

AMEREN CORP
 Form 424B2
 May 13, 2009

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee(1)
8.875% Senior Notes due 2014	\$422,896,250	\$23,598

(1) Pursuant to Rules 457(o) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, the registration fee was calculated based on the maximum aggregate offering price. Pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act of 1933, filing fees of \$195,244 were previously paid with respect to unsold securities registered pursuant to a Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-114274) filed by Ameren Corporation on April 7, 2004, of which \$189,349 remains available for future registration fees. Those fees have been carried forward for application in connection with offerings under the below-referenced Registration Statement. Pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act of 1933, after application of the \$23,598 registration fee due for this offering, \$165,751 will remain available for future registration fees. No additional registration fee has been paid with respect to this offering. This "Calculation of Registration Fee" table shall be deemed to update the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in Ameren Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-155416), which was filed on November 17, 2008.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated November 17, 2008)**\$425,000,000****8.875% Senior Notes due 2014**

Ameren Corporation is offering \$425,000,000 principal amount of its 8.875% Senior Notes due 2014, referred to in this prospectus supplement as the "senior notes." The senior notes we are offering hereunder will bear interest at a rate equal to 8.875% per year from the date of issuance to May 15, 2014, when they will mature. We will pay interest on the senior notes semi-annually in arrears on May 15 and November 15 of each year, beginning November 15, 2009. The senior notes will be issued only in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

We may at any time and from time to time redeem all or a portion of the senior notes at the make-whole redemption price set forth in this prospectus supplement under "Description of Senior Notes Optional Redemption."

The senior notes will be our direct unsecured general obligations and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other senior debt.

Investing in our senior notes involves risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Offering Price(1)	Discounts and Commissions to Underwriters	Proceeds, Before Expenses, to Ameren Corporation
Per senior note	99.505%	0.600%	98.905%
Total	\$ 422,896,250	\$ 2,550,000	\$ 420,346,250

(1)

Plus accrued interest from May 15, 2009, if settlement occurs after that date.

Edgar Filing: AMEREN CORP - Form 424B2

The underwriters expect to deliver the senior notes in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, including Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg, against payment in New York, New York on or about May 15, 2009.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BNP PARIBAS J.P. Morgan UBS Investment Bank

**PNC Capital Markets
LLC**

Scotia Capital

May 12, 2009

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	<u>S-3</u>
<u>Ameren Corporation</u>	<u>S-3</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>S-5</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>S-6</u>
<u>Capitalization</u>	<u>S-7</u>
<u>Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>S-7</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>S-8</u>
<u>Description of Senior Notes</u>	<u>S-8</u>
<u>Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	<u>S-15</u>
<u>Underwriting</u>	<u>S-19</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>S-21</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>S-21</u>
 <u>Prospectus</u> 	
<u>Ameren Corporation</u>	 3
<u>Ameren Capital Trust I and Ameren Capital Trust II</u>	4
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	5
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	6
<u>Risk Factors</u>	6
<u>Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	7
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	7
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	8
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	10
<u>Description of Trust Preferred Securities</u>	19
<u>Description of Guarantees</u>	34
<u>Relationship Among Trust Preferred Securities, Debt Securities and Guarantees</u>	37
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	39
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	41
<u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units</u>	41
<u>Book-Entry System</u>	43
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	45
<u>Legal Matters</u>	46
<u>Experts</u>	46

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and any related free writing prospectus required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates and that the information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date such information is filed with the SEC. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since then.

In this prospectus supplement, "Ameren," "we," "us" and "our" refer to Ameren Corporation and, unless the context otherwise indicates, do not include our subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the senior notes we are offering. The second part, the accompanying base prospectus, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to the senior notes we are offering in this prospectus supplement. See "Description of Debt Securities" in the accompanying base prospectus. If the description of the senior notes varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are part of a registration statement that was filed by us with the SEC using a "shelf" registration process as a "well-known seasoned issuer". Under the shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, issue and sell to the public the securities described in the accompanying base prospectus, including the senior notes, up to an indeterminate amount, of which this offering is a part. In this prospectus supplement, we provide you with specific information about the terms of the senior notes and this offering.

AMEREN CORPORATION

Ameren, headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, is a public utility holding company under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005, administered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"). Ameren's primary assets are the common stock of its subsidiaries. Ameren's subsidiaries are separate, independent legal entities with separate businesses, assets and liabilities. These subsidiaries operate rate-regulated electric generation, transmission and distribution businesses, rate-regulated natural gas transmission and distribution businesses, and non-rate-regulated electric generation businesses in Missouri and Illinois. Dividends on Ameren's common stock are dependent on distributions made to it by its subsidiaries. Information regarding Ameren's principal subsidiaries as of March 31, 2009 is listed below:

UE, or Union Electric Company, also known as AmerenUE, operates a rate-regulated electric generation, transmission and distribution business, and a rate-regulated natural gas transmission and distribution business in Missouri. UE is the largest electric utility in the state of Missouri. It supplies electric and gas service to a 24,000-square-mile-area located in central and eastern Missouri. This area has an estimated population of 2.8 million and includes the Greater St. Louis area. UE supplies electric service to 1.2 million customers and natural gas service to 126,000 customers.

CIPS, or Central Illinois Public Service Company, also known as AmerenCIPS, operates a rate-regulated electric and natural gas transmission and distribution business in Illinois. CIPS supplies electric and gas utility service to portions of central, west central and southern Illinois having an estimated population of 1.1 million in an area of 20,500 square miles. CIPS supplies electric service to 393,000 customers and natural gas service to 185,000 customers.

Genco, or Ameren Energy Generating Company, operates a non-rate-regulated electric generation business in Illinois and Missouri. Genco owns 2,557 megawatts of coal-fired electric generating capacity and 1,663 megawatts of natural gas and oil-fired electric generating capacity.

CILCO, or Central Illinois Light Company, also known as AmerenCILCO, is a subsidiary of CILCORP Inc. CILCORP Inc. is an Ameren subsidiary that operates as a holding company for CILCO and various non-rate-regulated subsidiaries. CILCO operates a rate-regulated electric transmission and distribution business, a non-rate-regulated electric generation business and a rate-regulated natural gas transmission and distribution business in Illinois. CILCO supplies electric and gas utility service to portions of central and east central Illinois in areas of 3,700 and 4,500 square miles, respectively, with an estimated population of 0.6 million. CILCO supplies electric service to 214,000 customers and natural gas service to 216,000 customers.

Edgar Filing: AMEREN CORP - Form 424B2

Table of Contents

AmerenEnergy Resources Generating Company ("AERG"), a non-rate regulated wholly owned subsidiary of CILCO, owns 1,125 megawatts of coal-fired electric generating capacity and 15 megawatts of oil-fired electric generating capacity.

IP, or Illinois Power Company, also known as AmerenIP, operates a rate-regulated electric and natural gas transmission and distribution business in Illinois. It supplies electric and gas utility service to portions of central, east central, and southern Illinois, serving a population of 1.5 million in an area of 15,000 square miles, contiguous to our other service territories. IP supplies electric service to 627,000 customers and natural gas service to 421,000 customers, including most of the Illinois portion of the Greater St. Louis area.

Ameren has various other subsidiaries responsible for the short and long-term marketing of power, procurement of fuel, management of commodity risks, and provision of other shared services. Ameren has an 80% ownership interest in Electric Energy, Inc., which operates non-rate-regulated electric generation facilities and FERC-regulated transmission facilities in Illinois.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103 and our telephone number is (314) 621-3222.

RISK FACTORS

In considering whether to purchase the senior notes offered by this prospectus supplement, you should carefully consider the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. In particular, you should carefully consider the factors listed in "Forward-Looking Statements" above as well as the risk factors described below.

Risk Factors Relating to Ameren

Please refer to "Risk Factors" contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Risk Factors Relating to the Senior Notes

The provisions of the senior notes will not necessarily protect you in the event of a highly leveraged transaction.

The terms of the senior notes will not necessarily afford you protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction that may adversely affect you, including a reorganization, recapitalization, restructuring, merger or other similar transactions involving us, whether or not in connection with a change of control. The senior note indenture does not limit the aggregate amount of debt, including secured debt, we or our subsidiaries may incur. As a result, we could enter into any such transaction even though the transaction could increase the total amount of our outstanding debt, adversely affect our capital structure or credit ratings or otherwise adversely affect the holders of the senior notes. If we incur secured debt, the senior notes will be effectively junior to such debt to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such debt. These transactions may not involve a change in voting power or beneficial ownership or result in a downgrade in the ratings of the senior notes. The senior note indenture does not contain provisions that permit the holders of the senior notes to require us to redeem or repurchase the senior notes in the event of a takeover, recapitalization or similar transaction.

The senior notes will be effectively subordinated to the debt and preferred stock of our subsidiaries.

Ameren is a holding company that derives substantially all of its income from its operating subsidiaries. As a result, our cash flows and consequent ability to service our debt, including the senior notes, are dependent upon the earnings of our operating subsidiaries and distribution of those earnings to us and other payments or distributions of funds by our subsidiaries to us, including payments of principal and interest under intercompany indebtedness. Our operating subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and will have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any dividends or make any other distributions (except for payments required pursuant to the terms of intercompany borrowing arrangements) to us or to otherwise pay amounts due with respect to the senior notes or to make specific funds available for such payments. Various financing arrangements, charter provisions and statutory and regulatory requirements may impose certain restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to transfer funds to us in the form of cash dividends, loans or advances. Under the two \$500 million credit facilities entered into by AmerenCIPS, CILCORP Inc., AmerenCILCO, AmerenIP and AERG, CILCORP Inc. and AERG are each currently limited to capital stock dividend payments of \$10 million per year. As a result, our access to dividends from AmerenCILCO, as a subsidiary of CILCORP Inc., is limited by the current dividend restrictions at CILCORP Inc. Furthermore, except to the extent we have a priority or equal claim against our subsidiaries as a creditor, the senior notes will be effectively subordinated to debt and preferred stock at the subsidiary level because, as the common shareholder of our subsidiaries, we will be subject to the prior claims of creditors of our subsidiaries. The rights of holders of the senior notes to participate in the assets of our subsidiaries upon any liquidation or reorganization of any subsidiary will rank junior to the prior claims of that subsidiary's creditors and preferred stockholders. As of March 31, 2009, our subsidiaries had approximately \$8.0 billion of aggregate outstanding debt and preferred stock, excluding intercompany indebtedness.

An active trading market for the senior notes may not develop.

We cannot assure you that an active trading market for the senior notes will develop or as to the liquidity or sustainability of any such market, the ability of the holders to sell their senior notes or the price at which holders of the senior notes will be able to sell their senior notes. Future trading prices of the senior notes will also depend on many other factors, including, among other things, prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our credit ratings, our performance and other factors. We do not intend to apply for listing of the senior notes on any securities exchange.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy any document that we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can call the SEC's toll free telephone number at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. The SEC maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding companies, such as us, that file documents with the SEC electronically. The documents can be found by searching the EDGAR Archives of the SEC electronically.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus and you should read it with the same care. Later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus the following documents:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 28, 2009, February 5, 2009, February 17, 2009, as amended (excluding those portions furnished and not filed), February 19, 2009, March 2, 2009 (excluding those portions furnished and not filed), March 23, 2009, April 23, 2009 and May 1, 2009 (excluding those portions furnished and not filed).

We are also incorporating by reference all additional documents that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act between the date of this prospectus supplement and the time that all of the senior notes are sold in this offering. Any statement contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement or in any separately filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute part of this prospectus supplement.

You may request a free copy of these filings by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Ameren Corporation
Attention: Secretary's Department
P.O. Box 66149
St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149
Telephone: (314) 621-3222

Copies of these filings are also available from our website at <http://www.ameren.com>. We do not intend this internet address to be an active link or to otherwise incorporate the contents of the website into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table shows our consolidated capitalization, including short-term debt, as of March 31, 2009 and as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the senior notes offered by this prospectus supplement and the application of the net proceeds from the senior notes as described under "Use of Proceeds."

	As of March 31, 2009		As Adjusted (in millions)	Percent of Total Capitalization As Adjusted
	Amount (in millions)	Percent of Total Capitalization		
Short-term debt	\$ 997	6.4%	\$ 701	4.5%
Long-term debt (including current maturities):				
8.875% Senior Notes due 2014			425	2.7
Other long-term debt (including current maturities)	7,280	46.8	7,156(1)	46.0
Total short-term debt and long-term debt (including current maturities)	8,277	53.2	8,282	53.2
Noncontrolling interests	212	1.4	212	1.4
Total Ameren Corporation stockholders' equity	7,061	45.4	7,061	45.4
Total capitalization	\$ 15,550	100.0%	\$ 15,555	100.0%

(1) Excludes fair market value adjustment of \$2 million.

CONSOLIDATED RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing our earnings by our fixed charges before income taxes. For the purposes of such computations:

earnings consist of net income plus fixed charges and income taxes less preference security dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries; and

fixed charges consist of interest on long term debt, net of amortization of debt discount, premium and expenses, estimated interest costs within rental expense and preference security dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries.

Our consolidated ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the five years ended December 31, 2008 and the three months ended March 31, 2009 were as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,					Three Months Ended March 31,
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges	3.67	3.91	3.23	3.10(1)	2.97(1)	2.65(1)

(1)

Includes Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 48 interest expense.

S-7

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate the net proceeds from the sale of the senior notes offered by this prospectus supplement (after deducting underwriting commissions and our other expenses of the offering) will be approximately \$420.1 million.

We will use the net proceeds of the offering, together with other corporate funds, to repay a portion of our short-term debt consisting of our borrowings under a \$300 million term loan agreement, and to provide such amounts, by way of a capital contribution, loan or otherwise, to CILCORP Inc., our wholly owned subsidiary, to permit CILCORP Inc. to repay the outstanding \$123,755,000 aggregate principal amount of its 8.700% senior notes due 2009, which senior notes mature October 15, 2009. The \$300 million term loan agreement is fully drawn and the average annual interest rate for borrowings under that term loan agreement was 1.95% during the three months ended March 31, 2009. Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders to us under the \$300 million term loan agreement and such affiliates will receive their pro rata portion of the net proceeds of this offering used to repay amounts owed by us under such term loan agreement.

DESCRIPTION OF SENIOR NOTES

The following description of the senior notes is only a summary and is not intended to be comprehensive. The description should be read together with the description set forth in the accompanying base prospectus under the heading "Description of Debt Securities." In the event that information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information in the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on this prospectus supplement.

General

We are issuing \$425,000,000 of senior notes as a new series of senior debt securities under an indenture dated as of December 1, 2001, as heretofore amended and as it may be amended or supplemented, which we refer to collectively as the senior note indenture, between The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee, and us. We have filed the senior note indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement, and you may obtain a copy of it by following the directions described under the caption "Where You Can Find More Information." Our description of the senior notes below is qualified by reference to the senior note indenture, which we urge you to read.

The senior note indenture provides for the issuance by Ameren of debt securities, including the senior notes, and other unsecured evidences of indebtedness ("debt securities") from time to time in an unlimited amount.

There is no requirement under the senior note indenture that our future issuances of debt securities be issued exclusively under the senior note indenture, and we will be free to employ other indentures or documentation, containing provisions different from those included in the senior note indenture or applicable to the senior notes, in connection with future issuances of other debt securities.

The senior note indenture provides that the debt securities will be issued in one or more series, may be issued at various times, may have differing maturity dates and may bear interest at differing rates. We need not issue all debt securities of one series at the same time, and we may reopen a series, without the consent of the holders of debt securities of that series, including the senior notes, which means we can create and issue further senior notes having the same terms and conditions (including the same CUSIP number) as the senior notes offered by this prospectus supplement in all respects, except for the date of original issuance, the initial interest payment date and the offering price. Additional senior notes issued in this manner will be consolidated with, and form a single series with,

Table of Contents

the previously outstanding senior notes. The senior note indenture does not limit the aggregate amount of debt, including secured debt, we or our subsidiaries may incur.

