

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported) August 3, 1998 (July 17, 1998)

WESTERN RESOURCES, 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 (Employer Identification No.)
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818 KANSAS AVENUE, TOPEKA, KANSAS (Address of Principal Executive Offices)	66612 (Zip Code)
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Registrant's Telephone Number Including Area Code (785) 575-6300

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

Item 5. Other Events

On July 17, 1998, Western Resources, Inc. issued \$30 million in 6.8% Senior Notes Due 2018.

Western Resources herein files the following:

Exhibit 12 - Computations of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and
Computations of Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and
Preferred and Preference Dividend Requirements.

Exhibit 99.1 - Press release reporting second quarter earnings issued July 30,
1998.

Exhibit 99.2 - Press release announcing approval by shareholders of Kansas
City Power & Light Company merger agreement issued July 30, 1998.

SIGNATURES

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.

Western Resources, Inc.

Date August 3, 1998

By /s/ Jerry D. Courington
Jerry D. Courington,
Controller

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

Computations of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and
 Computations of Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges
 and Preferred and Preference Dividend Requirements
 (Dollars in Thousands)

	Unaudited Twelve Months Ended June 30, 1998	1997	Year Ended December 31, 1996	1995	1994	1993
Net Income	\$ 494,012	\$ 494,094	\$168,950	\$181,676	\$187,447	\$177,370
Taxes on Income	376,091	378,645	86,102	83,392	99,951	78,755
Net Income Plus Taxes	870,103	872,739	255,052	265,068	287,398	256,125
Fixed Charges:						
Interest on Long-Term Debt	140,701	119,389	105,741	95,962	98,483	123,551
Interest on Other Indebtedness	38,831	55,761	34,685	27,487	20,139	19,255
Interest on Other Mandatorily Redeemable Securities	18,075	18,075	12,125	372	-	-
Interest on Corporate-owned Life Insurance Borrowings	39,551	36,167	35,151	32,325	26,932	16,252
Interest Applicable to Rentals	34,275	34,514	32,965	31,650	29,003	28,827
Total Fixed Charges	271,433	263,906	220,667	187,796	174,557	187,885
Preferred and Preference Dividend Requirements:						
Preferred and Preference Dividends	5,486	4,919	14,839	13,419	13,418	13,506
Income Tax Required	4,176	3,770	7,562	6,160	7,155	5,997
Total Preferred and Preference Dividend Requirements	9,662	8,689	22,401	19,579	20,573	19,503
Total Fixed Charges and Preferred and Preference Dividend Requirements	281,095	272,595	243,068	207,375	195,130	207,388
Earnings (1)	\$1,141,536	\$1,136,645	\$475,719	\$452,864	\$461,955	\$444,010
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	4.21	4.31	2.16	2.41	2.65	2.36
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred and Preference Dividend Requirements	4.06	4.17	1.96	2.18	2.37	2.14

(1) Earnings are deemed to consist of net income to which has been added income taxes (including net deferred investment tax credit) and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of all interest on indebtedness, amortization of debt discount and expense, and the portion of rental expense which represents an interest factor. Preferred and preference dividend requirements consist of an amount equal to the pre-tax earnings which would be required to meet dividend requirements on preferred and preference stock.

July 30, 1998

WESTERN RESOURCES REPORTS
STRONG SECOND-QUARTER EARNINGS

Western Resources (NYSE:WR) announced today second-quarter earnings that were 39 percent higher than second-quarter 1997.

Earnings per common share were \$0.50 for 1998's second quarter, compared with \$0.36 per share in the same quarter of 1997. Eliminating an \$0.11 per share gain from the sale of an investment, earnings were \$0.25 for second quarter 1997.

Increased earnings were attributable to strong results from the company's investments in monitored security and natural gas, as well as warmer than normal weather for the company's electric operations.

"Growth strategies we've put in place are working to enhance the value of the company," said David C. Wittig, president and chief executive officer of Western Resources. "We continue to focus on improving margins, growing our customer base, and restructuring our assets into separate business lines and investments."

Monitored security investments, through Western Resources' majority ownership of Protection One, contributed approximately \$5 million of net income for the period compared to a loss of \$6.6 million in the second quarter of 1997.

During the second quarter of 1998, Protection One experienced continued growth in its Dealer Program and substantial acquisition activity. The company completed four sizable acquisitions, adding more than 140,000 subscribers, and entered new markets in the United Kingdom and Canada.

Contributions from Western Resources' ONEOK natural gas investment accounted for about \$0.06 per share of second-quarter earnings, compared with about a \$0.01 per share loss for the same quarter of 1997. The company expects improved cash flow to Western Resources of about \$50 million this year as a result of the ONEOK transaction.

Also during the second quarter, electric operations contributed approximately \$0.41 to earnings per share as a result of warmer than normal weather. This compares with \$0.32 per share contributed by electric operations in the second quarter of 1997.

Second Quarter Report
Western Resources, Inc.

