



For Immediate Release

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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SEEK INTERVENTION IN AMERENUE'S \$251 MILLION RATE CASE

Illegal charges at issue

(ST. LOUIS-MO) Yesterday, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center filed an Application to Intervene on behalf of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment ("Coalition") and Missourians for Safe Energy ("MSE") in AmerenUE's rate case which is before the Missouri Public Service Commission.

AmerenUE is seeking a rate increase of \$251 million from its Missouri customers. The Coalition and MSE learned that about \$51 million of that increase is due to expenses AmerenUE has made on a yet-to-be constructed second nuclear unit at the Callaway County nuclear plant.

"AmerenUE has violated Missouri's Construction Work in Progress ("CWIP") law," said Kathleen Henry, attorney for the proposed intervenors. "That law clearly prohibits a utility for charging ratepayers for a new plant before the plant is built."

"It is not fair to make ratepayers pay for electricity they are not receiving and may never receive. The voters of Missouri passed the CWIP law in 1976 because they wanted protection from such outrageous charges," said Kat Logan-Smith, Executive Director of the Coalition, the organization responsible for the voter-backed initiative that outlawed construction work in progress charges. "We intend to see that the law is enforced."

"AmerenUE should not be allowed to charge the ratepayers for this plant before it is built," said Mark Haim, spokesperson for Missourians for Safe Energy. "AmerenUE could save the ratepayers a lot of money by relying on renewables such as solar and wind, as well as energy efficiencies."

The Public Service Commission will now decide whether to allow the groups to intervene.