended Mortgage, which, in such counsel’s opinion, do not interfere with the Company’s business, (b) minor defects, irregularities and deficiencies in titles of properties and rights-of-way which, in such counsel’s opinion, do not materially impair the use of such property and rights-of-way for the purposes for which they are held by the Company, and (c) other permitted liens as defined in the Amended

Mortgage; subject to the qualifications set forth in this Section 4(c)(vii), the Amended Mortgage constitutes a valid, direct first mortgage lien upon said properties and upon all franchises owned by the Company, which properties and franchises include all the physical properties and franchises of the Company (other than classes of property expressly excepted in the Amended Mortgage); all physical properties and franchises (other than classes of property expressly excepted in the Amended Mortgage as aforesaid) thereafter acquired by the Company will, upon such acquisition, become subject to the lien thereof, subject, however, to liens permitted thereby and to any liens existing or placed upon such properties at the time of the acquisition thereof by the Company and except as described in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus; and the descriptions of all such properties and assets contained in the granting clauses of the Amended Mortgage are correct and adequate for the purposes of the Amended Mortgage;

(viii) the Warrant Agreement, if any, has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company;

(ix) the Unit Agreement, if any, has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company;

(x) the Offered Securities have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by the Company;

(xi) when the Offered Securities have been duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Senior Indenture, Subordinated Indenture or Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities will be valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against them in accordance with their terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability, and will be entitled to the benefits of the relevant Senior Indenture, Subordinated Indenture or Amended Mortgage and to the lien of the Amended Mortgage;

(xii) this Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company;

(xiii) except as rights to indemnity and contribution under this Agreement may be limited under applicable law, the execution and delivery by the Company of, and the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities, the Warrant Agreement and the Unit Agreement will not contravene any provision of the laws of the State of Kansas or any federal law of the United States of America (including laws relating specifically to electric utility companies and the electric utility industry) that in such counsel's experience is normally applicable to general business corporations in relation to transactions of the topic contemplated by this Agreement, or, to the best knowledge of such counsel, of any other state or jurisdiction of the United States, or the articles of incorporation or by-laws (or similar organizational document) of the Company or, to the best knowledge of such counsel, any material agreement or other material instrument binding upon the Company, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities, the Warrant Agreement and the Unit Agreement, provided that such counsel need not express an opinion as to federal or state securities or Blue Sky laws, and no consent, approval or authorization of any governmental body or agency under the laws of the State of Kansas or any federal law of the United States of America (except with respect to consents, approvals and authorizations relating specifically to the public utility companies or the utilities industry, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any opinion) that in such counsel's experience is normally applicable to general business corporations in relation to transactions of the topic contemplated by this Agreement, or, to the best knowledge of such counsel, of any other state or jurisdiction of the United States of America or of any foreign jurisdiction is required for the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities, the Warrant Agreement, and the Unit Agreement provided that such counsel need not express an opinion as to federal or state securities or Blue Sky laws;



(xiv) each of the Company and the Principal Subsidiary possesses valid franchises, certificates of convenience and authority, licenses and permits authorizing it to carry on the electric utility business in which it is engaged, except in the cases that the failure to possess such franchises, certificates, licenses or permits, individually or in the aggregate, would not be reasonably expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole, and neither the Company nor the Principal Subsidiary has received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such franchise, certificate of convenience and authority, license or permit which, singly or in the aggregate, if the subject of an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding, would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect, except as set forth in or contemplated in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus;

(xv) the statements (A) in Item 3 of the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K incorporated by reference in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus, (B) in Part II, Item 1 under the caption "Legal Proceedings" of the Company's most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q incorporated by reference in the Time of Sale Prospectus and (C) in the Registration Statement in Item 15, insofar as such statements constitute a summary of the legal matters, documents or proceedings referred to therein, fairly present the information called for with respect to such legal matters, documents and proceedings;

(xvi) such counsel does not know of any legal or governmental proceeding pending or threatened (including, without limitation, proceeding pending before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas ("**KCC**") or Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("**FERC**")) to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or to which any of the properties of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is subject which is required to be described in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus and is not so described, or of any contract, other document, public utility law or regulation which is required to be described in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or Prospectus or to be filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement which is not described or filed as required;

(xvii) the securities into which the Offered Securities are convertible, initially reserved for issuance upon conversion of the Offered Company Securities (the "**Underlying Securities**"), have been duly authorized and reserved for issuance;

(xviii) when the Underlying Securities are issued upon conversion of the Offered Company Securities in accordance with the terms of the Offered Company Securities, such Underlying Securities will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable and will not be subject to any preemptive or other right to subscribe for or purchase such Underlying Securities;

(xix) the Company has complied with K.S.A. § 66-125 with respect to the issuance of the Offered Securities. No additional consent, approval, authorization, filing with or order of (a) FERC under the Federal Power Act, (b) the KCC or (c) to the knowledge of the Company, any court or governmental agency or body is required in connection with the transactions contemplated herein, except such as have been obtained under the Securities Act and the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "**Trust Indenture Act**") and such as may be required under the blue sky laws of any jurisdiction in connection with the purchase and distribution of the Securities by the Underwriters in the manner contemplated herein and in the Time of Sale Prospectus; and

(xx) The statements in the prospectus supplement contained in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus under "Description of First Mortgage Bonds," "Description of Senior Notes" or "Description of Subordinated Indebtedness" and in the Base Prospectus under the caption "Description of Debt Securities" as they relate to the Amended Mortgage, the Senior Debt Indenture, the Subordinated Debt Indenture and the Offered Securities, insofar as such statements constitute a summary of the legal matters or documents referred to therein, fairly present the information called for with respect to such legal matters and documents.

Such counsel shall also state that nothing has come to his attention that causes him to believe (1) that the Registration Statement or any amendments thereto, on the date on which it became effective or the date of filing of the most recent subsequent Annual Report on Form 10-K, contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a

material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading; (2) that the Time of Sale Prospectus (except for the financial statements and other financial or statistical data derived therefrom that are included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any belief), at the Applicable Time or as amended or supplemented, if applicable, as of the Closing Date, contained or contains an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; (3) that the Prospectus (except for the financial statements and other financial or statistical data derived therefrom that are included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any belief), at its date or as amended or supplemented, if applicable, at the Closing Date, contained or contains an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or (4) that the documents incorporated by reference in the Prospectus (except for the financial statements and other financial or statistical data derived therefrom that are included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any belief), as of the dates they were filed with the Commission, contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

With respect to the preceding paragraph, such counsel may state that he has not been called upon to pass upon, and that he expresses no view regarding, the financial statements or financial schedules or statistical data derived therefrom or other accounting or financial data included in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus, or the Statement of Eligibility of the Trustee on Form T-1, and that his opinion and belief is based upon his participation in the preparation of the Registration Statement, Time of Sale Prospectus, Prospectus (as amended or supplemented) and the documents incorporated therein by reference and review and discussion of the contents thereof, but is without independent check or verification except as specified.

In expressing his opinion as to questions of the law of jurisdictions other than the State of Kansas and the United States, such counsel may rely to the extent reasonable on such counsel as may be reasonably acceptable to counsel to the Underwriters. In addition, such counsel may reasonably rely as to questions of fact on certificates of responsible officers of the Company.

(d) The Managers shall have received on the Closing Date an opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P., special counsel for the Company, dated the Closing Date, to the effect that:

(i) The Company is not, and after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Offered Securities and the application of the proceeds thereof as described in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus will not be, required to register as an "investment company" as such term is defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended;

(ii) assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery by all parties thereto, the Senior Indenture or Subordinated Indenture, as applicable, is a valid and binding agreement of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability;

(iii) assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery by all parties thereto, the Warrant Agreement, if any, is a valid and binding agreement of the Company, enforceable in accordance with its terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability;

(iv) assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery by all parties thereto, the Unit Agreement, if any, is a valid and binding agreement of the Company, enforceable in accordance with its terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability;

(v) except as rights to indemnity and contribution under this Agreement may be limited under applicable law, the execution and delivery by the Company of, and the performance by the Company of its obligations under, this Agreement, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities, the Warrant Agreement and the Unit Agreement will not contravene any provision of the laws of the State of New York or any federal law of the United States of America (except with respect to laws relating specifically to public utility companies or the utilities industry, as to which

such counsel is not called upon to express any opinion) that in such counsel's experience is normally applicable to general business corporations in relation to transactions of the type contemplated by this Agreement, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities, the Warrant Agreement and the Unit Agreement, provided that such counsel need not express an opinion as to federal or state securities or Blue Sky laws,

(vi) no consent, approval, authorization, or order of, or qualification with, any governmental body or agency under the laws of the State of New York or any federal law of the United States of America (except with respect to consents, approvals and authorizations relating specifically to public utility companies or the utilities industry, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any opinion) that in such counsel's experience is normally applicable to general business corporations in relation to transactions of the type contemplated by this Agreement, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities, the Warrant Agreement and the Unit Agreement is required for the execution, delivery and performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the Amended Mortgage, the Offered Securities, the Warrant Agreement and the Unit Agreement, except such as may be required under federal or state securities or Blue Sky laws as to which such counsel need not express any opinion; and

Such counsel shall state that it has considered the statements included in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus under the caption "Underwriting" and in the Base Prospectus under the caption "Plan of Distribution" insofar as they summarize provisions of this Agreement, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture and the Offered Securities. In such counsel's opinion, such statements fairly summarize these provisions in all material respects. The statements included in the Prospectus under the caption "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations," insofar as they purport to describe provisions of U.S. federal income tax laws or legal conclusions with respect thereto, fairly and accurately summarize the matters referred to therein in all material respects.

In addition, such counsel shall confirm that it has examined evidence that the Senior Indenture, Subordinated Indenture and Amended Mortgage (as applicable) have been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act. Such counsel shall also state that it has reviewed the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus and has participated in conferences with officers and other representatives of the Company, with representatives of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and with your representatives and your counsel, at which the contents of the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus, the Prospectus and related matters were discussed. The purpose of such counsel's professional engagement was not to establish or confirm factual matters set forth in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus, and such counsel has not undertaken to verify independently any of the factual matters in such documents. Moreover, many of the determinations required to be made in the preparation of the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus involve matters of a non-legal nature. Accordingly, such counsel is not required to pass upon, and does not assume any responsibility for, the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the statements contained or included in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus (except to the extent stated in the immediately preceding paragraph above). Subject to the foregoing and on the basis of the information such counsel gained in the course of performing the services referred to above, such counsel shall advise you that: (a) the Registration Statement, as of the latest Effective Time, the Time of Sale Prospectus, as of the Applicable Time, and the Prospectus, as of its date and the date hereof, appear on their face to be appropriately responsive in all material respects to the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder; and (b) nothing came to such counsel's attention that caused it to believe that: (1) the Registration Statement, as of the latest Effective Time, contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, (2) the Time of Sale Prospectus, as of the Applicable Time, included an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or (3) the Prospectus, as of its date or as of the Closing Date, included or includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; it being understood that in each case such counsel has not been asked to, and does not, express any belief with respect to (a) the financial statements and schedules or other financial, accounting or statistical information contained or included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, (b) representations and warranties and other statements of fact contained in the exhibits to the Registration Statement or to documents incorporated by reference therein or (c) that part of the Registration Statement that constitutes the Form T-1.

(e) The Managers shall have received on the Closing Date an opinion of Hunton & Williams LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, dated the Closing Date, covering the matters requested by and in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Managers.

(f) The Managers shall have received at the Applicable Time a letter dated such date and on the Closing Date a letter dated such date, in each case in form and substance satisfactory to the Managers, from Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent public accountants, containing statements and information of the type ordinarily included in accountants' "comfort letters" to underwriters with respect to the financial

statements and certain financial information reviewed by them contained in or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus and each other firm of independent accountants, if any, who audited or reviewed financial statements contained in or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus, containing statements and information of the type ordinarily included in accountants' "comfort letters" to underwriters with respect to such financial statements and financial information.

(g) The Managers shall have received on the date hereof or on the Closing Date, as applicable, such additional documents as the Managers shall have reasonably requested to confirm compliance with the conditions to Closing listed herein.

5. *Covenants of the Company.* In further consideration of the agreements of the Underwriters herein contained, the Company covenants as follows:

(a) To furnish to the Managers, without charge, a copy of the Registration Statement and two signed copies of any post-effective amendment thereto specifically relating to the Offered Securities (including exhibits thereto and documents incorporated therein by reference) and, during the period mentioned in paragraph (f) below, as many copies of the Time of Sale Prospectus, the Prospectus, any documents incorporated therein by reference and any supplements and amendments thereto as the Managers may reasonably request.

(b) Before amending or supplementing the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus, to furnish the Managers with a copy of each such proposed amendment or supplement, and not to make such amendment or supplement that the Managers shall have reasonably objected to in writing.

(c) Before filing, using or referring to any free writing prospectus relating to the Offered Securities, to furnish the Managers a copy of each such free writing prospectus, and not to file, use or refer to any such free writing prospectus that the Managers shall have reasonably objected to in writing.

(d) Not to take any action that would result in an Underwriter being required to file with the Commission pursuant to Rule 433(d) under the Securities Act a free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of the Underwriter that the Underwriter otherwise would not have been required to file thereunder.

(e) If the Time of Sale Prospectus is being used to solicit offers to buy the Offered Securities at a time when the Prospectus is not yet available to prospective purchasers and any event shall occur as a result of which it is necessary to amend or supplement the Time of Sale Prospectus in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, not misleading, or if any event shall occur as a result of which any free writing prospectus included as part of the Time of Sale Prospectus conflicts with the information contained in the Registration Statement then on file, the Company shall forthwith (1) promptly notify the Managers of such event in writing and (2) prepare and furnish, at its expense, to the Underwriters and to the dealers (whose names and addresses the Managers will furnish to the Company), either amendments or supplements to the Time of Sale Prospectus so that the statements in the Time of Sale Prospectus as so amended or supplemented will not, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, be misleading or so that any free writing prospectus which is included as part of the Time of Sale Prospectus, as amended or supplemented, will no longer conflict with the Registration Statement.

(f) If, during such period after the first date of the public offering of the Offered Securities during which in the opinion of counsel to the Managers the Prospectus (or in lieu thereof the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the Securities Act) is required by law to be delivered in connection with sales by an Underwriter or dealer, any event shall occur as a result of which it is necessary to amend or supplement the Prospectus in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, not misleading, the Company shall (1) notify the Managers of such event and (2) forthwith prepare and furnish, at its expense, to the Underwriters and to the dealers (whose names and addresses the Managers will furnish to the Company) to which Offered Securities may have been sold by the Managers on behalf of the Underwriters and to any other dealers on request, either amendments or supplements to the Prospectus so that the statements in the Prospectus as so amended or supplemented will not, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, be misleading.

(g) To endeavor to qualify the Offered Securities for offer and sale under the securities or Blue Sky laws of such U.S. jurisdictions as the Managers shall reasonably request.

(h) To make generally available to the Company's security holders as soon as practicable an earnings statement covering the twelve month period beginning on the first day of the first fiscal quarter commencing after the date hereof, which shall satisfy the provisions of Section 11 (a) of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder (which may be accomplished by making generally available the Company's financial statements in the manner provided for by Rule 158 of the Securities Act).

(i) The Company will not, without the prior consent of the Managers, offer to sell, sell, contract to sell, pledge, or otherwise dispose of any debt securities, (or enter into any transaction which is designed to, or might reasonably be expected to, result in the disposition (whether by actual disposition or effective economic disposition due to cash settlement or otherwise)), directly or indirectly, including the filing (or participation in the filing) of a registration statement with the Commission in respect of, any debt securities issued or guaranteed by the Company (other than the Securities) or publicly announce an intention to effect any such transaction, between the date of the Underwriting Agreement and the Closing Date.

6. *Covenants of the Underwriters.* In further consideration of the agreements of the Company herein contained, each Underwriter severally covenants as follows:

(a) Subject to Section 6(b), not to take any action that would result in the Company being required to file with the Commission under Rule 433(d) a free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of such Underwriter that otherwise would not be required to be filed by the Company thereunder, but for the action of the Underwriter.

(b) Not to use, refer to or distribute any free writing prospectus except:

(i) a free writing prospectus that (a) is not an issuer free writing prospectus and (b) contains only information describing the preliminary terms of the Offered Securities or the offering thereof, which information is limited to the categories of terms referenced on Schedule II to the Underwriting Agreement or otherwise permitted under Rule 134 of the Securities Act;

(ii) a free writing prospectus as shall be agreed in writing with the Company that is not distributed, used or referred to by such Underwriter in a manner reasonably designed to lead to its broad unrestricted dissemination (unless the Company consents in writing to such dissemination); or

(iii) a free writing prospectus identified in Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement as forming part of the Time of Sale Prospectus (including any customary distribution through the Bloomberg system consisting of the information contained in such free writing prospectus).

7. *Indemnification and Contribution.* The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each Underwriter, the directors, officers, employees and agents of each Underwriter and each person, if any, who controls each Underwriter within the meaning of either Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act from and against any and all losses, claims, damages and liabilities arising out of, based upon or caused by any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Time of Sale Prospectus (as amended or supplemented), any issuer free writing prospectus or the Prospectus (as amended or supplemented), arising out of, based upon or caused by any omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, except insofar as such losses, claims, damages or liabilities arise out of, are based upon or are caused by any such untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission based upon information furnished to the Company in writing by such Underwriter through the Managers expressly for use therein.

Each Underwriter severally and not jointly agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, its directors and officers who have signed the Registration Statement and each person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of either Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act to the same extent as the foregoing indemnity from the Company to such Underwriter, but only with reference to information relating to such Underwriter furnished to the Company in writing by such Underwriter through the Managers expressly for use in the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Time of Sale Prospectus, any issuer free writing prospectus, the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto.

In case any proceeding (including any governmental investigation) shall be instituted involving any person in respect of which indemnity may be sought pursuant to either of the two preceding paragraphs, such person (hereinafter called the "indemnified party") shall promptly notify the person against whom such indemnity may be sought (hereinafter called the "indemnifying party") in writing and the indemnifying party, upon request of the indemnified party, shall retain counsel reasonably satisfactory to the indemnified party to represent the indemnified party and any others the indemnifying party may designate in such proceeding and shall pay the fees and disbursements of such counsel related to such proceeding. In any such proceeding, any indemnified party shall have the right to retain its own counsel, but the fees and disbursements of such counsel shall be at the expense of such indemnified party unless (i) the indemnifying party and the indemnified party shall have mutually agreed to the retention of such counsel, (ii) the named parties to any such proceeding (including any impleaded parties) include both the indemnifying party and the indemnified party and, upon advice of counsel the indemnified party concludes that counsel chosen by the indemnifying party to represent the indemnified party would be inappropriate due to actual or potential differing interests between the indemnifying party and indemnified party or (iii) the indemnifying party shall not have employed counsel reasonably satisfactory to the indemnified party to represent the indemnified party within a reasonable time after notice of the institution of such action. It is understood that the indemnifying party shall not, in connection with any proceeding or related proceedings in the same jurisdiction, be liable for the reasonable fees and disbursements of more than one separate firm (in addition to any local counsel) for all such indemnified parties and that all such fees and disbursements shall be reimbursed as they are incurred. In the case of any such separate firm for the Underwriters and such control persons of the Underwriters, such firm shall be designated in writing by the Managers. In the case of any such separate firm for the Company and such directors, officers and controlling persons of the Company, such firm shall be designated in writing by the Company. The indemnifying party shall not be liable for any settlement of any proceeding effected without its written consent, but if settled with such consent or if there be a final judgment for the plaintiff, the indemnifying party agrees to indemnify, to the extent provided in the two immediately preceding paragraphs, the indemnified party from and against any loss or liability by reason of such settlement or judgment. No indemnifying party shall, without the prior written consent of the indemnified party, effect any settlement of any pending or threatened proceeding in respect of which any indemnified party is or could have been a party and indemnity could have been sought hereunder by such indemnified party, unless such settlement (x) includes an unconditional release of such indemnified party from all liability on claims that are the subject matter of such proceeding and (y) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act, by or on behalf of any indemnified party.

If the indemnification provided for in the first or second paragraph of this Section 7 is unavailable to or insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party in respect of any losses, claims, damages or liabilities for which indemnification is provided herein, then the indemnifying party, in lieu of indemnifying such indemnified party, shall contribute to the amount paid or payable by such indemnified party as a result of such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (i) in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other from the offering of the Offered Securities or (ii) if the allocation provided by clause (i) above is not permitted by applicable law, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only the relative benefits referred to in clause (i) above but also the relative fault of the Company on the one hand and of the Underwriters on the other in connection with the statements or omissions which resulted in such losses, claims, damages or liabilities, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations. The relative benefits received by the Company and the Underwriters shall be deemed to be in the same proportion as the aggregate offering price of Offered Securities bears to the total underwriting discounts and commissions received by the Underwriters in respect thereof, in each case as set forth in the table on the cover page of the Prospectus. The relative fault of the Company and the Underwriters shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or the omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company on the one hand or by the Underwriters on the other and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission.

The Company and the Underwriters agree that it would not be just and equitable if contribution pursuant to this Section 7 were determined by pro rata allocation (even if the Underwriters were treated as one entity for such purpose) or by any other method of allocation which does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph. The amount paid or payable by an indemnified party as a result of the losses, claims, damages and liabilities referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph shall be deemed to include, subject to the limitations set forth above, any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in connection with investigating or defending any such action or claim. For purposes of this Section 7, each person who controls an Underwriter within the meaning of either the Securities Act or the Exchange Act and each director, officer, employee and agent of an Underwriter shall have the same rights to contribution as such Underwriter, and each person who controls the Company within the meaning of either the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, each officer of the Company who shall have signed the

Registration Statement and each director of the Company shall have the same rights to contribution as the Company, subject in each case to the applicable terms and conditions of this paragraph and the preceding paragraph. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section 7, the Underwriters shall not be required to contribute any amount in excess of the amount by which the total price at which the Offered Securities underwritten by them and distributed to the public were offered to the public exceeds the amount of any damages which the Underwriters have otherwise been required to pay by reason of such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission. No person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the Securities Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation.

The indemnity and contribution agreement contained in this Section 7 and the representations and warranties of the Company contained in this Agreement shall remain operative and in full force and effect regardless of (i) any termination of this Agreement, (ii) any investigation made by or on behalf of the Underwriters, any of their respective officers, directors, employees, agents or any person controlling the Underwriters or by or on behalf of the Company, their respective officers or directors or any other person controlling the Company and (iii) acceptance of and payment for any of the Offered Securities.

8. *Termination.* This Agreement shall be subject to termination in the absolute discretion of the Managers by notice given by the Managers to the Company, if (a) after the Applicable Time and prior to the Closing Date (i) trading generally shall have been suspended or materially limited on or by, as the case may be, the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, or the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., (ii) trading of any securities of the Company shall have been suspended on the New York Stock Exchange, (iii) a general moratorium on commercial banking activities in New York shall have been declared by either Federal or New York State authorities, or (iv) there shall have occurred any outbreak or escalation of hostilities, declaration by the United States of a national emergency or war, or any change in financial markets or any calamity or crisis that, in the judgment of the Managers, is material and adverse and (b) in the case of any of the events specified in clauses (a)(i) through (iv), such event, singly or together with any other such event, makes it, in the judgment of the Managers, impracticable or inadvisable to market or deliver the Offered Securities on the terms and in the manner contemplated in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus (exclusive of any amendment or supplement thereto) and this Agreement.

The Company will pay and bear all costs and expenses incident to the performance of its obligations under this Agreement, including (a) the preparation, printing and filing of the Registration Statement (including financial statements and exhibits), as originally filed and as amended, the preliminary prospectuses, the Time of Sale Prospectus, any free writing prospectus and the Prospectus and any amendments or supplements thereto, and the cost of furnishing copies thereto to the Underwriters, (b) the preparation, printing and distribution of this Agreement, the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the Warrant Agreement, the Unit Agreement, and the Blue Sky Memorandum, (c) the delivery of the Offered Securities to the Underwriters, (d) the reasonable fees and disbursements of the Company's counsel and accountants, (e) the qualification of the Offered Securities under the applicable state securities or Blue Sky laws in accordance with Section 5, including filing fees and reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Underwriters in connection therewith and in connection with any Blue Sky survey and any legal investment survey, (f) all fees payable to the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. in connection with the review, if any, of the offering of the Securities, (g) any fees charged by rating agencies for rating the Offered Securities and (h) the fees and expenses of the Trustee, including the fees and disbursements of counsel for the Trustee, in connection with the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture and the Offered Securities. Except as specifically provided elsewhere herein, the Underwriters will pay all of their own costs and expenses, including without limitation the fees and expenses of their counsel and the expenses of selling presentations.

If this Agreement shall be terminated by the Underwriters because of any failure or refusal on the part of the Company to comply with the terms or to fulfill any of the conditions of this Agreement, or if for any reason the Company shall be unable to perform its obligations under this Agreement, the Company will reimburse the Underwriters for all out-of-pocket expenses (including the fees and disbursements of their counsel) reasonably incurred by the Underwriters in connection with this Agreement or the offering contemplated hereunder. This provision shall survive the termination or cancellation of this Agreement.

9. *Defaulting Underwriters.* If on the Closing Date any one or more of the Underwriters shall fail or refuse to purchase Offered Securities that it has or they have agreed to purchase on such date and such failure to purchase shall constitute a default in the performance of its obligations hereunder, and the aggregate amount of Offered Securities which such defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters agreed but failed or refused to purchase is not more than one-tenth of the aggregate amount of the Offered Securities to be purchased on such date, the other Underwriters shall be obligated severally in the proportions that the amount of Offered Securities set forth opposite their respective names bears to the aggregate amount of Offered Securities set forth opposite the names of all such non-defaulting Underwriters, or in such other proportions as the Managers may specify, to purchase the Offered Securities which such defaulting Underwriter or

Underwriters agreed but failed or refused to purchase on such date; *provided* that in no event shall the amount of Offered Securities that any Underwriter has agreed to purchase pursuant to this Agreement be increased pursuant to this Section 9 by an amount in excess of one-ninth of such amount of Offered Securities without the written consent of such Underwriter. If on the Closing Date any Underwriter or Underwriters shall fail or refuse to purchase Offered Securities and the aggregate amount of Offered Securities with respect to which such default occurs is more than one-tenth of the aggregate amount of Offered Securities to be purchased on such date, and arrangements satisfactory to the Managers and the Company for the purchase of such Offered Securities are not made within 36 hours after such default, this Agreement shall terminate without liability on the part of any non-defaulting Underwriter or the Company. In any such case either the Managers or the Company shall have the right to postpone the Closing Date but in no event for longer than seven days, in order that the required changes, if any, in the Registration Statement and in the Prospectus or in any other documents or arrangements may be effected. Any action taken under this paragraph shall not relieve any defaulting Underwriter from liability in respect of any default of such Underwriter under this Agreement.

10. *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original, with the same effect as if the signatures thereto and hereto were upon the same instrument.

11. *Applicable Law.* This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of New York.

12. *Headings.* The headings of the sections of this Agreement have been inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not be deemed a part of this Agreement.

13. *Successors.* This Agreement will inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and the officers, directors, employees, agents and controlling persons referred to in Section 7 hereof, and no other person will have any right or obligation hereunder.

14. *Waiver of Jury Trial.* Each of the parties hereto hereby irrevocably waives its rights to a jury trial of any claim or cause of action based upon or arising out of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereunder.



**UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT**  
**(Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Depositary Shares, Common Stock)**

[ , 20 ]

Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Sirs:

We (the “**Managers**”) are acting on behalf of the underwriter or underwriters (including ourselves) named below (such underwriter or underwriters being herein called the “**Underwriters**”), and we understand that Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation (the “**Company**”), proposes to issue and sell the number of shares of its securities identified as Firm Securities herein (the “**Firm Securities**”). The Company also proposes to issue and sell not more than the number of shares of its securities, if any, identified as Additional Securities herein (the “**Additional Securities**”), if and to the extent that we, as Managers of this offering, shall have determined to exercise, on behalf of the Underwriters, the right to purchase such Additional Securities granted to the Underwriters herein. The Firm Securities and the Additional Securities are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**Offered Securities**.”