The senior notes will not contain any provisions that will require us to redeem, or permit the holders to cause a redemption of, the senior notes, or that otherwise protect the holders of the senior notes in the event that we incur substantial additional indebtedness, whether or not in connection with a change of control.

The senior notes will be represented by one or more global securities, in registered form, without coupons, in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and any integral multiples of \$1,000, and will be registered in the name of a nominee of The Depository Trust Company, or DTC. For so long as the senior notes are registered in the name of DTC, or its nominee, we will pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest due on the senior notes to DTC for payment to its participants for subsequent disbursement to the beneficial owners. See "Global Securities and Book-Entry System."

Ranking

The senior notes will be our direct unsecured general obligations that will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other senior debt. As of March 31, 2009, our aggregate outstanding debt that would have ranked equally with the senior notes was \$595 million.

Ameren is a holding company that derives substantially all of its income from its operating subsidiaries. As a result, our cash flows and consequent ability to service our debt, including the senior notes, are dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and distribution of those earnings to us and other payments or distributions of funds by our subsidiaries to us, including payments of principal and interest under intercompany indebtedness. Our operating subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and will have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any dividends or make any other distributions (except for payments required pursuant to the terms of intercompany borrowing arrangements) to us or to otherwise pay amounts due with respect to the senior notes or to make specific funds available for such payments. Various financing arrangements, charter provisions and statutory and regulatory requirements may impose certain restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to transfer funds to us in the form of cash dividends, loans or advances. Furthermore, except to the extent we have a priority or equal claim against our subsidiaries as a creditor, the senior notes will be effectively subordinated to debt and preferred stock at the subsidiary level because, as the common shareholder of our subsidiaries, we will be subject to the prior claims of creditors of our subsidiaries. The rights of holders of senior notes to participate in the assets of our subsidiaries upon any liquidation or reorganization of any subsidiary will rank junior to the prior claims of that subsidiary's creditors and preferred stockholders. As of March 31, 2009, our subsidiaries had approximately \$8.0 billion of aggregate outstanding debt and preferred stock, excluding intercompany indebtedness.

Maturity and Interest

The senior notes will mature on May 15, 2014. We will pay interest on the senior notes semi-annually in arrears on May 15 and November 15 of each year to holders of record on the preceding May 1 and November 1, respectively. The first interest payment date is November 15, 2009.

Interest on the senior notes accrues from the date of original issuance at the rate per year set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. Interest will be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. In the event that the maturity date, any redemption date or any interest payment date is not a business day, the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest payable on that date will be made on the succeeding day that is a business day, without any interest or other payment in respect of the delay. A business day shall mean any weekday that is not a day on which banking institutions or trust companies in the Borough of Manhattan, the City and State of New

Table of Contents

York, or in the city where the corporate trust office of the trustee under the senior note indenture is located, are obligated or authorized by law to close.

Optional Redemption

All or a portion of the senior notes may be redeemed at our option at any time or from time to time. The redemption price for the senior notes to be redeemed on any redemption date will be equal to the greater of the following amounts:

100% of the principal amount of the senior notes being redeemed on the redemption date; or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the senior notes being redeemed on that redemption date (not including any portion of any payments of interest accrued to the redemption date) discounted to the redemption date on a semiannual basis at the Adjusted Treasury Rate (as defined below) plus 50 basis points, as determined by the Reference Treasury Dealer (as defined below);

plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest thereon to the redemption date.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, installments of interest on senior notes that are due and payable on interest payment dates falling on or prior to a redemption date will be payable on the interest payment date to the registered holders as of the close of business on the relevant record date according to the senior notes and the senior note indenture. The redemption price will be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

We will mail notice of any redemption at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each registered holder of the senior notes to be redeemed. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the senior notes or portions thereof called for redemption.

"*Adjusted Treasury Rate*" means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

"*Comparable Treasury Issue*" means the U.S. Treasury security selected by the Reference Treasury Dealer as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the senior notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such senior notes.

"*Comparable Treasury Price*" means, with respect to any redemption date, (A) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest of such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (B) if the trustee obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations, or (C) if only one Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation is received, such quotation.

"*Reference Treasury Dealer*" means (A) BNP Paribas Securities Corp., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. or UBS Securities LLC or their respective affiliates which are primary U.S. Government securities dealers in the United States (each, a "Primary Treasury Dealer"), and their respective successors; provided, however, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a Primary Treasury Dealer, we will substitute therefor another Primary Treasury Dealer; and (B) any other Primary Treasury Dealer(s) selected by us.

"*Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations*" means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the trustee under the senior note indenture, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its

Table of Contents

principal amount) quoted in writing to the trustee by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m. (New York City time) on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

If less than all the senior notes are to be redeemed, the senior notes to be redeemed will be selected by the trustee in such manner as it shall deem appropriate. Any notice of redemption may state that such redemption will be conditional upon receipt by the trustee, on or prior to the date fixed for such redemption, of money sufficient to pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on, such senior notes and that if such money has not been so received, such notice will be of no force and effect and we will not be required to redeem such senior notes.

Global Securities and Book-Entry System

The senior notes will be in book-entry form, will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates in fully registered form without interest coupons and will be deposited with the trustee as custodian for DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co. or another nominee designated by DTC. Holders of senior notes may elect to hold interests in a global security through DTC, Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme* ("Clearstream") or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System ("Euroclear"), if they are participants of such systems, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in such systems. Clearstream and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in Clearstream and Euroclear's names on the books of their respective depositories, which in turn will hold such interests in customers' securities accounts in the depositories' names on DTC's books.

We will issue senior notes in certificated form, referred to below as the certificated senior notes, to DTC for owners of beneficial interests in a global security if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository and we are unable to locate a qualified successor within 90 days or if at any time DTC, or any successor depository, ceases to be a "clearing agency" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;

an event of default relating to the senior notes occurs; or

we decide in our sole discretion to terminate the use of the book-entry system for the senior notes through DTC.

DTC has advised us as follows: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of The New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments from over 100 countries that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). DTC has Standard & Poor's highest rating: AAA. The rules applicable to DTC and its Direct and Indirect

Table of Contents

Participants are on file with the SEC. More information about DTC can be found at www.dtcc.com and www.dtc.org. We do not intend either of the foregoing internet addresses to be an active link or to otherwise incorporate the content of such websites into this prospectus supplement.

Clearstream advises that it is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a bank. Clearstream holds securities for its customers and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its customers through electronic book-entry transfers between their accounts. Clearstream provides to its customers among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic securities markets in over 30 countries through established depository and custodial relationships. As a bank, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector, also known as the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier. Its customers are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Its customers in the United States are limited to securities brokers and dealers and banks. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to other institutions such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with the customer.

Euroclear advises that it was created in 1968 to hold securities for its participants and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear provides various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. Euroclear Clearance establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear participants. Euroclear participants include banks, including central banks, securities brokers and dealers and other professional financial intermediaries and may include the initial purchasers. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear participant, either directly or indirectly. Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear operator are governed by the terms and conditions governing use of Euroclear and the related operating procedures of Euroclear. These terms and conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. The Euroclear operator acts under the terms and conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear participants.

Euroclear further advises that investors that acquire, hold and transfer interests in the senior notes by book-entry through accounts with the Euroclear operator or any other securities intermediary are subject to the laws and contractual provisions governing their relationship with their intermediary, as well as the laws and contractual provisions governing the relationship between such an intermediary and each other intermediary, if any, standing between themselves and the global securities.

Purchases of global securities under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the global securities on DTC's records. The beneficial interest of each actual purchaser of each global security (a "Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the records of the respective Direct Participant and Indirect Participant and Clearstream and Euroclear will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the number of senior notes sold to certain non-U.S. persons to the account of institutions that have accounts with Euroclear, Clearstream or their respective nominee participants. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase, but Beneficial Owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from

Table of Contents

the Direct Participant or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction.

Title to book-entry interests in the senior notes will pass by book-entry registration of the transfer within the records of Clearstream, Euroclear or DTC, as the case may be, in accordance with their respective procedures. Book-entry interests in the senior notes may be transferred within Clearstream and within Euroclear and between Clearstream and Euroclear in accordance with procedures established for these purposes by Clearstream and Euroclear. Book-entry interests in the senior notes may be transferred within DTC in accordance with procedures established for this purpose by DTC. Transfers of book-entry interests in the senior notes among Clearstream and Euroclear and DTC may be effected in accordance with procedures established for this purpose by Clearstream, Euroclear and DTC.

Payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the senior notes represented by the global securities registered in the name of and held by DTC or its nominee will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner and holder of the global securities.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (or any other nominee of DTC) will consent or vote with respect to the global securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to us as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the global securities are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy). Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments in respect of the global securities will be made to Cede & Co. or any other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts, upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from us or the trustee on the payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of each such Direct or Indirect Participant and not that of DTC, the trustee or us, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments in respect of the global securities to Cede & Co. (or other nominee requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is our responsibility, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct Participants and Indirect Participants.

The laws of some states require that certain persons take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. Consequently, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security to those persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of Direct Participants, which, in turn, act on behalf of Indirect Participants and certain banks, the ability of a person having a beneficial interest in a global security to pledge that interest to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of that interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate evidencing that interest.

Initial settlement for the senior notes will be made in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC's rules and will be settled in immediately available funds using DTC's same-day funds settlement system. Secondary market trading between Clearstream customers and/or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and

Table of Contents

Euroclear and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected in DTC in accordance with DTC's rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by its U.S. depository; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines, in European time. The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its U.S. depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering interests in the senior notes to or receiving interests in the senior notes from DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream customers and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their respective U.S. Depositories.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of interests in the senior notes received by Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions involving interests in such senior notes settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants on such business day. Cash received by Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of interests in the senior notes by or through a Clearstream customer or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have each agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of interests in the senior notes among their participants, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be changed or discontinued at any time.

The information in this section has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but neither we nor the underwriters take any responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following summary describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the senior notes. Unless otherwise stated, this summary deals only with senior notes held as capital assets (generally, assets held for investment) by holders that purchase senior notes in this offering at the offering price. The tax treatment of a holder may vary depending on that holder's particular situation. This summary does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to holders that may be subject to special tax treatment such as, for example, insurance companies, broker-dealers, tax-exempt organizations, regulated investment companies, persons holding senior notes as part of a straddle, hedge, constructive sale, conversion transaction or other integrated investment, persons holding senior notes through a partnership or other pass-through entity or arrangement, U.S. holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, certain former U.S. citizens or long-term residents and persons subject to the alternative minimum tax. In addition, this summary does not address any aspects of state, local, or foreign tax laws. This summary is based on the United States federal income tax laws, regulations, rulings and decisions in effect as of the date of this prospectus supplement, which are subject to change or differing interpretations, possibly on a retroactive basis. You should consult your own tax advisor as to the particular tax consequences to you of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the senior notes, including the application and effect of the United States federal, state and local tax laws and foreign tax laws.

If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds a senior note, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. A holder of a senior note that is a partnership and any partners in such partnership should consult their own tax advisors.

We have determined that the likelihood that we will redeem senior notes in circumstances in which the redemption amount payable to holders would exceed 100% of the principal amount of the senior notes to be redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest is remote. Our determination regarding such likelihood is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or any court. Given our determination, we do not intend to treat the senior notes as contingent payment debt instruments for United States federal income tax purposes. If the Internal Revenue Service or a court were to take a contrary position, the senior notes could be subject to United States federal income tax rules governing contingent payment debt instruments, in which case the amount and timing of income inclusions with respect to the senior notes and the character of income recognized on a sale, exchange or redemption of a senior note, could differ materially and adversely from what is described below. The remainder of this discussion assumes that the senior notes will not be subject to the contingent payment debt instrument rules.

U.S. Holders

For purposes of this summary, the term "U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of a senior note that is, for United States federal income tax purposes:

an individual citizen or resident of the United States;

a legal entity (1) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state in the United States or the District of Columbia and (2) treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes;

an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust if (1) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) the trust has in effect a valid election to be treated as a domestic trust for United States federal income tax purposes.

Table of Contents

Taxation of Stated Interest on the Senior Notes

Generally, payments of stated interest on a senior note will be includible in your gross income and taxable as ordinary income for U.S. federal income tax purposes at the time such interest is paid or accrued in accordance with your regular method of tax accounting.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Retirement of a Senior Note

You generally will recognize capital gain or loss upon a sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of a senior note measured by the difference, if any, between (i) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received (except to the extent that the cash or other property received in respect of a senior note is attributable to the payment of accrued interest on the senior note, which amount will be treated as a payment of interest) and (ii) your adjusted tax basis in the senior note. The gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the senior note has been held for more than one year at the time of the sale, exchange or retirement. Long-term capital gains of non-corporate U.S. holders are eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. A U.S. holder's initial tax basis in a senior note generally will be the amount paid for the senior note.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

A U.S. holder may be subject to information reporting and, under certain circumstances, "backup withholding" at the current rate of 28% with respect to certain "reportable payments," including interest on or principal (and premium, if any) of a senior note and the gross proceeds from a disposition of a senior note.

Information reporting and backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to "exempt recipients" (such as corporations and tax-exempt organizations) provided their exemptions from backup withholding are properly established.

Information reporting will generally apply to reportable payments to U.S. holders that are not exempt recipients (such as individuals). In addition, backup withholding will apply if the holder, among other things, (i) fails to furnish a social security number or other taxpayer identification number ("TIN") certified under penalties of perjury within a reasonable time after the request therefor, (ii) furnishes an incorrect TIN, (iii) fails to properly report the receipt of interest or dividends or (iv) under certain circumstances, fails to provide a certified statement, signed under penalties of perjury, that the TIN furnished is the correct number and that the holder is not subject to backup withholding. A holder that does not provide its correct TIN also may be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a U.S. holder generally will be allowed as a refund or as a credit against that holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided the requisite procedures are followed.

Non-U.S. Holders

The following discussion applies to you if you are a beneficial owner of a senior note other than a U.S. holder as defined above or a partnership or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes (a "non-U.S. holder"). Special rules may apply to you or your shareholders if you are a "controlled foreign corporation" or "passive foreign investment company." You should consult your own tax advisor to determine the United States federal, state, local and other tax consequences that may be relevant to you in your particular circumstances.

Table of Contents

United States Federal Withholding Tax

Under the "portfolio interest" exemption, the 30% United States federal withholding tax that is generally imposed on interest from United States sources should not apply to any payment of principal or interest (including original issue discount) on the senior notes, provided that:

you do not conduct a trade or business within the United States to which the interest is effectively connected;

you do not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock that are entitled to vote within the meaning of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and the U.S. Treasury regulations;

you are not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us through stock ownership;

you are not a bank whose receipt of interest on the senior notes is described in section 881(c)(3)(A) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code; and

you provide your name and address on an IRS Form W-8BEN (or a suitable substitute form), and certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a United States person; or a qualified intermediary holding the senior notes on your behalf provides us with an IRS Form W-8IMY (or a suitable substitute form) that, among other things, certifies that it has determined that you are not a United States person.

Special certification and other rules apply to certain non-U.S. holders that are pass-through entities rather than individuals.

We do not intend to withhold on payments of interest on the senior notes if the above requirements are met.

