

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Plan year ended December 31, 1997

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Transition Period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-3523

A. Full title of the Plan:

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

B. Name of issuer of the securities held
pursuant to the plan and the address
of its principal executive office:

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.
818 Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612

EIN: 48-0290150
PN: 004

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1997 AND 1996

TOGETHER WITH REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Report of Independent Public Accountants

To the Investment and Benefits Committee of
Western Resources, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of WESTERN RESOURCES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN, as of December 31, 1997 and 1996, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements and the schedules referred to below are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedules based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 1997 and 1996, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedules of assets held for investment purposes and of loans or fixed income obligations as of December 31, 1997, and reportable transactions for the year then ended are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Kansas City, Missouri,
June 26, 1998

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

DECEMBER 31, 1997 AND 1996

	1997	1996
ASSETS		
INVESTMENTS:		
Western Resources, Inc. Investment Contract Fund	\$ 62,810,650	\$ 64,475,290
Vanguard Windsor Fund	115,488,510	90,616,436
Vanguard Money Market Reserves, Prime Portfolio	8,419,646	8,128,588
Western Resources, Inc. Common Stock Fund	68,105,025	51,029,233
Loan Fund	16,912,202	16,228,456
Vanguard Wellington Fund	16,854,010	11,404,547
Vanguard Index Trust 500 Portfolio Fund	17,913,964	8,804,188
Vanguard PRIMECAP Fund	27,832,793	13,816,671
Fidelity Magellan Fund	34,871,118	28,809,605
Fixed Income Fund	15,165,855	16,601,172
Vanguard International Growth Portfolio	1,876,580	-
Vanguard Bond Index Fund-Total Bond Market Portfolio	531,093	-
Total Investments	386,781,446	309,914,186
Other Receivables	-	24,529
Interest and Dividends Receivable	864,846	886,090
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE:		
Participant	259,676	378,317
Employer	72,563	112,246
Total Assets	387,978,531	311,315,368
LIABILITIES		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	89,854	112,264
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$387,888,677	\$311,203,104

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

FOR THE YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997 AND 1996

	1997	1996
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, beginning of year	\$311,203,104	\$268,576,124
ADDITIONS:		
INVESTMENT INCOME-		
Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments	35,762,049	8,332,893
Interest	5,931,485	6,222,638
Dividends	27,275,525	17,804,491
Total Investment Income	68,969,059	32,360,022
CONTRIBUTIONS:		
Participant	15,282,172	15,187,999
Employer	4,463,372	4,510,938
Total Contributions	19,745,544	19,698,937
Total Additions	88,714,603	52,058,959
DEDUCTIONS:		
Benefits Paid	(12,054,784)	(9,721,020)
Other	(84,920)	(60,154)
Total Deductions	(12,139,704)	(9,781,174)
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER PLANS	110,674	349,195
NET INCREASE	76,685,573	42,626,980
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, end of year	\$387,888,677	\$311,203,104

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 1997 AND 1996

(1) PLAN DESCRIPTION:

The following brief description of the Western Resources, Inc. (the Company) Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the plan document for more complete information.

(a) General-- The Plan is a defined contribution plan, designed to assist eligible employees in establishing a regular savings plan. Prior to October 1, 1996, substantially all employees were eligible to participate after one year of service as defined. Effective October 1, 1996, newly hired full time employees may contribute to the Plan on a pre-tax or after tax basis without Company match, beginning on the first day of the month following employment. Matching employer contributions commence after the employee has completed one year of service. Starting October 1, 1996, the plan also allows employees to increase their contribution percentages the first of any month from the first of any quarter. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

(b) Contributions--Effective January 1, 1995, participants of the plan are allowed to make tax deferred contributions of between 1% and 14% of earnings subject to certain Internal Revenue Code limits. In addition to or instead of pre-tax cash contributions, effective January 1, 1995, participants could elect to make after-tax contributions of between 1% and 4% of earnings. Cash contributions up to the first 6% of a participant's earnings are matched 50% by the Company. Participants are fully vested in all contributions and earnings thereon. The Plan allows rollover contributions into the Plan.

Active participants were allowed to make additional contributions each quarter to meet the maximum contribution percentage based on their annual compensation. These contributions are considered in determining matching employer contributions. Matching employer contributions are suspended for a period of six months in the event that a participant withdrew money from after-tax and/or Company match accounts.

