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Environmental Law Center

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### **Great Rivers Environmental Law Center Finds AmerenUE's Long-range Plan Fatally Deficient**

Great Rivers joined other parties June 18 in filing reports with the Missouri Public Service Commission critiquing AmerenUE's 20-year Integrated Resource Plan. The plan, filed in February, claims that AmerenUE will pursue "aggressive" energy efficiency programs and renewable electricity generation. But the centerpiece of the plan is a second nuclear power unit in Callaway County.

The nuclear option is fraught with problems. There is presently no place to store radioactive waste except on the reactor site, and no long-term solution is in prospect. The cost of building a new plant is running upwards of six billion dollars. AmerenUE's customers will have to pay.

"Truly aggressive energy efficiency programs would help customers save energy and money, and eliminate the need to build new power plants," said Henry Robertson, Great Rivers Staff Attorney. "What AmerenUE says it can't do — reverse the growth in demand for electricity — is already being done, or is now legislatively mandated, in a number of states including Vermont, Illinois, Ohio and Minnesota. Old, polluting power plants can be phased out and replaced with our three best energy resources — conservation, efficiency and renewable energy."

Great Rivers Environmental Law Center represents the Sierra Club, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Mid-Missouri Peaceworks, and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). The four non-profit groups became involved in December, 2005 to gain public access after AmerenUE filed its last 20-year plan as "highly confidential." AmerenUE then opened up its planning process to "stakeholders" consisting of the parties who intervened before the PSC. Great Rivers welcomes this new openness but disagrees with the results.

*Great Rivers is a non-profit, public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free legal services to those seeking to preserve and protect the environment. Its web address is: [www.greatriverslaw.org](http://www.greatriverslaw.org).*