If you cannot satisfy the requirements described above, interest payments made to you on the senior notes generally will be subject to the 30% United States federal withholding tax. If a tax treaty applies, however, you may be eligible for a reduced rate of withholding. Similarly, payments on the senior notes that are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business within the United States are not subject to the withholding tax, but instead are subject to United States federal income tax, as described below. In order to claim any such exemption or reduction in the 30% withholding tax, you should provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or a suitable substitute form) claiming a reduction of or an exemption from withholding under an applicable tax treaty or IRS Form W-8ECI (or a suitable substitute form) stating that such payments are not subject to withholding because they are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

In general, the 30% U.S. federal withholding tax will not apply to any gain or income that you realize on the sale, exchange, or other disposition of the senior notes.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, no backup withholding will be required with respect to payments we make with respect to the senior notes if the certification requirements described above have been satisfied and we do not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a U.S. person. In addition, no backup withholding will be required on the payment of proceeds of the sale of senior notes made within the United States or conducted through certain United States financial intermediaries if the payor receives the statement described above and does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person, or you otherwise establish an exemption. Any payments of interest on the senior notes to a non-U.S. holder generally will be reported to the IRS and to the non-U.S. holder, whether or not such interest is exempt from U.S. withholding tax pursuant to the portfolio interest exemption or is subject to a reduced rate of tax or exemption pursuant to a tax treaty. Copies of these information

Table of Contents

returns may also be made available under the provisions of a specific treaty or agreement to the tax authorities of the country in which the payee resides.

United States Federal Income Tax

If you are engaged in a trade or business in the United States (and, if a tax treaty applies, you maintain a permanent establishment within the United States) and interest on the senior notes is effectively connected with the conduct of that trade or business (and if a tax treaty applies, attributable to that permanent establishment), you will be subject to United States federal income tax (but, provided the documentation requirements described above are satisfied, not the 30% withholding tax) on such income on a net income basis in the same manner as if you were a United States person. In addition, if you are a foreign corporation, you may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate (or such lower rate or exemption as may be specified by an applicable tax treaty).

Any gain or income realized on the disposition of a senior note generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax unless:

that gain or income is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an applicable income tax treaty so provides, the gain or income is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained in the United States by the non-U.S. holder); or

you are an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of that disposition, and certain other conditions are met.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an underwriting agreement, dated the date hereof, between us and the underwriters named below, we have agreed to sell to each of the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has severally agreed to purchase from us, the principal amount of senior notes set forth opposite its name below.

Underwriter	Principal Amount
BNP Paribas Securities Corp.	\$ 133,168,000
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.	133,166,000
UBS Securities LLC	133,166,000
PNC Capital Markets LLC	12,750,000
Scotia Capital (USA) Inc.	12,750,000
 Total	 \$425,000,000

The obligations of the underwriters, including their agreement to purchase senior notes from us, are several and not joint. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions and that the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the senior notes if any are purchased. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of the non-defaulting underwriter may be increased or the offering of senior notes may be terminated.

The underwriters have advised us that they propose to initially offer the senior notes to the public at the offering price appearing on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and may also offer the senior notes to dealers at a price that represents a concession not in excess of 0.350% of the principal amount of the senior notes. Any underwriter may allow, and any of these dealers may re-allow, a concession not in excess of 0.250% of the principal amount of the senior notes. After the initial offering of the senior notes, the underwriters may from time to time vary the offering price and other selling terms.

The senior notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the senior notes on any national securities exchange. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the senior notes after the offering, although they are under no obligation to do so. The underwriters may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without any notice. We can give no assurance as to the liquidity of the trading market for the senior notes or that a public trading market for the senior notes will develop.

In connection with the offering of the senior notes, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the senior notes. Specifically, the underwriters may over-allot in connection with the offering of the senior notes, creating a syndicate short position. In addition, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the senior notes in the open market to cover short positions or to stabilize the price of the senior notes. Finally, the underwriters may reclaim selling concessions allowed for distributing the senior notes in the offering, if the underwriters repurchase previously distributed senior notes in transactions to cover short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market prices of the senior notes above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in any of these activities, and may end any of them at any time without notice.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

We estimate that our share of the total expenses of the offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$250,000.

Table of Contents

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against, or contribute to payments that the underwriters may be required to make in respect of, certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein in addition to the member states of the European Union), which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State"), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the "Relevant Implementation Date"), it has not made and will not make an offer of senior notes to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the senior notes which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of senior notes to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than €43,000,000; and (3) an annual net turnover of more than €50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or
- (d) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by us of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer of senior notes to the public" in relation to any senior notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the senior notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the senior notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- 1. It has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the "FSMA")) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the senior notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA would not, if we were not an authorized person, apply to us; and
- 2. It has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the senior notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

In the ordinary course of their respective businesses, the underwriters and/or their affiliates have engaged, and may in the future engage, in commercial banking or investment banking transactions with us and our affiliates for which they have received, and will in the future receive, customary compensation. Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders to us under the \$300 million term loan agreement. A portion of the net proceeds of this offering will be used to repay the outstanding amounts owed by us under the term loan agreement. See "Use of Proceeds." Because more than 10% of the net proceeds of this offering may be paid to affiliates or members of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") who are participating in this offering, this offering is being conducted in compliance with Rule 5110(h) of the Conduct Rules of FINRA.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by Steven R. Sullivan, Esq., our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, New York, New York. Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP regularly represents us and our affiliates from time to time in connection with various matters.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

AMEREN CORPORATION

Senior Debt Securities
Subordinated Debt Securities
Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Stock Purchase Contracts
Stock Purchase Units

AMEREN CAPITAL TRUST I **AMEREN CAPITAL TRUST II**

Trust Preferred Securities
Guaranteed as set forth herein by Ameren Corporation

Each of Ameren Corporation, Ameren Capital Trust I and Ameren Capital Trust II may offer any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings from time to time in amounts authorized from time to time. This prospectus provides you with a general description of these securities. We and the trusts will provide specific information about the offering and the terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. The supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the supplements carefully before investing. This prospectus may not be used to sell any of these securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The common stock of Ameren Corporation is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AEE."

Our principal executive offices are located at 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103 and our telephone number is (314) 621-3222.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Before buying our securities, you should refer to the risk factors included in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, in prospectus supplements relating to specific offerings and in other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. See "Risk Factors" on page 6.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We and the trusts may offer these securities directly or through underwriters, agents or dealers. Each prospectus supplement will provide the terms of the plan of distribution relating to each series of securities. See "Plan of Distribution."

The date of this prospectus is November 17, 2008.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Ameren Corporation</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Ameren Capital Trust I and Ameren Capital Trust II</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Description of Trust Preferred Securities</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Description of Guarantees</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Relationship Among Trust Preferred Securities, Debt Securities and Guarantees</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Book-Entry System</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>46</u>

Table of Contents

AMEREN CORPORATION

Ameren, headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, is a public utility holding company under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005, administered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Ameren's primary assets are the common stock of its subsidiaries. Ameren's subsidiaries are separate, independent legal entities with separate businesses, assets and liabilities. These subsidiaries operate rate-regulated electric generation, transmission and distribution businesses, rate-regulated natural gas transmission and distribution businesses, and non-rate-regulated electric generation businesses in Missouri and Illinois. Dividends on Ameren's common stock depend on distributions made to it by its subsidiaries. Information regarding Ameren's principal subsidiaries as of December 31, 2007 is listed below.

UE, or Union Electric Company, also known as AmerenUE, operates a rate-regulated electric generation, transmission and distribution business, and a rate-regulated natural gas transmission and distribution business in Missouri. UE is the largest electric utility in the state of Missouri. It supplies electric and gas service to a 24,000 square mile area located in central and eastern Missouri. This area has an estimated population of 3 million and includes the Greater St. Louis area. UE supplies electric service to 1.2 million customers and natural gas service to 127,000 customers.

CIPS, or Central Illinois Public Service Company, also known as AmerenCIPS, operates a rate-regulated electric and natural gas transmission and distribution business in Illinois. CIPS supplies electric and gas utility service to portions of central, west central and southern Illinois having an estimated population of 1 million in an area of 20,500 square miles. CIPS supplies electric service to 400,000 customers and natural gas service to 190,000 customers.

Genco, or Ameren Energy Generating Company, operates a non-rate-regulated electric generation business in Illinois and Missouri. Genco owns 2,549 megawatts of coal-fired electric generating capacity and 1,666 megawatts of natural gas and oil-fired electric generating capacity.

CILCO, or Central Illinois Light Company, also known as AmerenCILCO, is a subsidiary of CILCORP. CILCORP is an Ameren subsidiary that operates as a holding company for CILCO and various non-rate-regulated subsidiaries. CILCO operates a rate-regulated electric transmission and distribution business, a non-rate-regulated electric generation business and a rate-regulated natural gas transmission and distribution business in Illinois. CILCO supplies electric and gas utility service to portions of central and east central Illinois in areas of 3,700 and 4,500 square miles, respectively, with an estimated population of 1 million. CILCO supplies electric service to 210,000 customers and natural gas service to 213,000 customers. AmerenEnergy Resources Generating Company, a non-rate-regulated wholly owned subsidiary of CILCO, owns 1,074 megawatts of coal-fired electric generating capacity and 55 megawatts of natural gas and oil-fired electric generating capacity.

IP, or Illinois Power Company, also known as AmerenIP, operates a rate-regulated electric and natural gas transmission and distribution business in Illinois. It supplies electric and gas utility service to portions of central, east central, and southern Illinois, serving a population of 1.4 million in an area of 15,000 square miles, contiguous to our other service territories. IP supplies electric service to 626,000 customers and natural gas service to 427,000 customers, including most of the Illinois portion of the Greater St. Louis area.

Ameren has various other subsidiaries responsible for the short and long term marketing of power, procurement of fuel, management of commodity risks, and provision of other shared services. Ameren has an 80% ownership interest in Electric Energy, Inc., which operates non-rate-regulated electric generation facilities and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-regulated transmission facilities in Illinois.

Table of Contents

Our principal executive offices are located at 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103 and our telephone number is (314) 621-3222.

In this prospectus, "Ameren," "we," "us" and "our" refer to Ameren Corporation and, unless the context otherwise indicates, do not include our subsidiaries.

AMEREN CAPITAL TRUST I AND AMEREN CAPITAL TRUST II

Ameren Capital Trust I and Ameren Capital Trust II are identical Delaware statutory trusts formed to permit us to raise capital by issuing trust preferred securities under this prospectus and a prospectus supplement, and investing the proceeds in debt securities issued by us.

We have designated BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware (formerly The Bank of New York (Delaware)), as trustee for each of the trusts, in the State of Delaware for the purpose of complying with the provisions of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act. At the time trust preferred securities are to be issued, the original trust agreement for each trust will be amended and restated substantially in the form filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, to be effective at the time of such issuance. The amended and restated trust agreement for each trust, which we will refer to in this prospectus as the "trust agreement," will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. Each trust will exist for the exclusive purposes of:

issuing two classes of trust securities trust preferred securities and trust common securities (collectively, the "trust securities") which together represent undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the trust;

investing the gross proceeds of the trust securities in our debt securities; and

engaging in only those other activities necessary, convenient or incidental to the purposes listed above.

Our debt securities will be the sole assets of each trust, and our payments under the debt securities will be the sole revenue of each trust. No separate financial statements of either trust will be included in this prospectus. We consider that these financial statements would not be material to holders of the trust preferred securities because the trusts would not have any independent operations and the only purposes of each trust are those described above. We do not expect that either trust will be filing annual, quarterly or current reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). The principal place of business of each trust will be c/o Ameren Corporation, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We and the trusts have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, under the Securities Act of 1933. This prospectus is part of the registration statement, but the registration statement also contains or incorporates by reference additional information and exhibits. We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, therefore, we file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy the registration statement and any document that we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can call the SEC's toll-free telephone number at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. The SEC maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding companies, such as us, that file documents with the SEC electronically. The documents can be found by searching the EDGAR archives of the SEC electronically.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information that we file with the SEC which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus and you should read it with the same care. Later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information and will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the following documents previously filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 30, 2008; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed February 14, 2008 (excluding any portion of such report that was furnished and not filed), February 14, 2008, March 28, 2008, April 1, 2008, April 4, 2008, April 8, 2008, April 9, 2008, May 2, 2008 (excluding any portion of such report that was furnished and not filed), June 19, 2008 (excluding any portion of such report that was furnished and not filed), June 26, 2008, June 27, 2008, August 1, 2008 (excluding any portion of such report that was furnished and not filed), September 19, 2008, September 26, 2008, October 14, 2008, October 23, 2008 and November 4, 2008 (excluding any portion of such report that was furnished and not filed).

We are also incorporating by reference all additional documents that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus until the offerings contemplated by this prospectus are completed or terminated.

Any statement contained in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any separately filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute part of this prospectus.

You may request a free copy of these filings by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Ameren Corporation
Attention: Secretary's Department
P.O. Box 66149
St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149
Telephone: (314) 621-3222

Table of Contents

Copies of these filings are also available from our website at <http://www.ameren.com>. We do not intend this internet address to be an active link or to otherwise incorporate the contents of the website into this prospectus.

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any supplement or in any written communication from us specifying the final terms of a particular offering of securities. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents or that the information incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the filing date of the document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial position, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

The trusts will not be subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. If securities are issued by the trusts, Ameren may include summarized financial information relating to the trusts in some of its reports filed with the SEC.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we and the trusts have filed with the SEC utilizing a "shelf" registration, or continuous offering, process. Under this shelf registration process, we or the trusts may issue and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings from time to time. We may offer any of the following securities: senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, each of which may be convertible into our common stock, guarantees related to the trust preferred securities which the trusts may offer, common stock, preferred stock, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units. The trusts may offer trust preferred securities.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we and the trusts may offer. Each time we or the trusts sell securities, we or the applicable trust will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. Any prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. The registration statement we and the trusts have filed with the SEC includes exhibits that provide more detail on descriptions of the matters discussed in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and the related exhibits filed with the SEC and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

RISK FACTORS

Investing in the securities involves certain risks. You are urged to read and consider the risk factors relating to an investment in the securities described in our annual, quarterly and current reports filed with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus. Although we have tried to discuss material risk factors, please be aware that other risks may prove to be important in the future. New risks may emerge at any time and we cannot predict such risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. The prospectus supplement applicable to each type or series of securities we or the trusts offer may contain a discussion of additional risks applicable to an investment in us and the particular type of securities we or the trusts are offering under that prospectus

Table of Contents

supplement. Each of the risks described could result in a decrease in the value of the particular securities and your investment therein.

CONSOLIDATED RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing our earnings by our fixed charges before income taxes. For the purposes of such computations:

earnings consist of net income plus fixed charges and income taxes less minority interest and preference security dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries; and

fixed charges consist of interest on long term debt, net of amortization of debt discount, premium and expenses, estimated interest costs within rental expense and preference security dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries.

Our consolidated ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the five years ended December 31, 2007 and the nine months ended September 30, 2008 were as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,					Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	(unaudited)
Consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges	3.66	3.67	3.91	3.23	3.10(1)	3.45(1)

(1) Includes Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 48 interest expense.

We have no preference equity securities outstanding; therefore, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges is the same as the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we state otherwise in any prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the offered securities:

to finance our subsidiaries' ongoing construction and maintenance programs;

to redeem, repurchase, repay or retire outstanding indebtedness, including indebtedness of our subsidiaries;

to finance strategic investments in, or future acquisitions of, other entities or their assets; and

for other general corporate purposes.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of securities by us will identify the use of proceeds for that offering.