Subject to the terms and conditions and in reliance upon the representations and warranties, terms and conditions set forth or incorporated by reference herein, the Company hereby agrees to sell and each of the Underwriters agrees to purchase from the Company, severally and not jointly, the aggregate principal amount of the Firm Securities set forth below opposite their names at a purchase price of \$[ ], per Firm Security (the “**Purchase Price**”).

<u>Underwriter</u>	<u>Number of Firm Securities To Be Purchased</u>
[Insert syndicate list]	
Total	

Subject to the terms and conditions and in reliance upon the representations and warranties, terms and conditions set forth or incorporated by reference herein, the Company hereby agrees to sell to the Underwriters the Additional Securities, and the Underwriters shall have a one-time right to purchase, severally and not jointly, up to the number of Additional Securities set forth below at the Purchase Price [plus accrued dividends, if any, from [ ] to the date of payment and delivery]. Additional Securities may be purchased as provided herein solely for the purpose of covering over-allotments made in connection with the offering of the Firm Securities. If any Additional Securities are to be purchased, each Underwriter agrees, severally and not jointly, to purchase the number of Additional Securities (subject to such adjustments to eliminate fractional Offered Securities as you may determine) that bears the same proportion to the total number of Additional Securities to be purchased as the amount of Firm Securities set forth opposite the name of such Underwriter above bears to the total amount of Firm Securities.

For purposes of the Underwriting Agreement, Applicable Time means [ ] (New York time) on the date hereof.

The Underwriters will pay for the Firm Securities upon delivery thereof at the offices of [ ], [ ] at 10:00 a.m. (New York time) on [ ], or at such other time, not later than 1:00 p.m. (New York time) on [ ] as shall be designated in writing by the Underwriters and the Company. The time and date of such payment and delivery are hereinafter referred to as the “**Closing Date**.”

Payment for any Additional Securities shall be made at the offices referred to above at 10:00 a.m. (New York time), on such date (which may be the same as the Closing Date but shall in no event be earlier than the Closing Date nor later than ten business days after the giving of the notice hereinafter referred to) as shall be designated in a written notice from us to the Company of our determination, on behalf of the Underwriters, to purchase an amount, specified in said notice, of Additional Securities, as shall be designated in writing by us. The time and date of such payment are hereinafter referred to as the “**Option Closing Date**.” The notice of the determination to exercise the option to purchase Additional Securities and of the Option Closing Date may be given at any time within 30 days after the date of the Underwriting Agreement.

The Offered Securities shall have the terms set forth in the Prospectus dated [ ], 2016 and the Prospectus Supplement dated [ ], including the following:

Terms of Offered Securities

Securities:

Aggregate Number of Firm Securities:

Aggregate Number of Additional Securities:

Redemption Provisions:

Conversion Provisions:

Exchange Provisions:

Lock-Up Securities:

Lock-Up Period:

Additional Provisions:

[If depositary shares are offered, list beneficial ownership of preferred stock that each depositary share represents and list Deposit Agreement.]

Capitalized terms used above and not defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement referred to above.

All communications hereunder shall be in writing and effective only upon receipt and (a) if to the Underwriters, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile in care of [ ], facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ], or (b) if to the Company, shall be delivered, mailed or sent via facsimile to 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, facsimile number [ ], Attention: [ ].

The Company acknowledges and agrees that the Underwriters are acting solely in the capacity of an arm's length contractual counterparty to the Company with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby (including in connection with determining the terms of the offering) and not as a financial advisor or a fiduciary to, or an agent of, the Company or any other person and will not claim that the Underwriters are acting in such capacity in connection with the offering of the Offered Securities contemplated hereby. Additionally, none of the Underwriters is advising the Company or any other person as to any legal, tax, investment, accounting or regulatory matters in any jurisdiction with respect to the offering of Offered Securities contemplated hereby. The Company shall consult with its own advisors concerning such matters and shall be responsible for making their own independent investigation and appraisal of the transactions contemplated hereby, and the Underwriters shall have no responsibility or liability to the Company with respect thereto. Any review by the Underwriters of the Company, the transactions contemplated hereby or other matters relating to such transactions will be performed solely for the benefit of the Underwriters and shall not be on behalf of the Company.

Except as set forth below, all provisions contained in the document entitled Westar Energy, Inc. Underwriting Agreement Standard Provisions (Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Depositary Shares, Common Stock) dated [ ] (the "**Standard Provisions**"), a copy of which is attached hereto, are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety and shall be deemed to be a part of this Agreement to the same extent as if such provisions had been set forth in full herein, except that (i) if any term defined in such document is otherwise defined herein, the definition set forth herein shall control, (ii) all references in such document to a type of security that is not an Offered Security shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement and (iii) all references in such document to a type of agreement that has not been entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement.

Please confirm your agreement by having an authorized officer sign a copy of this Agreement in the space set forth below.

Very truly yours,  
[Names of Lead Managers]

On behalf of themselves and the other  
Underwriters named herein

By [\_\_\_\_\_]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

Accepted:

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

TIME OF SALE PROSPECTUS

1. Base Prospectus dated [ ] relating to the Offered Securities and included in the Registration Statement (File No. [ ]).
2. The preliminary prospectus supplement dated [ ] relating to the Offered Securities.
3. Final term sheet containing the final terms of the Offered Securities as set forth in Schedule II hereto (if any) and filed with the Commission under Rule 433.

FINAL PRICING TERMS

## UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT

## STANDARD PROVISIONS

(PREFERRED STOCK, PREFERENCE STOCK, DEPOSITARY SHARES, COMMON STOCK)

[ , ]

From time to time, Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation (the “**Company**”), may enter into one or more underwriting agreements that provide for the sale of designated securities to the several underwriters named therein. The standard provisions set forth herein may be incorporated by reference in any such underwriting agreement (an “**Underwriting Agreement**”). The Underwriting Agreement, including the provisions incorporated therein by reference, is herein referred to as this **Agreement**. Terms defined in the Underwriting Agreement are used herein as therein defined.

The Company proposes to issue from time to time (a) its preferred stock, without par value (the “**Preferred Stock**”), (b) preference stock, without par value (“**Preference Stock**”), (c) depositary shares representing its Preferred Stock or Preference Stock (the “**Depositary Shares**”) and (d) its common stock, \$5.00 par value (the “**Common Stock**”).

The Company has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”) a registration statement including a prospectus relating to the Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Depositary Shares, Common Stock (collectively, the “**Securities**”) and has filed with, or transmitted for filing to, or shall promptly after the date of the Underwriting Agreement file with or transmit for filing to, the Commission a prospectus supplement (the “**Prospectus Supplement**”) pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”), specifically relating to the Securities offered pursuant to this Agreement (the “**Offered Securities**”). The term “**Registration Statement**” means the registration statement as amended to the date of the Underwriting Agreement including any additional registration statement filed by the Company pursuant to Rule 462(b). The term “**Base Prospectus**” means the prospectus included in the Registration Statement. The term “**Prospectus**” means the Base Prospectus together with the Prospectus Supplement. The term “**preliminary prospectus**” means a preliminary prospectus supplement specifically relating to the Offered Securities, together with the Base Prospectus. The term “**free writing prospectus**” has the meaning set forth in Rule 405 under the Securities Act. The term “**issuer free writing prospectus**” has the meaning set forth in Rule 433 under the Securities Act. The term “**Time of Sale Prospectus**” means the Base Prospectus and preliminary prospectus, if any, together with any additional documents or other information identified in Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement relating to the Offered Securities. As used herein, the terms “Base Prospectus,” “Prospectus,” “preliminary prospectus” and “Time of Sale Prospectus” shall include in each case the documents, if any, incorporated by reference therein. As used herein, the term “**Applicable Time**” means the time and date set forth in the Underwriting Agreement or such other time as agreed in writing by the Company and the Managers. The terms “supplement,” “amendment” and “amend” as used herein shall include all documents deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Prospectus that are filed subsequent to the date of the Base Prospectus by the Company with the Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “**Exchange Act**”).

The Company hereby agrees that, without the prior written consent of the Managers, it will not offer, sell, contract to sell or grant any option to purchase, pledge or otherwise dispose of (or enter into any transaction which is designed to, or might reasonably be expected to, result in the disposition (whether by actual disposition or effective economic disposition due to cash settlement or otherwise) by the Company), directly or indirectly, including the filing (or participation in the filing) of a registration statement with the Commission in respect of, or establish or increase a put equivalent position or liquidate or decrease a call equivalent position within the meaning of Section 16 of the Exchange Act, any shares of the Lock-Up Securities, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for Lock-Up Securities, or publicly announce an intention to effect any such transaction, for the Lock-Up Period, other than (i) the Offered Securities to be sold hereunder, (ii) any Lock-Up Securities sold upon the exercise of an option or warrant or the conversion of a security outstanding on the date hereof or (iii) any Lock-Up Securities issued pursuant to any stock option or similar employee compensation plan in effect on the date hereof.

1. *Representations and Warranties.* The Company represents and warrants to each of the Underwriters as of the date of the Underwriting Agreement that:

(i) The Registration Statement is an “automatic shelf registration statement” as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act and has become effective; the Company has not received any notice

from the Commission objecting to the use of the automatic shelf registration form; no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement is in effect and no proceedings for such purpose are pending before or threatened by the Commission; the Company is a “well-known seasoned issuer” as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act and otherwise meets the requirements for the use of the Registration Statement form.

(ii) Each document filed or to be filed pursuant to the Exchange Act and incorporated by reference in the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus complied or will comply when so filed in all material respects with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

(iii) Each of the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus comply in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission. (A) Each part of the Registration Statement, when such part became effective, did not contain, and each such part, as amended or supplemented, if applicable, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, (B) the Time of Sale Prospectus as of the Applicable Time did not contain or as amended or supplemented, if applicable, as of the Closing Date, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, and (C) the Prospectus as of its date does not contain, or as amended or supplemented, if applicable, as of the Closing Date will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The foregoing representations and warranties in this Section 1(iii) do not apply to statements or omissions in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto based upon information furnished to the Company in writing by any Underwriter through the Managers expressly for use therein.

(iv) The Company has been duly incorporated, and is validly existing, as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of Kansas.

(v) The Offered Securities have been duly authorized by the Company and, when executed and delivered to and paid for by the Underwriters in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

(vi) The Company has an authorized and outstanding capitalization as set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus, and all of the issued shares of capital stock of the Company have been duly and validly authorized and issued and are fully paid and non-assessable.

(vii) The Company is not an “ineligible issuer” in connection with the offering pursuant to Rules 164, 405 and 433 under the Securities Act. The Company has not made, used, prepared, authorized, approved or referred to any offer relating to the Offered Securities that would constitute a free writing prospectus other than (a) any written communications furnished in advance to the Managers, to which the Managers shall have the right to reasonably object in writing; (b) an electronic road show, if any, furnished to the Managers before first use; or (c) free writing prospectuses identified on Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement relating to the Offered Securities, including any term sheet as may be set forth in Schedule II to the Underwriting Agreement relating to the Offered Securities. Any such free writing prospectus as of its issue date complied in all material respects with the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder and was filed with the Commission in accordance with the Securities Act (to the extent required pursuant to Rule 433(d) thereunder).

(viii) The execution and delivery by the Company of, and the performance by the Company of its obligations under, this Agreement will not contravene any provision of applicable law or the articles of incorporation or by-laws of the Company or any agreement or other instrument binding upon the Company or any of its subsidiaries that is material to the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or any judgment, order or decree of any governmental body, agency or court having jurisdiction over the Company or any of its consolidated subsidiaries, and no consent, approval, authorization or order of, or qualification with, any governmental body or agency is required for the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement except such as may be required by the securities or blue sky laws of the various states in connection with the offer and sale of the Offered Securities.

(ix) Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is (a) in violation of its articles of incorporation or by-laws (or similar organizational documents), (b) in default in the performance or observance of any obligation, covenant or condition contained in any contract or (c) in violation of any law or statute or any judgment, order, rule or regulation of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority, except in the case of clause (b) or (c), to the extent such violation or default would not have a material adverse effect.

(x) There has not occurred any material adverse change, or any development involving a prospective material adverse change, in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business or operations of the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, from that set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus (exclusive of any amendments or supplements thereto effected subsequent to the date of this Agreement).

(xi) There are no legal or governmental proceedings pending or threatened to which the Company or any of its consolidated subsidiaries is a party or to which any of the properties of the Company or any of its consolidated subsidiaries is subject that are required to be described in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or Prospectus and are not so described or any statutes, regulations, contracts or other documents that are required to be described in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or Prospectus or to be filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the Registration Statement that are not described, filed or incorporated as required.

(xii) Each of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries has all necessary consents, authorizations, approvals, orders, certificates, licenses and permits of and from, and has made all declarations and filings with, all federal, state, local and other governmental authorities, all self-regulatory organizations and all courts and other tribunals, to own, lease, license and use its properties and assets and to conduct its business in the manner described in the Time of Sale Prospectus, except to the extent that the failure to obtain or file would not have a material adverse effect on the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

(xiii) The Company maintains a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that (a) transactions are executed in accordance with management's general or specific authorizations; (b) transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to maintain asset accountability; (c) access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management's general or specific authorization; and (d) the recorded accountability for assets is compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences.

(xiv) The Company and its subsidiaries maintain "disclosure controls and procedures" (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act); such disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

(xv) The consolidated historical financial statements and schedules of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries included in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus present fairly in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of the dates and for the periods indicated, comply as to form with the applicable accounting requirements of the Securities Act and have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved (except as otherwise noted therein). The interactive data in eXtensible Business Reporting Language included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Time of Sale Prospectus fairly presents the information called for in all material respects and has been prepared in accordance with the Commission's rules and guidelines applicable thereto.

(xvi) Except as set forth in or contemplated in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus (exclusive of any amendment or supplement thereto), the Company and the Principal Subsidiary (as defined herein) have not received written notice of any actual or potential liability for the investigation or remediation of any disposal or release of hazardous or toxic substances or wastes, pollutants or contaminants, except where such liability would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole.



(xvii) The holders of outstanding shares of capital stock of the Company are not entitled to preemptive or other rights to subscribe for the Securities; and, except as set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and Prospectus, no options, warrants or other rights to purchase, agreements or other obligations to issue, or rights to convert any obligations into or exchange any securities for, shares of capital stock of or ownership interests in the Company are outstanding.

(xviii) The operations of the Company and its subsidiaries are and have been conducted at all times in compliance with the applicable financial recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act of 1970, as amended, the money laundering statutes of all jurisdictions, the rules and regulations thereunder and any related or similar rules, regulations or guidelines, issued, administered or enforced by any governmental agency (collectively, the “**Money Laundering Laws**”) and no action, suit or proceeding by or before any court or governmental agency, authority or body or any arbitrator involving the Company or any of its subsidiaries with respect to the Money Laundering Laws is pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened.

(xix) Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries nor, to the knowledge of the Company, any director, officer, agent, employee or affiliate of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is currently subject to any sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department (“**OFAC**”); and the Company will not directly or indirectly use the proceeds of the offering, or lend, contribute or otherwise make available such proceeds to any subsidiary, joint venture partner or other person or entity, for the purpose of financing the activities of any person currently subject to any U.S. sanctions administered by OFAC.

2. *Public Offering.* The Company is advised by the Managers that the Underwriters propose to make a public offering of their respective portions of the Offered Securities as soon after this Agreement has been entered into as in the Managers’ judgment is advisable. The terms of the public offering of the Offered Securities are set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus.

3. *Purchase and Delivery.* Except as otherwise provided in this Section 3 or in the Underwriting Agreement, payment for the Offered Securities shall be made to the Company in Federal or other funds immediately available in New York City at the time and place set forth in the Underwriting Agreement, upon delivery to the Managers for the respective accounts of the several Underwriters of the Offered Securities registered in such names and in such denominations as the Managers shall request in writing not less than one full business day prior to the date of delivery, with any transfer taxes payable in connection with the transfer of the Offered Securities to the Underwriters duly paid.

4. *Conditions to Closing.* Unless waived by the Managers, the several obligations of the Underwriters hereunder are subject to the accuracy of the representations and warranties on the part of the Company contained herein as of the date of the Underwriting Agreement and the Closing Date (as if made on the Closing Date), the performance by the Company of all of the obligations to be performed by it under this Agreement on or prior to the Closing Date and the satisfaction of the following conditions:

(a) Subsequent to the Applicable Time and prior to the Closing Date, there shall not have occurred any downgrading, nor shall any notice have been given of any intended or potential downgrading or of any review for a possible change that does not indicate the direction of the possible change, in the rating accorded the Company or any of the securities of the Company by any “nationally recognized statistical rating organization,” as such term as defined in Section 3(a)(62) of the Exchange Act.

(b) No stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall be in effect, and no proceedings for such purpose shall be pending before or threatened by the Commission, and there shall not have occurred any change, or any development involving a prospective change, in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business, properties or operations of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole, from that set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus, that, in the judgment of the Managers, is material and adverse and that makes it, in the judgment of the Managers, impracticable or inadvisable to market or deliver the Offered Securities on the terms and in the manner contemplated in the Time of Sale Prospectus; and the Managers shall have received, on the Closing Date, a certificate, dated the Closing Date and signed by either the chief executive officer or chief financial officer of the Company, to the foregoing effect. Such certificate will also provide that the representations and warranties of the Company contained herein are true and correct as of the Closing Date and that the Company has complied with all

agreements and satisfied all conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied hereunder at or prior to the Closing Date. The officer making such certificate may rely upon the best of his knowledge as to proceedings threatened.

(c) The Managers shall have received on the Closing Date an opinion of Larry D. Irick, Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Company (or another lawyer of the Company reasonably satisfactory to the Underwriters), dated the Closing Date, addressed to the Managers to the effect that:

(i) each of the Company and Kansas Gas and Electric Company (the "**Principal Subsidiary**") has been duly incorporated, is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of Kansas and is duly qualified to transact business and is in good standing in each jurisdiction in which the conduct of its business or its ownership or leasing of property requires such qualification (except where the failure to so qualify would not have a material adverse effect upon the business or financial condition of the Company and its subsidiaries, as a whole);

(ii) the Company has an authorized capitalization as set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus, and all of the issued shares of capital stock of the Company have been duly and validly authorized and issued and are fully paid and non-assessable;

(iii) all of the issued shares of capital stock of the Principal Subsidiary have been duly and validly authorized and issued, are fully paid and non-assessable, and (except for directors' qualifying shares and except as otherwise set forth in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus) are owned directly and indirectly by the Company, free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, equities and claims (such counsel being entitled to rely in respect of the opinion in this clause upon opinions of local counsel and in respect of matters of fact upon certificates of officers of the Company or its subsidiaries, provided that such counsel shall state that he believes that both the Managers and he are justified in relying upon such opinions and certificates);

(iv) the Offered Securities have been duly authorized by the Company, and when executed and delivered to and paid for by the Underwriters in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable;

(v) this Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company;

(vi) except as rights to indemnity and contribution under this Agreement may be limited under applicable law, the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement by the Company and the issuance and sale of the Offered Securities by the Company will not contravene any provision of applicable law of the United States (including laws relating specifically to electric utility companies and the electric utility industry), Kansas, or, to the best knowledge of such counsel, of any other state or jurisdiction of the United States, or the articles of incorporation or by-laws (or similar organizational document) of the Company or, to the best knowledge of such counsel, any material agreement or other material instrument binding upon the Company, and, except for the orders of the Commission making the Registration Statement effective (which have been obtained) and such permits or similar authorizations required under the securities or Blue Sky laws of certain states or foreign jurisdictions (as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any opinion), no consent, approval or authorization of any governmental body or agency of the United States (except with respect to consents, approvals and authorizations relating specifically to the public utility companies or the utilities industry, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any opinion), Kansas, or, to the best knowledge of such counsel, of any other state or jurisdiction of the United States or of any foreign jurisdiction is required for the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement or the issuance and sale of the Offered Securities by the Company;

(vii) each of the Company and the Principal Subsidiary possesses valid franchises, certificates of convenience and authority, licenses and permits authorizing it to carry on the electric utility business in which it is engaged, except in the cases that the failure to possess such

franchises, certificates, licenses or permits, individually or in the aggregate, would not be reasonably expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole, and neither the Company nor the Principal Subsidiary has received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such franchise, certificate of convenience and authority, license or permit which, singly or in the aggregate, if the subject of an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding, would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect, except as set forth in or contemplated in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus;

(viii) the statements (A) in Item 3 of the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K incorporated by reference in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus, (B) in Part II, Item 1 under the caption "Legal Proceedings" of the Company's most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q incorporated by reference in the Time of Sale Prospectus and (C) in the Registration Statement in Item 15, insofar as such statements constitute a summary of the legal matters, documents or proceedings referred to therein, fairly present the information called for with respect to such legal matters, documents and proceedings;

(ix) such counsel does not know of any legal or governmental proceeding pending or threatened (including, without limitation, proceeding pending before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas ("KCC") or Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC")) to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or to which any of the properties of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is subject which is required to be described in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus and is not so described, or of any contract, other document, public utility law or regulation which is required to be described in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus or to be filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement which is not described or filed as required;

(x) the Company has complied with K.S.A. § 66-125 with respect to the issuance of the Securities. No additional consent, approval, authorization, filing with or order of (a) FERC under the Federal Power Act, (b) the KCC or (c) to the knowledge of the Company, any court or governmental agency or body is required in connection with the transactions contemplated herein, except such as have been obtained under the Securities Act and such as may be required under the blue sky laws of any jurisdiction in connection with the purchase and distribution of the Securities by the Underwriters in the manner contemplated herein and in the Time of Sale Prospectus; and

(xi) the statements in the prospectus supplement contained in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus under "The Offering," and in the Base Prospectus under "Description of Capital Stock" and "Description of Depositary Shares," insofar as such statements constitute a summary of the legal matters or documents referred to therein, fairly present the information called for with respect to such legal matters and documents.

Such counsel shall also state that nothing has come to his attention that causes him to believe (1) that the Registration Statement or any amendments thereto (except for the financial statements and other financial or statistical data derived therefrom that are included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any belief), on the date on which it became effective or the date of filing of the most recent subsequent Annual Report on Form 10-K, contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading; (2) that the Time of Sale Prospectus (except for the financial statements and other financial or statistical data derived therefrom that are included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any belief), at the Applicable Time or as amended or supplemented, if applicable, as of the Closing Date, contained or contains an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; (3) that the Prospectus (except for the financial statements and other financial or statistical data derived therefrom that are included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any belief), at its date or as amended or supplemented, if applicable, at the Closing Date, contained or contains an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or (4) that the documents incorporated by reference in the Prospectus (except for the

financial statements and other financial or statistical data derived therefrom that are included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any belief), as of the dates they were filed with the Commission, contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

With respect to the preceding paragraph, such counsel may state that he has not been called upon to pass upon, and that he expresses no view regarding, the financial statements or financial schedules or statistical data derived therefrom or other accounting or financial data included in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus, and that his opinion and belief is based upon his participation in the preparation of the Registration Statement, Time of Sale Prospectus, Prospectus (as amended or supplemented) and the documents incorporated therein by reference and review and discussion of the contents thereof, but is without independent check or verification except as specified.

In expressing his opinion as to questions of the law of jurisdictions other than the State of Kansas and the United States, such counsel may rely to the extent reasonable on such counsel as may be reasonably acceptable to counsel to the Underwriters. In addition, such counsel may reasonably rely as to questions of fact on certificates of responsible officers of the Company.

(d) The Managers shall have received on the Closing Date an opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P., special counsel for the Company, dated the Closing Date, to the effect that:

(i) the Company is not, and after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Offered Securities and the application of the proceeds thereof as described in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus will not be, required to register as an "investment company" as such term is defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended;

(ii) except as rights to indemnity and contribution under this Agreement may be limited under applicable law, the execution and delivery by the Company of, and the performance by the Company of its obligations under, this Agreement will not contravene any provision of the laws of the state of New York or any federal law of the United States of America (except with respect to laws relating specifically to public utility companies or the utilities industry, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any opinion) that in such counsel's experience is normally applicable to general business corporations in relation to transactions of the type contemplated by this Agreement, provided that such counsel need not express an opinion as to federal or state securities laws or blue sky laws;

(iii) no consent, approval, authorization, or order of, or qualification with, any governmental body or agency under the laws of the State of New York or any federal law of the United States of America (except with respect to laws relating specifically to public utility companies or the utilities industry, as to which such counsel is not called upon to express any opinion) that in such counsel's experience is normally applicable to general business corporations in relation to transactions of the type contemplated by this Agreement is required for the execution, delivery and performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement, except such as may be required under federal or state securities or blue sky laws;

Such counsel has considered the statements included in the Prospectus Supplement under the caption "Underwriting" insofar as they summarize provisions of this Agreement, and in such counsel's opinion, such statements fairly summarize these provisions in all material respects; and such counsel has considered the statements in the Time of Sale Prospectus in the Base Prospectus under the caption "Plan of Distribution," insofar as such statements constitute a summary of the legal matters or documents referred to therein, and in such counsel's opinion, such statements fairly present the information called for with respect to such legal matters and documents.

Such counsel shall also state that it has reviewed the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus and has participated in conferences with officers and other representatives of the Company, with representatives of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and with your representatives and your counsel, at which the contents of the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus, the Prospectus and related matters were discussed. The purpose of such counsel's professional engagement was not to establish or confirm factual matters set forth in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus, and such counsel has not undertaken to verify independently any of the factual matters in such documents. Moreover, many of the determinations required to be made in the preparation of the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus involve matters of a non-legal nature. Accordingly, such counsel is not required to pass upon, and does not assume any responsibility for, the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the statements contained or included in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus (except to the extent stated in the immediately preceding paragraph above). Subject to the foregoing and on the basis of the information such counsel gained in the course of performing the services referred to above, such counsel shall advise you that: (a) the Registration Statement, as of the latest Effective Time, the Time of Sale Prospectus, as of the Applicable Time, and the Prospectus, as of its date and the date hereof, appear on their face to be appropriately responsive in all material respects to the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder; and (b) nothing came to such counsel's attention that caused it to believe that: (1) the Registration Statement, as of the latest Effective Time, contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, (2) the Time of Sale Prospectus, as of the Applicable Time, included an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or (3) the Prospectus, as of its date or as of the Closing Date, included or includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; it being understood that in each case such counsel has not been asked to, and does not, express any belief with respect to (a) the financial statements and schedules or other financial, accounting or statistical information contained or included or incorporated by reference therein or omitted therefrom, (b) representations and warranties and other statements of fact contained in the exhibits to the Registration Statement or to documents incorporated by reference therein or (c) that part of the Registration Statement that constitutes the Form T-1.

(e) The Managers shall have received on the Closing Date an opinion of Hunton & Williams LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, dated the Closing Date, covering the matters requested by and in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Managers.

(f) The Managers shall have received at the Applicable Time a letter dated such date and on the Closing Date a letter dated such date, in each case, in form and substance satisfactory to the Managers, from Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent public accountants, containing statements and information of the type ordinarily included in accountants' "comfort letters" to underwriters with respect to the financial statements and certain financial information reviewed by them contained in or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus and each other firm of independent accountants, if any, who audited or reviewed financial statements contained in or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus, containing statements and information of the type ordinarily included in accountants' "comfort letters" to underwriters with respect to such financial statements and financial information.

(g) The Managers shall have received on the date hereof or on the Closing Date, as applicable, such additional documents as the Managers shall have reasonably requested to confirm compliance with the conditions to closing listed herein.

(h) If the Offered Securities are shares of Common Stock, the Securities shall have been listed and admitted and authorized for trading on the New York Stock Exchange subject to official notice of issuance.

The several obligations of the Underwriters to purchase Additional Securities hereunder are subject to the accuracy of the representations and warranties on the part of the Company contained herein as of the date of the Underwriting Agreement and the Option Closing Date (as if made on the Option Closing Date), the performance by the Company of all of the obligations to be performed by it under this Agreement prior to the Option Closing Date and delivery to the Managers on the Option Closing Date of supplemented opinions, certificates and documents confirming as of such date the opinions, certificates and documents delivered on the Closing Date pursuant to in this Section 4.

