

Contacts:

Susan Gallagher Bruce Steinke
(Media) (Analysts)
314.554.2175 314.554.2734



One Ameren Plaza
1901 Chouteau Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63103

N E W S R E L E A S E

AmerenUE Requests Increase In Electric Rates To Continue System Improvements and Cover Rising Costs

St. Louis, MO, April 4, 2008 – AmerenUE, the Missouri utility company of Ameren Corporation (NYSE: AEE), will be filing today a request for a 12.1 percent electric rate increase with the Missouri Public Service Commission (MoPSC). The increase would allow the company to continue systemwide reliability improvements for its customers and cover increases in its costs for fuel, transportation and materials essential to generating and delivering electricity.

The request would provide a total of \$251 million annually in additional revenue to be used throughout the company's 24,000-square-mile service territory. The MoPSC Staff will review all of UE's costs, and the public will have opportunities for comment during the process.

Today's requested increase would mean less than \$9 more per month for the average household – or less than 30 cents per day. Each household's increase would vary according to the amount of electricity used.

"Specifically, this increase will enable us to put vulnerable power lines underground, trim more trees away from lines, and increase inspections and repairs of power lines and poles," said Thomas R. Voss, AmerenUE president and chief executive officer. "Fully 70 percent of the requested increase will go directly into projects at our generating plants and on our delivery system. The rest provides indirect support to these critical investments.

"Today UE – like our customers – faces dramatically higher costs for construction materials and for equipment, such as transformers. The cost to buy and transport coal – which represents more than 20 percent of UE's total costs – has increased by 33 percent over the past two years."

In addition, UE's cost of maintaining the electric delivery system infrastructure has also risen significantly. For example, since 2004, the cost of pole transformers is up approximately 70 percent, wooden utility poles are up about 40 percent, underground aluminum wire is up about 30 percent and copper wire is up about 100 percent.

"We do not request this increase lightly because we realize our customers are facing rising costs in other areas," said Voss. "However, UE's existing rates are insufficient to recover current costs and permit UE to earn a reasonable return on its investments. Without a

reasonable return, we cannot economically raise the money needed to continue to improve our system."

Voss added that the company has employed a range of initiatives to carefully manage its resources and keep electric price increases to a minimum. In fact, except for a 2 percent increase in 2007, UE has not had an increase in its rates for more than 20 years and has managed to keep prices for customers almost 40 percent below the national average.

Today, UE's customers enjoy some of the lowest electric rates in the nation – lower than in Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Denver, as well as Kansas City and Springfield, Mo. Through the company's cost control efforts, the rates UE customers pay are lower today than they were 20 years ago. Even with this increase, UE electric rates would still be lower than those charged by other Midwest and Missouri utilities.

"As responsible stewards of our business, we will continue to make the best use of every UE asset to provide our customers with the reliable and clean energy they need at a price they can afford," said Voss. "This increase is needed to fulfill our commitment to our customers to continue to listen, respond and deliver for them by providing reliable power, dedicated customer service and vision for the future."

Here are the key factors behind today's request for an increase:

- Significant increases in fuel costs are a major reason UE is requesting an increase today. In addition, rising fuel costs and price volatility are forecasted to continue. These factors have prompted the company to request to employ a fuel and purchased power cost recovery mechanism. The MoPSC already has approved the use of this mechanism for one other Missouri utility.
 - This mechanism would enable UE to more quickly recover the money the company must spend on fuel to run its power plants and cover its purchased power costs -- without the time and expense required for a full rate case.
 - The MoPSC will continue to have regulatory oversight over the fuel and purchased power adjusted rates.
 - The fuel and purchased power adjustment clause would not generate additional profits for UE.
 - It would also enable UE to pass fuel and purchased power cost increases – *and decreases* – to its electric customers closer to the time these costs are incurred.
 - The mechanism has been approved by the Missouri legislature and is already employed in all but two fully regulated states.

- Because UE's customers told the company they value reliability above everything, UE recently launched the *Power On Project* -- a three-year, \$1 billion initiative, through which UE is spending:
 - \$300 million to underground the sections of our system most vulnerable to outages;
 - \$84 million to expand and upgrade our system inspection, repair and maintenance programs; and
 - an additional \$135 million on tree-trimming efforts.

Through *Power On*, UE is also investing some \$500 million in equipment to reduce emissions from the company's Sioux Power Plant and enable its coal-fired plants to meet or exceed federal environmental standards years ahead of requirements. The company is also investing in the development of wind power and other renewable sources, as well as in promising technologies to address greenhouse gas emissions.

Power On is the largest single reliability initiative in UE's history and the largest single corporate investment currently under way in Missouri.

Additional information about this electric rate case will be available on the Ameren Web site (www.ameren.com/ueprice).

AmerenUE serves approximately 1.2 million electric and 127,000 natural gas customers. Ameren Corporation, through its utility companies, serves approximately 2.4 million electric and nearly one million natural gas customers over 64,500 square miles in Missouri and Illinois.