

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER CO INC
 Form 424B7
 August 28, 2009

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class Of Securities to be Registered Common Stock,	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
par value \$6.50 per share	1,250,000	\$31.49	\$39,362,500	\$2,196.43

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Pursuant to Rule 457(c), these prices were estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee and are based upon the average of the high and low sales prices of the Registrant’s Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on August 25, 2009.

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(7)
 Registration Statement No. 333-156387

Prospectus Supplement
 (To Prospectus dated December 22, 2008)

1,250,000 Shares

American Electric Power Company, Inc.
 Common Stock

This prospectus supplement relates to the resale from time to time by the selling shareholder named in this prospectus supplement of up to 1,250,000 shares of our common stock that our selling shareholder may offer and sell from time to time in amounts, at prices and on terms that will be determined at the time of the offering.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale by the selling shareholder of shares of our common stock.

The selling shareholder identified in this prospectus supplement or its successors, including its transferees, pledgees or donees or their successors, may offer the shares from time to time through public or private transactions at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at a fixed or fixed prices, at negotiated prices, at various prices determined at the time of sale or at prices related to prevailing market prices. The timing and amount of any sale is within the sole discretion of the selling shareholder, subject to certain restrictions. See “Plan of Distribution” on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement.

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This prospectus supplement should be read in conjunction with and accompanied by, and is qualified by reference to, the prospectus, except to the extent that the information in this prospectus supplement supersedes any information contained in the prospectus.

The primary market for our common stock is the New York Stock Exchange, where it trades under the symbol "AEP." The last reported sales price of our common stock as reported on the NYSE on August 25, 2009 was \$31.26 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See "Risk Factors" on on page S-2 of this prospectus supplement and page 2 of the accompanying prospectus.

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

The date of this prospectus supplement is August 28, 2009

SELLING SHAREHOLDER

This prospectus supplement relates to the resale of 1,250,000 shares of common stock held by the selling shareholder. American Electric Power Company, Inc. donated an aggregate of 1,250,000 shares of our common stock to the selling shareholder, The American Electric Power Foundation on December 30, 2008. The selling shareholder may use the prospectus and the prospectus supplement to sell from time to time some or all of the shares that we donated to them.

The American Electric Power Foundation was created in 2005 and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a private foundation described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The foundation provides grants to educational institutions and public charities generally in the communities served by AEP's electric utility subsidiaries or where AEP has major facilities. The grants are intended primarily for:

- Improving lives through education from early childhood through higher education;
 - Protecting the environment;
- Providing basic human services in the areas of hunger, housing, health and safety; and
- Enriching the quality of life in our communities through art, music and cultural heritage.

The address for the foundation is The American Electric Power Foundation, 1 Riverside Plaza, 19th Floor; Columbus, OH 43215.

We have registered the shares to permit the selling shareholder to resell the shares when and as it deems appropriate. The following table sets forth:

- the name of the selling shareholder,
- the number and percent of shares of our common stock that the selling shareholder beneficially owned prior to the offering for resale of the shares under the prospectus and the prospectus supplement,
- the number of shares of our common stock that may be offered for resale for the account of the selling shareholder under the prospectus and prospectus supplement, and
- the number and percent of shares of our common stock to be beneficially owned by the selling shareholder after the offering of the resale shares (assuming all of the offered shares are sold by the selling shareholder).

The number of shares in the column “Number of Shares Being Offered” represents all of the shares that the selling shareholder may offer under the prospectus and prospectus supplement. We do not know how long the selling shareholder will hold the shares before selling them or how many shares it will sell and we currently have no agreements, arrangements or understandings with the selling shareholder regarding the sale of any of the shares. The shares offered by the prospectus and prospectus supplement may be offered from time to time by the selling shareholder listed below.