5. *Covenants of the Company.* In further consideration of the agreements of the Underwriters herein contained, the Company covenants as follows:

(a) To furnish to the Managers, without charge, a copy of the Registration Statement and two signed copies of any post-effective amendment thereto specifically relating to the Offered Securities (including exhibits thereto and documents incorporated therein by reference) and, during the period mentioned in paragraph (c) below, as many copies of the Time of Sale Prospectus, the Prospectus, any documents incorporated therein by reference and any supplements and amendments thereto as the Managers may reasonably request.

(b) Before amending or supplementing the Registration Statement, the Time of Sale Prospectus or the Prospectus, to furnish the Managers with a copy of each such proposed amendment or supplement, and not to make such amendment or supplement that the Managers shall have reasonably objected to in writing.

(c) Before filing, using or referring to any free writing prospectus relating to the Offered Securities, to furnish the Managers a copy of each such free writing prospectus, and not to file, use or refer to any such free writing prospectus that the Managers shall have reasonably objected to in writing.

(d) Not to take any action that would result in an Underwriter being required to file with the Commission pursuant to Rule 433(d) under the Securities Act a free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of the Underwriter that the Underwriter otherwise would not have been required to file thereunder.

(e) If the Time of Sale Prospectus is being used to solicit offers to buy the Offered Securities at a time when the Prospectus is not yet available to prospective purchasers and any event shall occur as a result of which it is necessary to amend or supplement the Time of Sale Prospectus in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, not misleading, or if any event shall occur as a result of which any free writing prospectus included as part of the Time of Sale Prospectus conflicts with the information contained in the Registration Statement then on file, the Company shall forthwith (1) notify the Managers of such event and (2) prepare and furnish, at its expense, to the Underwriters and to the dealers (whose names and addresses the Managers will furnish to the Company), either amendments or supplements to the Time of Sale Prospectus so that the statements in the Time of Sale Prospectus as so amended or supplemented will not, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, be misleading or so that any free writing prospectus which is included as part of the Time of Sale Prospectus, as amended or supplemented, will no longer conflict with the Registration Statement.

(f) If, during such period after the first date of the public offering of the Offered Securities during which in the opinion of counsel to the Managers the Prospectus (or in lieu thereof the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the Securities Act) is required by law to be delivered in connection with sales by an Underwriter or dealer, any event shall occur as a result of which it is necessary to amend or supplement the Prospectus in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, not misleading, the Company shall (1) promptly notify the Managers of such event in writing and (2) forthwith prepare and furnish, at its expense, to the Underwriters and to the dealers (whose names and addresses the Managers will furnish to the Company) to which Offered Securities may have been sold by the Managers on behalf of the Underwriters and to any other dealers on request, either amendments or supplements to the Prospectus so that the statements in the Prospectus as so amended or supplemented will not, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, be misleading.

(g) To endeavor to qualify the Offered Securities for offer and sale under the securities or Blue Sky laws of such U.S. jurisdictions as the Managers shall reasonably request.

(h) To make generally available to the Company's security holders as soon as practicable an earnings statement covering the twelve month period beginning on the first day of the first fiscal quarter commencing after the date hereof, which shall satisfy the provisions of Section 11(a) of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder (which may be accomplished by making generally available the Company's financial statements in the manner provided for by Rule 158 of the Securities Act).

6. *Covenants of the Underwriters.* In further consideration of the agreements of the Company herein contained, each Underwriter severally covenants as follows:

(a) Subject to Section 6(b), not to take any action that would result in the Company being required to file with the Commission under Rule 433(d) a free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of such Underwriter that otherwise would not be required to be filed by the Company thereunder, but for the action of the Underwriter.

(b) Not to use, refer to or distribute any free writing prospectus except:

(i) a free writing prospectus that (a) is not an issuer free writing prospectus and (b) contains only information describing the preliminary terms of the Offered Securities or the

offering thereof, which information is limited to the categories of terms referenced on Schedule II to the Underwriting Agreement relating to the Offered Securities or otherwise permitted under Rule 134 of the Securities Act;

(ii) a free writing prospectus as shall be agreed in writing with the Company that is not distributed, used or referred to by such Underwriter in a manner reasonably designed to lead to its broad unrestricted dissemination (unless the Company consents in writing to such dissemination); or

(iii) a free writing prospectus identified in Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement relating to the Offered Securities as forming part of the Time of Sale Prospectus (including any customary distribution through the Bloomberg system consisting of the information contained in such free writing prospectus).

*7. Indemnification and Contribution.* The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each Underwriter, the directors, officers, employees and agents of each Underwriter and each person, if any, who controls each Underwriter within the meaning of either Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act from and against any and all losses, claims, damages and liabilities arising out of, based upon or caused by any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Time of Sale Prospectus (as amended or supplemented), any issuer free writing prospectus or the Prospectus (as amended or supplemented), arising out of, based upon or caused by any omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, except insofar as such losses, claims, damages or liabilities arise out of, are based upon or are caused by any such untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission based upon information furnished to the Company in writing by such Underwriter through the Managers expressly for use therein.

Each Underwriter severally and not jointly agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, its directors and officers who have signed the Registration Statement and each person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of either Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act to the same extent as the foregoing indemnity from the Company to such Underwriter, but only with reference to information relating to such Underwriter furnished to the Company in writing by such Underwriter through the Managers expressly for use in the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Time of Sale Prospectus, any issuer free writing prospectus, the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto.

In case any proceeding (including any governmental investigation) shall be instituted involving any person in respect of which indemnity may be sought pursuant to either of the two preceding paragraphs, such person (hereinafter called the “**indemnified party**”) shall promptly notify the person against whom such indemnity may be sought (hereinafter called the “**indemnifying party**”) in writing and the indemnifying party, upon request of the indemnified party, shall retain counsel reasonably satisfactory to the indemnified party to represent the indemnified party and any others the indemnifying party may designate in such proceeding and shall pay the fees and disbursements of such counsel related to such proceeding. In any such proceeding, any indemnified party shall have the right to retain its own counsel, but the fees and disbursements of such counsel shall be at the expense of such indemnified party unless (i) the indemnifying party and the indemnified party shall have mutually agreed to the retention of such counsel, (ii) the named parties to any such proceeding (including any impleaded parties) include both the indemnifying party and the indemnified party and, upon advice of counsel the indemnified party concludes that counsel chosen by the indemnifying party to represent the indemnified party would be inappropriate due to actual or potential differing interests between the indemnifying party and indemnified party or (iii) the indemnifying party shall not have employed counsel reasonably satisfactory to the indemnified party to represent the indemnified party within a reasonable time after notice of the institution of such action. It is understood that the indemnifying party shall not, in connection with any proceeding or related proceedings in the same jurisdiction, be liable for the reasonable fees and disbursements of more than one separate firm (in addition to any local counsel) for all such indemnified parties and that all such fees and disbursements shall be reimbursed as they are incurred. In the case of any such separate firm for the Underwriters and such control persons of the Underwriters, such firm shall be designated in writing by the Managers. In the case of any such separate firm for the Company and such directors, officers and controlling persons of the Company, such firm shall be designated in writing by the Company. The indemnifying party shall not be liable for any settlement of any proceeding effected without its written consent, but if settled with such consent or if there be a final judgment for the plaintiff, the indemnifying party agrees to indemnify, to the extent provided in the two immediately preceding paragraphs, the indemnified party from and against any loss or liability by reason of such settlement or judgment. No indemnifying party shall, without the prior written consent of the indemnified party, effect any settlement of any pending or threatened proceeding in respect of which any indemnified party is or could have been a party and indemnity could have been sought

hereunder by such indemnified party, unless such settlement (x) includes an unconditional release of such indemnified party from all liability on claims that are the subject matter of such proceeding and (y) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act, by or on behalf of any indemnified party.

If the indemnification provided for in the first or second paragraph of this Section 7 is unavailable to or insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party in respect of any losses, claims, damages or liabilities for which indemnification is provided herein, then the indemnifying party, in lieu of indemnifying such indemnified party, shall contribute to the amount paid or payable by such indemnified party as a result of such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (i) in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other from the offering of the Offered Securities or (ii) if the allocation provided by clause (i) above is not permitted by applicable law, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only the relative benefits referred to in clause (i) above but also the relative fault of the Company on the one hand and of the Underwriters on the other in connection with the statements or omissions which resulted in such losses, claims, damages or liabilities, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations. The relative benefits received by the Company and the Underwriters shall be deemed to be in the same proportion as the aggregate offering price of Offered Securities bears to the total underwriting discounts and commissions received by the Underwriters in respect thereof, in each case as set forth in the table on the cover page of the Prospectus. The relative fault of the Company and the Underwriters shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or the omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company on the one hand or by the Underwriters on the other and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission.

The Company and the Underwriters agree that it would not be just and equitable if contribution pursuant to this Section 7 were determined by pro rata allocation (even if the Underwriters were treated as one entity for such purpose) or by any other method of allocation which does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph. The amount paid or payable by an indemnified party as a result of the losses, claims, damages and liabilities referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph shall be deemed to include, subject to the limitations set forth above, any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in connection with investigating or defending any such action or claim. For purposes of this Section 7, each person who controls an Underwriter within the meaning of either the Securities Act or the Exchange Act and each director, officer, employee and agent of an Underwriter shall have the same rights to contribution as such Underwriter, and each person who controls the Company within the meaning of either the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, each officer of the Company who shall have signed the Registration Statement and each director of the Company shall have the same rights to contribution as the Company, subject in each case to the applicable terms and conditions of this paragraph and the preceding paragraph. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section 7, the Underwriters shall not be required to contribute any amount in excess of the amount by which the total price at which the Offered Securities underwritten by them and distributed to the public were offered to the public exceeds the amount of any damages which the Underwriters have otherwise been required to pay by reason of such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission. No person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the Securities Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation.

The indemnity and contribution agreement contained in this Section 7 and the representations and warranties of the Company contained in this Agreement shall remain operative and in full force and effect regardless of (i) any termination of this Agreement, (ii) any investigation made by or on behalf of the Underwriters, any of their respective officers, directors, employees, agents or any person controlling the Underwriters or by or on behalf of the Company, their respective officers or directors or any other person controlling the Company and (iii) acceptance of and payment for any of the Offered Securities.

8. *Termination.* This Agreement shall be subject to termination in the absolute discretion of the Managers by notice given by the Managers to the Company, if (a) after the Applicable Time and prior to the Closing Date (i) trading generally shall have been suspended or materially limited on or by, as the case may be, the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, or the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., (ii) trading of any securities of the Company shall have been suspended on the New York Stock Exchange, (iii) a general moratorium on commercial banking activities in New York shall have been declared by either Federal or New York State authorities, or (iv) there shall have occurred any outbreak or escalation of hostilities, declaration by the United States of a national emergency or war, or any change in financial markets or any calamity or crisis that, in the judgment of the Managers, is material and adverse and (b) in the case of any of the events specified in clause (a)(i) through (iv), such event, singly or together with any other events, makes it, in the judgment of the Managers, impracticable or inadvisable to market or deliver the Offered Securities on the terms and in the manner contemplated in the Time of Sale Prospectus and the Prospectus (exclusive of any amendment or supplement thereto) and this Agreement.



The Company will pay and bear all costs and expenses incident to the performance of its obligations under this Agreement, including (a) the preparation, printing and filing of the Registration Statement (including financial statements and exhibits), as originally filed and as amended, the preliminary prospectuses, the Time of Sale Prospectus, any free writing prospectus and the Prospectus and any amendments or supplements thereto, and the cost of furnishing copies thereto to the Underwriters, (b) the preparation, printing and distribution of this Agreement and the Blue Sky Memorandum, (c) the delivery of the Offered Securities to the Underwriters, (d) the reasonable fees and disbursements of the Company's counsel and accountants, (e) the qualification of the Offered Securities under the applicable state securities or Blue Sky laws in accordance with Section 5, including filing fees and reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Underwriters in connection therewith and in connection with any Blue Sky survey and any legal investment survey, and (f) all fees payable to the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. in connection with the review, if any, of the offering of the Securities. Except as specifically provided elsewhere herein, the Underwriters will pay all of their own costs and expenses, including without limitation the fees and expenses of their counsel and the expenses of selling presentations.

If this Agreement shall be terminated by the Underwriters because of any failure or refusal on the part of the Company to comply with the terms or to fulfill any of the conditions of this Agreement; or if for any reason the Company shall be unable to perform its obligations under this Agreement, the Company will reimburse the Underwriters for all out-of-pocket expenses (including the fees and disbursements of their counsel) reasonably incurred by the Underwriters in connection with this Agreement or the offering contemplated hereunder. This provision shall survive the termination or cancellation of this Agreement.

9. *Defaulting Underwriters.* If on the Closing Date or the Option Closing Date, as the case may be, any one or more of the Underwriters shall fail or refuse to purchase Offered Securities that it has or they have agreed to purchase on such date and such failure to purchase shall constitute a default in the performance of its obligations hereunder, and the aggregate amount of Offered Securities which such defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters agreed but failed or refused to purchase is not more than one-tenth of the aggregate amount of the Offered Securities to be purchased on such date, the other Underwriters shall be obligated severally in the proportions that the amount of Offered Securities set forth opposite their respective names bears to the aggregate amount of Offered Securities set forth opposite the names of all such non-defaulting Underwriters, or in such other proportions as the Managers may specify, to purchase the Offered Securities which such defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters agreed but failed or refused to purchase on such date; provided that in no event shall the amount of Offered Securities that any Underwriter has agreed to purchase pursuant to this Agreement be increased pursuant to this Section 9 by an amount in excess of one-ninth of such amount of Offered Securities without the written consent of such Underwriter. If on the Closing Date or the Option Closing Date, as the case may be, any Underwriter or Underwriters shall fail or refuse to purchase Offered Securities and the aggregate amount of Offered Securities with respect to which such default occurs is more than one-tenth of the aggregate amount of Offered Securities to be purchased on such date, and arrangements satisfactory to the Managers and the Company for the purchase of such Offered Securities are not made within 36 hours after such default, this Agreement shall terminate without liability on the part of any non-defaulting Underwriter or the Company. In any such case either the Managers or the Company shall have the right to postpone the Closing Date or the Option Closing Date, as the case may be, but in no event for longer than seven days, in order that the required changes, if any, in the Registration Statement and in the Prospectus or in any other documents or arrangements may be effected. Any action taken under this paragraph shall not relieve any defaulting Underwriter from liability in respect of any default of such Underwriter under this Agreement.

10. *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original, with the same effect as if the signatures thereto and hereto were upon the same instrument.

11. *Applicable Law.* This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of New York.

12. *Headings.* The headings of the sections of this Agreement have been inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not be deemed a part of this Agreement.

13. *Successors.* This Agreement will inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and the officers, directors, employees, agents and controlling persons referred to in Section 7 hereof, and no other person will have any right or obligation hereunder.

14. *Waiver of Jury Trial.* Each of the parties hereto hereby irrevocably waives its rights to a jury trial of any claim or cause of action based upon or arising out of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereunder.

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

FORM OF

SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES INDENTURE

Dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee

PARTIAL CROSS-REFERENCE TABLE

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INDENTURE dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_] between WESTAR ENERGY, INC., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Kansas (hereinafter called the “**Company**”), and THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A., a national banking association, as Trustee (the “**Trustee**”).

Each party agrees as follows for the benefit of the Holders of the Company’s debt securities issued under this Indenture:

ARTICLE 1  
DEFINITIONS

Section 1.01 *Definitions.*

“**Affiliate**” means any person directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by or under direct or indirect common control with the Company.

“**Agent**” means any Registrar, Transfer Agent or Paying Agent.

“**Authorized Newspaper**” means a newspaper that is:

- (i) printed in the English language or in an official language of the country of publication;
- (ii) customarily published on each business day in the place of publication; and
- (iii) of general circulation in the relevant place or in the financial community of such place.

Whenever successive publications in an Authorized Newspaper are required, they may be made on the same or different business days and in the same or different Authorized Newspapers.

“**Bearer Security**” means a Security payable to bearer.

“**Board**” means the Board of Directors of the Company or any authorized committee of the Board.

“**Business Day**” means day, except a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday on which banking institutions in The City of New York or the city in which the Corporate Trust Office is located are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

“**Capital Stock**” means any and all shares, interests, participations or other equivalents (however designated) of capital stock of any person and all warrants or options to acquire such capital stock.

“**Common Stock**” means the common stock, par value \$5.00 per share, of the Company.



“**Company**” means the party named as such above until a successor replaces it and thereafter means the successor.

“**Conversion Agent**” means an office or agency where Debt Securities may be presented for conversion.

“**Conversion Rate**” means such number or amount of shares of Common Stock or other equity or debt securities for which \$1,000 aggregate principal amount of Securities of any series is convertible, initially as stated in the Securities Resolution authorizing the series and as adjusted pursuant to the terms of this Indenture and the Securities Resolution.

“**Corporate Trust Office**” shall mean the principal office of the Trustee at which at any particular time its corporate trust business shall be administered, which office at the date of the execution of the Indenture is located at 2 North La Salle Street, Suite 1020, Chicago, IL 60602, Attention: Corporate Trust Department, or at any other time at such other address as the Trustee may designate from time to time by notice to the Noteholders.

“**coupon**” means an interest coupon for a Bearer Security.

“**Default**” means any event which is, or after notice or passage of time would be, an Event of Default (as defined below).

“**Discounted Debt Security**” means a Security where the amount of principal due upon acceleration is less than the stated principal amount.

“**Holder**” or “**Securityholder**” means the person in whose name a Registered Security is registered and the bearer of a Bearer Security or coupon.

“**Indenture**” means this Indenture and any Securities Resolution as amended from time to time.

“**Lien**” means mortgage, pledge, security interest or other lien.

“**Officer**” means the Chairman, any Vice-Chairman, the President, any Executive or Senior Vice President, any Vice-President, the Treasurer or any Assistant Treasurer, the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary of the Company.

“**Officers’ Certificate**” means a certificate signed by two Officers of the Company, and delivered to the Trustee.

“**Opinion of Counsel**” means a written opinion from legal counsel who is acceptable to the Trustee, and delivered to the Trustee. The counsel may be an employee of or counsel to the Company or the Trustee.

“**person**” means any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

“**principal**” of a debt security means the principal of the security plus the premium, if and when applicable, on the security.

“**Registered Security**” means a Security registered as to principal and interest by the Registrar.

“**Responsible Officer**” when used with respect to the Trustee means any officer within the corporate trust department of the Trustee, including any vice president, assistant vice president, assistant secretary, assistant treasurer, trust officer or any other officer of the Trustee who customarily performs functions similar to those performed by the Persons who at the time shall be such officers, respectively, or to whom any corporate trust matter is referred because of such person’s knowledge of and familiarity with the particular subject and who shall have direct responsibility for the administration of this Indenture.

“**SEC**” means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

“**Securities**” means the debt securities issued under this Indenture.

“**Securities Resolution**” means a resolution adopted by the Board or by a committee of Officers or an Officer pursuant to Board delegation authorizing a series.

“**Senior Indebtedness**” of the Company means the principal of, premium, if any, interest on, and any other payment due pursuant to any of the following, whether outstanding at the date hereof or hereafter incurred or created:

(a) all indebtedness of such person for money borrowed (including any indebtedness secured by a mortgage, conditional sales contract or other lien which is (i) given to secure all or part of the purchase price of property subject thereto, whether given to the vendor of such property or to another or (ii) existing on property at the time of acquisition thereof);

(b) all indebtedness of such person evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other securities sold by such person for money;

(c) all lease obligations of such person which are capitalized on the books of such person in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(d) all indebtedness of others of the kinds described in either of the preceding clauses (a) or (b) and all lease obligations of others of the kind described in the preceding clause (c) assumed by or guaranteed in any manner by such person or in effect guaranteed by such person through an agreement to purchase, contingent or otherwise; and

(e) all renewals, extensions or refundings of indebtedness of the kinds described in any of the preceding clauses (a), (b) and (d) and all renewals or extensions of lease obligations of the kinds described in either of the preceding clauses (c) and (d);

unless, in the case of any particular indebtedness, lease, renewal, extension or refunding, the instrument or lease creating or evidencing the same or the assumption or guarantee of the same expressly provides that such indebtedness, lease, renewal, extension or refunding is not superior in right of payment to the Securities.

“**series**” means a series of Securities or the Securities of the series.

“**Subsidiary**” of any person means (i) a corporation more than 50% of the outstanding voting stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by such person or by one or more other Subsidiaries of such person or by such person and one or more Subsidiaries thereof or (ii) any other person (other than a corporation) in which such person, or one or more Subsidiaries of such person or such person and one or more Subsidiaries thereof, directly or indirectly, has at least a majority ownership and power to direct the policy, management and affairs thereof.

“**TIA**” means the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (15 U.S. Code 77aaa–77bbb), as amended.

“**Trading Day**” means each day on which the securities exchange or quotation system which is used to determine the Market Price is open for trading or quotation.

“**Trustee**” means the party named as such above until a successor replaces it and thereafter means the successor.

“**Trust Officer**” when used with respect to the Trustee, means any officer assigned to the Corporate Trust Office, including any managing director, vice president, assistant vice president, assistant treasurer, assistant secretary or any other officer of the Trustee customarily performing functions similar to those performed by any of the above designated officers and having direct responsibility for the administration of this Indenture, and also, with respect to a particular matter, any other officer, to whom such matter is referred because of such officer’s knowledge of and familiarity with the particular subject.

“**United States**” means the United States of America, its territories and possessions and other areas subject to its jurisdiction.

Section 1.02 *Other Definitions.*

<u>Term</u>	<u>Defined in Section</u>
“ <b>actual knowledge</b> ”	7.02
“ <b>Applicable Law</b> ”	12.12
“ <b>Bankruptcy Law</b> ”	6.01
“ <b>Beneficial Owner</b> ”	3.07
“ <b>Conditional Redemption</b> ”	3.04
“ <b>Conversion Agent</b> ”	2.03
“ <b>Conversion Date</b> ”	10.02

<b>“Conversion Notice”</b>	10.02
<b>“Conversion Right”</b>	10.01
<b>“Custodian”</b>	6.01
<b>“Depository”</b>	3.07
<b>“Event of Default”</b>	6.01
<b>“Legal Holiday”</b>	12.06
<b>“Market Price”</b>	10.07
<b>“Participant”</b>	3.07
<b>“Paying Agent”</b>	2.03
<b>“Price Per Share”</b>	10.09
<b>“Registrar”</b>	2.03
<b>“Section 3.07 Aggregate Limit”</b>	3.07
<b>“Section 3.07 Commencement Date”</b>	3.07
<b>“Section 3.07 Individual Limit”</b>	3.07
<b>“Section 3.07 Redemption Period”</b>	3.07
<b>“Transfer Agent”</b>	2.03
<b>“Treasury Regulations”</b>	2.04
<b>“U.S. Government Obligations”</b>	8.02

Section 1.03 *Rules of Construction*. Unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) a term has the meaning assigned to it;

(b) an accounting term not otherwise defined has the meaning assigned to it in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States;

(c) generally accepted accounting principles are those applicable from time to time;

(d) all terms used in this Indenture that are defined by the TIA, defined by TIA reference to another statute or defined by SEC rule under the TIA have the meanings assigned to them by such definitions;

(e) “or” is not exclusive; and

(f) words in the singular include the plural, and in the plural include the singular.

ARTICLE 2  
THE SECURITIES

Section 2.01 *Issuable in Series*. The aggregate principal amount of Securities that may be issued under this Indenture is unlimited. The Securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. Each series shall be created by a Securities Resolution that establishes the terms of the series, which may include the following:

- (a) the title of the series;
- (b) the aggregate principal amount of the series;
- (c) the interest rate, if any, or method of calculating the interest rate;
- (d) the date from which interest will accrue;
- (e) the record dates for interest payable on Registered Securities;
- (f) the dates when principal and interest are payable;
- (g) the manner of paying principal and interest;
- (h) the places where principal and interest are payable;
- (i) the Registrar, Transfer Agent and Paying Agent;
- (j) the terms of any mandatory or optional redemption by the Company or any third party including any sinking fund;
- (k) the terms of any redemption at the option of Holders or put by the Holders;
- (l) the denominations in which Securities are issuable;
- (m) whether Securities will be issuable as Registered Securities, Bearer Securities or uncertificated Securities;
- (n) whether and upon what terms Registered Securities, Bearer Securities and uncertificated Securities may be exchanged;
- (o) whether any Securities will be represented by a Security in global form;
- (p) the terms of any global Security;
- (q) the terms of any tax indemnity;
- (r) the currencies (including any composite currency) in which principal or interest may be paid;

(s) if payments of principal or interest may be made in a currency other than that in which Securities are denominated, the manner for determining such payments;

(t) if amounts of principal or interest may be determined by reference to an index, formula or other method, the manner for determining such amounts;

(u) provisions for electronic issuance of Securities or for Securities in uncertificated form;

(v) the portion of principal payable upon acceleration of a Discounted Debt Security;

(w) whether any Events of Default or covenants in addition to or in lieu of those set forth in this Indenture have been added;

(x) whether and upon what terms Securities may be defeased;

(y) the forms of the Securities or any coupon, which may be in the form of Exhibit A or B;

(z) any terms that may be required by or advisable under U.S. laws;

(aa) whether and upon what terms the Securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for Common Stock of the Company or other equity or debt securities, which may include the terms provided in Article 10; and

(bb) any other terms not inconsistent with this Indenture.

All Securities of one series need not be issued at the same time and, unless otherwise provided, a series may be reopened for issuances of additional Securities of such series.

The creation and issuance of a series and the authentication and delivery thereof are not subject to any conditions precedent.

Section 2.02 *Execution and Authentication*. Two Officers shall sign the Securities by manual or facsimile signature. The Company's seal shall be reproduced on the Securities. An Officer shall sign any coupons by facsimile signature.

If an Officer whose signature is on a Security or its coupons no longer holds that office at the time the Security is authenticated or delivered, the Security and coupons shall nevertheless be valid.

A Security and its coupons shall not be valid until the Security is authenticated by the manual or facsimile signature of the Registrar. The signature shall be conclusive evidence that the Security has been authenticated under this Indenture.

Each Registered Security shall be dated the date of its authentication. Each Bearer Security shall be dated the date of its original issuance or as provided in the Securities Resolution.

At any time and from time to time after the execution and delivery of this Indenture, the Company may deliver Securities of any series executed by the Company to the Trustee for authentication. Except as otherwise provided in this Article 2, the Trustee shall thereupon authenticate and make available for delivery said Securities to or upon the written order of the Company, signed by the President and Chief Executive Officer, the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, its Vice President and Treasurer or one of its Assistant Treasurers. In authenticating such Securities, and accepting the additional responsibilities under this Indenture in relation to such Securities, the Trustee shall receive, and, subject to Section 7.01, shall be fully protected in relying upon:

(a) A copy of the resolution or resolutions of the Board of Directors in or pursuant to which the terms and form of the Securities were established, certified by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company to have been duly adopted by the Board of Directors and to be in full force and effect as of the date of such certificate, and if the terms and form of such Securities are established by an Officers' Certificate pursuant to general authorization of the Board of Directors, such Officers' Certificate;

(b) an executed supplemental indenture, if any;

(c) an Officers' Certificate delivered in accordance with Sections 12.03 and 12.04; and

(d) an Opinion of Counsel which shall state:

(i) that the form of such Securities has been established by or pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Directors in accordance with Section 2.01 and in conformity with the provisions of this Indenture;

(ii) that the terms of such Securities have been established in accordance with Section 2.01 and in conformity with the other provisions of this Indenture;

(iii) that such Securities, when authenticated and delivered by the Trustee and issued by the Company in the manner and subject to any conditions specified in such Opinion of Counsel, will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable in accordance with their terms, subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization and other laws of general applicability relating to or affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights and to general equity principles; and

(iv) that all laws and requirements in respect of the execution and delivery by the Company of such Securities have been complied with.

Securities may have notations, legends or endorsements required by law, stock exchange rule, agreement or usage.

In the event Securities are issued in electronic or other uncertificated form, such Securities may be validly issued without the signatures or seal contemplated by this Section 2.02.

