



January 21, 2010

Lawrence City Commission  
City Hall, 6 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Commissioners:

Westar Energy's mission is to provide safe and reliable electric service at a reasonable cost. Without organized and strategic tree trimming and removal, our power lines cannot be safe or reliable. Due to the enormous cost involved, burying distribution lines to avoid trimming trees is not economically feasible.

While Westar is tasked with the responsibility of trimming and removing encroaching trees in the right-of-way by the Kansas Corporation Commission, our manager or contractor make a concerted effort to discuss our plans with citizens and City personnel.

On December 18, 2009, representatives from Westar and the City met and discussed each affected tree along Kentucky and 7<sup>th</sup> street. It was decided at this meeting that 23 trees would be pruned and eight trees would be removed. Westar also agreed to grind the stumps of the removed trees. The City indicated that they intend to plant short-growth trees to take the place of the removed trees.

Excluding storm related damage, 102,000 Westar customers experienced tree-related outages in 2009, totaling 13-million minutes of interruption. Trimming trees away from power lines is the most cost effective strategy to reduce preventable electric outages. Trees contacting lines are also an obvious safety hazard.

I look forward to appearing before the Commission next week to answer any further questions.

Sincerely,

Chad Luce  
Westar Energy