This table is prepared solely based on our own records and information supplied to us by the listed selling shareholder, and assumes the sale of all of the shares. The applicable percentages of beneficial ownership are based on an aggregate of 476,760,862 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding on April 30, 2009, adjusted as may be required by rules promulgated by the SEC. Information about the selling shareholder may change over time. Any changed information given to us by the selling shareholder will be set forth in a prospectus supplement if and when necessary or, if appropriate, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the prospectus is a part.

Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to Offering	Number of Shares	Shares Beneficially Owned
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Selling Shareholder	Number	Percent	Being Offered	After Offering	
			Number	Number	Percent
The American Electric Power Foundation (1)	1,250,000	*	1,250,000	0	*

* Less than 1%

(1) The resale of the shares of the selling shareholder are being registered hereby should such selling shareholder be deemed to be an affiliate of the Company or otherwise an underwriter of such shares.

Future sales of our common stock may, if required, be accompanied by a further supplement to the prospectus setting forth the name of the selling shareholder using that prospectus supplement, the number of shares being sold and a supplemental plan of distribution describing the specific manner of sale of those shares.

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below as well as any cautionary language or other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009 and June 30, 2009, before investing in the shares of common stock. The risks described therein or set forth below are those that we consider to be the most significant to your decision whether to invest in the shares of common stock. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations, our financial results and the value of our securities.

Risks Relating to Our Common Stock

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, which could negatively affect us and holders of our common stock.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly from time to time as a result of many factors, including:

- investors’ perceptions of our prospects;
- investors’ perceptions of the prospects of the commodities markets and more broadly, the energy markets;
- differences between our actual financial and operating results and those expected by investors and analysts;
- changes in analyst reports, recommendations or earnings estimates regarding us, other comparable companies or the industry generally, and our ability to meet those estimates;
 - actual or anticipated fluctuations in quarterly financial operating results;
 - volatility in the equity securities market;
 - sales, or anticipated sales, of large blocks of our stock; and
- those factors referred to under “Forward-Looking Information”, in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009 and June 30, 2009.

If we are deferring payments on our outstanding junior subordinated debt securities or are in default under the indenture governing those securities, we will be prohibited from making distributions on the common stock.

The terms of our outstanding junior subordinated debt securities prohibit us from declaring or paying any dividends or distributions on our capital stock, including our common stock, or purchasing, acquiring, or making a liquidation

payment on such stock, if an event of default has occurred and is continuing under the Junior Subordinated Indenture dated March 1, 2008.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling shareholder, which as used herein includes donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares of our common stock received after the date of this prospectus supplement from the selling shareholder as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other transfer, may offer, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of, the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement from time to time on any stock exchange on which the shares are listed, in the over-the-counter market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise. The selling shareholder may offer, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of these shares at fixed prices that may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at prices otherwise negotiated. The selling shareholder will act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each sale, and we cannot assure you that any selling shareholder will sell all or any portion of the shares offered hereby by such selling shareholder. We will not receive any proceeds from the sales by the selling shareholder of shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement.

The selling shareholder may offer and sell the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement by one or more of the following methods at various times:

- block trades in which a broker or dealer will be engaged to attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchases by a broker or dealer as principal and resale by the broker or dealer for its own account pursuant to this prospectus supplement;
 - ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchases;
 - “at the market” transactions to or through market makers or into an existing market for our common stock;
 - privately negotiated transactions;
 - short sales;
 - options, swaps or other derivative transactions that may or may not be listed on an exchange;
- distributions to their respective partners, members, managers, directors, employees, consultants or affiliates; or
 - any combination of the above methods or by any other legally available means.

The selling shareholder may engage brokers and dealers, and any brokers or dealers may arrange for other brokers or dealers to participate in effecting sales of the shares. These brokers or dealers may act as principals, or as agents of the selling shareholder. Broker-dealers may agree with the selling shareholder to sell a specified number of shares of common stock at a stipulated price per share. If a broker-dealer is unable to sell shares acting as agent for the selling shareholder, it may purchase as principal any unsold shares at the stipulated price. Broker-dealers who acquire shares of common stock as principals may thereafter resell the shares from time to time in transactions on any stock exchange on which the shares are then listed, at prices and on terms then prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the then-current market price or in negotiated transactions. Broker-dealers may use block transactions and sales to and through broker-dealers, including transactions of the nature described above.