Section 2.03 *Agents*. The Company shall maintain an office or agency where Securities may be authenticated (“**Registrar**”), where Securities may be presented for registration of transfer or for exchange (“**Transfer Agent**”), where Securities may be presented for payment (“**Paying Agent**”) and where Securities may be presented for conversion (“**Conversion Agent**”). Whenever the Company must issue or deliver Securities pursuant to this Indenture, the Registrar shall authenticate the Securities at the Company’s request. The Transfer Agent shall keep a register of the Securities and of their transfer and exchange.

The Company may appoint more than one Registrar, Transfer Agent, Paying Agent or Conversion Agent for a series. The Company shall notify the Trustee of the name and address of any Agent not a party to this Indenture. If the Company does not appoint or maintain a Registrar, Transfer Agent, Paying Agent or Conversion Agent for a series, the Trustee shall act as such.

Section 2.04 *Bearer Securities*. U.S. laws and Treasury Regulations restrict sales or exchanges of and payments on Bearer Securities. Therefore, except as provided below:

(a) Bearer Securities will be offered, sold or delivered only outside the United States and will be delivered in connection with its original issuance only upon presentation of a certificate in a form prescribed by the Company to comply with U.S. laws and regulations.

(b) Bearer Securities will not be issued in exchange for Registered Securities.

(c) All payments of principal and interest (including original issue discount) on Bearer Securities will be made outside the United States by a Paying Agent located outside the United States unless the Company determines that:

(i) such payments may not be made by such Paying Agent because the payments are illegal or prevented by exchange controls as described in Treasury Regulation 1.163-5(c)(2)(v); and

(ii) (B) making the payments in the United States would not have an adverse tax effect on the Company.

If there is a change in the relevant provisions of U.S. laws or Treasury Regulations or the judicial or administrative interpretation thereof, a restriction set forth in paragraph (1), (2) or (3) above will not apply to a series if the Company determines that the relevant provisions no longer apply to the series or that failure to comply with the relevant provisions would not have an adverse tax effect on the Company or on Securityholders or cause the series to be treated as “registration required” obligations under U.S. law.

The Company shall notify the Trustee of any determinations by the Company under this Section.

“**Treasury Regulations**” means regulations of the U.S. Treasury Department under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 2.05 *Paying Agent to Hold Money in Trust*. The Company shall require each Paying Agent for a series other than the Trustee to agree in writing that the Paying Agent will hold in trust for the benefit of the persons entitled thereto all money held by the Paying Agent for the payment of principal of or interest on the series, and will notify the Trustee of any default by the Company in making any such payment.



While any such default continues, the Trustee may require a Paying Agent to pay all money so held by it to the Trustee. The Company at any time may require a Paying Agent to pay all money held by it to the Trustee. Upon payment over to the Trustee, the Paying Agent shall have no further liability for the money.

If the Company or an Affiliate acts as Paying Agent for a series, it shall segregate and hold as a separate trust fund all money held by it as Paying Agent for the series.

The Company may elect not to exchange or register the transfer of any Security for a period of 15 days before a selection of Securities to be redeemed.

*Section 2.06 Securityholder Lists.* The Trustee shall preserve in as current a form as is reasonably practicable the most recent list available to it of the names and addresses of Securityholders. If the Trustee is not the Transfer Agent, the Company shall furnish to the Trustee semiannually and at such other times as the Trustee may request a list in such form and as of such date as the Trustee may reasonably require of the names and addresses of Holders of Registered Securities and Holders of Bearer Securities whose names are on the list referred to below.

The Transfer Agent shall keep a list of the names and addresses of Holders of Bearer Securities who file a request to be included on such list. A request will remain in effect for two years, and successive requests may be made.

Whenever the Company or the Trustee is required to mail a notice to all Holders of Registered Securities of a series, it also shall mail the notice to Holders of Bearer Securities of the series whose names are on the list.

Whenever the Company is required to publish a notice to all Holders of Bearer Securities of a series, it also shall mail the notice to such of them whose names are on the list.

*Section 2.07 Transfer and Exchange.* Where Registered Securities of a series are presented to the Transfer Agent with a request to register a transfer or to exchange them for an equal principal amount of Registered Securities of other denominations of the same series, the Transfer Agent shall register the transfer or make the exchange if its requirements for such transactions are met.

The Transfer Agent may require a Holder to pay a sum sufficient to cover any taxes imposed on a transfer or exchange.

If a series provides for Registered and Bearer Securities and for their exchange, Bearer Securities may be exchanged for Registered Securities and Registered Securities may be exchanged for Bearer Securities as provided in the Securities or the Securities Resolution if the requirements of the Transfer Agent for such transactions are met and in the case of the exchange of registered securities for bearer securities if Section 2.04 permits the exchange.

Section 2.08 *Replacement Securities*. If the Holder of a Security or coupon claims that it has been lost, destroyed or wrongfully taken, then, in the absence of notice to the Company or the Trustee that the Security or coupon has been acquired by a bona fide purchaser, the Company shall issue a replacement Security or coupon if the Company and the Trustee receive:

- (a) evidence satisfactory to them of the loss, destruction or taking;
- (b) an indemnity bond satisfactory to them; and
- (c) payment of a sum sufficient to cover their expenses and any taxes for replacing the Security or coupon.

A replacement Security shall have coupons attached corresponding to those, if any, on the replaced Security.

Every replacement Security or coupon is an additional obligation of the Company.

Section 2.09 *Outstanding Securities*. The Securities outstanding at any time are all the Securities authenticated by the Registrar except for those cancelled by it, those delivered to it for cancellation, and those described in this Section as not outstanding.

If a Security is replaced pursuant to Section 2.08, it ceases to be outstanding unless the Trustee and the Company receive proof satisfactory to them that the replaced Security is held by a bona fide purchaser.

If Securities are considered paid under Section 4.01, they cease to be outstanding and interest on them ceases to accrue.

A Security does not cease to be outstanding because the Company or an Affiliate holds the Security.

Section 2.10 *Discounted Debt Securities*. In determining whether the Holders of the required principal amount of Securities have concurred in any direction, waiver or consent, the principal amount of a Discounted Debt Security shall be the amount of principal that would be due as of the date of such determination if payment of the Security were accelerated on that date.

Section 2.11 *Treasury Securities*. In determining whether the Holders of the required principal amount of Securities have concurred in any direction, waiver or consent, Securities owned by the Company or an Affiliate shall be disregarded, except that for the purposes of determining whether the Trustee shall be protected in relying on any such direction, waiver or consent, only Securities which the Trustee actually knows are so owned shall be so disregarded.

Section 2.12 *Global Securities*. If the Securities Resolution so provides, the Company may issue some or all of the Securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form. A global Security may be in registered form, in bearer form with or without coupons or in uncertificated form. A global Security shall represent that amount of Securities of a series as specified in the global Security or as endorsed thereon from time to time. At the Company's request, the Registrar shall endorse a global Security to reflect the amount of any increase or decrease in the Securities represented thereby.

The Company may issue a global Security only to a depository designated by the Company. A depository may transfer a global Security only as a whole to its nominee or to a successor depository.

The Securities Resolution may establish, among other things, the manner of paying principal and interest on a global Security and whether and upon what terms a beneficial owner of an interest in a global Security may exchange such interest for definitive Securities.

The Company, an Affiliate, the Trustee and any Agent shall not be responsible for any acts or omissions of a depository, for any depository records of beneficial ownership interests or for any transactions between the depository and beneficial owners.

Section 2.13 *Temporary Securities*. Until definitive Securities of a series are ready for delivery, the Company may use temporary Securities. Temporary Securities shall be substantially in the form of definitive Securities but may have variations that the Company considers appropriate for temporary Securities. Temporary Securities may be in global form. Temporary Bearer Securities may have one or more coupons or no coupons.

Without unreasonable delay, the Company shall deliver definitive Securities in exchange for temporary Securities.

Section 2.14 *Cancellation*. The Company at any time may deliver Securities to the Registrar for cancellation. The Transfer Agent and the Paying Agent shall forward to the Registrar any Securities and coupons surrendered to them for payment, exchange or registration of transfer. The Registrar shall cancel all Securities or coupons surrendered for payment, registration of transfer, exchange or cancellation. The Registrar also will cancel all Bearer Securities and unmatured coupons unless the Company requests the Registrar to hold the same for redelivery. Any Bearer Securities so held shall be considered delivered for cancellation under Section 2.09. The Registrar shall destroy cancelled Securities and coupons unless the Company otherwise directs.

Unless the Securities Resolution otherwise provides, the Company may not issue new Securities to replace Securities that the Company has paid or that the Company has delivered to the Registrar for cancellation.

Section 2.15 *Defaulted Interest*. If the Company defaults in a payment of interest on Registered Securities, it need not pay the defaulted interest to Holders on the regular record date. The Company may fix a special record date for determining Holders entitled to receive defaulted interest, or the Company may pay defaulted interest in any other lawful manner.

ARTICLE 3  
REDEMPTION

Section 3.01 *Notices to Trustee*. Securities of a series that are redeemable before maturity shall be redeemable in accordance with their terms and, unless the Securities Resolution otherwise provides, in accordance with this Article.

In the case of a redemption by the Company, the Company shall notify the Trustee of the redemption date and the principal amount of Securities to be redeemed. The Company shall notify the Trustee at least 35 days before the redemption date unless a shorter notice is satisfactory to the Trustee.

If the Company is required to redeem Securities, it may reduce the principal amount of Securities required to be redeemed to the extent that it is permitted a credit against such redemption requirement by the terms of the Securities Resolution and notifies the Trustee of the amount of such credit and the basis for it. If the reduction is based on a credit for acquired or redeemed Securities that the Company has not previously delivered to the Registrar for cancellation, the Company shall deliver the Securities at the same time as the notice.

Section 3.02 *Selection of Securities to be Redeemed*. If less than all the Securities of a series are to be redeemed, in the case of securities issued in definitive form, the Trustee shall select the Securities to be redeemed by a method the Trustee considers fair and appropriate, in the case of securities issued in global form, the securities shall be selected in accordance with the applicable policy and procedures of the Depositary. The Trustee shall make the selection from Securities of the series outstanding not previously called for redemption. The Trustee may select for redemption portions of the principal of Securities having denominations larger than the minimum denomination for the series. Securities and portions thereof selected for redemption shall be in amounts equal to the minimum denomination for the series or an integral multiple thereof. Provisions of this Indenture that apply to Securities called for redemption also apply to portions of Securities called for redemption.

Section 3.03 *Notice of Redemption*. At least 30 days before a redemption date, the Company shall mail a notice of redemption by first class mail to each Holder of Registered Securities whose Securities are to be redeemed.

If Bearer Securities are to be redeemed, the Company shall publish a notice of redemption in an Authorized Newspaper as provided in the Securities.

A notice shall identify the Securities of the series to be redeemed and shall state:

- (a) the redemption date;
- (b) the redemption price;
- (c) the name and address of the Paying Agent;

(d) that Securities called for redemption, together with all coupons, if any, maturing after the redemption date, must be surrendered to the Paying Agent to collect the redemption price;

(e) that interest on Securities called for redemption ceases to accrue on and after the redemption date;

(f) whether the redemption by the Company is mandatory or optional; and

(g) whether the redemption is conditional as provided in Section 3.04, and if so, the terms of the conditions, and that, if the conditions are not satisfied or is not waived by the Company, the Securities will not be redeemed and such a failure to redeem will not constitute an Event of Default.

A redemption notice given by publication need not identify Registered Securities to be redeemed.

At the Company's request, the Trustee shall give the notice of redemption in the Company's name and at its expense.

*Section 3.04 Effect of Notice of Redemption.* Except as provided below, once notice of redemption is given, Securities called for redemption become due and payable on the redemption date at the redemption price stated in the notice.

A notice of redemption may provide that it is subject to the occurrence of any event before the date fixed for such redemption as described in such notice ("**Conditional Redemption**"), and such notice of Conditional Redemption shall be of no effect unless all such conditions to the redemption have occurred on or before such date or have been waived by the Company in its sole discretion.

*Section 3.05 Payment of Redemption Price.* On or before the redemption date, the Company shall deposit with the Paying Agent money sufficient to pay the redemption price of and accrued interest on all Securities to be redeemed on that date.

When the Holder of a Security surrenders it for redemption in accordance with the redemption notice, the Company shall pay to the Holder on the redemption date the redemption price and accrued interest to such date, except that:

(a) the Company will pay any such interest (except defaulted interest) to Holders on the record date of Registered Securities if the redemption date occurs on an interest payment date; and

(b) the Company will pay any such interest to Holders of coupons that mature on or before the redemption date upon surrender of such coupons to the Paying Agent.

Coupons maturing after the redemption date on a called Security are void absent a payment default on that date. Nevertheless, if a Holder surrenders for redemption a Bearer Security missing any such coupons, the Company may deduct the face amount of such coupons

from the redemption price. If thereafter the Holder surrenders to the Paying Agent the missing coupons, the Company will return the amount so deducted. The Company may waive surrender of the missing coupons if it receives an indemnity bond satisfactory to the Company.

Section 3.06 *Securities Redeemed in Part*. Upon surrender of a Security that is redeemed in part, the Company shall deliver to the Holder a new Security of the same series equal in principal amount to the unredeemed portion of the Security surrendered.

Section 3.07 *Limited Right of Redemption at Option of Beneficial Owner*. If, and to the extent, the Securities Resolution establishing a Series so provides, unless the Securities have been declared due and payable prior to their maturity by reason of an Event of Default, commencing on a date specified in such Securities Resolution (the “**Section 3.07 Commencement Date**”) the Representative (as defined below) of a deceased holder of an interest in the Securities (a “**Beneficial Owner**”) has the right to request redemption of all or part of his or her interest in the Securities, expressed in integral multiples of \$1,000, for payment prior to maturity, and the Company will redeem the same subject to the limitations that the Company will not be obligated to redeem during a period or periods specified in such Securities Resolution (each a “**Section 3.07 Redemption Period**”), (i) on behalf of the deceased Beneficial Owner any interest in the Securities which exceeds an aggregate principal amount specified in said Securities Resolution (the “**Section 3.07 Individual Limit**”) and (ii) interests in the Securities in the aggregate principal amount exceeding such aggregate limit as is specified in the Securities Resolution establishing a Series (the “**Section 3.07 Aggregate Limit**”). In the case of interests in the Securities owned by a deceased Beneficial Owner, a request for redemption may be presented to the Trustee at any time and in any principal amount. If the Company, although not obligated to do so, chooses to redeem interests of a deceased Beneficial Owner in the Securities in any such period in excess of the Section 3.07 Individual Limit, such redemption, to the extent that it exceeds the Section 3.07 Individual Limit for any Beneficial Owner, shall not be included in the computation of the Section 3.07 Percentage Limit applicable to the Series for such Section 3.07 Redemption Period.

Subject to the Section 3.07 Individual Limit and the Section 3.07 Aggregate Limit applicable to a Series, the Company will upon the death of any Beneficial Owner redeem the interest of the Beneficial Owner in the Securities within 60 days following receipt by the Trustee of a validly completed Redemption Request, as hereinafter defined, including all supporting documentation, from such Beneficial Owner’s personal representative, or surviving joint tenant(s), tenant(s) by the entirety or tenant(s) in common, or other persons entitled to effect such a Redemption Request (each, a “Representative”). If Redemption Requests exceed either the Section 3.07 Individual Limit and the Section 3.07 Aggregate Limit then such excess Redemption Request (subject in the case of the Section 3.07 Individual Limit to the provisions of the last sentence of the preceding paragraph) will be applied to successive Section 3.07 Redemption Periods in the order of receipt for prepayment, regardless of the number of Section 3.07 Redemption Periods required to redeem such interest unless sooner withdrawn as described below.

A request for redemption of an interest in the Securities may be made by delivering a request to the depositary, if any, in whose names the certificate or certificates representing such Securities (the “**Depositary**”) in the case of a participant in the system of such Depositary,

including securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with such a participant, either directly or indirectly (a "**Participant**"), which is the Beneficial Owner of such interest, or to the Participant through whom the Beneficial Owner owns such interest, in form satisfactory to the Participant, together with evidence of death of the Beneficial Owner and the authority of the Representative satisfactory to the Participant and the Trustee. A Representative of a deceased Beneficial Owner may make the request for redemption and shall submit such other evidence of the right to such redemption as the Participant or Trustee shall require. The request shall specify the principal amount of the Securities to be redeemed. A request for redemption in form satisfactory to the Participant and accompanied by the documents relevant to the request as above provided, together with a certification by the Participant that it holds the interest on behalf of the deceased Beneficial Owner with respect to whom the request for redemption is being made (the "**Redemption Request**") shall be provided to the Depository by a Participant and the Depository will forward the request to the Trustee. Redemption Requests, including all supporting documentation, shall be in the form satisfactory to the Trustee and no request for redemption shall be considered validly made until the Redemption Request and all supporting documentation, in form satisfactory to the Trustee, shall have been received by the Trustee.

The price to be paid by the Company for an interest in the Securities to be redeemed pursuant to a request from a deceased Beneficial Owner's Representative is one hundred percent (100%) of the principal amount thereof, unless otherwise specified in the Securities Resolution authorizing a series, plus accrued but unpaid interest to the date of redemption. Subject to arrangements with the Depository, payment for interests in the Securities which are to be redeemed shall be made to the Depository within 60 days following receipt by the Trustee of the Redemption Request, including all supporting documentation, and the Securities to be redeemed in the aggregate principal amount specified in the Redemption Requests submitted to the Trustee by the Depository which are to be fulfilled in connection with such payment. An acquisition of Securities by the Company or its subsidiaries other than by redemption at the option of any Representative of a deceased Beneficial Owner shall not be included in the computation of either the Section 3.07 Individual Limit or relevant Section 3.07 Aggregate Limit for any Section 3.07 Redemption Period.

Interests in the Securities held in tenancy by the entirety, joint tenancy or by tenants in common will be deemed to be held by a single Beneficial Owner and the death of a tenant in common, tenant by the entirety or joint tenant will be deemed to be the death of the Beneficial Owner. The death of a person who, during such person's lifetime, was entitled to substantially all of the rights of a Beneficial Owner will be deemed the death of the Beneficial Owner, regardless of the recordation of such interest on the records of the Participant, if such rights can be established to the satisfaction of the Participant and the Trustee.

Any Redemption Request may be withdrawn upon delivery of a written request for such withdrawal given to the Trustee by the Depository prior to payment of the redemption price of the interest in the Securities.

ARTICLE 4  
COVENANTS

Section 4.01 *Payment of Securities*. The Company shall pay the principal of and interest on a series in accordance with the terms of the Securities for the series, any related coupons, and this Indenture. Principal and interest on a series shall be considered paid on the date due if the Paying Agent for the series holds on that date money sufficient to pay all principal and interest then due on the series.

Section 4.02 *Overdue Interest*. Unless the Securities Resolution otherwise provides, the Company shall pay interest on overdue principal of a Security of a series at the rate (or yield to maturity in the case of a Discounted Debt Security) borne by the series; the Company shall pay interest on overdue installments of interest at the same rate or yield to maturity to the extent lawful.

Section 4.03 *No Lien Created, etc.* This Indenture and the Securities do not create a Lien, charge or encumbrance on any property of the Company or any Subsidiary.

Section 4.04 *Compliance Certificate*. The Company shall deliver to the Trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year of the Company, a brief certificate signed by the principal executive officer, principal financial officer or principal accounting officer of the Company, as to the signer's knowledge of the Company's compliance with all conditions and covenants under this Indenture (determined without regard to any period of grace or requirement of notice provided herein).

Any other obligor on the Securities shall also deliver to the Trustee such a certificate as to its compliance with this Indenture within 120 days after the end of each of its fiscal years.

The certificates need not comply with Section 12.04.

Section 4.05 *SEC Reports*. The Company shall file with the Trustee, within 15 days after the Company is required to file the same with the SEC, copies of the annual reports and of the information, documents, and other reports (or such portions of the foregoing as the SEC may prescribe) which the Company is required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Any other obligor on the Securities shall do likewise as to the above items which it is required to file with the SEC pursuant to those sections.

Delivery of such reports, information and documents to the Trustee is for informational purposes only and the Trustee's receipt of such shall not constitute constructive notice of any information contained therein or determinable from information contained therein, including the Company's compliance with any of its covenants hereunder (as to which the Trustee is entitled to rely exclusively on Officers' Certificates).



ARTICLE 5  
SUCCESSORS

Section 5.01 *When Company May Merge, etc.* Unless the Securities Resolution establishing a series otherwise provides, the Company shall not consolidate with or merge into, or transfer all or substantially all of its assets to, any person in any transaction in which the Company is not the survivor unless:

(a) the person is organized under the laws of the United States or a State thereof or is organized under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction and consents to the jurisdiction of the courts of the United States or a State thereof;

(b) the person assumes by supplemental indenture all the obligations of the Company under this Indenture, the Securities and any coupons;

(c) all required approvals of any regulatory body having jurisdiction over the transaction shall have been obtained; and

(d) immediately after the transaction no Default exists.

The successor shall be substituted for the Company, and thereafter all obligations of the Company under this Indenture, the Securities and any coupons shall terminate.

ARTICLE 6  
DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES

Section 6.01 *Events of Default.* Unless the Securities Resolution otherwise provides, an “**Event of Default**” on a series occurs if:

(a) the Company defaults in any payment of interest on any Securities of the series when the same becomes due and payable and the Default continues for a period of 60 days;

(b) the Company defaults in the payment of the principal and premium, if any, of any Securities of the series when the same becomes due and payable at maturity or upon redemption, acceleration or otherwise, and such default shall continue for five or more days;

(c) the Company defaults in the payment or satisfaction of any sinking fund obligation with respect to any Securities of the series as required by the Securities Resolution establishing such series and the Default continues for a period of 60 days;

(d) the Company defaults in the performance of any of its other agreements applicable to the series and the Default continues for 90 days after the notice specified below;

(e) the Company pursuant to or within the meaning of any Bankruptcy Law:

(i) commences a voluntary case,

(ii) consents to the entry of an order for relief against it in an involuntary case,

(iii) consents to the appointment of a Custodian for it or for all or substantially all of its property, or

(iv) makes a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors;

(f) a court of competent jurisdiction enters an order or decree under any Bankruptcy Law that:

(i) is for relief against the Company in an involuntary case,

(ii) appoints a Custodian for the Company or for all or substantially all of its property, or

(iii) orders the liquidation of the Company; and the order or decree remains unstayed and in effect for 60 days; or

(g) there occurs any other Event of Default provided for in the series.

The term “**Bankruptcy Law**” means Title 11, U.S. Code or any similar Federal or State law for the relief of debtors. The term “**Custodian**” means any receiver, trustee, assignee, liquidator or a similar official under any Bankruptcy Law.

A Default under clause (d) is not an Event of Default until the Trustee or the Holders of at least 33-1/3% in principal amount of the series notify the Company of the Default and the Company does not cure the Default within the time specified after receipt of the notice. The notice must specify the Default, demand that it be remedied and state that the notice is a “**Notice of Default.**” If Holders notify the Company of a Default, they shall notify the Trustee at the same time.

The failure to redeem any Security subject to a Conditional Redemption is not an Event of Default if any event on which such redemption is so conditioned does not occur and is not waived before the scheduled redemption date.

Section 6.02 *Acceleration.* If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing on a series, the Trustee by notice to the Company, or the Holders of at least 33-1/3% in principal amount of the series by notice to the Company and the Trustee, may declare the principal of and accrued interest on all the Securities of the series to be due and payable immediately. Discounted Debt Securities may provide that the amount of principal due upon acceleration is less than the stated principal amount.

The Holders of a majority in principal amount of the series by notice to the Trustee may rescind an acceleration and its consequences if the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree and if all existing Events of Default on the series have been cured or waived except nonpayment of principal or interest that has become due solely because of the acceleration.

Section 6.03 *Other Remedies.* If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing on a series, the Trustee may pursue any available remedy to collect principal or interest then due on the series, to enforce the performance of any provision applicable to the series, or otherwise to protect the rights of the Trustee and Holders of the series.

The Trustee may maintain a proceeding even if it does not possess any of the Securities or coupons or does not produce any of them in the proceeding. A delay or omission by the Trustee or any Securityholder in exercising any right or remedy accruing upon an Event of Default shall not impair the right or remedy or constitute a waiver of or acquiescence in the Event of Default. All remedies are cumulative to the extent permitted by law.

Section 6.04 *Waiver of Past Defaults*. Unless the Securities Resolution otherwise provides, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of a series by notice to the Trustee may waive an existing Default on the series and its consequences except:

- (a) Default in the payment of the principal of or interest on the series, or
- (b) a Default in respect of a provision that under Section 11.02 cannot be amended without the consent of each Securityholder affected.

Section 6.05 *Control by Majority*. The Holders of a majority in principal amount of a series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or of exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee, with respect to the series. However, the Trustee may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or this Indenture or if the Trustee in good faith shall determine that the action or direction might involve the Trustee in personal liability.

Section 6.06 *Limitation on Suits*.

A Securityholder of a series may pursue a remedy with respect to the series only if:

- (a) the Holder gives to the Trustee notice of a continuing Event of Default on the series;
- (b) the Holders of at least 33-1/3% in principal amount of the series make a request to the Trustee to pursue the remedy;
- (c) such Holder or Holders offer to the Trustee indemnity satisfactory to the Trustee against any loss, liability or expense;
- (d) the Trustee does not comply with the request within 60 days after receipt of the request and the offer of indemnity; and
- (e) during such 60-day period the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the series do not give the Trustee a direction inconsistent with such request.

A Securityholder may not use this Indenture to prejudice the rights of another Securityholder or to obtain a preference or priority over another Securityholder.

Section 6.07 *Collection Suit by Trustee*. If an Event of Default in payment of interest, principal or sinking fund specified in Section 6.01(a), 6.01(b) or 6.01(c) occurs and is continuing on a series, the Trustee may recover judgment in its own name and as trustee of an express trust against the Company for the whole amount of principal and interest remaining unpaid on the series.

Section 6.08 *Priorities*. If the Trustee collects any money for a series pursuant to this Article, it shall pay out the money in the following order:

*First*: to the Trustee for amounts due under Section 7.07;

*Second*: to Securityholders of the series for amounts due and unpaid for principal and interest, ratably, without preference or priority of any kind, according to the amounts due and payable for principal and interest, respectively; and

*Third*: to the Company, or as a court of competent jurisdiction may so direct.

The Trustee may fix a payment date for any payment to Securityholders.

## ARTICLE 7 TRUSTEE

Section 7.01 *Certain Duties and Responsibilities*.

(a) Except during the continuance of an Event of Default,

(i) the Trustee undertakes to perform such duties and only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Indenture, and no implied covenants or obligations shall be read into this Indenture against the Trustee; and

(ii) in the absence of bad faith on its part, the Trustee may conclusively rely, as to the truth of the statements and the correctness of the opinions expressed therein, upon certificates or opinions furnished to the Trustee and conforming to the requirements of this Indenture; but in the case of any such certificates or opinions which by any provision hereof are specifically required to be furnished to the Trustee, the Trustee shall be under a duty to examine the same to determine whether or not they conform to the requirements of this Indenture (but need not confirm or investigate the accuracy of mathematical calculations or other facts stated therein).

(b) In case an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the Trustee shall exercise such of the rights and powers vested in it by this Indenture, and use the same degree of care and skill in their exercise, as a prudent person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of his or her own affairs.

(c) No provision of this Indenture shall be construed to relieve the Trustee from liability for its own negligent action, its own negligent failure to act, or its own willful misconduct, except that

(i) this Subsection shall not be construed to limit the effect of Subsection (a) of this Section;

(ii) the Trustee shall not be liable for any error of judgment made in good faith by a Responsible Officer, unless it shall be proved that the Trustee was negligent in ascertaining the pertinent facts; and

(iii) no provision of this Indenture shall require the Trustee to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of any of its duties hereunder, or in the exercise of any of its rights or powers, if it shall have reasonable grounds for believing that repayment of such funds or adequate indemnity against such risk or liability is not reasonably assured to it.

(d) Whether or not therein expressly so provided, every provision of this Indenture relating to the conduct or affecting the liability of or affording protection to the Trustee shall be subject to the provisions of this Section.

Section 7.02 *Rights of Trustee*. (a) The Trustee may rely on any document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper person. The Trustee need not investigate any fact or matter stated in the document.

