



For Immediate Release
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ICC Approves Programs to Promote Competition and Electric Choice for Ameren Residential and Small Commercial Customers

Today, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) approved a program that will bring the benefits of retail electric competition, experienced for years by commercial and industrial customers, to small commercial and residential customers in the Ameren Illinois Utilities service territories. The combined Utility Consolidated Billing (UCB) and Purchase of Receivables (POR) program mandated by Public Act 95-0700 and approved today for the Ameren Illinois Utilities builds a framework that encourages retail electric suppliers to offer competitive electricity options to residential and small commercial customers.

Under UCB, the retail electric supplier's commodity charge and the utility's delivery charge are provided to the customer on a single bill. This allows the customer to retain the ease of receiving one electricity bill and utility electronic bill payment. Under POR, the retail electric supplier is able to sell its receivables to the utility at a discount. These programs enable competitive suppliers to economically offer their service to small commercial and residential customers, regardless of income level, credit history or amount of electricity they consume.

"Competitive suppliers will have an opportunity to bring lower prices, renewable energy options, and innovative rate and service offerings to residential and small commercial customers that are now available to commercial and industrial customers," said Kevin Wright, former ICC Chair and now President of the Illinois Competitive Energy Association.

"The ICC and Ameren Illinois Utilities are to be commended for their leadership in promoting competition and electric choice for residential and small commercial customers through the UCB and POR programs," said Wright. Ameren expects a roll-out of UCB and POR service in fall of 2009.

The Illinois Competitive Energy Association is an Illinois-based trade association of competitive energy suppliers dedicated to preserving and enhancing customer choice and the competitive electric and natural gas industries.

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