Upon retirement, death, disability or termination of employment, all vested balances are paid to the participant or the participant's beneficiaries in accordance with Plan terms.

(c) Participant Accounts--A separate account is maintained for each participant. Allocations to participant accounts for employer and employee contributions are made when the contributions are received by the trustee. Allocations to participant accounts for the net of interest, dividends, realized and unrealized changes in investment gains and losses and Plan expenses are made when such amounts are earned or incurred.

(d) Investment Funds--During 1997 and 1996, participants in the Plan could elect to have their contributions and the Company's matching contributions invested in the funds listed below, excluding the Loan Fund. Allocations between the funds could be made in 10% increments. Participants could also elect to transfer investments between funds.

The Western Resources, Inc. Investment Contract Fund is a fund which invests in investment contracts issued by life insurance companies and commercial banks, as well as other similar types of fixed principal investments. Principal of these investments, and interest thereon, are obligations of the issuing companies. Neither Vanguard, the Company, or the Federal government guarantees either principal or interest in such investments.

The Vanguard Windsor Fund is a diversified equity fund invested in equity securities providing dividend and capital appreciation income.

The Vanguard Money Market Reserves - Prime Portfolio is a money market fund invested in high-quality money market obligations issued by financial institutions, nonfinancial corporations, U.S. and other governmental agencies, and repurchase agreements collateralized by such

securities.

The Western Resources, Inc. Common Stock Fund, established October 1, 1988, with assets transferred from The Kansas Power and Light Company Tax Reduction Act Stock Ownership Plan (TRASOP) and Employee Stock Ownership Plan of The Gas Service Company (ESOP) upon termination, is invested primarily in the Company's common stock. Dividends from stock held in the fund are used to purchase additional shares of Company stock.

The Loan Fund is a conduit for the distribution and repayment of loan proceeds. The investments in the fund represent loans due from participants.

The Vanguard Wellington Fund is a balanced fund which invests in stocks for potential capital growth and dividend income and in bonds for current income potential and conservation of principal.

The Vanguard Index Trust-500 Portfolio is a growth and income fund which seeks to provide long-term capital growth. The Vanguard Index Trust-500 Portfolio attempts to provide investment results that correspond to the price and yield performance of publicly traded stocks, in the aggregate, as represented by the Standard & Poor's Composite Stock Price Index.

The Vanguard PRIMECAP Fund is invested entirely in the Vanguard PRIMECAP Fund, a growth fund seeking long-term growth of capital by investing principally in a portfolio of common stocks.

The Fidelity Magellan Fund is invested entirely in the Fidelity Magellan Fund, a diversified equity fund invested in equity securities providing long-term capital appreciation.

Fixed Income Fund is invested in a Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Investment Contract. No new monies are allowed to be deposited in this fund after the transfer of its interest from the Kansas Gas & Electric 401(k) Plan.

Vanguard International Growth Portfolio invests in the stocks of about 200 companies located in roughly 30 countries around the world.

Vanguard Bond Index Fund-Total Bond Market Portfolio invests in about 1,500 bonds from a variety of industries in an attempt to match the performance and risk characteristics of the unmanaged Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index. The investments range from short-term bonds that mature in about a year to long-term bonds that mature in 20 or 30 years, giving the Fund an average maturity of about nine years.

The above funds are managed by the Plan's trustee, Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company (Vanguard), except the Fidelity Magellan Fund which is managed by Fidelity Investments Institutional Services Company. All investments are stated at quoted market values, except as follows. Investments in Western Resources, Inc. Investment Contract Fund, Fixed Income Fund, and Vanguard Money Market Reserves, Prime Portfolio are stated at cost which approximates market value as determined by Vanguard. Investments in the Loan Fund are stated at face value.

(e) Loans to Participants--Participants are permitted to borrow a specified portion of the balance in their individual account. Loan interest rates and terms are established by the Investment and Benefits Committee and all loans must be approved by that Committee. Loans are evidenced by promissory notes payable to the Plan over 1 to 5 years for general purpose loans and up to 30 years for principle residence loans, provided that the age criteria is met.

