

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL	
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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Farley Jerry B</u> <hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>818 S. KANSAS AVE.</u> <hr/> (Street) <u>TOPEKA KS 66612</u> <hr/> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 10/20/2004	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>WESTAR ENERGY INC /KS [WR]</u>		
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)		5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)
		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock, Par Value \$5.00	0	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

Cynthia S. Couch by power of attorney 10/20/2004

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, Jerry B. Farley, do hereby appoint Bruce A. Akin, Cynthia S. Couch, Larry D. Irick and Mark A. Ruelle, each my true and lawful attorney-in-fact, to:

- (1) execute for and on my behalf, in my capacity as an officer and/or director of Westar Energy, Inc. (the "Company"), Forms 3, 4, and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder;
- (2) do and perform any and all acts for and on my behalf which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4, or 5, complete and execute any amendment or amendments thereto, and timely file such form with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any stock exchange or similar authority; and
- (3) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by me, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on my behalf pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-fact's discretion.

I hereby grant to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as I might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this power of attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. I acknowledge that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at my request, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of my responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until I am no longer required to file Forms 3, 4, and 5 with respect to my holdings of, and

transactions in, securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by me in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 20th day of October, 2004.

Signature

/s/ JERRY B. FARLEY

Jerry B. Farley

STATE OF KANSAS)

) ss:

COUNTY OF SHAWNEE)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of October, 2004.

/s/ Merilee K. Martin

Notary Public

My appointment expires: July 8, 2007

[Notary Stamp]

Merilee K. Martin

Notary Public-State of Kansas

MY APPT EXP: 7/8/2007