Edgar Filing: AMEREN CORP - Form 424B2

The proceeds from the sale of trust preferred securities by a trust will be invested in debt securities issued by us. Except as we may otherwise describe in the related prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of such debt securities to the applicable trust for the above purposes.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements made in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents described under "Where You Can Find More Information," which are not based on historical facts, are considered "forward-looking" and, accordingly, involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed. Although such "forward-looking" statements have been made in good faith and are based on reasonable assumptions, there is no assurance that the expected results will be achieved. These statements include, without limitation, statements as to future expectations, beliefs, plans, strategies, objectives, events, conditions, and financial performance. In connection with the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, we are providing this cautionary statement to identify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated. The following factors, in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents described under "Where You Can Find More Information," including the discussion of risk factors contained in our annual, quarterly and current reports filed with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, could cause actual results to differ materially from management expectations as suggested by such "forward-looking" statements:

regulatory or legislative actions, including changes in regulatory policies and ratemaking determinations, such as the outcome of the pending UE rate proceeding or future legislative actions that seek to limit or reverse rate increases;

uncertainty as to the effect of implementation of the Illinois electric settlement agreement on Ameren, CIPS, CILCO, IP, Genco and AmerenEnergy Resources Generating Company, including implementation of a new power procurement process;

changes in laws and other governmental actions, including monetary and fiscal policies;

changes in laws or regulations that adversely affect the ability of electric distribution companies and other purchasers of wholesale electricity to pay their suppliers, including UE and Ameren Energy Marketing Company;

enactment of legislation taxing electric generators, in Illinois or elsewhere;

the effects of increased competition in the future due to, among other things, deregulation of certain aspects of our business at both the state and federal levels, and the implementation of deregulation, such as occurred when the electric rate freeze and power supply contracts expired in Illinois at the end of 2006;

the effects of participation in the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.;

the cost and availability of fuel such as coal, natural gas, and enriched uranium used to produce electricity; the cost and availability of purchased power and natural gas for distribution; and the level and volatility of future market prices for such commodities, including the ability to recover the costs for such commodities;

the effectiveness of our risk management strategies and the use of financial and derivative instruments;

prices for power in the Midwest, including forward prices;

business and economic conditions, including their impact on interest rates, bad debt expense and demand for our products;

Edgar Filing: AMEREN CORP - Form 424B2

disruptions of the capital markets or other events that make Ameren's or its subsidiaries' access to necessary capital, including short-term credit, more difficult or costly;

our assessment of our liquidity;

Table of Contents

the impact of the adoption of new accounting standards and the application of appropriate technical accounting rules and guidance;

actions of credit rating agencies and the effects of such actions;

weather conditions and other natural phenomena;

the impact of system outages caused by severe weather conditions or other events;

generation plant construction, installation and performance, including costs associated with UE's Taum Sauk pumped-storage hydroelectric plant incident and the plant's future operation;

recoverability through insurance of costs associated with UE's Taum Sauk pumped-storage hydroelectric plant incident;

operation of UE's nuclear power facility, including planned and unplanned outages, and decommissioning costs;

the effects of strategic initiatives, including acquisitions and divestitures;

the impact of current environmental regulations on utilities and power generating companies and the expectation that more stringent requirements, including those related to greenhouse gases, will be introduced over time, which could have a negative financial effect;

labor disputes, future wage and employee benefits costs, including changes in discount rates and returns on benefit plan assets;

the inability of our counterparties and affiliates to meet their obligations with respect to contracts and financial instruments;

the cost and availability of transmission capacity for the energy generated by Ameren's subsidiaries' facilities or required to satisfy energy sales made by Ameren's subsidiaries;

legal and administrative proceedings; and

acts of sabotage, war, terrorism or intentionally disruptive acts.

Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Except to the extent required by the federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

The senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities, which we refer to collectively as the debt securities, will represent unsecured obligations of Ameren Corporation. We may issue one or more series of debt securities directly to the public, to a trust or as part of a stock purchase unit from time to time. We expect that each series of senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities will be issued as a new series of debt securities under one of two separate indentures, as each may be amended or supplemented from time to time. We will issue the senior debt securities in one or more series under a senior indenture dated as of December 1, 2001 between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee. We will issue the subordinated debt securities in one or more series under a subordinated indenture between us and a trustee. The senior indenture, the form of the subordinated indenture and the form of supplemental indenture or other instrument establishing the debt securities of a particular series are filed as exhibits to, or will be subsequently incorporated by reference into, the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Each indenture will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The following summaries of certain provisions of the senior indenture, the subordinated indenture and the applicable debt securities do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by, all of the provisions of the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture, as the case may be, and the applicable debt securities. We may also sell hybrid or novel securities now existing or developed in the future that combine certain features of the debt securities and other securities described in this prospectus.

There is no requirement under the senior indenture, nor will there be any such requirement under the subordinated indenture, that our future issuances of debt securities be issued exclusively under either indenture, and we will be free to employ other indentures or documentation, containing provisions different from those included in either indenture or applicable to one or more issuances of senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, as the case may be, in connection with future issuances of other debt securities.

The senior indenture provides and the subordinated indenture will provide that the applicable debt securities will be issued in one or more series, may be issued at various times, may have differing maturity dates and may bear interest at differing rates. We need not issue all debt securities of one series at the same time and, unless otherwise provided, we may reopen a series, without the consent of the holders of the senior debt securities or the subordinated debt securities of that series, as the case may be, for issuances of additional senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities of that series, as applicable. Unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, neither indenture described above limits or will limit the aggregate amount of debt, including secured debt, we or our subsidiaries may incur.

Ranking

The senior debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other senior debt. The subordinated debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations and will be junior in right of payment to our Senior Indebtedness, as described under the heading " Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities."

Ameren is a holding company that derives substantially all of its income from its operating subsidiaries. As a result, our cash flows and consequent ability to service our debt, including the debt securities, are dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and distribution of those earnings to us and other payments or distributions of funds by our subsidiaries to us, including payments of principal and interest under intercompany indebtedness. Our operating subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and will have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any dividends or make any other distributions (except for payments required pursuant to the terms of intercompany borrowing

Table of Contents

arrangements) to us or to otherwise pay amounts due with respect to the debt securities or to make specific funds available for such payments. Various financing arrangements, charter provisions and regulatory requirements may impose certain restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to transfer funds to us in the form of cash dividends, loans or advances. Furthermore, except to the extent we have a priority or equal claim against our subsidiaries as a creditor, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to debt and preferred stock at the subsidiary level because, as the common shareholder of our subsidiaries, we will be subject to the prior claims of creditors and preferred stockholders of our subsidiaries.

Provisions of a Particular Series

The prospectus supplement applicable to each issuance of debt securities will specify, among other things:

the title and any limitation on aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the original issue date of the debt securities;

the date or dates on which the principal of any of the debt securities is payable;

the interest rate or rates, or method of calculation of such rate or rates, for the debt securities, and the date from which interest will accrue;

the terms, if any, regarding the optional or mandatory redemption of any debt securities, including the redemption date or dates, if any, and the price or prices applicable to such redemption;

the denominations in which such debt securities will be issuable;

the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which any debt securities may be repaid, in whole or in part, at the option of the holder thereof;

the establishment of any office or agency where debt securities may be presented for payment, exchange or registration of transfer;

any addition to the events of default applicable to that series of debt securities and the covenants for the benefit of the holders of that series;

any securities exchange on which the debt securities will be listed;

the terms, if any, pursuant to which debt securities may be converted into or exchanged for shares of our capital stock or other of our securities;

any interest deferral or extension provisions;

Edgar Filing: AMEREN CORP - Form 424B2

the applicability of or any change in the subordination provisions for a series of debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the applicable indenture.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, there will be no provisions in either indenture or the related debt securities that require us to redeem, or permit the holders to cause a redemption of, those debt securities or that otherwise protect the holders in the event that we incur substantial additional indebtedness, whether or not in connection with a change in control, or grant security for other of our indebtedness.

Table of Contents

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our Senior Indebtedness. The term "Senior Indebtedness" will be defined in the applicable prospectus supplement.

No payment of principal of (including redemption and sinking fund payments), premium, if any, or interest on, the subordinated debt securities may be made if any Senior Indebtedness is not paid when due, any applicable grace period with respect to such default has ended and such default has not been cured or waived, or the maturity of any Senior Indebtedness has been accelerated because of a default and such acceleration has not been rescinded or annulled. If provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, limited subordination periods may apply in the event of non-payment defaults relating to Senior Indebtedness in situations where there has not been an acceleration of Senior Indebtedness.

Upon any distribution of our assets to creditors upon any dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary, or in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other proceedings, all principal of, and premium, if any, and interest due or to become due on, all Senior Indebtedness must be paid in full before the holders of the subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive or retain any payment. The rights of the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions applicable to Senior Indebtedness until all amounts owing on the subordinated debt securities are paid in full.

Registration, Transfer and Exchange

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of debt securities, other than debt securities issued to a trust, will initially be issued in the form of one or more global securities, in registered form, without coupons, as described under "Book-Entry System." The global securities will be registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, as depository, or its nominee, and deposited with, or on behalf of, the depository. Except in the circumstances described under "Book-Entry System," owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have debt securities registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any debt securities and will not be considered the registered holders thereof under the applicable indenture.

Debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series of any authorized denominations and of a like aggregate principal amount and tenor. Subject to the terms of the applicable indenture and the limitations applicable to global securities, debt securities may be presented for exchange or registration of transfer duly endorsed or accompanied by a duly executed instrument of transfer at the office of any transfer agent we may designate for such purpose, without service charge but upon payment of any taxes and other governmental charges as described in the applicable indenture.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the transfer agent will be the trustee under the applicable indenture. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

Payment and Paying Agents

Principal of and interest and premium, if any, on debt securities issued in the form of global securities will be paid in the manner described under "Book-Entry System."

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the principal of and any premium and interest on debt securities of a particular series in the form of certificated securities will be payable at the office of the applicable trustee or at the authorized office of any paying agent or paying agents upon presentation and surrender of such debt securities. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, interest on the debt securities of a particular series, other than interest at maturity, that are in the form of certificated securities will be paid by check payable in clearinghouse funds mailed to the person entitled thereto at such person's address as it appears on the register for such debt securities maintained by the applicable trustee; provided, however, a holder of certificated securities in the aggregate principal amount of \$10,000,000 or more will be entitled to receive payments of interest by wire transfer of immediately available funds to a bank within the continental United States if the trustee has received appropriate wire transfer instructions on or prior to the applicable regular record date for such interest payment date.

All monies we pay to a trustee or a paying agent for the payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, or interest on, any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest shall have become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of such debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

Redemption

Any terms for the optional or mandatory redemption of the debt securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities will be redeemable by us only upon notice by mail not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the date fixed for redemption, and, if less than all the debt securities of a series are to be redeemed, the particular debt securities to be redeemed will be selected by such method as shall be provided for any particular series, or in the absence of any such provision, by the trustee in such manner as it shall deem fair and appropriate.

Any notice of redemption at our option may state that such redemption will be conditional upon receipt by the trustee or the paying agent or agents, on or prior to the date fixed for such redemption, of money sufficient to pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on, such debt securities and that if such money has not been so received, such notice will be of no force and effect and we will not be required to redeem such debt securities.

Events of Default

Each of the following will constitute or constitutes, as the case may be, an event of default under the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture with respect to senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, as the case may be, of any series:

failure to pay principal of or premium, if any, on any debt security of such series, as the case may be, when due and payable;

failure to pay interest on the debt securities of such series within 30 days after the same becomes due and payable;

failure to perform or breach of any of our other covenants or warranties in the applicable indenture (other than a covenant or warranty solely for the benefit of one or more series of debt securities other than such series) for 60 days after written notice to us by the trustee or to us and the trustee by the holders of at least 33% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding applicable debt securities of such series;

Table of Contents

with respect to the senior debt securities of any series, failure to pay when due and payable, after the expiration of any applicable grace period, any portion of the principal of our Debt ("Debt" means any of our outstanding funded obligations for money borrowed, whether or not evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other securities, reimbursement obligations under letters of credit, or guarantees of any such obligations issued by others) pursuant to a bond, debenture, note or other evidence of Debt in excess of \$25,000,000 (including a default with respect to debt securities of any other series), or acceleration of such Debt for another default thereunder, without such Debt having been discharged, or such acceleration having been rescinded or annulled, within 30 days after written notice thereof to us by the trustee or to the trustee and us by the holders of at least 33% in aggregate principal amount of the senior debt securities of such series outstanding;

the occurrence of events of bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, assignment or receivership of Ameren, whether voluntary or involuntary, specified in the particular indenture including, without limitation, the commencement by us of a case or proceeding under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law or any other case or proceeding in which we are adjudicated a bankrupt, our consent to an order for relief in an involuntary case under any such law, an assignment for the benefit of creditors or the taking of any corporate action by us in furtherance of any of the foregoing; or

any other event of default specified in the applicable prospectus supplement with respect to debt securities of a particular series.

No event of default with respect to the debt securities of a particular series necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to the debt securities of any other series issued under the applicable indenture. If provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, an event of default similar to the event of default described in the fourth bullet above may be applicable to a series of subordinated debt securities.

If an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, then either the trustee for such series or the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series, by notice in writing, may declare the principal amount of and interest on all of the debt securities of such series to be due and payable immediately; provided, however, that if an event of default occurs and is continuing with respect to more than one series of debt securities under a particular indenture, the trustee for such series or the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all such series, considered as one class, may make such declaration of acceleration and not the holders of the debt securities of any one of such series.

At any time after an acceleration with respect to the debt securities of any series has been declared, but before a judgment or decree for the payment of the money due has been obtained, the event or events of default giving rise to such acceleration will be waived, and the acceleration will be rescinded and annulled, if

we pay or deposit with the trustee for such series a sum sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest on all debt securities of such series, the principal of and premium, if any, on the debt securities of such series which have become due otherwise than by acceleration and interest thereon at the rate or rates specified in such debt securities, interest upon overdue installments of interest at the rate or rates specified in such debt securities, to the extent that payment of such interest is lawful, and all amounts due to the trustee for such series under the applicable indenture; and

any other event or events of default with respect to the debt securities of such series, other than the nonpayment of the principal of and accrued interest on the debt securities of such series

Table of Contents

which has become due solely by such acceleration, have been cured or waived as provided in the applicable indenture.

However, no such waiver or rescission and annulment shall extend to or shall affect any subsequent default or impair any related right.

Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture relating to the duties of the trustee in case an event of default shall occur and be continuing, the trustee generally will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the applicable indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders unless such holders have offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to such provisions for the indemnification of the trustee and certain other limitations contained in the applicable indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or of exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series; provided, however, that if an event of default occurs and is continuing with respect to more than one series of debt securities, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all those series, considered as one class, will have the right to make such direction, and not the holders of the debt securities of any one series. Any direction provided by the holders shall not be in conflict with any rule of law or with the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture, as the case may be, and will not involve the trustee in personal liability in circumstances where reasonable indemnity would not, in the trustee's sole discretion, be adequate and the trustee may take any other action it deems proper that is not inconsistent with such direction.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive any past default under the applicable indenture on behalf of all holders of debt securities of that series with respect to the debt securities of that series, except a default in the payment of principal of or any premium or interest on such debt securities. No holder of debt securities of any series may institute any proceeding with respect to the applicable indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy, unless such holder has previously given to the trustee for such series written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to the debt securities of such series, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series in respect of which an event of default has occurred and is continuing, considered as one class, have made written request to the trustee for such series to institute such proceeding and have offered such reasonable indemnity as it may require, and the trustee for such series has failed to institute such proceeding within 60 days after such notice, request and offer. Furthermore, no holder of debt securities of any series will be entitled to institute any such action if and to the extent that such action would disturb or prejudice the rights of other holders of those debt securities.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, each holder of debt securities of any series has the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment of the principal of and premium and interest, if any, on such debt securities when due and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment, and such rights may not be impaired without the consent of that holder of debt securities.