(f) Income Taxes--The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on May 15, 1996, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. The plan administrator believes the plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, no provision for income taxes is included in these financial statements.

(g) Plan Termination--The Company is free to terminate the Plan at any time. Upon termination, all participant accounts remain fully vested.

(2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

(a) Basis of Accounting--The Plan's financial statements are maintained

on the accrual basis. Employer and employee contributions are accrued as the employees' salaries are earned.

(b) Use of Estimates--The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(c) Administrative Expenses--All administrative expenses of the Plan were paid by the Company with the exception of loan administrative charges which were paid by the participants. The Company has no continuing obligation to pay these expenses.

(3) INVESTMENTS:

The following investments represent over 5% of net assets available for benefits at December 31, 1997 and/or 1996:

	1997	1996
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, investment contract #14403, general account	\$ 5,260,425	\$12,214,391
Vanguard/Windsor Fund	115,488,510	90,616,436
Western Resources, Inc. Common Stock	67,941,677	51,021,493
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, investment contract #12651/20105, general account	15,165,269	16,600,616
Fidelity Magellan Fund	34,871,118	28,809,605
Vanguard Money Market Reserves, Prime Portfolio	18,398,231	20,886,443
Loan Fund	16,912,202	16,228,456
Vanguard PRIMECAP Fund	27,832,793	13,816,671

(4) PLAN AMENDMENTS:

Effective January 1, 1998, the definition of annual compensation was amended to include merit recognition awards, incentive compensation program payments, and commissions.

(5) ONEOK TRANSFER:

Effective November 30, 1997, the Company sold substantially all of its gas operations to ONEOK, Inc., in exchange for a 45 percent ownership interest in ONEOK, Inc. On November 30, 1997, employees who were participants in Western Resources, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan, as amended, became Participants in the ONEOK, Inc. KGS 401(k) Thrift Plan (the ONEOK Plan). At July 31, 1998, the fair market value of those employees' accounts under the Western Resources Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan, shall be rolled into the ONEOK Plan. At December 31, 1997, the fair market value of the assets to be rolled into the ONEOK Plan are \$105,439,102.

(6) FUND INFORMATION:

The following tables present changes in net assets available for benefits in fund detail.

(5) Fund Information (continued):

Year Ended December 31, 1997

	Investment Contracts	Windsor	Money Market Reserves	Company Common Stock	Loan
ADDITIONS					
Investment Income:					
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ -	\$ 1,973,881	\$ -	\$19,238,996	\$ -
Interest	3,753,286	-	-	9,214	1,202,709
Dividends	-	18,438,209	463,755	2,473,632	-
	3,753,286	20,412,090	463,755	21,721,842	1,202,709
Contributions:					
Participant	2,091,401	4,869,903	452,485	1,449,775	-
Employer	625,431	1,416,674	141,268	436,672	-
	2,716,832	6,286,577	593,753	1,886,447	-
Total additions	6,470,118	26,698,667	1,057,508	23,608,289	1,202,709
DEDUCTIONS					
Benefits paid	(3,939,138)	(2,496,502)	(925,723)	(1,899,849)	(336,611)
Other	36,518	(14,964)	(6,350)	(486)	-
Total deductions	(3,902,620)	(2,511,466)	(932,073)	(1,900,335)	(336,611)
Net increase (decrease) prior to transfers	2,567,498	24,187,201	125,435	21,707,954	866,098
TRANSFERS					
Interfund transfers	(4,238,039)	661,562	165,623	(4,632,238)	(182,352)
Transfers-other plans	5,901	23,311	-	76	-
Total transfers	(4,232,138)	684,873	165,623	(4,632,162)	(182,352)
Net increase (decrease)	(1,664,640)	24,872,074	291,058	17,075,792	683,746
Net assets available for benefits:					
Beginning of year	64,475,290	90,616,436	8,128,588	51,029,233	16,228,456
End of year	\$62,810,650	\$115,488,510	\$ 8,419,646	\$68,105,025	\$16,912,202

(Continued)

(5) Fund Information (continued):