(b) Before the Trustee acts or refrains from acting, it may require an Officers' Certificate or an Opinion of Counsel. The Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in reliance on the Certificate or Opinion.

(c) The Trustee may act through agents, attorneys, custodians and nominees and shall not be responsible for the misconduct or negligence of any agent, attorney, custodian or nominee appointed with due care.

(d) The Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in accordance with a direction received by it pursuant to Section 6.05.

(e) The Trustee may refuse to perform any duty or exercise any right or power which it reasonably believes may expose it to any loss, liability or expense unless it receives indemnity satisfactory to it against such loss, liability or expense.

(f) The Trustee shall not be liable for interest on any money received by it except as the Trustee may agree with the Company. Money held in trust by the Trustee need not be segregated from other funds except to the extent required by law.

(g) The Trustee shall have no duty with respect to a Default unless a responsible officer of the Trustee has actual knowledge of the Default. As used herein, the term "actual knowledge" means the actual fact or statement of knowing, without any duty to make any investigation with regard thereto.

(h) The Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith which it believes to be authorized and within its powers.

(i) Any Agent shall have the same rights and be protected to the same extent as if it were Trustee.

(j) The Trustee shall not be required to give any bond or surety in respect of the performance of its powers and duties hereunder.

(k) The Trustee may consult with counsel of its selection and the advice of such counsel or any Opinion of Counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection in respect of any action taken, suffered or omitted by it hereunder in good faith and in reliance thereon.

(l) In no event shall the Trustee be responsible or liable for special, indirect, or consequential loss or damage of any kind whatsoever (including, but not limited to, loss of profit) irrespective of whether the Trustee has been advised of the likelihood of such loss or damage and regardless of the form of action.

Section 7.03 *Individual Rights of Trustee*. The Trustee in its individual or any other capacity may become the owner or pledgee of Securities or coupons and may otherwise deal with the Company or an Affiliate with the same rights it would have if it were not Trustee. Any Agent may do the same with like rights.

Section 7.04 *Trustee's Disclaimer*. The Trustee makes no representation as to the validity or adequacy of this Indenture or the Securities or any coupons; it shall not be accountable for the Company's use of the proceeds from the Securities; it shall not be responsible for any statement in the Securities or any coupons; it shall not be responsible for determining whether the form and terms of any Securities or coupons were established in conformity with this Indenture; and it shall not be responsible for determining whether any Securities were issued in accordance with this Indenture.

Section 7.05 *Notice of Defaults*. If a Default occurs and is continuing on a series and if the Trustee has actual knowledge of such Default, the Trustee shall mail a notice of the Default within 90 days after it occurs to Holders of Registered Securities of the series. Except in the case of a Default in payment on a series, the Trustee may withhold the notice if and so long as a committee of its Trust Officers in good faith determines that withholding the notice is in the interest of Holders of the series. The Trustee shall withhold notice of a Default described in Section 6.01(d) until at least 90 days after it occurs.

Section 7.06 *Reports by Trustee to Holders*. Any report required by TIA 313(a) to be mailed to Securityholders shall be mailed by the Trustee on or before July 15 of each year.

A copy of each report at the time of its mailing to Securityholders shall be filed with the SEC and each stock exchange on which any Securities are listed. The Company shall notify the Trustee when any Securities are listed on a stock exchange.

Section 7.07 *Compensation and Indemnity*. The Company shall pay to the Trustee from time to time reasonable compensation for its services. The Trustee's compensation shall not be limited by any law on compensation of a trustee of an express trust. The Company shall reimburse the Trustee upon request for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by it. Such expenses shall include the reasonable compensation and expenses of the Trustee's agents and counsel.

The Company shall indemnify and hold harmless the Trustee against any loss, liability, damage, claims, or expenses incurred by it arising out of or in connection with the acceptance or administration of the trust or trusts hereunder. The Trustee shall notify the Company promptly of any claim for which it may seek indemnity. The Company shall defend the claim and the Trustee shall cooperate in the defense. The Trustee may have separate counsel and the Company shall pay the reasonable fees and expenses of such counsel. The Company need not pay for any settlement made without its consent.

The Company need not reimburse any expense or indemnify against any loss or liability incurred by the Trustee through negligence or willful misconduct.

To secure the Company's payment obligations in this Section, the Trustee shall have a lien prior to the Securities and any coupons on all money or property held or collected by the Trustee, except that held in trust to pay principal or interest on particular securities.

When the Trustee incurs expenses or renders services after an Event of Default specified in Section 6.01(e) or 6.01(f) occurs, such expenses and the compensation for such services are intended to constitute expenses of administration under any Bankruptcy Law.

The provisions of this Section shall survive any termination or discharge of this Indenture (including without limitation any termination under any Bankruptcy Law) and the resignation or removal of the Trustee.

Section 7.08 *Replacement of Trustee*. A resignation or removal of the Trustee and appointment of a successor Trustee shall become effective only upon the successor Trustee's acceptance of appointment as provided in this Section.

(a) The Trustee may resign by so notifying the Company. The Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Securities may remove the Trustee by so notifying the Trustee and may appoint a successor Trustee with the Company's consent.

(b) The Company may remove the Trustee if:

- (i) the Trustee fails to comply with TIA 310(a) or 310(b) or with Section 7.10;
- (ii) the Trustee is adjudged a bankrupt or an insolvent;
- (iii) a Custodian or other public officer takes charge of the Trustee or its property;
- (iv) the Trustee becomes incapable of acting; or
- (v) an event of the kind described in Section 6.01(e) or 6.01(f) occurs with respect to the Trustee.

(c) The Company also may remove the Trustee with or without cause if the Company so notifies the Trustee three months in advance and if no Default occurs during the three month period.

(d) If the Trustee resigns or is removed or if a vacancy exists in the office of Trustee for any reason, the Company shall promptly appoint a successor Trustee.

(e) If a successor Trustee does not take office within 30 days after the retiring Trustee resigns or is removed, the retiring Trustee, the Company or the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Securities may petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a successor Trustee.

(f) If the Trustee fails to comply with TIA 310(a) or 310(b) or with Section 7.10, any Securityholder may petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the removal of the Trustee and the appointment of a successor Trustee.

(g) A successor Trustee shall deliver a written acceptance of its appointment to the retiring Trustee and to the Company. Thereupon the resignation or removal of the retiring Trustee shall become effective, and the successor Trustee shall have all the rights, powers and duties of the Trustee under this Indenture. The successor Trustee shall mail a notice of its succession to Holders of Registered Securities. The retiring Trustee shall promptly transfer all property held by it as Trustee to the successor Trustee, subject to the lien provided for in Section 7.07.

Section 7.09 *Successor Trustee by Merger, etc.* If the Trustee consolidates, merges or converts into, or transfers all or substantially all of its corporate trust business to, another corporation, the successor corporation without any further act shall be the successor Trustee.

Section 7.10 *Trustee's Capital and Surplus.* The Trustee at all times shall have a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000 as set forth in its most recent published report of financial condition.

## ARTICLE 8 DISCHARGE OF INDENTURE

Section 8.01 *Defeasance.* Securities of a series may be defeased in accordance with their terms and, unless the Securities Resolution otherwise provides, in accordance with this Article.

The Company at any time may terminate as to a series all of its obligations under this Indenture, the Securities of the series and any related coupons ("**legal defeasance option**"). The Company at any time may terminate as to a series its obligations, if any, under any restrictive covenants which may be applicable to a particular series ("**covenant defeasance option**"). However, in the case of the legal defeasance option, the Company's obligations in Sections 2.03, 2.04, 2.05, 2.06, 2.07, 2.08, 7.07, 7.08 and 8.04 shall survive until the Securities of the series are no longer outstanding; thereafter the Company's obligations in Section 7.07 shall survive.



The Company may exercise its legal defeasance option notwithstanding its prior exercise of its covenant defeasance option. If the Company exercises its legal defeasance option, a series may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default. If the Company exercises its covenant defeasance option, a series may not be accelerated by reference to any restrictive covenants which may be applicable to such series.

The Trustee upon request shall acknowledge in writing the discharge of those obligations or restrictions that the Company terminates by defeasance.

Section 8.02 *Conditions to Defeasance*. The Company may exercise as to a series its legal defeasance option or its covenant defeasance option if:

(a) the Company irrevocably deposits in trust with the Trustee or another trustee money or U.S. Government Obligations;

(b) the Company delivers to the Trustee a certificate from a nationally recognized firm of independent accountants expressing their opinion that the payments of principal and interest when due on the deposited U.S. Government Obligations without reinvestment plus any deposited money without investment will provide cash at such times and in such amounts as will be sufficient to pay principal and interest when due on all the Securities of the series to maturity or redemption, as the case may be;

(c) immediately after the deposit no Default exists;

(d) the deposit does not constitute a default under any other agreement binding on the Company;

(e) the deposit does not cause the Trustee to have a conflicting interest under TIA 310(a) or 310(b) as to another series;

(f) the Company delivers to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that Holders of the series will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of the defeasance; and

(g) 91 days pass after the deposit is made and during the 91-day period no Default specified in Section 6.01(e) or 6.01(f) occurs that is continuing at the end of the period.

Before or after a deposit the Company may make arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee for the redemption of Securities at a future date in accordance with Article 3.

“**U.S. Government Obligations**” means direct obligations of (i) the United States or (ii) an agency or instrumentality of the United States, the payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed by the United States, which, in either case, have the full faith and credit of the United States pledged for payment and which are not callable at the issuer’s option, or certificates representing an ownership interest in such obligations.

Section 8.03 *Application of Trust Money.*

The Trustee shall hold in trust money or U.S. Government Obligations deposited with it pursuant to Section 8.02. It shall apply the deposited money and the money from U.S. Government Obligations through the Paying Agent and in accordance with this Indenture to the payment of principal and interest on Securities of the defeased series.

Section 8.04 *Repayment to Company.* The Trustee and the Paying Agent shall promptly turn over to the Company upon request any excess money or securities held by them at any time.

The Trustee and the Paying Agent shall pay to the Company upon written request any money held by them for the payment of principal or interest that remains unclaimed for two years. After payment to the Company, Securityholders entitled to the money must look to the Company for payment as unsecured general creditors unless an abandoned property law designates another person.

ARTICLE 9  
SUBORDINATION OF SECURITIES

Section 9.01 *Agreement of Subordination.* The Company covenants and agrees, and each holder of Securities issued hereunder by his acceptance thereof likewise covenants and agrees, that all Securities shall be issued subject to the provisions of this Article 9; and each Securityholder, whether upon original issue or upon transfer or assignment thereof, accepts and agrees to be bound by such provisions.

The payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on all Securities issued hereunder shall, to the extent and in the manner hereinafter set forth, be subordinated and subject in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness, whether outstanding at the date of this Indenture or thereafter incurred.

The provisions of this Article 9 define the subordination of the Securities, as obligations of the Company, with respect to Senior Indebtedness of the Company, as defined for the Company. All such provisions shall also be deemed to apply in the same way (*mutatis mutandis*) to each guarantor of Securities issued hereafter, with appropriate corresponding references to the Senior Indebtedness of such guarantor.

No provision of this Article 9 shall prevent the occurrence of any default or Event of Default hereunder.

Section 9.02 *Payments to Securityholders.* In the event and during the continuation of any default in the payment of principal, premium, interest or any other payment due on any Senior Indebtedness of the Company continuing beyond the period of grace, if any, specified in the instrument or lease evidencing such Senior Indebtedness of the Company, then, unless and until such default shall have been cured or waived or shall have ceased to exist, no payment shall be made by the Company with respect to the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the Securities, except any sinking fund payments made by the acquisition of Securities prior to the happening of such default and payments made pursuant to Article 8 hereof from monies deposited with the Trustee pursuant thereto prior to the happening of such default.

Upon any payment by the Company, or distribution of assets of the Company of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, to creditors upon any dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization of the Company, whether voluntary or involuntary or in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other proceedings, all amounts due or to become due upon all Senior Indebtedness of the Company shall first be paid in full, or payment thereof provided for in money in accordance with its terms, before any payment is made on account of the principal (and premium, if any) or interest on the Securities (except payments made pursuant to Article 8 hereof from monies deposited with the Trustee pursuant thereto prior to the happening of such dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization); and upon any such dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization any payment by the Company, or distribution of assets of the Company of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, to which the Holders of the Securities or the Trustee would be entitled, except for the provisions of this Article 9, shall (except as aforesaid) be paid by the Company or by any receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, liquidating trustee, agent or other person making such payment or distribution, or by the Holders of the Securities or by the Trustee under this Indenture if received by them or it, directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company (pro rata to such holders on the basis of the respective amounts of Senior Indebtedness of the Company held by such holders, as calculated by the Company) or their representative or representatives, or to the trustee or trustees under any indenture pursuant to which any instruments evidencing any Senior Indebtedness of the Company may have been issued, as their respective interests may appear, to the extent necessary to pay all Senior Indebtedness of the Company in full, in money or money's worth, after giving effect to any concurrent payment or distribution to or for the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company, before any payment or distribution is made to the Holders of the Securities or to the Trustee.

If, notwithstanding the foregoing, any payment or distribution of assets of the Company of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, prohibited by the foregoing, shall be received by the Trustee or the Holders of the Securities before all Senior Indebtedness of the Company is paid in full, or provision is made for such payment in money in accordance with its terms, such payment or distribution shall be held in trust for the benefit of and shall be paid over or delivered to the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company or their representative or representatives, or to the trustee or trustees under any indenture pursuant to which any instruments evidencing any Senior Indebtedness of the Company may have been issued, as their respective interests may appear, as calculated by the Company, for application to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness of the Company remaining unpaid to the extent necessary to pay all Senior Indebtedness of the Company in full in money in accordance with its terms, after giving effect to any concurrent payment or distribution to or for the holders of such Senior Indebtedness.

For purposes of this Article 9, the words, "cash, property or securities" shall not be deemed to include shares of stock of the Company as reorganized or readjusted, or securities of the Company or any other corporation provided for by a plan of reorganization or readjustment, the payment of which is subordinated at least to the extent provided in this Article 9 with respect to the Securities to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness of the Company which may at the time be outstanding; *provided* that (i) the Senior Indebtedness of the Company is assumed by the new corporation, if any, resulting from any such reorganization or readjustment, and (ii) the rights of the holders of the Senior Indebtedness of the Company (other than leases) and of leases

which are assumed are not, without the consent of such holders, altered by such reorganization or readjustment. The consolidation of the Company with, or the merger of the Company into, another corporation or the liquidation or dissolution of the Company following the conveyance or transfer of its property as an entirety, or substantially as an entirety, to another corporation upon the terms and conditions provided for in Article 5 hereof shall not be deemed a dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization for the purposes of this Section 9.02 if such other corporation shall, as a part of such consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer, comply with the conditions stated in Article 5 hereof. Nothing in this Section 9.02 shall apply to claims of, or payments to, the Trustee under or pursuant to Section 7.07.

**Section 9.03 Subrogation of Securities.** Subject to the payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness of the Company, the rights of the Holders of the Securities shall be subrogated to the rights of the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company to receive payments or distributions of cash, property or securities of the Company applicable to the Senior Indebtedness of the Company until the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the Securities shall be paid in full; and, for the purposes of such subrogation, no payments or distributions to the holders of the Senior Indebtedness of the Company of any cash, property or securities to which the Holders of the Securities or the Trustee would be entitled except for the provisions of this Article 9 no payment over pursuant to the provisions of this Article 9, to or for the benefit of the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company by Holders of the Securities or the Trustee, shall, as between the Company, its creditors other than holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company, and the Holders of the Securities, be deemed to be a payment by the Company to or on account of the Senior Indebtedness of the Company. It is understood that the provisions of this Article 9 are and are intended solely for the purpose of defining the relative rights of the Holders of the Securities, on the one hand, and the holders of the Senior Indebtedness of the Company, on the other hand.

Nothing contained in this Article 9 or elsewhere in this Indenture or in the Securities is intended to or shall impair, as between the Company, its creditors other than the holders of its Senior Indebtedness, and the Holders of the Securities, the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay to the Holders of the Securities the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the Securities as and when the same shall become due and payable in accordance with their terms, or is intended to or shall affect the relative rights of the Holders of the Securities and creditors of the Company other than the holders of its Senior Indebtedness, nor shall anything herein or therein prevent the Trustee or the holder of any Security from exercising all remedies otherwise permitted by applicable law upon default under this Indenture, subject to the rights, if any, under this Article 9 of the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company in respect of cash, property or securities of the Company received upon the exercise of any such remedy.

Upon any payment or distribution of assets of the Company referred to in this Article 9, the Trustee, subject to the provisions of Section 7.02, and the Holders of the Securities shall be entitled to rely upon any order or decree made by any court of competent jurisdiction in which such dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization proceedings are pending, or a certificate of the receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, liquidating trustee, agent or other person making such payment or distribution, delivered to the Trustee or to the Holders of the Securities, for the purpose of ascertaining the persons entitled to participate in such distribution, the holders of the

Senior Indebtedness and other indebtedness of the Company, the amount thereof or payable thereon, the amount or amounts paid or distributed thereon and all other facts pertinent thereto or to this Article 9.

Section 9.04 *Authorization by Securityholders*. Each Holder of a Security by his acceptance thereof authorizes and directs the Trustee in his behalf to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the subordination provided in this Article 9 appoints the Trustee his attorney-in-fact for any and all such purposes.

Section 9.05 *Notice to Trustee*. The Company shall give promptly written notice to a Responsible Officer of the Trustee of any fact known to the Company which would prohibit the making of any payment of monies to or by the Trustee in respect of the Securities pursuant to the provisions of this Article 9. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article 9 or any other provision of this Indenture, the Trustee shall not be charged with knowledge of the existence of any facts which would prohibit the making of any payment of monies to or by the Trustee in respect of the Securities pursuant to the provisions of this Article 9, unless and until a Responsible Officer of the Trustee shall have received written notice thereof at the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee from the Company or a holder or holders of Senior Indebtedness or from any trustee therefor; and before the receipt of any such written notice, the Trustee, subject to the provisions of Section 7.02, shall be entitled in all respects to assume that no such facts exist; *provided* that if on a date not fewer than three Business Days prior to the date upon which by the terms hereof any such monies may become payable for any purpose (including, without limitation, the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any Security) the Trustee shall not have received, with respect to such monies, the notice provided for in this Section 9.05, then, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding, the Trustee shall have full power and authority to receive such monies and to apply the same to the purpose for which they were received, and shall not be affected by any notice to the contrary which may be received by it on or after such prior date.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary hereinbefore set forth, nothing shall prevent any payment by the Company or the Trustee to the Securityholders of monies in connection with a redemption of Securities if (i) notice of such redemption has been given pursuant to Article 3 hereof prior to the receipt by the Trustee of written notice as aforesaid, and (ii) such notice of redemption is given not earlier than 60 days before the redemption date.

The Trustee conclusively shall be entitled to rely on the delivery to it of a written notice by a person representing himself to be a holder of Senior Indebtedness of the Company (or a trustee on behalf of such holder) to establish that such notice has been given by a holder of Senior Indebtedness of the Company or a trustee on behalf of any such holder or holders. In the event that the Trustee determines in good faith that further evidence is required with respect to the right of any person as a holder of Senior Indebtedness of the Company to participate in any payment or distribution pursuant to this Article 9, the Trustee may request such person to furnish evidence to the reasonable satisfaction of the Trustee as to the amount of Senior Indebtedness of the Company held by such person, the extent to which such person is entitled to participate in such payment or distribution and any other facts pertinent to the rights of such person under this Article 9, and if such evidence is not furnished the Trustee may defer any payment to such person pending judicial determination as to the right of such person to receive such payment.

Section 9.06 *Trustee's Relation to Senior Indebtedness*. The Trustee in its individual capacity shall be entitled to all the rights set forth in this Article 9 in respect of any Senior Indebtedness of the Company at any time held by it, to the same extent as any other holder of Senior Indebtedness of the Company and nothing elsewhere in this Indenture shall deprive the Trustee of any of its rights as such holder.

With respect to the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company, the Trustee undertakes to perform or to observe only such of its covenants and obligations as are specifically set forth in this Article 9, and no implied covenants or obligations with respect to the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company shall be read into this Indenture against the Trustee. The Trustee shall not be deemed to owe any fiduciary duty to the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company and the Trustee shall not be liable to any holder of Senior Indebtedness of the Company if it shall pay over or deliver to Holders of Securities, the Company or any other person money or assets to which any holder of Senior Indebtedness of the Company shall be entitled by virtue of this Article 9 or otherwise.

Section 9.07 *No Impairment of Subordination*. No right of any present or future holder of any Senior Indebtedness to enforce subordination as herein provided shall at any time in any way be prejudiced or impaired by any act or failure to act on the part of the Company or by any act or failure to act, in good faith, by any such holder, or by any noncompliance by the Company with the terms, provisions and covenants of this Indenture, regardless of any knowledge thereof which any such holder may have or otherwise be charge with.

Section 9.08 *Rights of Trustee*. Nothing in this Article 9 shall apply to claims of or payments to, the Trustee pursuant to Section 7.07 or Section 8.03.

## ARTICLE 10 CONVERSION

Section 10.01 *Conversion Privilege*. If the Securities Resolution establishing the terms of a series of Securities so provides, Securities of any series may be convertible at the option of the holders into or for Common Stock or other equity or debt securities (a "**Conversion Right**"). The Securities Resolution may establish, among other things, the Conversion Rate, provisions for adjustments to the Conversion Rate and limitations upon exercise of the Conversion Right.

Unless the Securities Resolution otherwise provides, a Holder may convert a portion of a Security if the portion is \$1,000 or in integral multiples thereof. Provisions of this Indenture that apply to the conversion of the aggregate principal amount of a Security also apply to conversion of a portion of it.

The Securities Resolution providing for Securities with a Conversion Right may establish any terms in addition to, or other than (including terms inconsistent with), those set forth in this Article 10 with respect to the Conversion of the Securities established thereby (other than those of Section 10.16).

Section 10.02 *Conversion Procedure*. To convert a Security a Holder must satisfy all requirements in the Securities or the Securities Resolution and (i) complete and manually sign the conversion notice (the “**Conversion Notice**”) provided for in the Securities Resolution or the Security (or complete and manually sign a facsimile thereof) and deliver such notice to the Conversion Agent or any other office or agency maintained for such purpose, (ii) surrender the Security to the Conversion Agent or at such other office or agency by physical delivery, (iii) if required, furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents, and (iv) if required, pay all transfer or similar taxes. The date on which such notice shall have been received by and the Security shall have been so surrendered to the Conversion Agent is the “**Conversion Date**.” Such Conversion Notice shall be irrevocable and may not be withdrawn by a Holder for any reason.

The Company will complete settlement of any conversion of Securities not later than the fifth business day following the Conversion Date in respect of the cash portion elected to be delivered in lieu of the securities into which the Security is convertible and not later than the seventh business day following the Conversion Date in respect of the portion to be settled in such securities.

If any Security is converted between the record date for the payment of interest and the next succeeding interest payment date, such Security must be accompanied by funds (in immediately available funds) equal to the interest payable on such succeeding interest payment date on the principal amount so converted (unless such Security shall have been called for redemption during such period, in which case no such payment shall be required). A Security converted on an interest payment date need not be accompanied by any payment, and the interest on the principal amount of the Security being converted will be paid on such interest payment date to the registered holder of such Security on the immediately preceding record date. Subject to the aforesaid right of the registered holder to receive interest, no payment or adjustment will be made on conversion for interest accrued on the converted Security or for interest, dividends or other distributions payable on any security issued on conversion.

If a Holder converts more than one Security at the same time, the securities into which the Security is convertible issuable or cash payable upon the conversion shall be based on the total principal amount of the Securities converted.

Upon surrender of a Security that is converted in part the Trustee shall authenticate for the Holder a new Security equal in principal amount to the unconverted portion of the Security surrendered; except that if a global Security is so surrendered the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver to the Depository a new global Security in a denomination equal to and in exchange for the unconverted portion of the principal of the global Security so surrendered.

If the last day on which a Security may be converted is a Legal Holiday in a place where a Conversion Agent is located, the Security may be surrendered to that Conversion Agent on the next succeeding day that is not a Legal Holiday.

Section 10.03 *Taxes on Conversion*. If a Holder of a Security exercises a Conversion Right, the Company shall pay any documentary, stamp or similar issue or transfer tax due on the issue of the securities into which the Security is convertible upon the conversion. However, the Holder shall pay any such tax which is due because securities or other property are issued in a name other than the Holder’s name. Nothing herein shall preclude any income tax or other withholding required by law or regulations.

Section 10.04 *Company Determination Final*. Any determination that the Board of Directors makes pursuant to this Article 10 or consistent with terms provided for in any Securities Resolution is conclusive, absent manifest error.

Section 10.05 *Trustee's and Conversion Agent's Disclaimer*. The Trustee (and each Conversion Agent other than the Company) has no duty to determine when or if an adjustment under this Article 10 or any Securities Resolution should be made, how it should be made or calculated or what it should be. The Trustee (and each Conversion Agent other than the Company) makes no representation as to the validity or value of any securities issued upon conversion of Securities. The Trustee (and each Conversion Agent other than the Company) shall not be responsible for the Company's failure to comply with this Article 10 or any provision of a Securities Resolution relating to a Conversion Right.

Section 10.06 *Company to Provide Conversion Securities*. The Company shall reserve out of its authorized but unissued Common Stock or its Common Stock held in treasury sufficient shares to permit the conversion of all of the Securities convertible into Common Stock. The Company shall arrange and make available for issuance upon conversion the full amount of any other securities into which the Securities are convertible to permit such conversion of the Securities.

All shares of Common Stock or other equity securities of any person which may be issued upon conversion of the Securities shall be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The Company will comply with all securities laws regulating the offer and delivery of securities upon conversion of Securities.

Section 10.07 *Cash Settlement Option*. If the Securities Resolution so provides, the Company may elect to satisfy, in whole or in part, a Conversion Right of Securities convertible into Common Stock or other securities of any person by the delivery of cash. The amount of cash to be delivered shall be equal to the Market Price on the last Trading Day preceding the applicable Conversion Date of a share of Common Stock or other securities of any person into which the Securities are convertible multiplied by the number of shares of Common Stock or the number of shares or principal amount of other securities into which the Securities are convertible, respectively, in respect of which the Company elects to deliver cash. If the Company elects to satisfy, in whole or in part, a Conversion Right by the delivery of shares of Common Stock or other securities, no fractional shares or portion of other securities will be delivered. Instead, the Company will pay cash based on the Market Price for such fractional share of Common Stock or portion of other securities.

The "**Market Price**" of the Common Stock into which Securities or other equity securities into which the Securities are convertible may be converted pursuant to a Securities Resolution or this Article 10 on any Trading Day means the weighted average per share sale price for all sales of the Common Stock or other equity securities on such Trading Day (or, if the information necessary to calculate such weighted average per share sale price is not reported, the



average of the high and low sale prices, or if no sales are reported, the average of the bid and ask prices or, if more than one in either case, the average of the average bid and average ask prices), as reported in the composite transactions for the New York Stock Exchange, or if the Common Stock or other equity securities into which the Securities are convertible are not listed or admitted to trading on such exchange, as reported in the composite transactions for the principal national or regional United States securities exchange on which the Common Stock or other equity securities into which the Securities are convertible are listed or admitted to trading or, if the Common Stock or other equity securities into which the Securities are convertible are not listed or admitted to trading on a United States national or regional securities exchange, as reported by NASDAQ or by the National Quotation Bureau Incorporated, or if not so reported, as determined in the manner set forth in the appropriate Securities Resolution. In the absence of such quotations, the Company shall be entitled to determine the Market Price on the basis of such quotations as it considers appropriate.

The “**Market Price**” of any debt security into which Securities are convertible shall be determined as set forth in the applicable Securities Resolution.