The trustee, within 90 days after it receives notice of the occurrence of a default with respect to the debt securities of any series, is required to give the holders of the debt securities of that series notice of such default, unless cured or waived, but, except in the case of default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities of that series, the trustee may withhold such notice if it determines in good faith that it is in the interest of such holders to do so. We will be required to deliver to the trustees for the debt securities each year a certificate as to whether or not, to the knowledge of the officers signing such certificate, we are in compliance with all conditions

Table of Contents

and covenants under the applicable indenture, determined without regard to any period of grace or requirement of notice under such indenture.

Modification

Without the consent of any holder of debt securities, the trustee for such debt securities and we may enter into one or more supplemental indentures for any of the following purposes:

to supply omissions, cure any ambiguity or inconsistency or correct defects, which actions, in each case, are not prejudicial to the interests of the holders of debt securities of any series in any material respect;

to change or eliminate any provision of the applicable indenture, provided that any such change or elimination will become effective with respect to such series only when there is no debt security of such series outstanding created prior to the execution of such supplemental indenture which is entitled to the benefit of such provision, or such change or elimination is applicable only to debt securities of such series issued after the effective date of such change or elimination;

to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series as permitted by the applicable indenture;

to evidence the assumption of our covenants in the applicable indenture and the debt securities by any permitted successor;

to grant to or confer upon the trustee for any debt securities for the benefit of the holders of such debt securities, any additional rights, remedies, powers or authority;

to permit the trustee for any debt securities to comply with any duties imposed upon it by law;

to specify further the duties and responsibilities of, and to define further the relationship among, the trustee for any debt securities, any authenticating agent and any paying agent, and to evidence the succession of a successor trustee as permitted under the applicable indenture;

to add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of outstanding debt securities, to add to the security of all debt securities, to surrender any right or power conferred upon us by the applicable indenture or to add any additional events of default with respect to all or any series of outstanding debt securities; and

to make any other change that is not prejudicial to the holders of any debt securities.

Except as provided above, the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of either the senior debt securities or the subordinated debt securities, as the case may be, of all series then outstanding, considered as one class, is required for the purpose of adding any provisions to, or changing in any manner, or eliminating any of the provisions of, the applicable indenture pursuant to one or more supplemental indentures or of modifying or waiving in any manner the rights of the holders of the applicable debt securities; provided, however, that if less than all of the series of senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities outstanding, as the case may be, are directly affected by a proposed supplemental indenture, then the consent only of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding applicable debt securities of all series so directly affected, considered as one class, will be required.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no such amendment or modification may, without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities affected thereby:

change the maturity date of the principal of any debt security;

reduce the principal amount of, or premium payable on, any debt security;

Table of Contents

reduce the rate of interest or change the method of calculating such rate, or extend the time of payment of interest, on any debt security;

change the coin or currency of any payment of principal of, or any premium or interest on any debt security;

change the date on which any debt security may be redeemed or adversely affect the rights of a holder to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment of principal of or any premium or interest on any debt security; or

modify the foregoing requirements or reduce the percentage of outstanding debt securities necessary to modify or amend the applicable indenture or to waive any past default.

A supplemental indenture which changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of the applicable indenture which has expressly been included solely for the benefit of one or more series of debt securities, or which modifies the rights of the holders of debt securities of such series with respect to such covenant or provision, will be deemed not to affect the rights under the applicable indenture of the holders of the debt securities of any other series.

Defeasance and Discharge

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we may elect either:

- (1) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series then outstanding under the applicable indenture (except for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of the debt securities of such series, replace stolen, lost or mutilated notes, maintain paying agencies and hold monies for payment in trust); or
- (2) to be released from the obligations of the senior indenture with respect to the senior debt securities of any series or the subordinated indenture with respect to the subordinated debt securities of any series under any covenants applicable to the debt securities of such series which are subject to covenant defeasance as described in the supplemental indenture or other instrument establishing such series.

In the case of either (1) or (2), we are required to deposit, in trust, with the applicable trustee money or U.S. government obligations, which through the payment of interest on those obligations and principal of those obligations in accordance with their terms will provide money, in an amount sufficient, without reinvestment, to pay all the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities of such series on the dates payments are due (which may include one or more redemption dates designated by us). This trust may only be established if, among other things, (A) no event of default or event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an event of default under the applicable indenture has occurred and is continuing on the date of the deposit, (B) the deposit will not cause the trustee to have any conflicting interest with respect to our other securities and (C) we have delivered an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes (and, in the case of paragraph (1) above, such opinion of counsel is based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or other change in applicable federal income tax law) as a result of the deposit or defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax in the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as if the deposit and defeasance had not occurred.

We may exercise our defeasance option under paragraph (1) with respect to debt securities of any series notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option under paragraph (2). If we exercise our defeasance option for debt securities of any series, payment of the debt securities of such series may not be accelerated because of a subsequent event of default. If we exercise our covenant defeasance option for debt securities of any series, payment of the debt securities of such series may

Table of Contents

not be accelerated by reference to a subsequent breach of any of the covenants noted under clause (2) in the preceding paragraph. In the event we omit to comply with our remaining obligations with respect to the debt securities of any series under the applicable indenture after exercising our covenant defeasance option and the debt securities of such series are declared due and payable because of the subsequent occurrence of any event of default, the amount of money and U.S. government obligations on deposit with the trustee may be insufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of such series at the time of the acceleration resulting from that event of default. However, we will remain liable for those payments.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale or Disposition of Assets

We have agreed not to consolidate with or merge into any other corporation or sell or otherwise dispose of our properties as or substantially as an entirety to any person, unless:

the successor or transferee corporation or the person which receives such properties pursuant to such sale, transfer or other disposition is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

the successor or transferee corporation or the person which receives such properties pursuant to such sale, transfer or other disposition assumes by supplemental indenture the due and punctual payment of the principal of and premium and interest, if any, on all the debt securities outstanding under each indenture and the performance of every covenant of each indenture to be performed or observed by us; and

we have delivered to the trustees for such debt securities an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel as provided in each of the indentures.

Upon any such consolidation, merger, sale, transfer or other disposition of our properties as or substantially as an entirety, the successor corporation formed by such consolidation or into which we are merged or the person to which such sale, transfer or other disposition is made shall succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, us under the applicable indenture with the same effect as if such successor corporation or person had been named as us therein, and we will be released from all obligations under the applicable indenture.

Resignation or Removal of Trustee

The trustee may resign at any time upon written notice to us specifying the day upon which the resignation is to take effect and such resignation will take effect immediately upon the later of the appointment of a successor trustee and such specified day. The trustee may be removed at any time with respect to debt securities of any series by an instrument or concurrent instruments in writing filed with the trustee and signed by the holders, or their attorneys-in-fact, of a majority in aggregate principal amount of that series of debt securities then outstanding. In addition, so long as no event of default or event which, with the giving of notice or lapse of time or both, would become an event of default has occurred and is continuing, we may remove the trustee upon notice to the holder of each debt security outstanding and the trustee, and appointment of a successor trustee.

Concerning the Trustee for Senior Debt Securities

We and our affiliates maintain corporate trust and other normal banking relationships with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., the trustee under the senior indenture. Each indenture provides that our obligations to compensate the trustee and reimburse the trustee for expenses, disbursements and advances will be secured by a lien prior to that of the applicable debt securities upon the property and funds held or collected by the trustee as such.

Governing Law

Each of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture and the related debt securities will be governed by New York law.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

This prospectus describes certain general terms of the trust preferred securities. The trust preferred securities will be issued by Ameren Capital Trust I or Ameren Capital Trust II, each a Delaware statutory trust which we formed by executing a trust agreement for each trust (with BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware (formerly The Bank of New York (Delaware)), as trustee, and an administrator named therein) and causing the filing of a certificate of trust for each trust with the Delaware Secretary of State. At the time trust preferred securities are to be issued by a trust, the original trust agreement for such trust will be amended and restated, to be effective at the time of such issuance. The form of amended and restated trust agreement is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The amended and restated trust agreement, which we will refer to in this prospectus as the "trust agreement," for each trust will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. You should read the form of amended and restated trust agreement for provisions that may be important to you. When we offer to sell a particular series of trust preferred securities, we will describe the specific terms of that series in a prospectus supplement. The trust preferred securities will be issued pursuant to the related trust agreement, which we have summarized below. This summary is not complete.

General

Each trust will exist for the exclusive purposes of:

issuing two classes of trust securities trust preferred securities and trust common securities (collectively, the "trust securities") which together represent undivided beneficial interests in the assets of such trust;

investing the gross proceeds of the trust securities in our debt securities; and

engaging in only those other activities necessary, convenient or incidental to the purposes listed above.

Our debt securities will be the sole assets of each trust, and our payments under the debt securities will be the sole revenue of each trust. No separate financial statements of either trust will be included in this prospectus. We consider that these financial statements would not be material to holders of the trust preferred securities because the trusts would not have any independent operations and the only purposes of each trust are those described above. We do not expect that either trust will be filing annual, quarterly or current reports with the SEC. The principal place of business of each trust will be c/o Ameren Corporation, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

Each trust will exist until terminated as provided in its trust agreement. The administrators and trustees of each trust will be:

two of our employees or officers or two employees or officers of our affiliates as administrators (the "administrators");

a financial institution that will act as property trustee and as indenture trustee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "property trustee"); and

one trustee with its principal place of business in the State of Delaware for the purpose of complying with the provisions of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act (the "Delaware trustee").

The trust agreement will authorize the administrators to issue two classes of trust securities: trust preferred securities and trust common securities. We will own all of the trust common securities issued by each trust, which will rank equally in right of payment with the trust preferred securities issued by the respective trust. However, if an event of default occurs and is continuing under the trust agreement, rights of the holders of the trust common securities to payment for distributions and otherwise will be

Table of Contents

subordinated to the rights of the holders of the trust preferred securities. The amount of trust common securities of each trust that we will acquire will be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Proceeds from the sale of both the trust preferred securities and the trust common securities issued by each trust will be used to purchase our debt securities, which will be held in trust by the property trustee for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities issued by the respective trust. We will guarantee the payments of distributions and payments of redemption or liquidation with respect to the trust preferred securities issued by each trust, but only to the extent the respective trust has funds available to make those payments and has not made the payments. See "Description of Guarantees" below.

Each guarantee, when taken together with our obligations under the related debt securities, the related indenture and the related trust agreement (including our agreement to pay the expenses of the trust, other than payments in respect of the trust securities, contained in the trust agreement), will provide a full and unconditional guarantee of amounts due on the trust preferred securities issued by the respective trust. The trust preferred securities will have the terms, including distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights and other rights or restrictions that will be described in the related trust agreement or made part of it by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 or the Delaware Statutory Trust Act.

Provisions of a Particular Series

Each trust may issue only one series of trust preferred securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the principal terms of the trust preferred securities that will be offered, including:

the name of the trust preferred securities;

the liquidation amount and number of trust preferred securities issued;

the annual distribution rate or rates or method of determining such rate or rates, the payment date or dates and the record dates used to determine the holders who are to receive distributions;

the date from which distributions will be cumulative;

the optional redemption provisions, if any, including the prices, time periods and other terms and conditions on which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part;

the terms and conditions, if any, upon which the debt securities and the related guarantee may be distributed to holders of the trust preferred securities;

any securities exchange on which the trust preferred securities will be listed;

the terms and conditions, if any, upon which the trust preferred securities may be converted into our securities; and

any other relevant rights, covenants, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions of the trust preferred securities.

Terms of the trust preferred securities issued by each trust will mirror the terms of the debt securities held by the respective trust. In other words, the interest rate and interest and other payment dates of each series of debt securities issued to a trust will correspond to the rate at which distributions will be paid and the distribution and other payment dates of the trust preferred securities of that trust. The prospectus supplement will also set forth whether the debt securities to be issued to a trust will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities.

Table of Contents

Distributions

The trust preferred securities represent preferred, undivided, beneficial interests in the assets of the respective trust. The applicable prospectus supplement will state the annual rate, as a percentage of the liquidation amount, at which distributions on each trust preferred security will be payable, the liquidation amount and the dates on which distributions will be payable.

Each trust will use the proceeds from the issuance and sale of the trust preferred securities to purchase debt securities. The revenue of a trust available for distribution to holders of the trust preferred securities issued by that trust will be limited to payments under those debt securities. If we do not make payments on the debt securities, a trust will not have funds available to pay distributions or other amounts payable on the trust preferred securities issued by that trust. The payment of distributions and other amounts payable on the trust preferred securities issued by a trust, if and to the extent the trust has funds legally available for and cash sufficient to make such payments, is guaranteed by us on a limited basis.

Option to Defer Payment of Interest

If provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will have the option to defer the payment of interest from time to time on the debt securities for one or more periods.

Registration, Transfer and Exchange

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of trust preferred securities will initially be issued in the form of one or more global securities, in registered form, without coupons, as described under "Book-Entry System." The global trust preferred securities will be registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, as depository, or its nominee and deposited with, or on behalf of, the depository. Except in the circumstances described under "Book-Entry System," owners of beneficial interests in a global trust preferred security will not be entitled to have trust preferred securities registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any trust preferred securities and will not be considered the registered holders thereof under the related trust agreement.

Trust preferred securities of any series will be exchangeable for other trust preferred securities of the same series of any authorized denominations and of a like aggregate liquidation amount and tenor. Subject to the terms of the trust agreement and the limitations applicable to global securities, trust preferred securities may be presented for exchange or registration of transfer duly endorsed or accompanied by a duly executed instrument of transfer at the office of the property trustee, without service charges but upon payment of any taxes and other governmental charges as described in the trust agreement. Such transfer or exchange will be effected upon the property trustee being satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request.

The property trustee will not be required to issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any trust preferred securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any trust preferred securities called for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of mailing or register the transfer of, or exchange, any trust preferred securities selected for redemption except, in the case of any trust preferred security to be redeemed in part, the portion thereof not to be so redeemed.

Payment and Paying Agents

Distributions and other payments on trust preferred securities issued in the form of global securities will be paid in the manner described under "Book-Entry System."

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, distributions and other payments with respect to trust preferred securities that are in the form of certificated securities will be made by check mailed to the person entitled thereto at such person's address as such address appears on the securities register for the trust securities maintained by the property trustee. The paying agent initially will be the property trustee and any co-paying agent chosen by the property trustee and acceptable to the administrators. If the property trustee is no longer the paying agent, the property trustee will appoint a successor, which must be a bank or trust company reasonably acceptable to the administrators, to act as paying agent. Such paying agent will be permitted to resign as paying agent upon 30 days' written notice to the property trustee and the administrators at which time the paying agent will return all unclaimed funds and all other funds in its possession to the property trustee.

Redemption

Upon the repayment or redemption, in whole or in part, of the debt securities held by a trust, the proceeds shall be applied by the property trustee to redeem a Like Amount, as defined below, of the trust securities issued by that trust, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice, unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, at a redemption price equal to the aggregate liquidation amount of the trust securities plus accumulated but unpaid distributions to but excluding the redemption date and the related amount of the premium, if any, paid by us upon the concurrent redemption of the debt securities. If less than all the debt securities held by a trust are to be repaid or redeemed on a redemption date, then the proceeds from the repayment or redemption shall be allocated to the redemption proportionately of the trust preferred securities and the trust common securities issued by that trust based on the relative liquidation amounts of the classes. The amount of premium, if any, paid by us upon the redemption of all or any part of the debt securities held by a trust to be repaid or redeemed on a redemption date shall be allocated to the redemption proportionately of the trust preferred securities and the trust common securities issued by that trust.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we will have the right to redeem the debt securities held by a trust:

on or after the date fixed for redemption as stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in whole at any time or in part from time to time; or

prior to the date fixed for redemption as stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in whole, but not in part, at any time within 90 days following the occurrence and during the continuation of a Tax Event or an Investment Company Event, each as defined below.