Year Ended December 31, 1997

	Wellington	Index Trust-500 Portfolio	PRIMECAP	Magellan	Fixed Income
ADDITIONS					
Investment Income:					
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$1,509,046	\$ 3,351,041	\$4,657,162	\$ 5,077,353	\$ -
Interest	-	-	-	-	930,544
Dividends	1,398,675	350,412	983,300	2,236,461	-
	2,907,721	3,701,453	5,640,462	7,313,814	930,544
Contributions:					
Participant	1,455,343	1,258,957	1,733,889	1,545,792	-
Employer	426,645	357,047	482,807	462,662	-
	1,881,988	1,616,004	2,216,696	2,008,454	-
Total additions	4,789,709	5,317,457	7,857,158	9,322,268	930,544
DEDUCTIONS					
Benefits paid	(365,656)	(283,550)	(472,983)	(543,749)	(773,229)
Other	(10,430)	(500)	(735)	(1,472)	4,093
Total deductions	(376,086)	(284,050)	(473,718)	(545,221)	(769,136)
Net increase (decrease) prior to transfers	4,413,623	5,033,407	7,383,440	8,777,047	161,408
TRANSFERS					
Interfund transfers	1,034,591	4,057,226	6,618,374	(2,761,029)	(1,596,725)
Transfers-other plans	1,249	19,143	14,308	45,495	-
Total transfers	1,035,840	4,076,369	6,632,682	(2,715,534)	(1,596,725)
Net increase (decrease)	5,449,463	9,109,776	14,016,122	6,061,513	(1,435,317)
Net assets available for benefits:					
Beginning of year	11,404,547	8,804,188	13,816,671	28,809,605	16,601,172
End of year	\$16,854,010	\$17,913,964	\$27,832,793	\$34,871,118	\$15,165,855

(continued)

(5) Fund Information (continued):

Year Ended December 31, 1997

	Growth	International Bond Portfolio	Total Market	Other	Total
ADDITIONS					
Investment Income:					
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$	(59,374)	\$ 13,944	\$ -	\$35,762,049
Interest		-	-	35,732	5,931,485
Dividends		81,931	20,036	829,114	27,275,525
		22,557	33,980	864,846	68,969,059
Contributions:					
Participant		140,064	24,888	259,675	15,282,172
Employer		35,863	5,739	72,564	4,463,372
		175,927	30,627	332,239	19,745,544
Total additions		198,484	64,607	1,197,085	88,714,603
DEDUCTIONS					
Benefits paid		(17,746)	(48)	-	(12,054,784)
Other		(740)	-	(89,854)	(84,920)
Total deductions		(18,486)	(48)	(89,854)	(12,139,704)
Net increase prior to transfers		179,998	64,559	1,107,231	76,574,899
TRANSFERS					
Interfund transfers		1,695,391	466,534	(1,288,918)	-
Transfers-other plans		1,191	-	-	110,674
Total transfers		1,696,582	466,534	(1,288,918)	110,674
Net increase (decrease)		1,876,580	531,093	(181,687)	76,685,573
Net assets available for benefits:					
Beginning of year		-	-	1,288,918	311,203,104
End of year		\$1,876,580	\$531,093	\$1,107,231	\$387,888,677

(5) Fund Information (continued):

Year Ended December 31, 1996

	Investment Contracts	Windsor	Money Market Reserves	Company Common Stock	Loan
ADDITIONS					
Investment Income:					
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ -	\$10,062,095	\$ -	\$(3,783,983)	\$ -
Interest	3,780,296	-	369,912	11,216	1,017,792
Dividends	-	8,660,885	-	2,563,118	-
	3,780,296	18,722,980	369,912	(1,209,649)	1,017,792
Contributions:					
Participant	2,302,303	4,775,895	428,544	1,680,865	-
Employer	703,075	1,398,776	140,738	500,479	-
	3,005,378	6,174,671	569,282	2,181,344	-
Total additions	6,785,674	24,897,651	939,194	971,695	1,017,792
DEDUCTIONS					
Benefits paid	(3,420,750)	(2,470,027)	(298,645)	(1,245,537)	(244,282)
Other	29,289	(12,820)	(5,200)	(940)	-
Total deductions	(3,391,461)	(2,482,847)	(303,845)	(1,246,477)	(244,282)
Net increase (decrease) prior to transfers	3,394,213	22,414,804	635,349	(274,782)	773,510
TRANSFERS					
Interfund transfers	(2,372,193)	(933,908)	869,564	249,807	1,753,927
Transfers-other plans	6,820	50,301	72,878	34,583	-
Total transfers	(2,365,373)	(883,607)	942,442	284,390	1,753,927
Net increase (decrease)	1,028,840	21,531,197	1,577,791	9,608	2,527,437
Net assets available for benefits:					
Beginning of year	63,446,450	69,085,239	6,550,797	51,019,625	13,701,019
End of year	\$64,475,290	\$90,616,436	\$ 8,128,588	\$51,029,233	\$16,228,456

