



For Immediate Release

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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SEEK INTERVENTION IN AMERENUE'S APPLICATION TO BUILD NEW NUCLEAR REACTOR

(ST. LOUIS-MO) Yesterday, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center filed a Petition to Intervene on behalf of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment (“Coalition”) and Missourians for Safe Energy (“MSE”) against AmerenUE’s combined Construction and Operating License Application (COLA) which is before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

In July, 2008, AmerenUE filed a COLA for a license to build a second unit at the Callaway nuclear plant near Fulton, MO. The Coalition and MSE raise concerns about the safety of nuclear power and the storage of nuclear waste, and believe that there are cheaper, environmentally friendlier alternatives.

“Nuclear is not the answer to Missouri’s energy needs,” said Henry Robertson, attorney for the intervenors. “We’ll be better protected as citizens and ratepayers if we use energy more efficiently and wisely and invest in renewable energy. In November the voters passed Proposition C, which requires AmerenUE and other utilities to get 15% of their power from renewables by 2021. Prop C and energy efficiency can eliminate the need for a new nuclear reactor.”

“AmerenUE failed to consider the effects of a second reactor on local groundwater, wetlands and floodplains,” said Kat Logan-Smith, Executive Director of the Coalition. “Callaway 2’s thirst for cooling water would deprive local people of well water. Accidents at nuclear plants can release radioactivity into the air and water, but Ameren prefers to use this dirty form of energy.”

“There is no safe place for Ameren to store radioactive wastes,” said Mark Haim, spokesperson for Missourians for Safe Energy. “AmerenUE should not be allowed to generate more wastes that have to be stored safely for hundreds of thousands of years. AmerenUE has no permanent storage site for the radioactive wastes it generates from the first reactor. A second reactor will exacerbate the problem.”

AmerenUE proposes to use a reactor design from Europe, where no such plant has yet been completed. The NRC must certify this design for use in the U.S. but is not expected to do so till mid-2011.

The NRC will now decide whether to hold a hearing on the groups’ Petition to Intervene.