
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K Current Report

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

December 9, 2002 (December 6, 2002)
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

WESTAR ENERGY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Kansas
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

1-3523
(Commission file number)

48-0290150
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612
(Address of principal executive offices)

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

Item 5. Other Events

On December 6, 2002, Douglas T. Lake resigned as our director, as Chairman of the Board of Protection One, Inc., and as a director of all of our other subsidiaries and affiliates for which he serves as director. In addition, we accepted Mr. Lake's request to be placed on leave from his position as our Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer, without pay. Mr. Lake has acknowledged that he will not return to any positions with us, Protection One, Inc., or any of our subsidiaries or affiliates. A copy of our press release issued December 6, 2002 is attached to this report.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit 99.1 – Press Release dated December 6, 2002.

SIGNATURE

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

Westar Energy, Inc.

Date: December 9, 2002

By /s/ Paul R. Geist
Paul R. Geist, Senior Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number

Description of Exhibit

99.1

Press Release dated December 6, 2002



Media contact:
 Corporate Communications
 Phone: 785.575.8401
 FAX: 785.575.6399
 news@wr.com

DOUGLAS T. LAKE RESIGNS

TOPEKA, Kan., December 6, 2002 — Westar Energy announced today that Douglas T. Lake has resigned, effective immediately, as a director of Westar Energy, as Chairman of the Board of Protection One, Inc., and as a director of all of Westar Energy's subsidiaries and affiliates for which he serves as a director. In addition, at Mr. Lake's request, Westar Energy has placed Mr. Lake on leave from his position as its Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer, without pay. Mr. Lake has acknowledged that he will not return to any positions with Westar Energy, Protection One, Inc., or any of their subsidiaries or affiliates. Neither Westar Energy nor Protection One, Inc. has made, or agreed to make, any payments to Mr. Lake in connection with the steps taken today.

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is a consumer services company with interests in monitored services and energy. The company has total assets of approximately \$7 billion, including security company holdings through ownership of Protection One, Inc. (NYSE: POI) and Protection One Europe, which have approximately 1.2 million security customers. Westar Energy is the largest electric utility in Kansas providing service to about 647,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has nearly 6,000 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 34,700 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines. Through its ownership in ONEOK, Inc. (NYSE: OKE), a Tulsa, Okla.- based natural gas company, Westar Energy has a 44.7 percent interest in one of the largest natural gas distribution companies in the nation, serving more than 1.4 million customers.

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

Forward-looking statements: Certain matters discussed here and elsewhere in this news release are "forward-looking statements." The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 has established that these statements qualify for safe harbors from liability. Forward-looking statements may include words like we "believe," "anticipate," "expect" or words of similar meaning. Forward-looking statements describe our future plans, objectives, expectations or goals. Such statements address future events and conditions concerning capital expenditures, earnings, liquidity and capital resources, litigation, rate and other regulatory matters, possible corporate restructurings, mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, including the proposed separation of Westar Industries, Inc. from our electric utility businesses and the possible sale of our ONEOK, Inc. stock, compliance with debt and other restrictive covenants, changes in accounting requirements and other accounting matters, interest and dividends, Protection One's financial condition and its impact on our consolidated results, environmental matters, changing weather, nuclear operations, ability to enter new markets successfully and capitalize on growth opportunities in non-regulated businesses, events in foreign markets in which investments have been made and the overall economy of our service area. What happens in each case could vary materially from what we expect because of such things as electric utility deregulation or re-regulation; ongoing municipal, state and federal activities, such as the Wichita municipalization effort; future economic conditions; political, legislative and regulatory developments; regulated and competitive markets; changes in the 10-year United States Treasury rates and the corresponding impact on the fair value of our call option contract, and other circumstances affecting anticipated operations, sales and costs. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date such statement was made, and we do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement was made.