"Like Amount" means:

with respect to a redemption of trust securities, trust securities having a liquidation amount equal to that portion of the principal amount of debt securities to be contemporaneously redeemed in accordance with the applicable indenture, allocated to the trust common securities and to the trust preferred securities based upon the relative liquidation amounts of the classes; and

with respect to a distribution of debt securities to holders of trust securities in connection with a dissolution or liquidation of a trust, debt securities having a principal amount equal to the liquidation amount of the trust securities of the holder to whom the debt securities are distributed.

"Tax Event" means the receipt by a trust of an opinion of counsel to us experienced in relevant matters to the effect that, as a result of any amendment to, or change including any announced prospective change in, the laws or any regulations thereunder of the United States or any political subdivision or taxing authority of or in the United States, or as a result of any official or administrative pronouncement or action or judicial decision interpreting or applying these laws or regulations, which

Table of Contents

amendment or change is effective or which pronouncement, action or decision is announced on or after the date of issuance by a trust of trust preferred securities, including, without limitation, any of the foregoing arising with respect to, or resulting from, any proposal, proceeding or other action commencing on or before the date of issuance, there is more than an insubstantial risk that:

the trust is, or will be within 90 days of the delivery of the opinion, subject to United States federal income tax with respect to income received or accrued on the debt securities we have issued to that trust;

interest payable by us on the debt securities is not, or within 90 days of the delivery of the opinion, will not be, deductible by us, in whole or in part, for United States federal income tax purposes; or

the trust is, or will be within 90 days of the delivery of the opinion, subject to more than an insubstantial amount of other taxes, duties or other governmental charges.

"Investment Company Event" means the receipt by a trust of an opinion of counsel to us experienced in these matters to the effect that, as a result of the occurrence of a change in law or regulation or a written change including any announced prospective change in interpretation or application of law or regulation by any legislative body, court, governmental agency or regulatory authority, there is more than an insubstantial risk that the trust is or will be considered an "investment company" that is required to be registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which change or prospective change becomes effective or would become effective, as the case may be, on or after the date of the issuance by that trust of trust preferred securities.

If and for so long as a trust is the holder of all the debt securities issued by us to that trust, we will pay, with respect to the debt securities, such additional amounts as may be necessary in order that the amount of distributions then due and payable by a trust on the outstanding trust preferred securities and trust common securities of a trust will not be reduced as a result of any additional taxes, duties and other governmental charges to which that trust has become subject, including as a result of a Tax Event.

Redemption Procedures

Trust preferred securities of a trust redeemed on each redemption date shall be redeemed at the redemption price with the applicable proceeds from the contemporaneous redemption of the debt securities held by that trust. Redemptions of trust preferred securities shall be made and the redemption price shall be payable on each redemption date only to the extent that a trust has funds on hand available for the payment of the redemption price. See also " Subordination of Trust Common Securities."

If a trust gives a notice of redemption in respect of any trust preferred securities, then, by 12:00 noon, New York City time, on the redemption date, to the extent funds are available, in the case of trust preferred securities held in book-entry form, the property trustee will deposit irrevocably with the depository funds sufficient to pay the applicable redemption price and will give the depository irrevocable instructions and authority to pay the redemption price to the holders of the trust preferred securities. With respect to trust preferred securities not held in book-entry form, the property trustee, to the extent funds are available, will irrevocably deposit with the paying agent for the trust preferred securities funds sufficient to pay the applicable redemption price and will give the paying agent irrevocable instructions and authority to pay the redemption price to the holders upon surrender of their certificates evidencing the trust preferred securities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, distributions payable on or prior to the redemption date for any trust preferred securities called for redemption shall be payable to the holders of the trust preferred securities on the relevant record dates for the related distribution dates. If notice of redemption shall have been given and funds deposited as required, then

Table of Contents

upon the date of the deposit all rights of the holders of the trust preferred securities so called for redemption will cease, except the right of the holders of the trust preferred securities to receive the redemption price, and any distribution payable in respect of the trust preferred securities, but without interest on the redemption price, and the trust preferred securities will cease to be outstanding. In the event that payment of the redemption price in respect of trust preferred securities called for redemption is improperly withheld or refused and not paid either by a trust or by us pursuant to the guarantee as described under "Description of Guarantees," distributions on the trust preferred securities will continue to accumulate at the then applicable rate, from the redemption date originally established by a trust for the trust preferred securities it issues to the date the redemption price is actually paid, in which case the actual payment date will be the date fixed for redemption for purposes of calculating the redemption price.

If less than all the trust preferred securities and trust common securities are to be redeemed on a redemption date, then the aggregate liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities and trust common securities to be redeemed shall be allocated proportionately to the trust preferred securities and the trust common securities based upon the relative liquidation amounts of the classes. The particular trust preferred securities to be redeemed shall be selected on a proportionate basis not more than 60 days prior to the redemption date by the property trustee from the outstanding trust preferred securities not previously called for redemption, or if the trust preferred securities are then held in the form of a global trust preferred security, in accordance with the depository's customary procedures. The property trustee shall promptly notify the securities registrar for the trust securities in writing of the trust preferred securities selected for redemption and, in the case of any trust preferred securities selected for partial redemption, the liquidation amount to be redeemed. For all purposes of the trust agreements, unless the context otherwise requires, all provisions relating to the redemption of trust preferred securities shall relate, in the case of any trust preferred securities redeemed or to be redeemed only in part, to the portion of the aggregate liquidation amount of trust preferred securities which has been or is to be redeemed.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each registered holder of trust preferred securities to be redeemed at its address appearing on the securities register for the trust securities. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price on the related debt securities, on and after the redemption date interest will cease to accrue on the debt securities or portions of them called for redemption.

Subordination of Trust Common Securities

If on any distribution date or redemption date a payment event of default with respect to the underlying debt securities has occurred and is continuing, no payment on or in respect of the related trust common securities shall be made unless all amounts due in respect of the related trust preferred securities (including the liquidation amount or redemption price, if applicable) shall have been paid or payment provided for. All funds immediately available to the respective property trustee shall first be applied to the payment in full in cash of all distributions on, or redemption price of, the trust preferred securities then due and payable.

In the case of any event of default, as defined below, resulting from an event of default with respect to the underlying debt securities, the holders of trust common securities will be deemed to have waived any right to act with respect to any event of default under the related trust agreement until the effects of all events of default with respect to the related trust preferred securities have been cured, waived or otherwise eliminated. See " Events of Default" and "Description of Debt Securities Events of Default." Until all events of default under the related trust agreement with respect to the trust preferred securities have been so cured, waived or otherwise eliminated, the property trustee will act solely on behalf of the holders of the trust preferred securities and not on behalf of the holders of

Table of Contents

the trust common securities, and only the holders of the trust preferred securities will have the right to direct the property trustee to act on their behalf.

Liquidation Distribution Upon Dissolution

In the event of any liquidation of a trust, the applicable prospectus supplement will state the amount payable on the trust preferred securities issued by that trust as a dollar amount per trust preferred security plus accumulated and unpaid distributions to the date of payment, subject to certain exceptions, which may be in the form of a distribution of the amount in debt securities held by that trust.

The holders of all the outstanding trust common securities of a trust have the right at any time to dissolve the trust and, after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of the trust as provided by applicable law, cause the debt securities held by that trust to be distributed in liquidation of the trust to the holders of the trust preferred securities and trust common securities issued by the trust.

Pursuant to the related trust agreement, unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, a trust will automatically dissolve upon expiration of its term or, if earlier, will dissolve on the first to occur of:

events of bankruptcy, dissolution or liquidation involving us or the holder of the trust common securities, as specified in the trust agreement;

the giving by the holder of the trust common securities issued by the trust of written direction to the property trustee to dissolve the trust and to distribute the debt securities to holders of trust preferred securities in exchange for trust preferred securities, which direction, subject to the foregoing restrictions, is optional and wholly within the discretion of the holder of the trust common securities;

the redemption of all the trust preferred securities issued by the trust in connection with the repayment or redemption of all the debt securities as described under "Redemption"; and

the entry of an order for the dissolution of the trust by a court of competent jurisdiction.

If dissolution of a trust occurs as described in the first, second or fourth bullet point above, the trust will be liquidated by the property trustee as expeditiously as the property trustee determines to be possible by distributing, after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of the trust as provided by applicable law, to the holders of the trust securities issued by the trust a Like Amount of the related debt securities. If such distribution is not practical, or, if a dissolution of a trust occurs as described in the third bullet point above, the holders will be entitled to receive out of the assets of the trust available for distribution to holders, after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of the trust as provided by applicable law, an amount equal to, in the case of holders of the trust preferred securities, the aggregate of the liquidation amount plus accumulated and unpaid distributions to the date of payment. In this prospectus we refer to this amount as the "liquidation distribution." If the liquidation distribution can be paid only in part because the trust has insufficient assets available to pay in full the aggregate liquidation distribution, then the amounts payable directly by the trust on its trust preferred securities shall be paid on a proportionate basis. The holders of the trust common securities issued by the trust will be entitled to receive distributions upon any liquidation proportionately with the holders of the trust preferred securities, except that if a payment event of default has occurred and is continuing on the related debt securities, the trust preferred securities shall have a priority over the trust common securities. See "Subordination of Trust Common Securities."

After the liquidation date is fixed for any distribution of debt securities we have issued to a trust,

the trust preferred securities issued by that trust will no longer be deemed to be outstanding,

Table of Contents

the depository or its nominee, as the registered holder of the trust preferred securities, will receive a registered global certificate or certificates representing the debt securities to be delivered upon the distribution with respect to the trust preferred securities held by the depository or its nominee, and

any certificates representing the trust preferred securities not held by the depository or its nominee will be deemed to represent the debt securities having a principal amount equal to the stated liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities and bearing accrued and unpaid interest in an amount equal to the accumulated and unpaid distributions on the trust preferred securities until the certificates are presented to the security registrar for the trust securities for transfer or reissuance.

If we do not redeem the debt securities we have issued to a trust prior to the stated maturity and the trust is not liquidated and the debt securities are not distributed to holders of the trust preferred securities issued by that trust, the trust preferred securities will remain outstanding until the repayment of the debt securities and the distribution of the liquidation distribution to the holders of the trust preferred securities.

There can be no assurance as to the market prices for trust preferred securities or the related debt securities that may be distributed in exchange for trust preferred securities if a dissolution and liquidation of a trust were to occur. Accordingly, the trust preferred securities that an investor may purchase, or the related debt securities that the investor may receive on dissolution and liquidation of a trust, may trade at a discount to the price that the investor paid to purchase the trust preferred securities offered hereby.

Certain Covenants

In connection with the issuance of trust preferred securities by a trust, we will agree:

to continue to hold, directly or indirectly, 100% of the trust common securities of any trust to which debt securities have been issued while such debt securities are outstanding, provided that certain successors that are permitted pursuant to the applicable indenture may succeed to our ownership of the trust common securities;

not to voluntarily dissolve, wind up or liquidate a trust to which debt securities have been issued, other than in connection with a distribution of debt securities to the holders of the trust preferred securities in liquidation of a trust or in connection with certain mergers, consolidations or amalgamations permitted by the applicable trust agreement; and

to use our reasonable efforts, consistent with the terms and provisions of the applicable trust agreement, to cause each trust to which debt securities have been issued to continue not to be taxable other than as a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we will also agree that we will not, directly or indirectly (1) declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of our capital stock, (2) make any payment of principal of or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities of ours that rank equally with, or junior to, the debt securities (or, with respect to senior deferrable debt securities, make any payment of interest on senior deferrable debt securities with similar deferral provisions or make any payment of principal of or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities that rank junior to such senior deferrable debt securities), or (3) make any guarantee payments with respect to any guarantee issued by us if such guarantee ranks equally with, or junior to, the debt securities (or, with respect to senior deferrable debt securities, make any

Table of Contents

guarantee payments with respect to any guarantee issued by us if such guarantee ranks junior to such senior deferrable debt securities), other than, in each case:

repurchases, redemptions or other acquisitions of shares of our capital stock in connection with any employment contract, benefit plan or other similar arrangement with or for the benefit of any one or more employees, officers, directors or consultants or in connection with a dividend reinvestment or shareholder stock purchase plan;

as a result of an exchange or conversion of any class or series of our capital stock, or any capital stock of a subsidiary of ours, for any class or series of our capital stock or of any class or series of our then outstanding indebtedness for any class or series of our capital stock;

the purchase of fractional interests in shares of our capital stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of the capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged;

payments under any guarantee executed and delivered by us concurrently with the issuance of any trust preferred securities;

any declaration of a dividend in the form of capital stock in connection with any shareholders' rights plan, or the issuance of rights to capital stock under any shareholders' rights plan, or the redemption or repurchase of rights pursuant to any such plan; or

any dividend in the form of stock, warrants, options or other rights where the dividend stock or the stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants, options or other rights is the same stock as that on which the dividend is being paid or ranks on a parity with or junior to the stock,

if at such time

we have actual knowledge of any event that (a) with the giving of notice or the lapse of time, or both, would constitute an event of default under the applicable indenture, and (b) we have not taken reasonable steps to cure the same;

we are in default with respect to our payment of any obligations under any guarantee executed and delivered by us concurrently with the issuance of any trust preferred securities; or

an interest deferral period is continuing.

We will also agree that, if and for so long as a trust is the holder of all debt securities issued by us in connection with the issuance of trust preferred securities by that trust and that trust is required to pay any additional taxes, duties or other governmental charges, including in connection with a Tax Event, we will pay as additional sums on the debt securities the amounts that may be required so that the distributions payable by that trust will not be reduced as a result of any additional taxes, duties or other governmental charges.

Events of Default

Any one of the following events constitutes an event of default with respect to the trust preferred securities issued by a trust under the related trust agreement:

default by the trust in the payment of any distribution when it becomes due and payable, and continuation of the default for a period of 30 days;

Edgar Filing: AMEREN CORP - Form 424B2

default by the trust in the payment of any redemption price of any trust security issued by that trust when it becomes due and payable;

default in the performance, or breach, in any material respect, of any covenant or warranty of the property trustee and the Delaware trustee in the trust agreement, other than as described above, and continuation of the default or breach for a period of 60 days after there has been

Table of Contents

given, by registered or certified mail, to the appropriate trustees and to us by the holders of at least 33% in aggregate liquidation amount of the outstanding trust preferred securities, a written notice specifying the default or breach and requiring it to be remedied and stating that the notice is a "Notice of Default" under the trust agreement;

the occurrence of an event of default under the applicable indenture relating to the debt securities held by a trust (see "Description of Debt Securities Events of Default");

the occurrence of events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to the property trustee or all or substantially all of its property if a successor property trustee has not been appointed within 90 days of the occurrence; or

the occurrence of events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to the trust specified in the related trust agreement including, without limitation, the filing of a petition under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law, being adjudged a bankrupt, the consent to the institution of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings against it, an assignment for the benefit of creditors or the taking of other corporate actions in furtherance of the foregoing.

Within five business days after the occurrence of certain events of default actually known to the respective property trustee, the property trustee will transmit notice of the event of default to the respective holders of trust securities and the respective administrators, unless the event of default has been cured or waived. Within five business days after the receipt of notice that we intend to exercise our right under the applicable indenture to defer the payment of interest on the related debt securities, the property trustee must notify the holders and the administrators that we intend to defer these interest payments, unless we have revoked our determination to do so.

The applicable trust agreement includes provisions as to the duties of the property trustee in case an event of default occurs and is continuing. Consistent with these provisions, the property trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request or direction of any of the holders unless those holders have offered to the property trustee reasonable indemnity satisfactory to it. Subject to these provisions for indemnification, the holders of a majority in liquidation amount of the related outstanding trust preferred securities may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the property trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the property trustee, with respect to the related trust preferred securities.