Section 10.08 *Adjustment in Conversion Rate for Change in Capital Stock*. If the Securities are convertible into Common Stock and the Company:

(a) pays a dividend or makes a distribution on its Common Stock in shares of its Common Stock;

(b) subdivides its outstanding shares of Common Stock into a greater number of shares;

(c) combines its outstanding shares of Common Stock into a smaller number of shares;

(d) pays a dividend or makes a distribution on its Common Stock in shares of its Capital Stock other than Common Stock; or

(e) issues by reclassification of its Common Stock any shares of its Capital Stock, then the conversion privilege and the Conversion Rate in effect immediately prior to such action shall be adjusted so that the Holder of a Security thereafter converted may receive the number of shares of Capital Stock of the Company (or, at the Company’s option, an equivalent amount in cash) which he would have owned immediately following such action if he had converted the Security immediately prior to such action.

The adjustment shall become effective immediately after the record date in the case of a dividend or distribution and immediately after the effective date in the case of a subdivision, combination or reclassification.

If the security into which the Securities are convertible is other than Common Stock of the Company, the conversion rate shall be subject to adjustment as set forth in the applicable Securities Resolution.

If after an adjustment a Holder of a Security may, upon conversion, receive shares of two or more classes of Capital Stock of the Company or other securities, the Board of Directors of the Company shall determine the allocation of the adjusted Conversion Rate between or among

the classes of Capital Stock or other securities. After such allocation, the conversion privilege and the Conversion Rate of each class of Capital Stock or other securities shall thereafter be subject to adjustment on terms comparable to those applicable to Common Stock in this Article or in such Securities Resolution.

Section 10.09 *Adjustment in Conversion Rate for Common Stock Issued Below Market Price*. If the Securities are convertible into Common Stock, and the Company issues to all holders of Common Stock rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase shares of Common Stock, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of Common Stock, or rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase such convertible or exchangeable securities at a Price Per Share (as defined and determined according to the formula given below) lower than the current Market Price on the date of such issuance, the Conversion Rate shall be adjusted in accordance with the following formula:

$$C = CC \times \frac{O + \frac{R}{M}}{O + N}$$

where:

AC = the adjusted Conversion Rate.

CC = the then current Conversion Rate.

O = the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to such issuance (which number shall include shares owned or held by or for the account of the Company).

N = the "Number of Shares," which (i) in the case of rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase shares of Common Stock or of securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of Common Stock, is the maximum number of shares of Common Stock initially issuable upon exercise, conversion or exchange thereof; and (ii) in the case of rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase convertible or exchangeable securities, is the maximum number of shares of Common Stock initially issuable upon the conversion or exchange of the convertible or exchangeable securities issuable upon the exercise of such rights, options or warrants.

R = the proceeds received or receivable by the Company, which (i) in the case of rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase shares of Common Stock or of securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of Common Stock, is the aggregate amount received or receivable by the Company in consideration for the sale and issuance of such rights, options, warrants or convertible or exchangeable securities, plus the minimum aggregate amount of additional consideration, other than the convertible or exchangeable securities, payable to the Company upon exercise, conversion or exchange thereof; and (ii) in the case of rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase convertible or exchangeable securities, is the

aggregate amount received or receivable by the Company in consideration for the sale and issuance of such rights, options or warrants, plus the minimum aggregate consideration payable to the Company upon the exercise thereof, plus the minimum aggregate amount of additional consideration, other than the convertible or exchangeable securities, payable upon the conversion or exchange of the convertible or exchangeable securities; provided, that in each case the proceeds received or receivable by the Company shall be deemed to be the amount of gross cash proceeds without deducting therefrom any compensation paid or discount allowed in the sale, underwriting or purchase thereof by underwriters or dealers or others performing similar services or any expenses incurred in connection therewith.

M = the current Market Price per share of Common Stock on the date of issue of the rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase shares of Common Stock or the securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of Common Stock or the rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase convertible or exchangeable securities.

“**Price Per Share**” shall be defined and determined according to the following formula:

$$P = \frac{R}{N}$$

where:

P = Price Per Share

and R and N have the meanings assigned above.

If the Company shall issue rights, options, warrants or convertible or exchangeable securities with respect to its Common Stock for a consideration consisting, in whole or in part, of property other than cash the amount of such consideration shall be determined in good faith by the Board of Directors whose determination shall be conclusive and evidenced by a resolution of the Board of Directors filed with the Trustee.

The adjustment shall be made successively whenever any such additional rights, options, warrants or convertible or exchangeable securities with respect to its Common Stock are issued, and shall become effective immediately after the date of issue of such shares, rights, options, warrants or convertible or exchangeable securities.

To the extent that such rights, options or warrants to acquire Common Stock expire unexercised or to the extent any convertible or exchangeable securities with respect to its Common Stock are redeemed by the Company or otherwise cease to be convertible or exchangeable into shares of Common Stock, the Conversion Rate shall be readjusted to the Conversion Rate which would then be in effect had the adjustment made upon the date of issuance of such rights, options, warrants or convertible or exchangeable securities been made upon the basis of the issuance of rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase only the number of shares of Common Stock as to which such rights, options or warrants were actually exercised and the number of shares of Common Stock that were actually issued upon the conversion or exchange of the convertible or exchangeable securities.

If the Securities are convertible into securities other than the Common Stock, any adjustment in the Conversion Rate required for the issuance or sale of the securities into which the Securities are convertible shall be made as set forth in the Securities Resolution.

Section 10.10 *Adjustment For Other Distributions*. If the Securities are initially convertible into Common Stock and the Company distributes to all holders of its Common Stock any of its assets or debt securities or any rights or warrants to purchase assets or debt securities of the Company, the Conversion Rate shall be adjusted in accordance with the following formula:

$$AC = CC \times \frac{(O \times M)}{(O \times M) - F}$$

where:

AC = the adjusted Conversion Rate.

CC = the then current Conversion Rate.

O = the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding on the record date mentioned below (which number shall include shares owned or held by or for the account of the Company).

M = the current Market Price per share of Common Stock on the record date mentioned below.

F = the fair market value on the record date of the assets, securities, rights or warrants distributed. The Board of Directors of the Company shall determine the fair market value.

The adjustment shall become effective immediately after the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to receive the distribution.

If the securities into which the Securities are convertible are other than Common Stock, any adjustments for such other distribution shall be made as set forth in the Securities Resolution.

This Section does not apply to cash dividends or distributions or to reclassifications or distributions referred to in Section 10.08. Also, this Section does not apply to shares issued below Market Price referred to in Section 10.09.

Section 10.11 *Voluntary Adjustment*. The Company at any time may increase the Conversion Rate, temporarily or otherwise, by any amount but in no event shall such Conversion Rate result in the issuance of Capital Stock at a price less than the par value of such Capital Stock at the time such increase is made.

Section 10.12 *When Adjustment May be Deferred*. No adjustment in the Conversion Rate need be made unless the adjustment would require a change of at least 1% in the Conversion Rate. Any adjustments that are not made due to the immediately preceding sentence shall be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment; provided, that any adjustment carried forward shall be deferred not in excess of three years, whereupon any adjustment to the Conversion Rate will be effected.

All calculations under this Article 10 shall be made to the nearest cent or to the nearest 1/100th of a share, as the case may be.

Section 10.13 *When No Adjustment Required*. Except as set forth in Section 10.09, no adjustment in the Conversion Rate shall be made because the Company issues, in exchange for cash, property or services, shares of Common Stock, or any securities convertible into shares of Common Stock, or securities carrying the right to purchase shares of Common Stock or such convertible securities.

No adjustment in the Conversion Rate need be made for rights to purchase or the sale of Common Stock pursuant to a Company plan providing for reinvestment of dividends or interest.

No adjustment in the Conversion Rate need be made for a change in the par value of the Common Stock or other securities having a par value.

No adjustment need be made for a transaction referred to in Section 10.08, 10.09 or 10.10 if Securityholders are to participate in the transaction on a basis and with notice that the Board of Directors determines to be fair and appropriate in light of the basis and notice on which holders of Common Stock or other securities into which the Securities are convertible participate in the transaction.

Section 10.14 *Notice of Adjustment*. Whenever the Conversion Rate is adjusted, the Company shall promptly mail to Holders of Securities affected a notice of the adjustment. The Company shall file with the Trustee an Officers' Certificate or a certificate from the Company's independent public accountants stating the facts requiring the adjustment and the manner of computing it. The certificate shall be conclusive evidence that the adjustment is correct, absent manifest error.

Section 10.15 *Notice of Certain Transactions*. If:

(a) the Company proposes to take any action that would require an adjustment in the Conversion Rate,

(b) the Company proposes to take any action that would require a supplemental indenture pursuant to Section 10.16, or

(c) there is a proposed liquidation or dissolution of the Company or of the issuer of any other security into which the Securities are convertible, the Company shall mail to registered Holders of Securities of any affected series a notice stating the proposed record date for a dividend or distribution or the proposed effective date of a subdivision, combination, reclassification, consolidation, merger, transfer, lease, liquidation or dissolution. The Company shall mail the notice at least 15 days before such date.

Failure to mail the notice or any defect in it shall not affect the validity of the transaction.

Section 10.16 *Reorganization of the Company*. If the Company is a party to a transaction subject to Section 5.01, the successor corporation (if other than the Company) shall enter into a supplemental indenture which shall provide that the Holder of a Security may convert it into the kind and amount of securities, cash or other assets which he would have owned immediately after the consolidation, merger or transfer if he had converted the Security immediately before the effective date of the transaction. The supplemental indenture shall provide for adjustments which shall be as nearly equivalent as may be practical to the adjustments provided for in this Article. The successor company shall mail to Holders of Securities of any affected series a notice briefly describing the supplemental indenture.

If this Section applies, Sections 10.08, 10.09 and 10.10 do not apply.

ARTICLE 11  
AMENDMENTS

Section 11.01 *Without Consent of Holders*. The Company and the Trustee may amend this Indenture, the Securities or any coupons without the consent of any Securityholder:

- (a) to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;
- (b) to comply with Article 5 or Section 10.16;
- (c) to provide that specific provisions of this Indenture shall not apply to a series not previously issued;
- (d) to create a series and establish its terms;
- (e) to provide for a separate Trustee for one or more series; or
- (f) to make any change that does not materially adversely affect the rights of any Securityholder.

Section 11.02 *With Consent of Holders*. Unless the Securities Resolution otherwise provides, the Company and the Trustee may amend this Indenture, the Securities and any coupons with the written consent of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Securities of all series affected by the amendment voting as one class. However, without the consent of each Securityholder affected, an amendment under this Section may not:

- (a) reduce the amount of Securities whose Holders must consent to an amendment;
- (b) reduce the interest on or change the time for payment of interest on any Security;
- (c) change the fixed maturity of any Security;

(d) reduce the principal of any non-Discounted Debt Security or reduce the amount of principal of any Discounted Debt Security that would be due upon an acceleration thereof;

(e) change the currency in which principal or interest on a Security is payable;

(f) make any change that materially adversely affects the right to convert any Security; or

(g) make any change in Section 6.04 or 11.02, except to increase the amount of Securities whose Holders must consent to an amendment or waiver or to provide that other provisions of this Indenture cannot be amended or waived without the consent of each Securityholder affected thereby.

An amendment of a provision included solely for the benefit of one or more series does not affect Securityholders of any other series.

Securityholders need not consent to the exact text of a proposed amendment or waiver; it is sufficient if they consent to the substance thereof.

Section 11.03 *Compliance With Trust Indenture Act*. Every amendment pursuant to Section 11.01 or 11.02 shall be set forth in a supplemental indenture (except any amendment pursuant to Section 11.01[(4)], which may be set forth in a Securities Resolution) that complies with the TIA.

If a provision of the TIA requires or permits a provision of this Indenture and the TIA provision is amended, then the Indenture provision shall be automatically amended to like effect.

Section 11.04 *Effect of Consents*. An amendment or waiver becomes effective in accordance with its terms and thereafter binds every Securityholder entitled to consent to it.

A consent to an amendment or waiver by a Holder of a Security is a continuing consent by the Holder and every subsequent Holder of a Security that evidences the same debt as the consenting Holder's Security. Any Holder or subsequent Holder may revoke the consent as to his Security if the Trustee receives notice of the revocation before the amendment or waiver becomes effective.

The Company may fix a record date for the determination of Holders of Registered Securities entitled to give a consent. The record date shall not be less than 10 nor more than 60 days prior to the first written solicitation of Securityholders.

Section 11.05 *Notation on or Exchange of Securities*. The Company or the Trustee may place an appropriate notation about an amendment or waiver on any Security thereafter authenticated. The Company may issue in exchange for affected Securities new Securities that reflect the amendment or waiver.

Section 11.06 *Trustee Protected*. The Trustee need not sign any supplemental indenture that adversely affects its rights. The Trustee shall be entitled to receive, and shall be fully protected in relying upon, an Opinion of Counsel and an Officers' Certificate each stating that the execution of any amendment or supplement or waiver authorized pursuant to this Article is authorized or permitted by this Indenture, and that such amendment or supplement or waiver constitutes the legal, valid and binding obligation of the Company.

ARTICLE 12  
MISCELLANEOUS

Section 12.01 *Trust Indenture Act*. The provisions of TIA 310 through 317 that impose duties on any person (including the provisions automatically deemed included herein unless expressly excluded by this Indenture) are a part of and govern this Indenture, whether or not expressly set forth herein.

If any provision of this Indenture limits, qualifies or conflicts with another provision which is required to be included in this Indenture by the TIA, the required provision shall control. If any provision of this Indenture modifies or excludes any provision of the TIA that may be so modified or excluded, the latter provision shall be deemed to apply to this Indenture as so modified or excluded, as the case may be.

Section 12.02 *Notices*. Any notice by one party to another is duly given if in writing and delivered in person, sent by facsimile transmission confirmed by mail or mailed by first-class mail to the other's address shown below:

Company:

Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Attention: \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee:

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A.  
2 North La Salle Street  
Suite 1020  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Attention: Corporate Trust Department

A party by notice to the other parties may designate additional or different addresses for subsequent notices.

Any notice mailed to a Securityholder shall be mailed to his address shown on the register kept by the Transfer Agent or on the list referred to in Section 2.06. Failure to mail a notice to a Securityholder or any defect in a notice mailed to a Securityholder shall not affect the sufficiency of the notice mailed to other Securityholders or the sufficiency of any published notice.



If a notice is mailed in the manner provided above within the time prescribed, it is duly given, whether or not the addressee receives it.

If the Company mails a notice to Securityholders, it shall mail a copy to the Trustee and each Agent at the same time.

If in the Company's opinion it is impractical to mail a notice required to be mailed or to publish a notice required to be published, the Company may give such substitute notice as the Trustee approves. Failure to publish a notice as required or any defect in it shall not affect the sufficiency of any mailed notice.

All notices shall be in the English language, except that any published notice may be in an official language of the country of publication.

A "notice" includes any communication required by this Indenture.

The Trustee agrees to accept and act upon instructions or directions pursuant to this Indenture sent by unsecured e-mail, pdf, facsimile transmission or other similar unsecured electronic methods, provided, however, that the Trustee shall have received an incumbency certificate listing persons designated to give such instructions or directions and containing specimen signatures of such designated persons, which such incumbency certificate shall be amended and replaced whenever a person is to be added or deleted from the listing. If the Issuer elects to give the Trustee e-mail or facsimile instructions (or instructions by a similar electronic method) and the Trustee in its discretion elects to act upon such instructions, the Trustee's understanding of such instructions shall be deemed controlling. The Trustee shall not be liable for any losses, costs or expenses arising directly or indirectly from the Trustee's reliance upon and compliance with such instructions notwithstanding such instructions conflict or are inconsistent with a subsequent written instruction. The Issuer agrees to assume all risks arising out of the use of such electronic methods to submit instructions and directions to the Trustee, including without limitation the risk of the Trustee acting on unauthorized instructions, and the risk of interception and misuse by third parties.

Section 12.03 *Certificate and Opinion as to Conditions Precedent*. Upon any request or application by the Company to the Trustee to take any action under this Indenture, the Company shall if so requested furnish to the Trustee:

(a) an Officers' Certificate stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent, if any, provided for in this Indenture relating to the proposed action have been complied with; and

(b) an Opinion of Counsel stating that, in the opinion of such counsel, all such conditions precedent have been complied with.

Section 12.04 *Statements Required In Certificate Or Opinion*. Each certificate or opinion with respect to compliance with a condition or covenant provided for in this Indenture shall include:

(a) a statement that the person making such certificate or opinion has read such covenant or condition;

(b) a brief statement as to the nature and scope of the examination or investigation upon which the statements or opinions contained in such certificate or opinion are based;

(c) a statement that, in the opinion of such person, he has made such examination or investigation as is necessary to enable him to express an informed opinion as to whether or not such covenant or condition has been complied with; and

(d) a statement as to whether or not, in the opinion of such person, such condition or covenant has been complied with.

Section 12.05 *Rules by Company and Agents*. The Company may make reasonable rules for action by or a meeting of Securityholders. An Agent may make reasonable rules and set reasonable requirements for its functions.

Section 12.06 *Legal Holidays*. A “**Legal Holiday**” is a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions are not required to be open. If a payment date is a Legal Holiday at a place of payment, unless the Securities Resolution establishing a series otherwise provides with respect to Securities of the series, payment may be made at that place on the next succeeding day that is not a Legal Holiday, and no interest shall accrue for the intervening period.

Section 12.07 *No Recourse Against Others*. All liability described in the Securities of any director, officer, employee or stockholder, as such, of the Company is waived and released.

Section 12.08 *Duplicate Originals*. The parties may sign any number of copies of this Indenture. One signed copy is enough to prove this Indenture.

Section 12.09 *Governing Law*. The internal law of the State of New York shall govern and be used to construe this Indenture and the Securities, without giving effect to applicable principles of conflicts of law to the extent that the application of the laws of another jurisdiction would be required thereby.

Section 12.10 *Submission to Jurisdiction*. The parties irrevocably submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of any New York State or federal court sitting in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York, over any suit, action or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Indenture. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the parties irrevocably waive and agree not to assert, by way of motion, as a defense or otherwise, any claim that it is not subject to the jurisdiction of any such court, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the laying of the venue of any such suit, action or proceeding brought in any such court and any claim that any such suit, action or proceeding brought in any such court has been brought in an inconvenient forum.

Section 12.11 *Waiver of Jury Trial*. EACH OF THE COMPANY AND THE TRUSTEE HEREBY IRREVOCABLY WAIVES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ANY AND ALL RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDING ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS INDENTURE, THE NOTES OR THE TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED HEREBY.

Section 12.12 *FATCA*. In order to comply with applicable tax laws, rules and regulations (inclusive of directives, guidelines and interpretations promulgated by competent authorities) in effect from time to time (“**Applicable Law**”) a foreign financial institution, issuer, trustee, paying agent, holder or other institution that is or has agreed to be subject to the Indenture, and the Company agrees (i) to provide to the Trustee sufficient information about holders or other applicable parties and/or transactions (including any modification to the terms of such transactions) so the Trustee can determine whether it has tax related obligations under Applicable Law, (ii) that the Trustee shall be entitled to make any withholding or deduction from payments under the Indenture to the extent necessary to comply with Applicable Law for which the Trustee shall not have any liability, and (iii) to hold harmless the Trustee for any losses it may suffer due to the actions it takes to comply with such Applicable Law. The terms of this section shall survive the termination of this Indenture.

Section 12.13 *Force Majeure*. In no event shall the Trustee be responsible or liable for any failure or delay in the performance of its obligations hereunder arising out of or caused by, directly or indirectly, forces beyond its control, including, without limitation, strikes, work stoppages, accidents, acts of war or terrorism, civil or military disturbances, nuclear or natural catastrophes or acts of God, and interruptions, loss or malfunctions of utilities, communications or computer (software and hardware) services; it being understood that the Trustee shall use reasonable efforts which are consistent with accepted practices in the banking industry to resume performance as soon as practicable under the circumstances.

SIGNATURES

Dated:

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: (SEAL)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated:

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY,  
N.A., AS TRUSTEE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

A Form of Registered Security

No. \$\_\_\_\_\_

[NAME OF COMPANY]

[Title of Security]

[Name of Company]

promises to pay to or registered assigns the principal sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

Interest Payment Dates:

Record Dates:

Dated:

[NAME OF COMPANY]

Transfer Agent and Paying Agent

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(SEAL)

Authenticated:

[Name of Registrar]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

Authorized Signature

Company Name

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

[NAME OF COMPANY]

[Title of Security]

[Explanatory Notes follow Exhibit B]

1. Interest.

[Name of Company] (“**Company**”), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, promises to pay interest on the principal amount of this Security at the rate per annum shown above. The Company will pay interest on and of each year commencing \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_. Interest on the Securities will accrue from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or, if no interest has been paid, from \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

2. Method of Payment.

The Company will pay interest on the Securities to the persons who are registered holders of Securities at the close of business on the record date for the next interest payment date, except as otherwise provided in the Indenture. Holders must surrender Securities to a Paying Agent to collect principal payments. The Company will pay principal and interest in money of the United States that at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts. The Company may pay principal and interest by check payable in such money. It may mail an interest check to a holder’s registered address.

3. Agents.

Initially, \_\_\_\_\_ Attention: \_\_\_\_\_, will act as Paying Agent, Transfer Agent and Registrar. The Company may change any Paying Agent, Transfer Agent or Registrar without notice or provide for more than one such agent. The Company or any Affiliate may act in any such capacity. Subject to certain conditions, the Company may change the Trustee.

4. Indenture.

The Company issued the securities of this series (“**Securities**”) under an Indenture dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_ (“**Indenture**”) between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (“**Trustee**”). The terms of the Securities include those stated in the Indenture and in the Securities Resolution creating the Securities and those made part of the Indenture by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (15 U.S. Code 77aaa–77bbb), as amended. Securityholders are referred to the Indenture, the Securities Resolution and the Act for a statement of such terms.

5. Optional Redemption.

On or after \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, the Company may redeem all the Securities at any time or some of them from time to time at the following redemption prices (expressed in percentages of principal amount), plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

If redeemed during the 12-month period beginning,

Year	Percentage	Year	Percentage
------	------------	------	------------

and thereafter at 100%.

#### 6. Mandatory Redemption.

The Company will redeem \$\_\_\_\_\_ principal amount of Securities on and on each thereafter through at a redemption price of 100% of principal amount, plus accrued interest to the redemption date. The Company may reduce the principal amount of Securities to be redeemed pursuant to this paragraph by subtracting 100% of the principal amount (excluding premium) of any Securities (i) that the Company has acquired or that the Company has redeemed other than pursuant to this paragraph and (ii) that the Company has delivered to the Registrar for cancellation. The Company may so subtract the same Security only once.

On \_\_\_\_\_ of each year commencing \_\_\_\_\_, the Trustee will, upon the death of any registered owner, redeem any of the Securities held by a registered owner following presentation thereof or redemption as described below by such registered owner's personal representative or surviving joint tenant(s), subject to the limitation that in any month period the Trustee shall not be obligated to redeem Securities pursuant to this provision to the extent that the aggregate principal amount of the Securities so subject to redemption exceeds \$\_\_\_\_\_, or the Securities of any registered owner tendered for redemption are in excess of the aggregate. The Securities subject to redemption as described above may be presented for redemption by delivering to the Trustee (i) a written request for redemption in form satisfactory to the Trustee, signed by the personal representative or surviving joint tenant(s) of the registered owner, (ii) the Securities to be redeemed, (iii) appropriate evidence of death and ownership of such Securities at the time of death, and (iv) appropriate evidence of the authority of such personal representative or surviving joint tenant(s). In order for Securities to be eligible for redemption on any \_\_\_\_\_, such Securities must be presented for redemption in full compliance with the provisions set forth above, prior to following the death of the registered owner of such Securities and next preceding such \_\_\_\_\_. Securities presented for redemption prior to maturity will be redeemed in order of their receipt by the Trustee. Any such Securities not redeemed in any such period because of the aggregate limitation or the individual \$\_\_\_\_\_ limitation will be held in the order described above for redemption on in succeeding years until redeemed. Any such redemption shall be at a price equal to \_\_\_\_\_% of the principal amount of the Securities so to be redeemed, plus accrued interest to the redemption date, but without a premium.

The death of a person who, during his lifetime, was entitled to substantially all of the beneficial interest of ownership of a Security will be deemed the death of a registered owner, regardless of the registered owner, if such beneficial interest can be established to the satisfaction of the Trustee. Such beneficial interest shall be deemed to exist in typical cases of street name or nominee ownership, ownership under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act or similar statute, community property or other joint ownership arrangements between husband and wife, and trust and certain other arrangements where one person has substantially all of the beneficial ownership interest in the Securities during his lifetime. In the case of Securities registered in the name of

banks, trust companies or broker-dealers who are members of a national securities exchange or the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“**Qualified Institutions**”), the redemption limitations described above apply to each beneficial owner of Securities held by any Qualified Institution. In connection with the redemption request, such Qualified Institution must submit evidence, satisfactory to the Trustee, that it holds Securities subject to request on behalf of such beneficial owner and must certify the aggregate amount of redemption requests made on behalf of such beneficial owner.

7. Additional Optional Redemption.

In addition to redemptions pursuant to the above paragraph(s), the Company may redeem not more than \$\_\_\_\_\_ principal amount of Securities on \_\_\_\_\_ and on each \_\_\_\_\_ thereafter through \_\_\_\_\_ at a redemption price of 100% of principal amount, plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

8. Notice of Redemption.

Notice of redemption will be mailed at least 30 days before the redemption date to each holder of Securities to be redeemed at his registered address.

A notice of redemption may provide that it is subject to the occurrence of any event before the date fixed for such redemption as described in such notice (“**Conditional Redemption**”) and such notice of Conditional Redemption shall be of no effect unless all such conditions to the redemption have occurred before such date or have been waived by the Company.

9. Subordination.

Reference is made to the Indenture, including, without limitation, provisions subordinating the payment of principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the Securities to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness as defined in the Indenture. Such further provisions shall for all purposes have the same effect as though fully set forth at this place.

10. Conversion.

A Holder of a Security may convert it into Common Stock of the Company or cash, or a combination thereof, at the Company’s option, at any time before the close of business on \_\_\_\_\_, or, if the Security is called for redemption, the Holder may convert it at any time before the close of business on the redemption date. The initial Conversion Rate is \_\_\_\_\_ (or an equivalent amount in cash) per \$1,000 principal amount of the Securities, subject to adjustment as provided in Article 10 of the Indenture. The Company will deliver a check in lieu of any fractional share. On conversion no payment or adjustment for interest accrued on the Securities will be made nor for dividends on the Common Stock issued on conversion. If any Security is converted between the record date for the payment of interest and the next succeeding interest payment date, such Security must be accompanied by funds equal to the interest payable on such succeeding interest payment date on the principal amount so converted (unless such Security shall have been called for redemption, in which case no such payment shall be required). A Security converted on an interest payment date need not be accompanied by any payment, and the interest on the principal amount of the Security being converted will be paid on such interest payment date to the registered holder of such Security on the immediately preceding record date.



To convert a Security a Holder must (1) complete and sign the conversion notice on the back of the Security, (2) surrender the Security to a Conversion Agent, (3) furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents if required by the Registrar or Conversion Agent and (4) pay any transfer or similar tax if required. A Holder may convert a portion of a Security if the portion is \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000.

11. Denominations, Transfer, Exchange.

The Securities are in registered form without coupons in denominations of \$1,000 and whole multiples of \$1,000. The transfer of Securities may be registered and Securities may be exchanged as provided in the Indenture. The Transfer Agent may require a holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents and to pay any taxes and fees required by law or the Indenture. The Transfer Agent need not exchange or register the transfer of any Security or portion of a Security selected for redemption. Also, it need not exchange or register the transfer of any Securities for a period of 15 days before a selection of Securities to be redeemed.

12. Persons Deemed Owners.

The registered holder of a Security may be treated as its owner for all purposes.

13. Amendments and Waivers.

Subject to certain exceptions, the Indenture or the Securities may be amended with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the securities of all series affected by the amendment. Subject to certain exceptions, a default on a series may be waived with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the series.

Without the consent of any Securityholder, the Indenture or the Securities may be amended, among other things, to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency; to provide for assumption of Company obligations to Securityholders; or to make any change that does not materially adversely affect the rights of any Securityholder.

14. Restrictive Covenants.

The Securities are unsecured general obligations of the Company limited to \$\_\_\_\_\_ principal amount. The Indenture does not limit other unsecured debt.