Quarter Ended June 30,		12 Months Ended June 30,	
1998	1997	1998	1997

1. Sales:

\$463,301,000; \$454,006,000; \$1,917,300,000; \$2,135,285,000

2. Net Income:

\$34,819,000; \$24,335,000; \$494,012,000; \$160,783,000

3. Earnings Applicable to Common Stock:

\$33,022,000; \$23,106,000; \$488,526,000; \$150,194,000

4. Average Common Shares Outstanding:

65,542,815; 65,045,268; 65,400,416; 64,631,972

5. Earnings per Average Common Share Outstanding:

\$0.50; \$0.36; \$7.47; \$2.32

6. EBITDA:

\$178,236,000; \$146,178,000; \$1,333,003,000; \$649,033,000

7. Net Utility Plant (after depreciation):

\$3,740,789,000; \$4,362,786,000

Earnings per share by Business Segment
Including an allocation of corporate interest expense to each business segment

	Quarter Ended June 30, 1998	1997	Year-to-Year Comparison
Electric:	\$0.41	\$0.32	\$0.09
Security:	\$0.00	\$(0.10)	\$0.10
Gas:	\$0.06	\$(0.01)	\$0.07
Other:	\$0.03	\$0.15	\$(0.12)
Totals:	\$0.50	\$0.36	\$0.14

Western Resources (NYSE:WR) is a consumer services company with interests in monitored security and energy. The company has total assets of approximately \$7 billion, including security company holdings through ownership of Protection One (NASDAQ: ALRM), which has more than 1 million security customers in 48 states. Its utilities, KPL and KGE, provide electric service to approximately 600,000 customers in Kansas. Through its ownership in ONEOK Inc. (NYSE: OKE), a Tulsa-based natural gas company, Western Resources has a 45 percent interest in the eighth largest natural gas distribution company in the nation, serving more than 1 million customers. Through its other subsidiaries, Westar Capital and The Wing Group, the company participates in energy-related investments in the continental United States and offshore.

For more information about Western Resources and its operating companies, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.wstnres.com>.

Forward-Looking Statements: Certain matters discussed in this employee update 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, litigation, rate and other regulatory matters, possible corporate restructurings, mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, liquidity and capital resources, interest and dividend rates, environmental matters, changing weather, nuclear operations, and accounting matters. What happens in each case could vary materially from what we expect because of such things as electric utility deregulation, including ongoing state and federal activities; future economic conditions; legislative developments; regulatory and competitive markets; volatility in wholesale power markets, and other circumstances affecting anticipated operations, revenues and costs. See the company's Annual Report on Form 10-KA for further discussion of factors affecting the company's performance.

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

SHAREOWNERS APPROVE MERGER AGREEMENT

TOPEKA, Kansas, and KANSAS CITY, Missouri, July 30, 1998 -- In separate meetings today, shareowners of Western Resources (NYSE:WR) and Kansas City Power & Light Company (NYSE:KLT) approved their merger agreement which will result in the formation of Westar Energy, a new electric company.

Approval required a majority of Western Resources common shares outstanding and 2/3rds of KCPL outstanding common shares.

98.3 percent of the Western Resources shares represented and voting either in person or by proxy approved the transaction, representing 77.1 percent of all shares outstanding. 93.9 percent of the KCPL shares represented and voting either in person or by proxy approved the transaction, representing 74.4 percent of all outstanding KCPL shares.

Under the agreement, a new company - Westar Energy - will be created from the KGE and KPL electric operations of Western Resources and the electric operations of KCPL. Based on Western Resources' current stock price, each KCPL shareowner would receive \$23.50 worth of

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Western Resources common stock and one share of Westar Energy common stock, anticipated to have an approximate value between \$10 and \$12 per share.* The exchange for KCPL shareowners will take place at the close of the transaction.

"We are delighted with the support of our shareowners," said David C. Wittig, Western Resources president and chief executive officer. "Today's action allows us to continue our focus of growing the company for a successful future for our shareowners, our customers, and our employees."

"We share Western Resources' enthusiasm for shareowner endorsement of this transaction," said Drue Jennings, KCPL chairman of the board, president, and chief executive officer. "We're looking forward to working together to position Westar Energy as one of the preeminent energy companies in the nation."

Regulatory filings for approval of the transaction have been made with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) and the Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC). Filings with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Nuclear Regulatory Commission are expected soon. The transaction is expected to close in the first half of 1999 subject to receipt of necessary consents and approvals.

On March 19, Western Resources and KCPL announced a restructuring of their merger agreement. Westar Energy will continue to operate under the brand names of KCPL, KGE, and KPL. The combined company will have more than one million electric customers in Kansas and Missouri, \$8.2 billion in assets and more than 8,000 megawatts of electric generation resources.

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Western Resources (NYSE:WR) is a consumer services company with interests in monitored security and energy. The company has total assets of more than \$7 billion, including security company holdings through ownership of Protection One (NASDAQ:ALRM), which has more than 1 million security customers in 48 states. Its utilities, KPL and KGE, provide electric service to approximately 614,000 customers in Kansas. Through its ownership in ONEOK Inc. (NYSE:OKE), a Tulsa-based natural gas company, Western Resources has a 45 percent interest in the eighth largest natural gas distribution company in the nation, serving more than 1 million customers. Through its other subsidiaries, Westar Capital and The Wing Group, the company participates in energy-related investments in the continental United States and offshore. For more information about Western Resources and its operating companies, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.wstnres.com>.

Kansas City Power & Light Company (NYSE:KLT) provides electric power to a growing and diversified service territory encompassing metropolitan Kansas City, parts of eastern Kansas and western Missouri. KCPL is a low-cost producer and leader in fuel procurement and plant technology. KLT Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of KCPL, pursues opportunities in nonregulated, primarily energy-related ventures. For more information about KCPL, visit <http://www.kcpl.com>.

*There can be no assurance as to the actual price at which Westar

Energy common stock will trade once listed on the NYSE.

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See the companies' joint proxy statement/prospectus on form S-4 dated June 9, 1998 (registration number 333-56369; 333-56369-01) for additional discussion on factors affecting the transaction.