The holders of at least a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the outstanding trust preferred securities issued by a trust may waive any past default under the applicable trust agreement except:

a default in the payment of any distribution when it becomes due and payable or any redemption price;

a default with respect to certain covenants and provisions of the applicable trust agreement that cannot be modified or amended without consent of the holder of each outstanding trust preferred security issued by that trust; and

a default under the applicable indenture that the holders of a majority in liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities would not be entitled to waive under the applicable trust agreement.

If an event of default under the applicable indenture has occurred and is continuing as a result of any failure by us to pay any amounts when due in respect of the related debt securities issued by us to a trust, the related trust preferred securities will have a preference over the related trust common securities with respect to payments of any amounts in respect of the trust preferred securities as described above. See " Subordination of Trust Common Securities," " Liquidation Distribution Upon Dissolution" and "Description of Debt Securities Events of Default."

Table of Contents

We must furnish annually to each property trustee a statement by an appropriate officer as to that officer's knowledge of our compliance with all conditions and covenants under the respective trust agreement. Also, the administrators for each trust must file, on behalf of the respective trust, a statement as to our compliance with all conditions and covenants under the respective trust agreement.

Voting Rights; Amendment of Trust Agreement

Except as provided below and under " Resignation, Removal of Property Trustee and Delaware Trustee; Appointment of Successors" and "Description of Guarantees Amendments and Assignment" and as otherwise required by law and the applicable trust agreement, the holders of the trust preferred securities issued by a trust will have no voting rights.

The trust agreement applicable to a trust may be amended from time to time by the holders of a majority in liquidation amount of its trust common securities and the respective property trustee, without the consent of the holders of the trust preferred securities issued by the trust:

to cure any ambiguity, correct or supplement any provisions in the trust agreement that may be inconsistent with any other provision, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under such trust agreement, provided that any such amendment does not adversely affect in any material respect the interests of any holder of trust securities;

to facilitate the tendering, remarketing and settlement of the trust preferred securities, as contemplated in the trust agreement;

to modify, eliminate or add to any provisions of the trust agreement to the extent as may be necessary to ensure that a trust will not be taxable other than as a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes at any time that any trust securities are outstanding or to ensure that a trust will not be required to register as an "investment company" under the Investment Company Act of 1940; or

to reflect the appointment of a successor trustee.

The trust agreement applicable to a trust may be amended by the holders of a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the trust common securities and the property trustee with the consent of holders representing not less than a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the outstanding trust preferred securities and receipt by the property trustee and the Delaware trustee of an opinion of counsel to the effect that the amendment or the exercise of any power granted to the trustees in accordance with the amendment will not affect the trust's not being taxable other than as a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes or the trust's exemption from status as an "investment company" under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Without the consent of each holder of trust preferred securities affected by the amendment or related exercise of power, the trust agreement applicable to a trust may not be amended to change the amount or timing of any distribution on the trust securities or otherwise adversely affect the amount of any distribution required to be made in respect of the trust securities as of a specified date or restrict the right of a holder of trust securities to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment due.

So long as any debt securities are held by a trust, the respective property trustee will not:

direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee for the debt securities under the related indenture, or execute any trust or power conferred on the property trustee with respect to the related debt securities;

waive any past default that is waivable under the applicable indenture;

exercise any right to rescind or annul a declaration that the debt securities shall be due and payable; or

Table of Contents

consent to any amendment, modification or termination of the applicable indenture or the related debt securities, where consent shall be required;

without, in each case, obtaining the prior approval of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities issued by such trust, except that, if a consent under the applicable indenture would require the consent of each holder of debt securities affected by the consent, no consent will be given by the property trustee without the prior written consent of each holder of the trust preferred securities issued by such trust.

A property trustee may not revoke any action previously authorized or approved by a vote of the holders of the trust preferred securities issued by its respective trust except by subsequent vote of the holders of such trust preferred securities. The property trustee will notify each holder of trust preferred securities of any notice of default with respect to the related debt securities. In addition, before taking any of the foregoing actions, the administrators will provide the property trustee with an opinion of counsel experienced in relevant matters to the effect that the trust will not be taxable other than as a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes on account of the action.

Any required approval of holders of trust preferred securities issued by a trust may be given at a meeting of holders of those trust preferred securities convened for the purpose or pursuant to written consent. The property trustee will cause a notice of any meeting at which holders of trust preferred securities are entitled to vote, or of any matter upon which action by written consent of the holders is to be taken, to be given to each registered holder of trust preferred securities in the manner set forth in the applicable trust agreement.

No vote or consent of the holders of trust preferred securities issued by a trust will be required to redeem and cancel those trust preferred securities in accordance with the applicable trust agreement. See above under "Redemption."

Notwithstanding that holders of trust preferred securities issued by a trust are entitled to vote or consent under any of the circumstances described above, any of those trust preferred securities that are owned by us, the respective property trustee or Delaware trustee, or any affiliate of us or either trustee, will, for purposes of the vote or consent, be treated as if they were not outstanding.

Enforcement of Certain Rights by Holders of Trust Preferred Securities

If an event of default has occurred and is continuing under the applicable indenture, and the trustee for the related debt securities and the holders of those debt securities have failed to declare the principal due and payable, the holders of at least 33% in aggregate liquidation amount of the related outstanding trust preferred securities shall have this right.

If an event of default has occurred and is continuing under a trust agreement and the event is attributable to our failure to pay any amounts payable in respect of debt securities on the date the amounts are otherwise payable, a registered holder of trust preferred securities may institute a direct action against us for enforcement of payment to the holder of an amount equal to the amount payable in respect of debt securities having a principal amount equal to the aggregate liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities held by the holder, which we refer to in this discussion as a "Direct Action." We will have the right under the applicable indenture to set-off any payment made to the holders of trust preferred securities by us in connection with a Direct Action.

We may not amend the applicable indenture to remove the foregoing right to bring a Direct Action without the prior written consent of the holders of all the trust preferred securities. Furthermore, so long as any of the trust preferred securities are outstanding

no modification of the applicable indenture may be made that adversely affects the holders of the trust preferred securities in any material respect,

Table of Contents

no termination of the applicable indenture may occur, and

no waiver of any event of default or compliance with any covenant under the applicable indenture may be effective,

without the prior consent of the holders of at least a majority of the aggregate liquidation amount of the outstanding trust preferred securities unless and until the principal of, accrued and unpaid interest on and premium, if any, on the related debt securities have been paid in full and certain other conditions are satisfied.

With certain exceptions, the holders of the trust preferred securities would not be able to exercise directly any remedies available to the holders of the debt securities except under the circumstances described in this section.

Resignation, Removal of Property Trustee and Delaware Trustee; Appointment of Successors

The property trustee or the Delaware trustee of a trust may resign at any time by giving written notice to us or may be removed at any time by an action of the holders of a majority in liquidation amount of that trust's outstanding trust preferred securities delivered to the trustee to be removed and to us. No resignation or removal of either of the trustees and no appointment of a successor trustee will become effective until a successor trustee accepts appointment in accordance with the requirements of the trust agreement. So long as no event of default or event that would become an event of default has occurred and is continuing, and except with respect to a trustee appointed by an action of the holders, if we have delivered to either the property trustee or the Delaware trustee a resolution of our board of directors appointing a successor trustee and the successor trustee has accepted the appointment in accordance with the terms of the trust agreement, the property trustee or the Delaware trustee, as the case may be, will be deemed to have resigned and the successor trustee will be deemed to have been appointed as trustee in accordance with the trust agreement.

Mergers, Consolidations, Amalgamations or Replacements of a Trust

A trust may not merge with or into, consolidate, amalgamate, or be replaced by, or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any entity, except as described below or as otherwise set forth in the applicable trust agreement. A trust may, at the request of the holders of its trust common securities and with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of its outstanding trust preferred securities, merge with or into, consolidate, amalgamate, or be replaced by or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to a trust organized as such under the laws of any state, so long as:

the successor entity either expressly assumes all the obligations of the trust with respect to its trust preferred securities or substitutes for the trust preferred securities other securities having substantially the same terms as the trust preferred securities, which we refer to in this prospectus as the successor securities, so long as the successor securities have the same priority as the trust preferred securities with respect to distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise;

a trustee of the successor entity, possessing the same powers and duties as the property trustee, is appointed to hold the related debt securities;

the merger, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease does not cause the trust preferred securities, including any successor securities, to be downgraded by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization;

the trust preferred securities or any successor securities are listed or quoted, or any successor securities will be listed or quoted upon notification of issuance, on any national securities

Table of Contents

exchange or with another organization on which the trust preferred securities are then listed or quoted;

the merger, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease does not adversely affect the rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of the trust preferred securities, including any successor securities, in any material respect;

the successor entity has a purpose substantially identical to that of the trust;

prior to the merger, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease, the property trustee has received an opinion from independent counsel experienced in relevant matters to the effect that such transaction does not adversely affect the rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of the trust preferred securities, including any successor securities, in any material respect and following such transaction, neither the trust nor the successor entity will be required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940; and

we or any permitted successor or assignee owns all the trust common securities of the successor entity and guarantees the obligations of the successor entity under the successor securities at least to the extent provided by the applicable guarantee.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a trust may not, except with the consent of holders of 100% in aggregate liquidation amount of its trust preferred securities, consolidate, amalgamate, merge with or into, or be replaced by or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to, any other entity or permit any other entity to consolidate, amalgamate, merge with or into, or replace it if the consolidation, amalgamation, merger, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease would cause the trust or the successor entity to be taxable other than as a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes.

Expenses and Taxes

In each of the trust agreements, we have agreed to pay:

all debts and other obligations, other than with respect to the trust preferred securities issued by a trust, and all costs and expenses of the trust, including the costs and expenses relating to the organization of a trust, the fees and expenses of the property trustee and the Delaware trustee and the costs and expenses relating to the operation of the trust; and

any and all taxes and all costs and expenses with respect to them, other than withholding taxes, to which the trust might become subject.

Information Concerning the Property Trustees

Each property trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default, undertakes to perform only the duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable trust agreement and, after an event of default, must exercise the same degree of care and skill as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, each property trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the trust agreements at the request of any holder of trust preferred securities issued by the respective trust unless it is offered reasonable indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred by exercising these powers.

Table of Contents

Miscellaneous

The administrators and the property trustee relating to each trust are authorized and directed to conduct the affairs of and to operate the trust in such a way that the trust will not be deemed to be an "investment company" required to be registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 or taxable other than as a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes and so that the debt securities held by that trust will be treated as indebtedness of ours for United States federal income tax purposes. In this regard, the administrators, each property trustee and the holders of trust common securities issued by the respective trust are authorized to take any action, not inconsistent with applicable law, the certificate of trust of the trust or the applicable trust agreement, that the administrators, the property trustee and the holders of trust common securities determine in their discretion to be necessary or desirable for these purposes, as long as this action does not materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of the trust preferred securities.

Holders of the trust preferred securities have no preemptive or similar rights.

A trust may not borrow money or issue debt or mortgage or pledge any of its assets.

Governing Law

The trust agreement and the trust preferred securities of each trust will be governed by Delaware law.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES

Each guarantee will be executed and delivered by us concurrently with the issuance of trust preferred securities by a trust for the benefit of the holders from time to time of the trust preferred securities. We will appoint a guarantee trustee under each guarantee. Each guarantee trustee will hold the respective guarantee for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities issued by the related trust. Each guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We have summarized below certain provisions of the guarantees. This summary does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the guarantee, including the definitions in the guarantee of certain terms. The form of guarantee agreement is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

General

We will fully and unconditionally agree, to the extent described herein, to pay the guarantee payments, as defined below, to the holders of the trust preferred securities issued by each trust, as and when due, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim that a trust may have or assert other than the defense of payment. The following payments with respect to the trust preferred securities, to the extent not paid or made by or on behalf of the respective trust, which payments we refer to in this discussion as the "guarantee payments," will be subject to the respective guarantee:

any accumulated and unpaid distributions required to be paid on the trust preferred securities, to the extent that the trust has funds on hand available for payment of these distributions at this time;

the redemption price with respect to any trust preferred securities called for redemption, to the extent that the trust has funds on hand available for payment of the redemption price at this time; and

upon a voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding up or liquidation of the trust, unless the related debt securities are distributed to holders of the trust preferred securities, the lesser of:

- (1) the aggregate of the liquidation amount and all accumulated and unpaid distributions to the date of payment, to the extent that the trust has funds on hand available for these payments at this time; and
- (2) the amount of assets of the trust remaining available for distribution to holders of the trust preferred securities on liquidation of the trust.

Our obligation to make a guarantee payment may be satisfied by direct payment of the required amounts by us to the holders of the trust preferred securities or by causing the trust to pay these amounts to the holders.

Each guarantee will be an irrevocable guarantee of the obligations of the respective trust under its trust preferred securities, but will apply only to the extent that the trust has funds sufficient to make these payments, and is not a guarantee of collection.

If we do not make payments on the debt securities held by a trust, the trust will not be able to pay any amounts payable in respect of its trust preferred securities and will not have funds legally available for these payments. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the ranking of the guarantee. See " Status of the Guarantees." The guarantees do not limit our incurrence or issuance of other secured or unsecured debt, including Senior Indebtedness, whether under the applicable indenture, any other indenture that we may enter into in the future or otherwise.

We have, through the guarantees, the trust agreements (including our agreement to pay the expenses of the trust contained in the related trust agreement), the applicable debt securities and the

Table of Contents

related indenture, taken together, fully, irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed all of each trust's obligations under its trust preferred securities. No single document standing alone or operating in conjunction with fewer than all the other documents constitutes the guarantee. It is only the combined operation of these documents that has the effect of providing a full, irrevocable and unconditional guarantee of each trust's obligations in respect of its trust preferred securities. See "Relationship Among Trust Preferred Securities, Debt Securities and Guarantees."

Status of the Guarantees

Each guarantee will constitute an unsecured obligation of ours. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the ranking of each guarantee.

Each guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection; specifically, the guaranteed party may institute a legal proceeding directly against the guarantor to enforce its rights under the guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity. Each guarantee will be held by the respective guarantee trustee for the benefit of the holders of the related trust preferred securities. A guarantee will not be discharged except by payment of the applicable guarantee payments in full to the extent not paid or distributed by the respective trust.

Amendments and Assignment

Except with respect to any changes that do not materially adversely affect the rights of holders of the related trust preferred securities, in which case no vote will be required, a guarantee may not be amended without the prior approval of the holders of not less than a majority of the aggregate liquidation amount of the related trust preferred securities. The manner of obtaining this type of approval will be as set forth under "Description of Trust Preferred Securities Voting Rights; Amendment of Trust Agreement." All guarantees and agreements contained in each guarantee shall bind the successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives of ours and shall inure to the benefit of the holders of the related trust preferred securities then outstanding.

Events of Default

An event of default under a guarantee will occur upon our failure to perform any of our payment or other obligations under the guarantee, or to perform any other obligation if such default remains unremedied for 30 days.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the related trust preferred securities have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the guarantee trustee in respect of the guarantee or to direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the guarantee trustee under the guarantee. Any registered holder of trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against us to enforce its rights under the related guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the related trust, the guarantee trustee or any other person or entity.

We, as guarantor, are required to file annually with each guarantee trustee a certificate as to whether or not we are in compliance with all the conditions and covenants applicable to us under each guarantee.

Consolidation, Merger, Sale of Assets and Other Transactions

Each guarantee provides that we will not consolidate with or merge into any other corporation or sell or otherwise dispose of our properties as or substantially as an entirety to any person, unless the successor or transferee corporation or the person which receives such properties pursuant to such sale, transfer or other disposition is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States

Table of Contents

of America, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and such successor or transferee corporation or the person which receives such properties pursuant to such sale, transfer or other disposition expressly assumes our obligations under the guarantee.

