



# CITY OF TOPEKA

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Larry E. Wolgast, Mayor  
City of Topeka  
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September 27, 2016

Chair Jay Scott Emler  
Kansas Corporation Commission  
1500 SW Arrowhead Road  
Topeka, KS 66604

Dear Chair Emler:

I am writing in reference to the acquisition of Westar Energy by Kansas City Power and Light.

Topeka is vitally important to the State of Kansas. Not only is it one of the state's top metropolitan entities, it is on the move: Downtown Topeka has been revitalized; Mars has invested almost one-half billion in a state-of-the-art plant; a strategic economic plan has been developed enabling Topeka and northeast Kansas to prosper and grow for decades.

Westar has been a significant force in what has happened in Topeka. It is the largest downtown private employer; Westar employees serve in leadership roles throughout the community; the company is a leader in renovating downtown having constructed a beautiful pocket park in front of its building. In short, having a strong, responsive, engaged company such as Westar in Topeka provides a foundation necessary for a city to succeed.

The rumors that Westar was for sale were a significant concern for Topeka. Losing a great company like Westar would seriously erode the progress Topeka has made and it is unlikely a replacement would be found. When KCP&L announced the acquisition, a study of the potential changes was begun. What was learned about this transaction and about KCP&L has not only quieted my concern, but earned my endorsement.

I am writing to ask that you grant approval for this acquisition, because I believe it is the best outcome for a sale of Westar and in the best of interests of Topeka and Kansas.

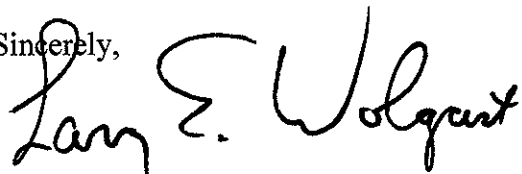
First, KCP&L has agreed to keep intact Westar's Topeka downtown headquarters. The company has publicly stated multiple times this commitment; the current location will remain their operational headquarters for the Kansas service territory. KCP&L also has promised to retain key leadership and functions in Topeka. Further, since Kansas City is less than an hour away, their senior executive leadership team expects to be in Topeka on a regular basis. Finally, a commitment to maintain or improve Westar's level of community involvement has been stated. The fact that KCP&L would be willing to put these commitments in writing speaks volumes about its intent.

Second, if KCP&L and Westar are allowed to become one company, nearly two-thirds of the new company's customers will be in Kansas. Instead of becoming a small portion of a much larger out-of-state corporate conglomeration, Kansas will be a majority of the new company's customers and business. No other potential Westar buyer would be local nor would they have the majority of their business in Kansas.

When KCP&L announced this transaction, it occurred in Topeka. The company immediately met with Westar employees and Topeka officials. They came here as a symbolic gesture demonstrating their intention to continue operating in Topeka and Kansas. In fact, KCP&L's commitment shows a clear intention of retaining jobs, maintaining a local obligation to the area, and ultimately continuing to attract regional economic development.

I ask you to approve the acquisition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry E. Wolgast". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry E. Wolgast,  
Mayor

LW:mr

Cc: Commissioner Sari Feist Albrecht, Commissioner Pat Apple