(Continued)

(5) Fund Information (continued):

Year Ended December 31, 1996

	Wellington	Index Trust-500 Portfolio	PRIMECAP	Magellan	Fixed Income
ADDITIONS					
Investment Income:					
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 595,109	\$ 1,131,350	\$1,569,703	\$(1,241,381)	\$ -
Interest	-	-	-	-	1,011,334
Dividends	870,404	167,541	401,350	4,287,191	-
	1,465,513	1,298,891	1,971,053	3,045,810	1,011,334
Contributions:					
Participant	1,419,079	873,678	1,488,955	1,840,363	-
Employer	422,321	262,124	421,761	549,418	-
	1,841,400	1,135,802	1,910,716	2,389,781	-
Total additions	3,306,913	2,434,693	3,881,769	5,435,591	1,011,334
DEDUCTIONS					
Benefits paid	(430,212)	(178,761)	(177,898)	(484,640)	(770,268)
Other	(8,060)	(540)	(700)	-	26,552
Total deductions	(438,272)	(179,301)	(178,598)	(484,640)	(743,716)
Net increase (decrease) prior to transfers	2,868,641	2,255,392	3,703,171	4,950,951	267,618
TRANSFERS					
Interfund transfers	1,272,883	2,526,326	1,281,960	(1,800,373)	(1,785,219)
Transfers-other plans	20,523	53,730	35,800	74,560	-
Total transfers	1,293,406	2,580,056	1,317,760	(1,725,813)	(1,785,219)
Net increase (decrease)	4,162,047	4,835,448	5,020,931	3,225,138	(1,517,601)
Net assets available for benefits:					
Beginning of year	7,242,500	3,968,740	8,795,740	25,584,467	18,118,773
End of year	\$11,404,547	\$ 8,804,188	\$13,816,671	\$28,809,605	\$16,601,172

(continued)

(5) Fund Information (continued):

	Year Ended December 31, 1996	
	Other	Total
ADDITIONS		
Investment Income:		
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ -	\$ 8,332,893
Interest	32,088	6,222,638
Dividends	854,002	17,804,491
	886,090	32,360,022
Contributions:		
Participant	378,317	15,187,999
Employer	112,246	4,510,938
	490,563	19,698,937
Total additions	1,376,653	52,058,959
DEDUCTIONS		
Benefits paid	-	(9,721,020)
Other	(87,735)	(60,154)
Total deductions	(87,735)	(9,781,174)
Net increase (decrease) prior to transfers	1,288,918	42,277,785
TRANSFERS		
Interfund transfers	(1,062,774)	-
Transfers-other plans	-	349,195
Total transfers	(1,062,774)	349,195
Net increase (decrease)	226,144	42,626,980
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	1,062,774	268,576,124
End of year	\$ 1,288,918	\$311,203,104

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

LINE 27a - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES

DECEMBER 31, 1997

Description	Number Of Units	Cost	Current Value
AIG Life, investment contract #944	4,253,361	\$4,253,361	\$4,253,361
Deutsche Bank, investment contract #1 general account	4,442,659	4,442,659	4,442,659
Deutsche Bank, investment contract #2, general account	4,401,947	4,401,947	4,401,947
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, investment contract #7307, general account	8,464,505	8,464,505	8,464,505
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, investment contract #14403, general account	5,260,425	5,260,425	5,260,425
Morgan Guaranty, investment contract #96-17, general account	2,155,129	2,155,129	2,155,129
Morgan Guaranty, investment contract #96-18, general account	2,134,305	2,134,305	2,134,305
NatWest Markets Sam, investment contract #185A	6,220,645	6,220,645	6,220,645
New York Life Insurance Company, investment contract #30313	4,112,040	4,112,040	4,112,040
Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company, investment contract #418026	4,811,882	4,811,882	4,811,882
Union Bank of Switzerland, investment contract #2127	6,739,101	6,739,101	6,739,101
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Group Annuity Contract #20105, general account	15,165,269	15,165,269	15,165,269
*Vanguard/Windsor Fund	6,801,443	103,610,674	115,488,510
*Vanguard Money Market Reserves, Prime Portfolio	18,398,231	18,398,231	18,398,231

