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

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**  
**Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) May 9, 2006**

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**WESTAR ENERGY, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**KANSAS**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**1-3523**  
(Commission File Number)

**48-0290150**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

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

**66612**  
(Zip Code)

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

**Not Applicable**  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

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

**Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On May 9, 2006, we issued a press release announcing our earnings for the quarter ended March 31, 2006. A copy of our May 9, 2006 press release is attached hereto as exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by this reference.

The information above is being furnished, not filed, pursuant to Item 2.02 of Form 8-K. Accordingly, the information in Item 2.02 of this Current Report, including the press release attached hereto as exhibit, will not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement filed by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, unless specifically identified therein as being incorporated by reference.

**Section 9. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release dated May 9, 2006

Forward-looking statements: Certain matters discussed in this Current Report on Form 8-K 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,” “likely,” “estimate,” “intend” or words of similar meaning. Forward-looking statements describe our future plans, objectives, expectations or goals and are based on assumptions by the management of the Company as of the date of this document. If management’s assumptions prove incorrect or should unanticipated circumstances arise, the Company’s actual results could differ materially from those anticipated. These differences could be caused by a number of factors or combination of factors including, but not limited to, those factors described under the heading “Risk Factors” contained in the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2006 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Readers are urged to consider such factors when evaluating any forward-looking statement, and the Company cautions you not to put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. 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 except as required by applicable laws or regulations.

The information contained in this report is summary information that is intended to be considered in the context of our SEC filings and other public announcements that we may make, by press release or otherwise, from time to time. We disclaim any current intention to revise or update the information contained in this report, although we may do so from time to time as our management believes is warranted. Any such updating may be made through the filing of other reports or documents with the SEC, through press releases or through other public disclosure.

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**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: May 9, 2006

By: /s/ Mark A. Ruelle

Name: Mark A. Ruelle

Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Exhibit</b>
Exhibit 99.1	Press Release dated May 9, 2006



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#### WESTAR ENERGY ANNOUNCES FIRST QUARTER 2006 RESULTS

TOPEKA, Kan., May 9, 2006 — Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) today announced earnings of \$26.6 million, or \$0.30 per share, for the first quarter 2006 compared with earnings of \$15.4 million, or \$0.18 per share, for the first quarter 2005. The increase in earnings for the quarter was the result primarily of \$9.6 million of income from corporate-owned life insurance.

Westar Energy reported revenues of \$340.0 million for the first quarter 2006 compared with \$336.5 million for the same period in 2005. Retail sales for the first quarter 2006 increased 2.3% or \$5.5 million compared with the same period of 2005. Wholesale sales decreased \$16.1 million for the first quarter of 2006 compared with the same period in 2005 due primarily to reduced market-based wholesale sales resulting from the company's coal conservation measures. Energy marketing increased \$12.3 million for the first quarter 2006 compared with the same period of 2005 due primarily to favorable mark-to-market valuations.

Total operating expenses for the first quarter of 2006 increased \$6.8 million compared with the same period in 2005. The increase reflects primarily increases of \$5.3 million in depreciation expense and \$1.9 million for amortization of deferred storm expenses. Recovery of both of these higher expense items was authorized as part of the 2005 rate order of the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Other income and expense for the first quarter 2006 was \$7.3 million of income compared with an expense of \$1.9 million for the same period in 2005. The change between periods reflects \$9.6 million, or \$0.11 per share, of income from corporate-owned life insurance in 2006. The income from corporate-owned life insurance represents the amount of proceeds that actuarial assumptions predicted for the full year of 2006. Interest expense for the first quarter 2006 was \$23.4 million compared with \$29.9 million for the same period in 2005, reflecting the results of debt redemptions and lower interest rates due to refinancing activities.

**2006 Earnings Guidance**

Based on first quarter results, Westar Energy affirmed its previously announced 2006 full-year earnings guidance of \$1.55 to \$1.65 per share and the 2007 earnings guidance of \$1.65 to \$1.75 per share. Westar Energy's earnings release, together with its attachments, dated Feb. 23, 2006 provides a discussion of the company's earnings guidance and the earnings drivers and adjustment used in arriving at 2006 full-year earnings guidance.

**Additional Earnings Information and Conference Call**

In conjunction with the earnings release, Westar Energy has posted on its Web site a package of more detailed financial information related to its first quarter performance. The materials are available under Presentations in the Investor Relations section of the company Web site.

Westar Energy's conference call with the investment community will be at 8 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 9. Jim Haines, chief executive officer, and Mark Ruelle, executive vice president and chief financial officer, will host the call. Investors, media and the public may listen to the conference call by dialing 866-203-2528, participant code 32473723. Listeners may access

a live webcast of the conference call via the company's Web site, [www.WestarEnergy.com](http://www.WestarEnergy.com). A replay of the call will be available on the Web site. Members of the news media may direct follow-up questions to Karla Olsen.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 660,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has nearly 6,000 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates approximately 33,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

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

Forward-looking statements: Certain matters discussed in this news release are "forward-looking statements." The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 has established that these statements qualify for safe harbors from liability. Forward-looking statements may include words like "believe," "anticipate," "target," "expect," "pro forma," "estimate," "intend," "guidance" or words of similar meaning. Forward-looking statements describe future plans, objectives, expectations or goals. Although Westar Energy believes that its expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, all forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty. Therefore, actual results could vary materially from what we expect. Please review our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2006 for important risk factors that could cause results to differ materially from those in any such forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date such statement was made, and the company does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement was made except as required by applicable laws or regulations.

**WESTAR ENERGY, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**  
**(UNAUDITED)**  
**(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS)**

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Change</b>
Sales	\$ 340,023	\$ 336,502	\$ 3,521
Fuel and purchased power	92,000	91,797	203
Depreciation and amortization	47,572	42,305	5,267
Other operating expenses	148,768	147,472	1,296
Total Operating Expenses	288,340	281,574	6,766
Income from Operations	51,683	54,928	(3,245)
Other income (expense)	7,302	(1,907)	9,209
Interest expense	23,398	29,864	(6,466)
Income tax expense	8,749	7,542	1,207
Net income	26,838	15,615	11,223
Preferred dividends	242	242	—
Earnings Available for Common Stock	\$ 26,596	\$ 15,373	\$ 11,223
Average equivalent common shares outstanding	87,279	86,569	
Basic Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.12