15. Successors.

When a successor assumes all the obligations of the Company under the Securities and the Indenture, the Company will be released from those obligations

16. Defeasance Prior to Redemption or Maturity.

Subject to certain conditions, the Company at any time may terminate some or all of its obligations under the Securities and the Indenture if the Company deposits with the Trustee money or U.S. Government Obligations for the payment of principal and interest on the Securities to redemption or maturity. U.S. Government Obligations are securities backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America or certificates representing an ownership interest in such Obligations.

17. Defaults and Remedies.

An Event of Default includes: default for 60 days in payment of interest on the Securities; default in payment of principal on the Securities; default for 60 days in payment or satisfaction of any sinking fund obligation; default by the Company for a specified period after notice to it in the performance of any of its other agreements applicable to the Securities; certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency; and any other Event of Default provided for in the series. If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of at least 33-1/3% in principal amount of the Securities may declare the principal of all the Securities to be due and payable immediately.

Securityholders may not enforce the Indenture or the Securities except as provided in the Indenture.

The Trustee may require indemnity satisfactory to it before it enforces the Indenture or the Securities. Subject to certain limitations, holders of a majority in principal amount of the Securities may direct the Trustee in its exercise of any trust or power. The Trustee may withhold from Securityholders notice of any continuing default (except a default in payment of principal or interest) if it determines that withholding notice is in their interests. The Company must furnish an annual compliance certificate to the Trustee.

18. Trustee Dealings with Company.

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., the Trustee under the Indenture, in its individual or any other capacity, may make loans to, accept deposits from, and perform services for the Company or its Affiliates, and may otherwise deal with the Company or its Affiliates, as if it were not Trustee.

19. No Recourse Against Others.

A director, officer, employee or stockholder, as such, of the Company shall not have any liability for any obligations of the Company under the Securities or the Indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of or by reason of such obligations or their creation. Each Securityholder by accepting a Security waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issue of the Securities.

20. Authentication.

This Security shall not be valid until authenticated by a manual signature of the Registrar.

21. Abbreviations.

Customary abbreviations may be used in the name of a Securityholder or an assignee, such as: TEN COM (=tenants in common), TEN ENT (=tenants by the entirety), JT TEN (=joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common), CUST (=custodian), and U/G/M/A (=Uniform Gifts to Minors Act).

The Company will furnish to any Securityholder upon written request and without charge a copy of the Indenture and the Securities Resolution, which contain the text of this Security in larger type. Requests may be made to: [Name/Address of Company], Attention: Corporate Secretary.

A Form of Bearer Security

No. \$\_\_\_\_\_

[NAME OF COMPANY]

[Title of Security]

[Name of Company]

promises to pay to or registered assigns the principal sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

Interest Payment Dates:

Record Dates:

Dated:

[NAME OF COMPANY]

Transfer Agent and Paying Agent

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(SEAL)

Authenticated:

[Name of Registrar]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

Authorized Signature

Company Name

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

[NAME OF COMPANY]

[Title of Security]

1. Interest.

[Name of Company] ("**Company**"), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, promises to pay to bearer interest on the principal amount of this Security at the rate per annum shown above. The Company will pay interest on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of each year commencing \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_. Interest on the Securities will accrue from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or, if no interest has been paid, from \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360 day year of twelve 30 day months.

2. Method of Payment.

Holders must surrender Securities and any coupons to a Paying Agent to collect principal and interest payments. The Company will pay principal and interest in money of the United States that at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts. The Company may pay principal and interest by check payable in such money.

3. Agents.

Initially, \_\_\_\_\_, Attention: \_\_\_\_\_, will act as Transfer Agent, Paying Agent and Registrar. The Company may change any Paying Agent, Transfer Agent or Registrar without notice or provide for more than one such agent.

The Company or any Affiliate may act in any such capacity. Subject to certain conditions, the Company may change the Trustee.

4. Indenture.

The Company issued the securities of this series ("**Securities**") under an Indenture dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ ("**Indenture**") between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. ("**Trustee**"). The terms of the Securities include those stated in the Indenture and the Securities Resolution and those made part of the Indenture by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (15 U.S. Code 77aaa-77bbb), as amended. Securityholders are referred to the Indenture, the Securities Resolution and the Act for a statement of such terms.

5. Optional Redemption.

On or after \_\_\_\_\_, the Company may redeem all the Securities at any time or some of them from time to time at the following redemption prices (expressed in percentages of principal amount), plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

If redeemed during the 12-month period beginning,

Year	Percentage	Year	Percentage
------	------------	------	------------

and thereafter 100%.

## 6. Mandatory Redemption.

The Company will redeem \$\_\_\_\_\_ principal amount of Securities on \_\_\_\_\_ and on each \_\_\_\_\_ thereafter through \_\_\_\_\_ at a redemption price of 100% of principal amount, plus accrued interest to the redemption date. The Company may reduce the principal amount of Securities to be redeemed pursuant to this paragraph by subtracting 100% of the principal amount (excluding premium) of any Securities (i) that the Company has acquired or that the Company has redeemed other than pursuant to this paragraph and (ii) that the Company has delivered to the Registrar for cancellation. The Company may so subtract the same Security only once.

On \_\_\_\_\_ of each year commencing \_\_\_\_\_, the Trustee will, upon the death of any registered owner, redeem any of the Securities held by a registered owner following presentation thereof or redemption as described below by such registered owner's personal representative or surviving joint tenant(s), subject to the limitation that in any month period the Trustee shall not be obligated to redeem Securities pursuant to this provision to the extent that the aggregate principal amount of the Securities so subject to redemption exceeds \$\_\_\_\_\_, or the Securities of any registered owner tendered for redemption are in excess of the aggregate . The Securities subject to redemption as described above may be presented for redemption by delivering to the Trustee (i) a written request for redemption in form satisfactory to the Trustee, signed by the personal representative or surviving joint tenant(s) of the registered owner, (ii) the Securities to be redeemed, (iii) appropriate evidence of death and ownership of such Securities at the time of death, and (iv) appropriate evidence of the authority of such personal representative or surviving joint tenant(s). In order for Securities to be eligible for redemption on any \_\_\_\_\_, such Securities must be presented for redemption in full compliance with the provisions set forth above, prior to following the death of the registered owner of such Securities and next preceding such \_\_\_\_\_. Securities presented for redemption prior to maturity will be redeemed in order of their receipt by the Trustee. Any such Securities not redeemed in any such period because of the aggregate limitation or the individual \$\_\_\_\_\_ limitation will be held in the order described above for redemption on in succeeding years until redeemed. Any such redemption shall be at a price equal to \_\_\_\_\_% of the principal amount of the Securities so to be redeemed, plus accrued interest to the redemption date, but without a premium.

The death of a person who, during his lifetime, was entitled to substantially all of the beneficial interest of ownership of a Security will be deemed the death of a registered owner, regardless of the registered owner, if such beneficial interest can be established to the satisfaction of the Trustee. Such beneficial interest shall be deemed to exist in typical cases of street name or nominee ownership, ownership under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act or similar statute, community property or other joint ownership arrangements between husband and wife, and trust and certain other arrangements where one person has substantially all of the beneficial ownership interest in the Securities during his lifetime. In the case of Securities registered in the name of banks, trust companies or broker-dealers who are members of a national securities exchange or the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("**Qualified Institutions**"), the redemption limitations described above apply to each beneficial owner of Securities held by any Qualified

Institution. In connection with the redemption request, such Qualified Institution must submit evidence, satisfactory to the Trustee, that it holds Securities subject to request on behalf of such beneficial owner and must certify the aggregate amount of redemption requests made on behalf of such beneficial owner.

7. Additional Optional Redemption.

In addition to redemptions pursuant to the above paragraph(s), the Company may redeem not more than \$\_\_\_\_\_ principal amount of Securities on and on each thereafter through at a redemption price of 100% of principal amount, plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

8. Subordination.

Reference is made to the Indenture, including, without limitation, provisions subordinating the payment of principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the Securities to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness as defined in the Indenture. Such further provisions shall for all purposes have the same effect as though fully set forth at this place.

9. Notice of Redemption.

Notice of redemption will be published once in an Authorized Newspaper in the City of New York and if the Securities are listed on any stock exchange located outside the United States and such stock exchange so requires, in any other required city outside the United States at least 30 days before the redemption date. Notice of redemption also will be mailed to holders who have filed their names and addresses with the Transfer Agent within the two preceding years. A holder of Securities may miss important notices if he fails to maintain his name and address with the Transfer Agent.

A notice of redemption may provide that it is subject to the occurrence of any event before the date fixed for such redemption as described in such notice ("**Conditional Redemption**") and such notice of Conditional Redemption shall be of no effect unless all such conditions to the redemption have occurred before such date or have been waived by the Company.

10. Conversion.

A Holder of a Security may convert it into Common Stock of the Company or cash, or a combination thereof, at the Company's option, at any time before the close of business on \_\_\_\_\_, or, if the Security is called for redemption, the Holder may convert it at any time before the close of business on the redemption date. The initial Conversion Rate is \_\_\_\_\_ (or an equivalent amount in cash) per \$1,000 principal amount of the Securities, subject to adjustment as provided in Article 10 of the Indenture. The Company will deliver a check in lieu of any fractional share. On conversion no payment or adjustment for interest accrued on the Securities will be made nor for dividends on the Common Stock issued on conversion. If any Security is converted between the record date for the payment of interest and the next succeeding interest payment date, such Security must be accompanied by funds equal to the interest payable on such succeeding interest payment date on the principal amount so converted (unless such Security shall have been called for redemption, in which case no such

payment shall be required). A Security converted on an interest payment date need not be accompanied by any payment, and the interest on the principal amount of the Security being converted will be paid on such interest payment date to the registered holder of such Security on the immediately preceding record date.

To convert a Security a Holder must (1) complete and sign the conversion notice on the back of the Security, (2) surrender the Security to a Conversion Agent, (3) furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents if required by the Registrar or Conversion Agent and (4) pay any transfer or similar tax if required. A Holder may convert a portion of a Security if the portion is \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000.

11. Denominations, Transfer, Exchange.

The Securities are in bearer form with coupons in denominations of \$5,000 and whole multiples of \$5,000. The Securities may be transferred by delivery and exchanged as provided in the Indenture. Upon an exchange, the Transfer Agent may require a holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate documents and to pay any taxes and fees required by law or the Indenture. The Transfer Agent need not exchange any Security or portion of a Security selected for redemption.

Also, it need not exchange any Securities for a period of 15 days before a selection of Securities to be redeemed.

12. Persons Deemed Owners.

The holder of a Security or coupon may be treated as its owner for all purposes.

13. Amendments and Waivers.

Subject to certain exceptions, the Indenture or the Securities may be amended with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the securities of all series affected by the amendment. Subject to certain exceptions, a default on a series may be waived with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the series.

Without the consent of any Securityholder, the Indenture or the Securities may be amended, among other things, to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency; to provide for assumption of Company obligations to Securityholders; or to make any change that does not materially adversely affect the rights of any Securityholder.

14. Restrictive Covenants.

The Securities are unsecured general obligations of the Company limited to \$\_\_\_\_\_ principal amount. The Indenture does not limit other unsecured debt.

15. Successors.

When a successor assumes all the obligations of the Company under the Securities, any coupons and the Indenture, the Company will be released from those obligations.



16. Defeasance Prior to Redemption or Maturity.

Subject to certain conditions, the Company at any time may terminate some or all of its obligations under the Securities, any coupons and the Indenture if the Company deposits with the Trustee money or U.S. Government Obligations for the payment of principal and interest on the Securities to redemption or maturity. U.S. Government Obligations are securities backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America or certificates representing an ownership interest in such Obligations.

17. Defaults and Remedies.

An Event of Default includes: default for 60 days in payment of interest on the Securities; default in payment of principal on the Securities; default for 60 days in payment or satisfaction of any sinking fund obligation; default by the Company for a specified period after notice to it in the performance of any of its other agreements applicable to the Securities; certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency; and any other Event of Default provided for in the series. If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of at least 33-1/3% in principal amount of the Securities may declare the principal of all the Securities to be due and payable immediately.

Securityholders may not enforce the Indenture or the Securities except as provided in the Indenture. The Trustee may require indemnity satisfactory to it before it enforces the Indenture or the Securities. Subject to certain limitations, holders of a majority in principal amount of the Securities may direct the Trustee in its exercise of any trust or power. The Trustee may withhold from Securityholders notice of any continuing default (except a default in payment of principal or interest) if it determines that withholding notice is in their interests. The Company must furnish annual compliance certificates to the Trustee.

18. Trustee Dealings with Company.

\_\_\_\_\_, the Trustee under the Indenture, in its individual or any other capacity, may make loans to, accept deposits from, and perform services for the Company or its Affiliates, and may otherwise deal with the Company or its Affiliates, as if it were not Trustee.

19. No Recourse Against Others.

A director, officer, employee or stockholder, as such, of the Company shall not have any liability for any obligations of the Company under the Securities or the Indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of or by reason of such obligations or their creation. Each Securityholder by accepting a Security waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issue of the Securities.

20. Authentication.

This Security shall not be valid until authenticated by a manual signature of the Registrar.

21. Abbreviations.

Customary abbreviations may be used in the name of a Securityholder or an assignee, such as: TEN COM (=tenants in common), TEN ENT (=tenants by the entirety), JT TEN (=joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common), CUST (=custodian), and U/G/M/A (=Uniform Gifts to Minors Act).

The Company will furnish to any Securityholder upon written request and without charge a copy of the Indenture and the Securities Resolution, which contain the text of this Security in larger type. Requests may be made to: [Name/Address of Company], Attention: Corporate Secretary.

[FACE OF COUPON]

[\$].....  
Due.....

[NAME OF COMPANY]

[Title of Security]

Unless the Security attached to this coupon has been called for redemption, [Name of Company] (the “**Company**”) will pay to bearer, upon surrender, the amount shown hereon when due. This coupon may be surrendered for payment to any Paying Agent listed on the back of this coupon unless the Company has replaced such Agent. Payment may be made by check. This coupon represents months’ interest.

[Name of Company]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

[REVERSE OF COUPON]

PAYING AGENTS

## NOTES TO EXHIBITS A AND B

1. If the Security is not to bear interest at a fixed rate per annum, insert a description of the manner in which the rate of interest is to be determined. If the Security is not to bear interest prior to maturity, so state.
2. If the method or currency of payment is different, insert a statement thereof.
3. If applicable. A restriction on redemption or refunding or any provision applicable to its redemption other may be added.
4. Such provisions as are applicable, if any.
5. If the Security is a Discounted Debt Security, insert amount to be redeemed or method of calculating such amount.
6. If applicable. Also insert, if applicable, provisions for repayment of Securities at the option of the Securityholder.
7. If applicable.
8. If applicable. If convertible into securities other than Common Stock, insert appropriate summary.
9. If additional or different adjustment provisions apply so specify.
10. If applicable. Insert additional or different denominations and terms as appropriate.
11. If different terms apply, insert a brief summary thereof.
12. If applicable. If additional or different covenants apply, insert a brief summary thereof.
13. If applicable. If different defeasance terms apply, insert a brief summary thereof.
14. If additional or different Events of Default apply, insert a brief summary thereof.
15. If the Security is a Discounted Debt Security, set forth the amount due and payable upon an Event of Default.

Note: U.S. tax law may require certain legends on Discounted Debt and Bearer Securities.

**ASSIGNMENT FORM**

To assign this Security, fill in the form below:

I or we assign and transfer this Security to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Insert assignee's soc. sec. or tax I.D. no.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print or type assignee's name, address and zip code)

and irrevocably appoint \_\_\_\_\_ agent to transfer this Security on the books of the Company. The agent may substitute another to act for him.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature:

(Sign exactly as your name appears on the other side of this Security)

CONVERSION NOTICE

To convert this Security, check the box:

To convert only part of this Security, state the amount (must be in integral multiples of \$1,000);

\$  
-----

If you want the securities delivered upon conversion made out in another person's name, fill in the form below:

(Insert other person's Social Security or Tax I.D. Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Print or type other person's name, address and zip code)

Dated:

Signed:

(Signed exactly as name appears on the other side of this Security)

Signature Guarantee:

\_\_\_\_\_  
All signatures must be guaranteed by a member of a national securities exchange or of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. or by a commercial bank or trust company located in the United States

## [LETTERHEAD OF WESTAR ENERGY, INC.]

March 18, 2016

Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation (the “**Company**”), and have acted for the Company in connection with the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the “**Registration Statement**”) filed on the date hereof with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, for the registration of the sale from time to time of the Company’s (i) senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities (together, the “**Debt Securities**”), (ii) first mortgage bonds (“**First Mortgage Bonds**”), (iii) shares of preferred stock, without par value (the “**Preferred Stock**”), (iv) shares of preference stock, par value to vary depending on the series (“**Preference Stock**”), (v) shares of Common Stock, \$5.00 par value (the “**Common Stock**”), (vi) warrants to purchase Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Common Stock or other securities or rights (the “**Warrants**”), (vii) purchase contracts (the “**Purchase Contracts**”) requiring the holders thereof to purchase or sell (A) the Company’s securities or securities of an entity unaffiliated or affiliated with the Company, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above, (B) currencies or composite currencies or (C) commodities and (viii) units (the “**Units**”) consisting of Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts, Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Common Stock or any combination of the foregoing. The Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Common Stock, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units are herein collectively referred to as the “**Securities**.” The Debt Securities, Preferred Stock and Preference Stock may be convertible and/or exchangeable for Securities or other securities or rights. The senior Debt Securities are to be issued pursuant to an Indenture dated August 1, 1998 (the “**Senior Indenture**”), between the Company and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee, substantially in the form incorporated as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. The subordinated Debt Securities are to be issued pursuant to an Indenture (the “**Subordinated Indenture**”) to be entered into between the Company and The

Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee, substantially in the form included as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. The First Mortgage Bonds are to be issued under and secured by the Mortgage and Deed of Trust, dated July 1, 1939, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to BNY Midwest Trust Company, as successor to Harris Trust and Savings Bank, as trustee, as supplemented and amended by supplemental indentures (the "**Mortgage**"). The Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture are hereinafter referred to individually as an "**Indenture**" and collectively as the "**Indentures**." The Company may offer Depositary Shares (the "**Depositary Shares**") representing interests in Preferred Stock or Preference Stock deposited with a Depositary and evidenced by Depositary Receipts, and such Depositary Shares are also covered by the Registration Statement.

I have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to my satisfaction, of such documents, corporate records, certificates of public officials and other instruments as I have deemed necessary or advisable for the purpose of rendering this opinion.

On the basis of the foregoing, I am of the opinion that:

1. Upon designation of the preferences and relative, participating, optional and other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions, of any series of Preferred Stock by the Board of Directors of the Company and proper filing with the Secretary of State of the State of Kansas of a Certificate of Designations relating to such series of Preferred Stock, all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company will have been taken to authorize the issuance and sale of such series of Preferred Stock proposed to be sold by the Company, and when such shares of Preferred Stock are issued and delivered against payment therefor in accordance with the applicable underwriting or other agreement or upon conversion in accordance with the terms of any other Security that has been duly authorized, issued, paid for and delivered, such shares will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

2. Upon designation of the preferences and relative, participating, optional and other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions, of any series of Preference Stock by the Board of Directors of the Company and proper filing with the Secretary of State of the State of Kansas of a Certificate of Designations relating to such series of Preference Stock, all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company will have been taken to authorize the issuance and sale of such series of Preference Stock proposed to be sold by the Company, and when such shares of Preference Stock are issued and delivered against payment therefor in accordance with the applicable underwriting or other agreement or upon conversion in accordance with the terms of any other Security that has been duly authorized, issued, paid for and delivered, such shares will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

3. When the specific terms of any offering or offerings of Common Stock have been duly established by the Board of Directors of the Company and in accordance with provisions of any applicable underwriting agreement so as not to violate any applicable law or agreement or instrument then binding on the Company, and shares of the Common Stock have been issued and sold against payment therefor in accordance with the applicable underwriting or other agreement or upon exchange in accordance with the terms of any other Security that has been duly authorized, issued, paid for and delivered, such shares will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.



4. When Depositary Shares evidenced by Depositary Receipts are issued and delivered in accordance with the terms of a Deposit Agreement against the deposit of duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable shares of Preferred Stock or Preference Stock, such Depositary Shares will entitle the holders thereof to the rights specified in the Deposit Agreement.

5. When the Mortgage has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Trustee and the Company, the specific terms of particular First Mortgage Bonds have been duly authorized and established in accordance with the applicable Indenture and such First Mortgage Bonds have been duly authorized, executed, authenticated, issued and delivered in accordance with the applicable Indenture and the applicable underwriting or other agreement, such First Mortgage Bonds will constitute a valid and binding obligations of the Company enforceable in accordance with their terms (subject, as to enforcement of remedies, to applicable bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, moratorium or other similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally from time to time in effect and to general equity principles).

In connection with my opinions expressed above, I have assumed that, at or prior to the time of the delivery of any such Security, (i) the Board of Directors shall have duly established the terms of such Security, (ii) the Registration Statement shall have been deemed or declared effective and such effectiveness shall not have been terminated or rescinded and (iii) there shall not have occurred any change in law affecting the validity or enforceability of such Security. I have also assumed that none of the terms of any Security to be established subsequent to the date hereof, nor the issuance and delivery of such Security, nor the compliance by the Company with the terms of such Security will violate any applicable law or will result in a violation of any provision of any instrument or agreement then binding upon the Company, or any restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company.

I am a member of the Bar of the State of Kansas and the foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of Kansas (except state securities or blue sky laws) and the federal laws of the United States of America.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. In addition, I consent to the reference to me under the caption "Legal Matters" in the prospectus, which is a part of the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, I do not admit that I am in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act.

This opinion is rendered solely to you in connection with the above matter. This opinion may not be relied upon by you for any other purpose or relied upon by or furnished to any other person without my prior written consent.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Larry D. Irick  
Larry D. Irick

## [LETTERHEAD OF WESTAR ENERGY, INC.]

March 18, 2016

Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation (the “**Company**”), and have acted for the Company in connection with the proposed offering and sale of up to 1,178,761 shares (the “**Shares**”) of common stock of the Company pursuant to the Company’s direct stock purchase plan and (ii) the filing by the Company of the prospectus supplement dated March 18, 2016 relating to the proposed offering and sale of the Shares (the “**Prospectus Supplement**”), with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“**SEC**”) pursuant to Rule 424(b) promulgated under the Act.

I have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to my satisfaction, of such documents, corporate records, certificates of public officials and other instruments as I have deemed necessary or advisable for the purpose of rendering this opinion.

I have assumed the following: (i) the genuineness of all signatures (other than the signatures of the officers of the Company) on all documents examined by me; (ii) the authenticity of all documents submitted to me as originals and the conformity to authentic originals of all documents submitted to me as certified or photostatic copies; (iii) any certifications and documents dated prior to the date hereof remain true as of the date hereof; (iv) each certificate of a public official is accurate, complete and authentic and all official public records are accurate and complete and (v) the legal capacity of all natural persons.

On the basis of the foregoing, I am of the opinion that that the Shares have been duly authorized by the Company and, when issued and sold by the Company and delivered by the Company against receipt of the purchase price therefor, in the manner contemplated by the direct stock purchase plan, such Shares were or will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

I am a member of the Bar of the State of Kansas and the foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of Kansas (except state securities or blue sky laws) and the federal laws of the United States of America.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as Exhibit 5.2 to the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed on the date hereof with the SEC pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to the reference to me under the caption “Legal Matters” in the Prospectus Supplement.

This opinion is rendered solely to you in connection with the above matter. This opinion may not be relied upon by you for any other purpose or relied upon by or furnished to any other person without my prior written consent.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Larry D. Irick  
Larry D. Irick

**BAKER BOTTS** LLP30 Rockefeller Plaza  
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HONG KONG  
HOUSTONLONDON  
MOSCOW  
**NEW YORK**  
PALO ALTO  
RIYADH  
SAN FRANCISCO  
WASHINGTON

March 18, 2016

084134.0102

Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As set forth in the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the "**Registration Statement**") to be filed on the date hereof by Westar Energy, Inc., a Kansas corporation (the "**Company**"), with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "**Commission**") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "**Act**"), relating to the offering of securities that may be issued and sold by the Company from time to time pursuant to Rule 415 under the Act, certain legal matters in connection with such securities are being passed upon for you by us. Such securities include (i) shares of common stock, \$5.00 par value (the "**Common Stock**"), (ii) shares of preferred stock (the "**Preferred Stock**"), (iii) shares of preference stock, no par value ("**Preference Stock**," and together with the Preferred Stock, the "**Preferred Securities**"), (iv) senior debt securities (the "**Senior Debt Securities**") and subordinated debt securities (the "**Subordinated Debt Securities**," and together with the Senior Debt Securities, the "**Debt Securities**"), (v) first mortgage bonds (the "**First Mortgage Bonds**"), (vi) warrants to purchase Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Preferred Stock, Preference Stock, Common Stock or other securities or rights (the "**Warrants**"), (vii) purchase contracts (the "**Purchase Contracts**") and (viii) units (the "**Units**") consisting of Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts, Preferred Securities, Common Stock or any combination of the foregoing. The Common Stock, Preferred Securities, Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units are herein collectively referred to as the "**Securities**." The Debt Securities and the Preferred Securities may be convertible and/or exchangeable for Securities or other securities or rights. The Company may offer depositary shares (the "**Depositary Shares**") representing interests in the Preferred Securities deposited with a depositary and evidenced by depositary receipts, and such Depositary Shares also are covered by the Registration Statement. At your request, this opinion is being furnished to you for filing as Exhibit 5.3 to the Registration Statement.

Each series of Senior Debt Securities is to be issued pursuant to a senior debt indenture dated as of August 1, 1998 (the "**Senior Debt Indenture**"), between the Company and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, incorporated as an exhibit to the Registration Statement; each series of Subordinated Debt Securities is to be issued pursuant to a subordinated debt indenture (the "**Subordinated Debt Indenture**," and, together with the Senior Debt Indenture, the "**Indentures**"), to be entered into between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee, substantially in the form included as an exhibit to the Registration Statement; each series of First Mortgage Bonds is to be issued under and secured by the Mortgage and Deed of Trust, dated as of July 1, 1939, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to Harris Trust and Savings Bank, as trustee,

as supplemented and amended by supplemental indentures thereto (the “**Mortgage**”); each series of Warrants is to be issued pursuant to a warrant agreement (the “**Warrant Agreement**”) between the Company and a warrant agent to be named therein; Purchase Contracts are to be issued under one or more purchase contract agreements (each, a “**Purchase Contract Agreement**”) to be entered into between the Company and the purchase contract agent to be named therein, requiring the holders thereof to purchase or sell (i) the Company’s securities or securities of an entity unaffiliated or affiliated with the Company, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above, (ii) currencies or composite currencies or (iii) commodities; and Units are to be issued under one or more unit agreements to be entered into between the Company, a bank or trust company, as unit agent, and the holders from time to time of the Units (each such unit agreement, a “**Unit Agreement**”). Each Indenture and the Mortgage will be supplemented, in connection with the issuance of each series of Debt Securities or First Mortgage Bonds, as the case may be, by a supplemental indenture, officers’ certificate or other writing thereunder establishing the form and terms of such series.