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

LINE 27a - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES

DECEMBER 31, 1997

Description	Number Of Units	Cost	Current Value
*Vanguard/PRIMECAP Fund	703,381	\$21,415,421	\$27,832,793
*Vanguard Index Trust 500 Portfolio Fund	198,889	13,391,982	17,913,964
*Vanguard/Wellington Fund	572,292	14,289,445	16,854,010
*Fidelity Magellan Fund	366,024	27,703,271	34,871,118
*Vanguard International Growth Portfolio	114,495	1,955,018	1,876,580
*Vanguard Bond Index Fund-Total Bond Market Portfolio	52,636	520,178	531,093
*Western Resources, Inc. Common Stock	1,580,039	37,566,355	67,941,677
*Participant Loans, at interest rates ranging from 14% to 6%		16,912,202	16,912,202
Total Investments		\$323,924,045	\$386,781,446

*Investment with party-in-interest to the Plan.

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

LINE 27b - SCHEDULE OF LOANS OR FIXED INCOME OBLIGATIONS

DECEMBER 31, 1997

Identity and Address of Obligor	Original Amount of Loan	Amount Received During Reporting Year		Unpaid Balance at End of Year	Amount Overdue	
		Principal	Interest		Principal	Interest

Jarus, Keith J. 301 N. Madison Brainard, NE 68521 ###-##-####	\$6,800.00	\$ 765.99	\$ 185.04	\$ 2,693.84	\$ 265.55	\$ 51.46
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Detailed Description of Loan - General purpose loan; dated 11/30/94; 7.9% interest rate; 96 successive semi-monthly installments.

Action to be Taken - The employee will be given the option to pay off the loan. If not paid, the loan will be defaulted in 1998 and will be treated as a 1998 distribution to the participant.

Weeks, Roger Waldeen 441 E. Webster Louisville, KS 66450 ###-##-####	\$20,000.00	\$1,665.49	\$ 541.11	\$14,620.65	\$2,044.47	\$563.33
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Detailed Description of Loan - General purpose loan; dated 10/16/95; 7.6% interest rate, 120 successive semi-monthly installments.

Action to be Taken - The employee will be given the option to pay off the loan. If not paid, the loan will be defaulted in 1998 and will be treated as a 1998 distribution to the participant.

Weeks, Roger Waldeen 441 E. Webster Louisville, KS 66450 ###-##-####	\$10,000.00	\$ 557.97	\$ 240.67	\$ 9,442.03	\$ 863.14	\$334.82
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Detailed Description of Loan - General purpose loan, dated 01/28/97; 7.4% interest rate, 120 semi-monthly successive installments, respectively.

Action to be Taken - The employee will be given the option to pay off the loan. If not paid, the loan will be defaulted in 1998 and will be treated as a 1998 distribution to the participant.

Williams, Cynthia A. 2227 North 88th Kansas City, KS 66109 ###-##-####	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 858.36	\$ 84.72	\$ 2,265.67	\$ 885.34	\$ 57.74
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Detailed Description of Loan - General purpose loan; dated 09/23/93, 6.2% interest rate, 120 successive monthly installments.

Action to be Taken - The employee will be given the option to pay off the loan. If not paid, the loan will be defaulted in 1998 and will be treated as a 1998 distribution to the participant.

Powers, Quintein E. 420 E. Hickory, #0-107 Hesston, KS 67062 ###-##-####	\$30,000.00	\$3,437.05	\$1,399.27	\$26,145.26	\$1,783.96	\$634.20
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Detailed Description of Loan - General purpose loan; dated 11/14/96, 7.5% interest rate, 120 successive semi-monthly installments.

Action to be Taken - The employee will be given the option to pay off the loan. If not paid, the loan will be defaulted in 1998 and will be treated as a 1998 distribution to the participant.