Information Concerning the Guarantee Trustee

Each guarantee trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of a default by us in performance of the related guarantee, undertakes to perform only such duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable guarantee agreement. After a default with respect to the guarantee, the guarantee trustee must exercise the same degree of care and skill as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the guarantee trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the guarantee agreement at the request of any holder of the trust preferred securities unless it is offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might thereby incur.

Termination of the Guarantees

Each guarantee will terminate and be of no further force and effect upon full payment of the redemption price of the related trust preferred securities, upon full payment of the amounts payable with respect to the trust preferred securities upon liquidation of the respective trust and upon distribution of the related debt securities to the holders of the trust preferred securities. Each guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of the related trust preferred securities must restore payment of any sums paid under the related trust preferred securities or the related guarantee.

Governing Law

Each guarantee will be governed by New York law.

Table of Contents

**RELATIONSHIP AMONG TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES,
DEBT SECURITIES AND GUARANTEES**

Full and Unconditional Guarantee

Payments of distributions and other amounts due on the trust preferred securities issued by a trust, to the extent the trust has funds available for the payment, are irrevocably guaranteed by us as and to the extent set forth under "Description of Guarantees." Taken together, our obligations under the related debt securities, the applicable indenture, the related trust agreement (including our agreement to pay the expenses of the trust, except payments in respect of the trust securities, contained in the trust agreement) and the related guarantee provide, in the aggregate, a full, irrevocable and unconditional guarantee of payments of distributions and other amounts due on the trust preferred securities issued by a trust. No single document standing alone or operating in conjunction with fewer than all the other documents constitutes the guarantee. It is only the combined operation of these documents that has the effect of providing a full, irrevocable and unconditional guarantee of each trust's obligations in respect of the related trust preferred securities. If and to the extent that we do not make payments on the debt securities issued to a trust, the trust will not have sufficient funds to pay distributions or other amounts due on its trust preferred securities. A guarantee does not cover payment of amounts payable with respect to the trust preferred securities issued by a trust when the trust does not have sufficient funds to pay these amounts. In this event, the remedy of a holder of the trust preferred securities is to institute a legal proceeding directly against us for enforcement of payment of our obligations under debt securities having a principal amount equal to the liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities held by the holder.

Sufficiency of Payments

As long as payments are made when due on the debt securities issued to a trust, these payments will be sufficient to cover distributions and other payments distributable on the trust preferred securities issued by that trust, primarily because:

the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities will be equal to the sum of the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities and trust common securities;

the interest rate and interest and other payment dates on the debt securities will match the distribution rate, distribution dates and other payment dates for the trust preferred securities;

we will pay for any and all costs, expenses and liabilities of the trust except the trust's obligations to holders of the related trust securities; and

the applicable trust agreement further provides that the trust will not engage in any activity that is not consistent with the limited purposes of the trust.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the applicable indenture, we have the right to set-off any payment we are otherwise required to make under that indenture against and to the extent we have previously made, or are concurrently on the date of the payment making, a payment under a guarantee.

Enforcement Rights of Holders of Trust Preferred Securities

Under the circumstances set forth under "Description of Trust Preferred Securities Enforcement of Certain Rights by Holders of Trust Preferred Securities," holders of trust preferred securities may bring a Direct Action against us.

A holder of any trust preferred security may institute a legal proceeding directly against us to enforce its rights under the related guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the

Table of Contents

related guarantee trustee, the related trust or any other person or entity. See "Description of Guarantees."

Limited Purpose of Trust

The trust preferred securities issued by a trust represent preferred undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the trust, and the trust exists for the sole purpose of issuing its trust preferred securities and trust common securities and investing the proceeds of these trust securities in debt securities. A principal difference between the rights of a holder of a trust preferred security and a holder of a debt security is that a holder of a debt security is entitled to receive from us payments on debt securities held, while a holder of trust preferred securities is entitled to receive distributions or other amounts distributable with respect to the trust preferred securities from a trust, or from us under a guarantee, only if and to the extent the trust has funds available for the payment of the distributions.

Rights Upon Dissolution

Upon any voluntary or involuntary dissolution of a trust, other than any dissolution involving the distribution of the related debt securities, after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of the trust as required by applicable law, the holders of the trust preferred securities issued by the trust will be entitled to receive, out of assets held by the trust, the liquidation distribution in cash. See "Description of Trust Preferred Securities Liquidation Distribution Upon Dissolution." Since we are the guarantor under each of the guarantees and have agreed to pay for all costs, expenses and liabilities of each trust, other than each trust's obligations to the holders of the respective trust securities, the positions of a holder of trust preferred securities and a holder of debt securities relative to other creditors and to our shareholders in the event of our liquidation or bankruptcy are expected to be substantially the same.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

General

The following descriptions of our common stock and the relevant provisions of our restated articles of incorporation and by-laws are summaries and are qualified by reference to our restated articles of incorporation and by-laws which have been previously filed with the SEC and are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, as well as the applicable Missouri General and Business Corporation Law.

Under our restated articles of incorporation, we are authorized to issue 400 million shares of common stock, \$.01 par value per share, and 100 million shares of preferred stock, \$.01 par value per share. As of September 30, 2008, approximately 210,851,000 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

Dividend Rights and Limitations

The holders of our common stock are entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may from time to time declare, subject to any rights of the holders of our preferred stock, if any is issued. Our ability to pay dividends depends primarily upon the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends or otherwise transfer funds to us. Various financing arrangements, charter provisions and regulatory requirements may impose certain restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to transfer funds to us in the form of cash dividends, loans or advances.

Voting Rights

Except as otherwise provided by law and subject to the voting rights of holders of our preferred stock, if any is issued, the holders of our common stock have the exclusive right to vote for the election of directors and for all other purposes. Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote at a meeting of shareholders, including the election of directors, which means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting for the election of directors can elect 100% of the directors and the holders of the remaining shares voting for the election of directors will not be able to elect any directors. The common stock shall vote together as a single class. The holders of our common stock are not entitled to cumulate votes for the election of directors. At annual and special meetings of shareholders, a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock constitutes a quorum.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, voluntarily or involuntarily, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to receive the remainder, if any, of our assets after the payment of all our debts and liabilities and after the payment in full of any preferential amounts to which holders of any preferred stock may be entitled.

Uncertificated Shares and Certificates of Stock

The interest of each shareholder of any class of our stock shall not be evidenced by certificates for shares and all shares of all classes of stock shall be uncertificated shares; provided, however, that (a) any shares of our stock represented by a certificate shall continue to be represented by such certificate until such certificate is surrendered to us and (b) we may, at our option but without obligation, issue certificates for some or all of any shares of some or all of any classes of stock as we determine from time to time.

Table of Contents

Miscellaneous

The outstanding shares of common stock are, and any shares of common stock sold hereunder will be, upon payment for them, fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of our common stock are not entitled to any preemptive or preferential rights to subscribe for or purchase any part of any new or additional issue of stock or securities convertible into stock. Our common stock does not contain any redemption provisions or conversion rights.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Ameren Services Company, a subsidiary of Ameren, acts as transfer agent and registrar for the common stock.

Certain Anti-Takeover Matters

Our restated articles of incorporation and by-laws include a number of provisions that may have the effect of discouraging persons from acquiring large blocks of our stock or delaying or preventing a change in our control. The material provisions that may have such an effect include:

authorization for our board of directors (subject to any required regulatory approval) to issue our preferred stock in series and to fix rights and preferences of the series (including, among other things, whether, and to what extent, the shares of any series will have voting rights and the extent of the preferences of the shares of any series with respect to dividends and other matters);

advance notice procedures with respect to nominations of directors or proposals other than those adopted or recommended by our board of directors;

the prohibition of shareholder action by less than unanimous written consent without a meeting; and

provisions specifying that only the chief executive officer or the board of directors (by a majority vote of the entire board of directors) may call special meetings of shareholders, and that the chairman of the meeting may adjourn a meeting of shareholders from time to time, whether or not a quorum is present.

In addition, the Missouri General and Business Corporation Law, or the MGBCL, contains certain provisions, including business combination provisions that would be applicable to certain mergers, share exchanges or sales of substantially all assets involving us or a subsidiary and a significant shareholder and which could have the effect of substantially increasing the cost to the acquirer and thus discouraging any such transaction. The MGBCL permits shareholders to adopt an amendment to the articles of incorporation opting out of the business combination provisions, and our restated articles of incorporation opt out of such provisions.

Under the Illinois Public Utilities Act, approval of the Illinois Commerce Commission is required for any transaction which, regardless of the means by which it is accomplished, results in a change in the ownership of a majority of the voting capital stock of an Illinois public utility or the ownership or control of any entity which owns or controls a majority of the voting capital stock of a public utility. Because we control a majority of the voting stock of CIPS, CILCO and IP, each public utilities subject to Illinois utility regulation, any change in our ownership or control, within the meaning of the Illinois Public Utilities Act, would require Illinois Commerce Commission approval. Certain acquisitions by any person of our outstanding voting shares would also require approval under the Federal Power Act and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

General

The following descriptions of our preferred stock and the relevant provisions of our restated articles of incorporation and by-laws are summaries and are qualified by reference to our restated articles of incorporation and by-laws which have been previously filed with the SEC and are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, as well as the applicable Missouri General and Business Corporation Law.

Under our restated articles of incorporation, we are authorized to issue 100 million shares of preferred stock, \$.01 par value per share.

Ameren may issue one or more series of its preferred stock, \$.01 par value, without the approval of its shareholders.

Some terms of a series of preferred stock may differ from those of another series. A prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any preferred stock being offered. These terms will also be described in a certificate of designation, preferences and rights to our restated articles of incorporation, which will establish the terms of the preferred stock being offered. These terms will include any of the following that apply to that series:

the title of that series of preferred stock,

the number of shares in the series,

the dividend rate, or how such rate will be determined, and the dividend payment dates for the series,

whether the series will be listed on a securities exchange,

the date or dates on which the series of preferred stock may be redeemed at the option of Ameren and any restrictions on such redemptions,

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate Ameren to repurchase, redeem or retire the series of preferred stock,

the amount payable on the series of preferred stock in case of the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Ameren and any additional amount, or method of determining such amount, payable in case any such event is voluntary,

any rights to convert the shares of the series of preferred stock into shares of another series or into shares of any other class of capital stock,

the voting rights, if any, and

any other terms that are not inconsistent with the provisions of Ameren's restated articles of incorporation.

Our restated articles of incorporation and by-laws include a number of provisions that may have the effect of discouraging persons from acquiring large blocks of our stock or delaying or preventing a change in our control. See "Description of Common Stock Certain Anti-Takeover Matters."

The shares of preferred stock sold hereunder will be, upon payment for them, fully paid and nonassessable.

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of our common stock at a future date or

Table of Contents

dates. The price per share of common stock and the number of shares of common stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as part of units, often known as stock purchase units, consisting of a stock purchase contract and beneficial interests in:

senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities,

debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. treasury securities, or

trust preferred securities issued by trusts, all of whose common securities are owned by us or by one of our subsidiaries,

securing the holders' obligations to purchase the common stock under the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase units or vice versa, and these payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations under those contracts in a specified manner.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units, including, if applicable, collateral or depositary arrangements.

Table of Contents

BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of debt securities (other than debt securities issued to a trust) and trust preferred securities will initially be issued in the form of one or more global securities, in registered form, without coupons. The global security will be deposited with, or on behalf of, the depository, and registered in the name of the depository or a nominee of the depository. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the depository for any global securities will be The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, or DTC.

So long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a global security, such depository or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the owner of such global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture, including for any notices and voting. Except in limited circumstances, the owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have securities registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any such securities and will not be considered the registered holder thereof under the applicable indenture. Accordingly, each person holding a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of the depository and, if such person is not a direct participant, on procedures of the direct participant through which such person holds its interest, to exercise any of the rights of a registered owner of such security.

Global securities may be exchanged in whole for certificated securities only if:

the depository notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the global securities or the depository has ceased to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, in either case, we thereupon fail to appoint a successor depository within 90 days:

we, at our option, notify the trustee in writing that we elect to cause the issuance of certificated securities; or

there shall have occurred and be continuing an event of default with respect to the applicable securities of any series.

In any such case, we have agreed to notify the applicable trustee in writing that, upon surrender by the direct participants and indirect participants of their interest in such global securities, certificated securities representing the applicable securities will be issued to each person that such direct participants and indirect participants and the depository identify as being the beneficial owner of such securities.

The following is based solely on information furnished by DTC:

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues and money market instruments that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing

Table of Contents

Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the SEC.

Purchases of global securities under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the global securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each security ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase, but Beneficial Owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the global securities except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the global securities is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all global securities deposited by Direct Participants with DTC will be registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co. or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of global securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other nominee will effect no change in beneficial ownership. DTC will have no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the global securities; DTC's records will reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such securities are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners may wish to take certain steps to augment transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the global securities, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults and proposed amendments to the Indenture. Beneficial Owners may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the global securities for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to the Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

Any redemption notices will be sent to DTC. If less than all of a series of global securities are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to securities unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy (the "Omnibus Proxy") to us as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the securities are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Principal and interest payments and redemption proceeds, if any, on the global securities will be made to Cede & Co. or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the trustee on the payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Direct and Indirect Participants to Beneficial

Table of Contents

Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street-name," and will be the responsibility of such Participants and not of DTC, the trustee for such securities or us, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, interest payments, premium, if any, and redemption proceeds, if any, to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the appropriate trustee and us, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants is the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners is the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources, including DTC, that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

The underwriters, dealers or agents of any of the securities may be direct participants of DTC.

None of the trustees, us or any agent for payment on or registration of transfer or exchange of any global security will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial interests in such global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial interests.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities:

through underwriters or dealers;

directly;

through agents; or

through any combination of the above.

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms under which the securities are offered, including the name or names of any underwriters, the respective amounts underwritten, the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds to us from the sale, any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation, any initial offering price and any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

Any initial offering price and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

If underwriters are used in an offering, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more of those firms. The specific managing underwriter or underwriters, if any, will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular securities together with the members of the underwriting syndicate, if any. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the particular securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities being offered if any are purchased.

We may sell the securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the name of any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities in respect of which such prospectus supplement is delivered and any commissions payable

Table of Contents

by us to such agent. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more firms, which we refer to herein as the "remarketing firms," acting as principals for their own accounts or as our agent or the applicable trust's agents, as applicable. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreement, if any, with us or the applicable trust and its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters, as that term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, in connection with the securities remarketed thereby.

Any underwriters, dealers or agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters and any discounts or commissions received by them on the sale or resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933. Agents, dealers and underwriters may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, and to contribution with respect to payments which the agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make in respect of these liabilities. Agents, dealers and underwriters may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, except for our common stock, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the securities will not be listed on a national securities exchange.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

LEGAL MATTERS

Steven R. Sullivan, Esq., our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary will pass upon the validity of the offered securities (except the trust preferred securities) for us and Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A., as special Delaware counsel for Ameren Capital Trust I, Ameren Capital Trust II and us, will pass upon the validity of the trust preferred securities for each trust and us. As of September 30, 2008, Mr. Sullivan owned approximately 7,854 shares of Ameren's common stock. In addition, as of that date, Mr. Sullivan owned approximately 5,401 restricted shares of Ameren's common stock and approximately 47,877 performance share units, none of which are fully vested. Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, New York, New York, will pass upon the validity of the offered securities for any underwriters, dealers, purchasers or agents. Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP represents us from time to time in connection with various matters.

EXPERTS

The financial statements, financial statement schedule and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Ameren Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2007 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

\$425,000,000

8.875% Senior Notes due 2014

Prospectus Supplement

May 12, 2009

BNP PARIBAS
J.P. Morgan
UBS Investment Bank
PNC Capital Markets LLC
Scotia Capital