In our capacity as your counsel in the connection referred to above, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified, of the Company’s articles of incorporation and by-laws as amended to date (the “**Charter Documents**”), the Indentures, the Mortgage and corporate records of the Company, including certificates of public officials and of representatives of the Company, statutes and other instruments and documents as a basis for the opinions hereinafter expressed. In giving such opinions, we have relied upon certificates of officers and representatives of the Company and of public officials with respect to the accuracy of the material factual matters contained in such certificates. In giving the opinions below, we have assumed, without independent investigation, that the signatures on all documents examined by us are genuine, that all documents submitted to us as originals are accurate and complete, that all documents submitted to us as copies are true, correct and complete copies of the originals thereof and that all information submitted to us is accurate and complete. In connection with this opinion, we have assumed that:

- (a) the Company is a corporation duly incorporated and validly existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Kansas;
- (b) the Registration Statement and any amendments thereto (including post-effective amendments) will have become effective under the Act and such effectiveness shall not have been terminated or rescinded;
- (c) a prospectus supplement will have been prepared and filed with the Commission describing the Securities offered thereby;
- (d) all Securities will be offered, issued and sold in compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws and in the manner stated in the Registration Statement and the applicable prospectus supplement;

(e) the Board of Directors of the Company or, to the extent permitted by Kansas law and the Charter Documents, a duly constituted and acting committee thereof (such Board of Directors of the Company or committee thereof being hereinafter referred to as the “**Board**”) will have taken all necessary corporate action to authorize the issuance of such Securities and any other securities issuable on the conversion, exchange, redemption or exercise thereof, and to authorize the terms of the offering and sale of such Securities and related matters;

(f) a definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement with respect to any Securities offered will have been duly authorized and validly executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto (the “**Purchase Agreement**”);

(g) any securities issuable upon conversion, exchange, redemption or exercise of any Securities being offered will have been duly authorized, created and, if appropriate, reserved for issuance upon such conversion, exchange, redemption or exercise;

(h) all Securities will be delivered (i) in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Purchase Agreement approved by the Board upon receipt of the consideration therein provided or (ii) upon conversion, exchange, redemption or exercise of any other Security, in accordance with the terms of such Security or the instrument governing such Security providing for such conversion, exchange, redemption or exercise as approved by the Board for the consideration approved by the Board;

(i) in the case of any series of Securities issuable under an Indenture or the Mortgage, as applicable:

- the Board will have taken all necessary corporate action to designate and establish the terms of such series of Securities in accordance with the terms of the applicable Indenture or Mortgage and any supplemental indenture thereto, and such Securities will not include any provision that is unenforceable;
- the applicable Indenture or Mortgage will have become qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended; and
- forms of Securities complying with the terms of the applicable Indenture or Mortgage and any supplemental indenture thereto and evidencing such Securities will have been duly authorized, executed, authenticated, issued and delivered in accordance with the provisions of such Indenture or Mortgage and any supplemental indenture thereto;

(j) in the case of Subordinated Debt Securities, an indenture substantially in the form of the Senior Debt Indenture and any supplemental indenture thereto will have been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the trustee thereunder;

(k) in the case of Purchase Contracts, the Board will have taken all necessary corporate action to establish the terms thereof and to approve the purchase contract agreement relating thereto; such Purchase Contracts and Purchase Contract Agreement will

have been duly executed and delivered by the parties thereto; and neither such Purchase Contracts nor such Purchase Contract Agreement will include any provision that is unenforceable;

(l) in the case of Units, the Board will have taken all necessary corporate action to establish the terms of such Units and the terms of the Securities, if any, such Units include; the actions referred to in paragraph (k) above will have been taken with respect to the Purchase Contracts included in such Units; if such Units include securities other than the Securities, such other securities will have been duly and validly executed, issued and delivered by the issuer thereof and will be legal, valid and binding obligations of such issuer, enforceable against such issuer in accordance with their respective terms; and no agreement or other instrument establishing such Units or defining the rights of the holders of such Units will contain any provision that is unenforceable; and

(m) in the case of Warrants, the Board will have taken all necessary corporate action to establish the terms thereof and to approve the Warrant Agreement relating thereto; such Warrant Agreement will have been duly executed and delivered by the parties thereto; and such Warrant Agreement will not include any provision that is unenforceable.

On the basis of the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications hereinafter set forth, we are of the opinion that the Debt Securities, First Mortgage Bonds, Purchase Contracts, Warrants and Units included in the Securities will, when issued, constitute legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as that enforcement is subject to (a) any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium, fraudulent transfer or conveyance or other laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally, (b) general principles of equity (regardless of whether that enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law) and (c) any implied covenants of good faith and fair dealing.

The opinions set forth above are limited in all respects to matters of applicable federal law and the contract law of the State of New York. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion of counsel as Exhibit 5.3 to the Registration Statement. We also consent to the references to our Firm under the heading "Legal Matters" in the prospectus forming a part of the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, we do not hereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Baker Botts L.L.P.

AJE/STS/RRP



WESTAR ENERGY, INC.  
 Computations of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and  
 Computations of Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges  
 and Preferred Dividend Requirements  
 (Dollars in Thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Earnings from continuing operations (a)	\$446,192	\$465,538	\$421,449	\$406,638	\$339,274
Fixed Charges:					
Interest (expensed and capitalized)	180,307	195,162	193,873	186,736	178,049
Interest on corporate-owned life insurance borrowings	58,178	58,344	57,767	63,518	66,326
Interest applicable to rentals	4,678	4,714	5,495	4,675	4,528
Total Fixed Charges (b)	<u>243,163</u>	<u>258,220</u>	<u>257,135</u>	<u>254,929</u>	<u>248,903</u>
Distributed income of equity investees	<u>3,000</u>	—	—	—	—
Preferred Dividend Requirements:					
Preferred dividends	—	—	—	1,616	970
Income tax required	—	—	—	723	424
Total Preferred Dividend Requirements (c)	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,339</u>	<u>1,394</u>
Total Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividend Requirements	<u>243,163</u>	<u>258,220</u>	<u>257,135</u>	<u>257,268</u>	<u>250,297</u>
Earnings (d)	<u>\$692,355</u>	<u>\$723,758</u>	<u>\$678,584</u>	<u>\$661,567</u>	<u>\$588,177</u>
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	2.85	2.80	2.64	2.60	2.36
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividend Requirements	2.85	2.80	2.64	2.57	2.35

- (a) Earnings from continuing operations consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes, cumulative effects of accounting changes and preferred dividends adjusted for undistributed earnings from equity investees.
- (b) Fixed charges consist of all interest on indebtedness, interest on uncertain tax positions, interest on corporate-owned life insurance policies, amortization of debt discount and expense, and the portion of rental expense that represents an interest factor.
- (c) Preferred dividend requirements consist of an amount equal to the pre-tax earnings that would be required to meet dividend requirements on preferred stock.
- (d) Earnings are deemed to consist of earnings from continuing operations, fixed charges and distributed income of equity investees.

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-3 of our reports dated February 24, 2016, relating to the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule of Westar Energy, Inc. and subsidiaries, and the effectiveness of Westar Energy Inc.'s and subsidiaries internal control over financial reporting, appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Westar Energy, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2015, and to the reference to us under the heading "Experts" in the Prospectus, which is part of this Registration Statement.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Kansas City, Missouri  
March 18, 2016

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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**FORM T-1**

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**STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY  
UNDER THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939  
OF A CORPORATION DESIGNATED TO ACT AS TRUSTEE**

- CHECK IF AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY OF A TRUSTEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 305(b)(2)**
- 

**THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON  
TRUST COMPANY, N.A.**

(Exact name of trustee as specified in its charter)

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(Jurisdiction of incorporation  
if not a U.S. national bank)

**400 South Hope Street  
Suite 400**

**Los Angeles, California**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**95-3571558**  
(I.R.S. employer  
identification no.)

**90071**  
(Zip code)

---

**WESTAR ENERGY, INC.**  
(Exact name of obligor as specified in its charter)

---

**Kansas**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

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

**48-0290150**  
(I.R.S. employer  
identification no.)

**66612**  
(Zip code)

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**Subordinated Debt Securities**  
(Title of the indenture securities)

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**1. General information. Furnish the following information as to the trustee:**

**(a) Name and address of each examining or supervising authority to which it is subject.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Comptroller of the Currency United States Department of the Treasury	Washington, DC 20219
Federal Reserve Bank	San Francisco, CA 94105
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	Washington, DC 20429

**(b) Whether it is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.**

Yes.

**2. Affiliations with Obligor.**

**If the obligor is an affiliate of the trustee, describe each such affiliation.**

None.

**16. List of Exhibits.**

**Exhibits identified in parentheses below, on file with the Commission, are incorporated herein by reference as an exhibit hereto, pursuant to Rule 7a-29 under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "Act") and 17 C.F.R. 229.10(d).**

1. A copy of the articles of association of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. (Exhibit 1 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-121948 and Exhibit 1 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-152875).
2. A copy of certificate of authority of the trustee to commence business. (Exhibit 2 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No.333-121948).
3. A copy of the authorization of the trustee to exercise corporate trust powers (Exhibit 3 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No.333-152875).

4. A copy of the existing by-laws of the trustee (Exhibit 4 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-162713).
6. The consent of the trustee required by Section 321(b) of the Act (Exhibit 6 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-152875).
7. A copy of the latest report of condition of the Trustee published pursuant to law or to the requirements of its supervising or examining authority.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the Trustee, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., a banking association organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, has duly caused this statement of eligibility to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, all in the City of Los Angeles, and State of California, on the 7th day of March, 2016.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY,  
N.A.

By: /s/ Valere Boyd

Name: Valere Boyd

Title: Vice President

Consolidated Report of Condition of  
THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A.  
of 400 South Hope Street, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90071

At the close of business December 31, 2015, published in accordance with Federal regulatory authority instructions.

	<u>Dollar amounts in thousands</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and balances due from depository institutions:	
Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	6,117
Interest-bearing balances	272,045
Securities:	
Held-to-maturity securities	0
Available-for-sale securities	679,285
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell:	
Federal funds sold	0
Securities purchased under agreements to resell	0
Loans and lease financing receivables:	
Loans and leases held for sale	0
Loans and leases, net of unearned income	0
LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	0
Loans and leases, net of unearned income and allowance	0
Trading assets	0
Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	11,408
Other real estate owned	0
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	0
Direct and indirect investments in real estate ventures	0
Intangible assets:	
Goodwill	856,313
Other intangible assets	77,335
Other assets	118,036
<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,020,539</u></b>

**LIABILITIES**

Deposits:	
In domestic offices	505
Noninterest-bearing	505
Interest-bearing	0
Not applicable	
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase:	
Federal funds purchased	0
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	0
Trading liabilities	0
Other borrowed money:	
(includes mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases)	0
Not applicable	
Not applicable	
Subordinated notes and debentures	0
Other liabilities	276,953
Total liabilities	277,458
Not applicable	

**EQUITY CAPITAL**

Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus	0
Common stock	1,000
Surplus (exclude all surplus related to preferred stock)	1,122,455
Not available	
Retained earnings	620,521
Accumulated other comprehensive income	-895
Other equity capital components	0
Not available	
Total bank equity capital	1,743,081
Noncontrolling (minority) interests in consolidated subsidiaries	0
Total equity capital	<u>1,743,081</u>
Total liabilities and equity capital	<u>2,020,539</u>

I, Matthew J. McNulty, CFO of the above-named bank do hereby declare that the Reports of Condition and Income (including the supporting schedules) for this report date have been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the appropriate Federal regulatory authority and are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Matthew J. McNulty       )           CFO

We, the undersigned directors (trustees), attest to the correctness of the Report of Condition (including the supporting schedules) for this report date and declare that it has been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the appropriate Federal regulatory authority and is true and correct.

Antonio I. Portuondo, President            )  
William D. Lindelof, Director            )   Directors (Trustees)  
Alphonse J. Briand, Director            )



**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM T-1**

**STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY  
UNDER THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939 OF A  
CORPORATION DESIGNATED TO ACT AS TRUSTEE**

**CHECK IF AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY OF A TRUSTEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 305(b)(2)**

**THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON  
TRUST COMPANY, N.A.**

(Exact name of trustee as specified in its charter)

(Jurisdiction of incorporation  
if not a U.S. national bank)

**400 South Hope Street  
Suite 400**

**Los Angeles, California**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**95-3571558**  
(I.R.S. employer  
identification no.)

**90071**  
(Zip code)

**WESTAR ENERGY, INC.**

(Exact name of obligor as specified in its charter)

**Kansas**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**48-0290150**  
(I.R.S. employer  
identification no.)

**66612**  
(Zip code)

**First Mortgage Bonds**  
(Title of the indenture securities)

**1. General information. Furnish the following information as to the trustee:**

**(a) Name and address of each examining or supervising authority to which it is subject.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Comptroller of the Currency United States Department of the Treasury	Washington, DC 20219
Federal Reserve Bank	San Francisco, CA 94105
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	Washington, DC 20429

**(b) Whether it is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.**

Yes.

**2. Affiliations with Obligor.**

**If the obligor is an affiliate of the trustee, describe each such affiliation.**

None.

**16. List of Exhibits.**

**Exhibits identified in parentheses below, on file with the Commission, are incorporated herein by reference as an exhibit hereto, pursuant to Rule 7a-29 under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "Act") and 17 C.F.R. 229.10(d).**

1. A copy of the articles of association of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. (Exhibit 1 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-121948 and Exhibit 1 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-152875).
2. A copy of certificate of authority of the trustee to commence business. (Exhibit 2 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-121948).
3. A copy of the authorization of the trustee to exercise corporate trust powers (Exhibit 3 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-152875).

4. A copy of the existing by-laws of the trustee (Exhibit 4 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-162713).
6. The consent of the trustee required by Section 321(b) of the Act (Exhibit 6 to Form T-1 filed with Registration Statement No. 333-152875).
7. A copy of the latest report of condition of the Trustee published pursuant to law or to the requirements of its supervising or examining authority.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the Trustee, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., a banking association organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, has duly caused this statement of eligibility to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, all in the City of Los Angeles, and State of California, on the 7th day of March, 2016.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY,  
N.A.

By: /s/ Valere Boyd

Name: Valere Boyd

Title: Vice President

Consolidated Report of Condition of  
THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A.  
of 400 South Hope Street, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90071

At the close of business December 31, 2015, published in accordance with Federal regulatory authority instructions.

	<u>Dollar amounts in thousands</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and balances due from depository institutions:	
Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	6,117
Interest-bearing balances	272,045
Securities:	
Held-to-maturity securities	0
Available-for-sale securities	679,285
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell:	
Federal funds sold	0
Securities purchased under agreements to resell	0
Loans and lease financing receivables:	
Loans and leases held for sale	0
Loans and leases, net of unearned income	0
LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	0
Loans and leases, net of unearned income and allowance	0
Trading assets	0
Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	11,408
Other real estate owned	0
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	0
Direct and indirect investments in real estate ventures	0
Intangible assets:	
Goodwill	856,313
Other intangible assets	77,335
Other assets	118,036
<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,020,539</u></b>

**LIABILITIES**

Deposits:	
In domestic offices	505
Noninterest-bearing	505
Interest-bearing	0
Not applicable	
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase:	
Federal funds purchased	0
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	0
Trading liabilities	0
Other borrowed money:	
(includes mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases)	0
Not applicable	
Not applicable	
Subordinated notes and debentures	0
Other liabilities	276,953
Total liabilities	277,458
Not applicable	

**EQUITY CAPITAL**

Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus	0
Common stock	1,000
Surplus (exclude all surplus related to preferred stock)	1,122,455
Not available	
Retained earnings	620,521
Accumulated other comprehensive income	-895
Other equity capital components	0
Not available	
Total bank equity capital	1,743,081
Noncontrolling (minority) interests in consolidated subsidiaries	0
Total equity capital	<u>1,743,081</u>
Total liabilities and equity capital	<u>2,020,539</u>

I, Matthew J. McNulty, CFO of the above-named bank do hereby declare that the Reports of Condition and Income (including the supporting schedules) for this report date have been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the appropriate Federal regulatory authority and are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Matthew J. McNulty       )                   CFO

We, the undersigned directors (trustees), attest to the correctness of the Report of Condition (including the supporting schedules) for this report date and declare that it has been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the appropriate Federal regulatory authority and is true and correct.

Antonio I. Portuondo, President                    )  
William D. Lindelof, Director                    ) Directors (Trustees)  
Alphonse J. Briand, Director                    )

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM T-1**

**STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY  
UNDER THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939  
OF A CORPORATION DESIGNATED TO ACT AS TRUSTEE**

**CHECK IF AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY OF A TRUSTEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 305(b)(2)**

**DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS  
(formerly BANKERS TRUST COMPANY)  
(Exact name of trustee as specified in its charter)**

**NEW YORK**  
(Jurisdiction of Incorporation or  
organization if not a U.S. national bank)

**13-4941247**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification no.)

**60 WALL STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**10005**  
(Zip Code)

**Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas  
Attention: Catherine Wang  
Legal Department  
60 Wall Street, 36th Floor  
New York, New York 10005  
(212) 250 - 7544  
(Name, address and telephone number of agent for service)**

**WESTAR ENERGY, INC.  
(Exact name of obligor as specified in its charter)**

**KANSAS**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**48-0290150**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 575-6300  
(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)**

**Larry D. Irick  
Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary  
Westar Energy, Inc.  
818 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 575-6300**

**SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES  
(Title of the Indenture securities)**

**Item 1. General Information.**

Furnish the following information as to the trustee.

(a) Name and address of each examining or supervising authority to which it is subject.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Federal Reserve Bank (2nd District)	New York, NY
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	Washington, D.C.
New York State Banking Department	Albany, NY

(b) Whether it is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.

Yes.

**Item 2. Affiliations with Obligor.**

If the obligor is an affiliate of the Trustee, describe each such affiliation.

NONE

**Item 3. -15. Not Applicable****Item 16. List of Exhibits.**

- Exhibit 1 -** Restated Organization Certificate of Bankers Trust Company dated August 31, 1998; Certificate of Amendment of the Organization Certificate of Bankers Trust Company dated September 25, 1998; Certificate of Amendment of the Organization Certificate of Bankers Trust Company dated December 18, 1998; Certificate of Amendment of the Organization Certificate of Bankers Trust Company dated September 3, 1999; and Certificate of Amendment of the Organization Certificate of Bankers Trust Company dated March 14, 2002, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 1 filed with Form T-1 Statement, Registration No. 333-201810.
- Exhibit 2 -** Certificate of Authority to commence business, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2 filed with Form T-1 Statement, Registration No. 333-201810.
- Exhibit 3 -** Authorization of the Trustee to exercise corporate trust powers, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3 filed with Form T-1 Statement, Registration No. 333-201810.
- Exhibit 4 -** Existing By-Laws of Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, dated July 24, 2014, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4 filed with Form T-1 Statement, Registration No. 333-201810.
- Exhibit 5 -** Not applicable.
- Exhibit 6 -** Consent of Bankers Trust Company required by Section 321(b) of the Act, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 6 filed with Form T-1 Statement, Registration No. 333-201810.
- Exhibit 7 -** A copy of the latest report of condition of the trustee published pursuant to law or the requirements of its supervising or examining authority.
- Exhibit 8 -** Not Applicable.
- Exhibit 9 -** Not Applicable.



**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, the trustee, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, has duly caused this statement of eligibility to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, all in The City of New York, and State of New York, on this 14th day of March, 2016.

DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS

By: /s/ Carol Ng  
Name: Carol Ng  
Title: Vice President

Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council



Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income for  
a Bank with Domestic and Foreign Offices—FFIEC 031

Report at the close of business December 31, 2015

20151231  
(RCON 9999)

This report is required by law: 12 U.S.C. § 324 (State member banks); 12 U.S.C. §1817 (State nonmember banks); 12 U.S.C. §161 (National banks); and 12 U.S.C. §1464 (Savings associations).

Unless the context indicates otherwise, the term “bank” in this report form refers to both banks and savings associations.

This report form is to be filed by banks with branches and consolidated subsidiaries in U.S. territories and possessions, Edge or Agreement subsidiaries, foreign branches, consolidated foreign subsidiaries, or International Banking Facilities.

NOTE: Each bank’s board of directors and senior management are responsible for establishing and maintaining an effective system of internal control, including controls over the Reports of Condition and Income. The Reports of Condition and Income are to be prepared in accordance with federal regulatory authority instructions. The Reports of Condition and Income must be signed by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the reporting bank (or by the individual performing an equivalent function) and attested to by not less than two directors (trustees) for state nonmember banks and three directors for state member banks, national banks, and savings associations.

schedules) for this report date have been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the appropriate Federal regulatory authority and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

We, the undersigned directors (trustees), attest to the correctness of the Reports of Condition and Income (including the supporting schedules) for this report date and declare that the Reports of Condition and Income have been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief have been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the appropriate Federal regulatory authority and are true and correct.

I, the undersigned CFO (or equivalent) of the named bank, attest that the Reports of Condition and Income (including the supporting

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director (Trustee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chief Financial Officer (or Equivalent)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director (Trustee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director (Trustee)

**Submission of Reports**

Each bank must file its Reports of Condition and Income (Call Report) data by either:

- (a) Using computer software to prepare its Call Report and then submitting the report data directly to the FFIEC’s Central Data Repository (CDR), an Internet-based system for data collection (<https://cdr.ffiec.gov/cdr/>), or
- (b) Completing its Call Report in paper form and arranging with a software vendor or another party to convert the data into the electronic format that can be processed by the CDR. The software vendor or other party then must electronically submit the bank’s data file to the CDR.

To fulfill the signature and attestation requirement for the Reports of Condition and Income for this report date, attach your bank’s completed signature page (or a photocopy or a computer generated version of this page) to the hard-copy record of the data file submitted to the CDR that your bank must place in its files.

The appearance of your bank’s hard-copy record of the submitted data file need not match exactly the appearance of the FFIEC’s sample report forms, but should show at least the caption of each Call Report item and the reported amount.

For technical assistance with submissions to the CDR, please contact the CDR Help Desk by telephone at (888) CDR-3111, by fax at (703) 774-3946, or by e-mail at [CDR.Help@ffiec.gov](mailto:CDR.Help@ffiec.gov).

**DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Title of Bank (RSSD 9017)

**New York**

\_\_\_\_\_  
City (RSSD 9130)

FDIC Certificate Number 623  
(RSSD 9050)

NY  
State Abbreviation (RSSD 9200)

10005  
ZIP Code (RSSD 9220)

The estimated average burden associated with this information collection is 50.4 hours per respondent and is estimated to vary from 20 to 775 hours per response, depending on circumstances. Burden estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data in the required form, and completing the information collection, but exclude the time for compiling and maintaining business records in the normal course of a respondent’s activities. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and an organization (or a person) is not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Comments concerning the accuracy of this burden estimate and suggestions for reducing this burden should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to one of the following: Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20551; Legislative and Regulatory Analysis Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Washington, Currency, DC 20219; Assistant Executive Secretary, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Washington, DC 20429.



**Consolidated Report of Condition for Insured Banks  
and Savings Associations for December 31, 2015**

All schedules are to be reported in thousands of dollars. Unless otherwise indicated, report the amount outstanding as of the last business day of the quarter.

**Schedule RC—Balance Sheet**

	Dollar Amounts in Thousands		RCFD	Tril   Bil   Mil   Thou
<b>Assets</b>				
1. Cash and balances due from depository institutions (from Schedule RC-A):				
a. Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin <sup>(1)</sup>			0081	111,000 1.a.
b. Interest-bearing balances <sup>(2)</sup>			0071	10,980,000 1.b.
2. Securities:				
a. Held-to-maturity securities (from Schedule RC-B, column A)			1754	0 2.a.
b. Available-for-sale securities (from Schedule RC-B, column D)			1773	0 2.b.
3. Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell:				
a. Federal funds sold in domestic offices		RCON	B987	0 3.a.
b. Securities purchased under agreements to resell <sup>(3)</sup>		RCFD	B989	21,696,000 3.b.
4. Loans and lease financing receivables (from Schedule RC-C):			RCFD	
a. Loans and leases held for sale			5369	0 4.a.
b. Loans and leases, net of unearned income	B528	18,721,000		4.b.
c. LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	3123	39,000		4.c.
d. Loans and leases, net of unearned income and allowance (item 4.b minus 4.c)			B529	18,682,000 4.d.
5. Trading assets (from Schedule RC-D)			3545	6,000 5.
6. Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)			2145	16,000 6.
7. Other real estate owned (from Schedule RC-M)			2150	0 7.
8. Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies			2130	0 8.
9. Direct and indirect investments in real estate ventures			3656	0 9.
10. Intangible assets:				
a. Goodwill			3163	0 10.a.
b. Other intangible assets (from Schedule RC-M)			0426	29,000 10.b.
11. Other assets (from Schedule RC-F)			2160	604,000 11.
12. Total assets (sum of items 1 through 11)			2170	52,124,000 12.
<b>Liabilities</b>				
13. Deposits:			RCON	
a. In domestic offices (sum of totals of columns A and C from Schedule RC-E, Part I)			2200	40,526,000 13.a.
(1) Noninterest-bearing <sup>(4)</sup>	RCON	6631	26,888,000	13.a.(1)
(2) Interest-bearing	RCON	6636	13,638,000	13.a.(2)
b. In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IBFs (from Schedule RC-E, Part II)			RCFN	
(1) Noninterest-bearing	RCFN	6631	0	13.b.(1)
(2) Interest-bearing	RCFN	6636	0	13.b.(2)
14. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase:				
a. Federal funds purchased in domestic offices <sup>(5)</sup>		RCON	B993	1,336,000 14.a.
b. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase <sup>(6)</sup>		RCFD	B995	0 14.b.
15. Trading liabilities (from Schedule RC-D)			RCFD	3548 29,000 15.
16. Other borrowed money (includes mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases) (from Schedule RC-M)			RCFD	
17. and 18. Not applicable			3190	5,000 16.

1. Includes cash items in process of collection and unposted debits.
2. Includes time certificates of deposit not held for trading.
3. Includes all securities resale agreements in domestic and foreign offices, regardless of maturity.
4. Includes noninterest-bearing demand, time, and savings deposits.
5. Report overnight Federal Home Loan Bank advances in Schedule RC, item 16, "Other borrowed money."
6. Includes all securities repurchase agreements in domestic and foreign offices, regardless of maturity.

	Dollar Amounts in Thousands	RCFD	Tril   Bil   Mil   Thou	
<b>Liabilities—Continued</b>				
19. Subordinated notes and debentures <sup>(1)</sup>		3200		0 19.
20. Other liabilities (from Schedule RC-G)		2930	1,438,000	20.
21. Total liabilities (sum of items 13 through 20)		2948	43,334,000	21.
22. Not applicable				
<b>Equity Capital</b>				
<b>Bank Equity Capital</b>				
23. Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus		3838		0 23.
24. Common stock		3230	2,127,000	24.
25. Surplus (exclude all surplus related to preferred stock)		3839	599,000	25.
26. a. Retained earnings		3632	6,071,000	26.a.
b. Accumulated other comprehensive income <sup>(2)</sup>		B530	(7,000)	26.b.
c. Other equity capital components <sup>(3)</sup>		A130	0	26.c.
27. a. Total bank equity capital (sum of items 23 through 26.c)		3210	8,790,000	27.a.
b. Noncontrolling (minority) interests in consolidated subsidiaries		3000	0	27.b.
28. Total equity capital (sum of items 27.a and 27.b)		G105	8,790,000	28.
29. Total liabilities and equity capital (sum of items 21 and 28)		3300	52,124,000	29.

**Memoranda****To be reported with the March Report of Condition.**

1. Indicate in the box at the right the number of the statement below that best describes the most comprehensive level of auditing work performed for the bank by independent external auditors as of any date during 2014 _____		<u>RCFD</u> 6724	<u>Number</u> N/A	M.1.
1 = Independent audit of the bank conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a certified public accounting firm which submits a report on the bank	4 = Directors' examination of the bank conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a certified public accounting firm (may be required by state-chartering authority)			
2 = Independent audit of the bank's parent holding company conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a certified public accounting firm which submits a report on the consolidated holding company (but not on the bank separately)	5 = Directors' examination of the bank performed by other external auditors (may be required by state chartering authority)			
3 = Attestation on bank management's assertion on the effectiveness of the bank's internal control over financial reporting by a certified public accounting firm.	6 = Review of the bank's financial statements by external auditors			
	7 = Compilation of the bank's financial statements by external auditors			
	8 = Other audit procedures (excluding tax preparation work)			
	9 = No external audit work			

**To be reported with the March Report of Condition.**

2. Bank's fiscal year-end date _____	<u>RCON</u> 8678	<u>MM/DD</u> N/A	M.2.
1. Includes limited-life preferred stock and related surplus.			
2. Includes, but is not limited to, net unrealized holding gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities, accumulated net gains (losses) on cash flow hedges, cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments, and accumulated defined benefit pension and other postretirement plan adjustments.			
3. Includes treasury stock and unearned Employee Stock Ownership Plan shares.			