Whitebread, Glenn W. 420 South Elmore, Box 102 Lecompton, KS 66050 ###-##-####	\$15,000.00	\$1,271.09	\$ 184.31	\$ 6,432.89	\$1,835.52	\$202.04
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Detailed Description of Loan - General purpose loan; dated 05/05/94, 6.2% interest rate, 120 successive semi-monthly installments.

Action to be Taken - The employee will be given the option to pay off the loan. If not paid, the loan will be defaulted in 1998 and will be treated as a 1998 distribution to the participant.

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.

EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

LINE 27b - SCHEDULE OF LOANS OR FIXED INCOME OBLIGATIONS

DECEMBER 31, 1997

Identity and Address of Obligor	Original Amount of Loan	Amount Received During Reporting Year		Unpaid Balance at End of Year	Amount Overdue	
		Principal	Interest		Principal	Interest
Whitebread, Glenn W. 420 South Elmore, Box 102 Lecompton, KS 66050 ###-##-####	\$24,000.00	\$1,001.23	\$436.31	\$22,998.77	\$2,409.40	\$944.86

Detailed Description of Loan - General purpose loan; dated 01/17/97, 7.4% interest rate, 120 successive semi-monthly installments.

Action to be Taken - The employee will be given the option to pay off the loan. If not paid, the loan will be defaulted in 1998 and will be treated as a 1998 distribution to the participant.

Elliott, Larry C. 401 S. Mitchell Warrensburg, MO 64093 ###-##-####	\$17,500.00	\$1,594.15	\$111.95	\$ 3,317.44	\$2,304.37	\$ 84.17
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Detailed Description of Loan - General purpose loan; dated 03/26/93, 6.4% interest rate, 120 successive semi-monthly installments.

Action to be Taken - The employee will be given the option to pay off the loan. If not paid, the loan will be defaulted in 1998 and will be treated as a 1998 distribution to the participant.

EIN: 48-0290150
PN: 004

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

LINE 27d - SCHEDULE OF REPORTABLE TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

Investment	Type of Transaction	Number	Dollar Value (1)	Net Gain (Loss)
Vanguard Money Market Reserves, Prime Portfolio	Purchases	195	\$ 9,763,510	\$ -
	Sales	204	9,472,452	-
Vanguard/Windsor Fund	Purchases	223	34,392,584	-
	Sales	243	11,494,391	2,101,357
Western Resources, Inc. Common Stock Fund*	Purchases	159	11,539,034	-
	Sales	231	13,702,238	2,247,930
Vanguard/PRIMECAP Fund	Purchases	227	16,130,883	-
	Sales	195	6,771,923	594,745
Western Resources, Inc. Investment Contract Fund	Purchases	220	12,652,956	-
	Sales	240	14,316,696	-

(1) Amount shown in this column is cost of purchases or proceeds from sales.

* This fund consists of two investments, Western Resources, Inc. Common Stock and Vanguard Money Market Reserves, Prime Portfolio. The Trustee is unable to split the transaction detail between the two investments.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment and Benefits Committee for the Western Resources Inc. Employees' 401(K) Savings Plan has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WESTERN RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

By:

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ S. L. Kitchen	Chairman	June 26, 1998
/s/ Ira W. McKee, Jr.	Member	June 26, 1998
/s/ John K. Rosenberg	Member	June 26, 1998
/s/ Kenneth T. Wymore	Member	June 26, 1998

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit
Number

Description of Documents

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Consent of Independent Public Accountants
(filed electronically)

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

As independent public accountants, we hereby consent to the incorporation by reference of our report dated June 26, 1998, included in the Form 11-K for the Western Resources, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan, into the Company's previously filed Registration Statements File Nos. 33-49467, 33-49553, 333-02023, 33-50069, 33-62375, and 333-26115 of Western Resources, Inc. on Form S-3; Nos. 333-02711, 333-56369 and 333-56369-01 of Western Resources, Inc. on Form S-4; Nos. 33-57435, 333-13229, 333-06887, 333-20393, and 333-20413 of Western Resources, Inc. on Form S-8, and No. 33-50075 of Kansas Gas and Electric Company on Form S-3.

Arthur Andersen LLP

Kansas City, Missouri,
June 26, 1998