To the extent required under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which we refer to as the Securities Act, the names of any agents, underwriters, brokers or dealers and any applicable commission with respect to a particular offering will be set forth in an additional prospectus supplement. Any underwriters, dealers, brokers or agents participating in the distribution of the shares may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions, commissions or fees from the selling shareholder and/or purchasers of the selling shareholder’s shares, for which they may act, which compensation as to a particular broker-dealer might be in excess of customary commissions.

Any brokers, dealers or agents that participate in the distribution of shares of common stock may be deemed to be “underwriters” within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any discounts, concessions, commissions or fees received by them and any profit on the resale of shares sold by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and

commissions.

We will make copies of this prospectus supplement available to the selling shareholder and any of its successors in interest for purposes of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act, if applicable.

The selling shareholder may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers and the broker-dealers may engage in short sales of shares of common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume with the selling shareholder, including, without limitation, in connection with distributions of shares by those broker-dealers. The selling shareholder may enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers that involve the delivery of shares of common stock offered hereby to the broker-dealers, who may then resell or otherwise transfer those securities.

The selling shareholder and other persons participating in the sale or distribution of shares of common stock will be subject to applicable provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the Exchange Act, and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Regulation M; and we have advised the selling shareholder that Regulation M may apply. This regulation may limit the timing of purchases and sales of any shares of common stock by the selling shareholder and any other person. The anti-manipulation rules under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares of common stock in the market and to the activities of the selling shareholder. Furthermore, Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of shares of common stock to engage in market-making activities with respect to the particular shares being distributed for a period of up to five business days before the distribution. These restrictions may affect the marketability of the common stock and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to the securities.

PROSPECTUS

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC.
1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 716-1000

SENIOR NOTES
COMMON STOCK
JUNIOR SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES
STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS
STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

TERMS OF SALE

This prospectus contains summaries of the general terms of the securities. You will find the specific terms of these securities, and the manner in which they are being offered, in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the available prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

The common stock of American Electric Power Company, Inc. is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AEP". The last reported sale of the common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on December 18, 2008 was \$31.42 per share.

In this prospectus, unless the context indicates otherwise, the words "we", "ours" and "us" refer to American Electric Power Company, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

INVESTING IN THESE SECURITIES INVOLVES RISKS. SEE THE SECTION ENTITLED "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

The securities have not been approved or disapproved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities commission, nor have these organizations determined that this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is December 22, 2008.

THE COMPANY

We are a public utility holding company that owns, directly or indirectly, all of the outstanding common stock of our domestic electric utility subsidiaries and varying degrees of other subsidiaries. Substantially all of our operating revenues derive from the furnishing of electric service. We were incorporated under the laws of New York in 1906 and reorganized in 1925. Our principal executive offices are located at 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215, and our telephone number is (614) 223-1000.

We own, directly or indirectly, all the outstanding common stock of the following operating public utility companies: AEP Texas Central Company, AEP Texas North Company, Appalachian Power Company, Columbus Southern Power Company, Indiana Michigan Power Company, Kentucky Power Company, Kingsport Power Company, Ohio Power Company, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, Southwestern Electric Power Company and Wheeling Power Company. These operating public utility companies supply electric service in portions of Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. We also own all of the outstanding common stock of American Electric Power Service Corporation, which provides accounting, administrative, information systems, engineering, financial, legal, maintenance and other services to us and our subsidiaries.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENTS

We will provide information to you about the securities in up to three separate documents that progressively provide more detail: (a) this prospectus provides general information some of which may not apply to your securities, (b) the accompanying prospectus supplement provides more specific terms of your securities, and (c) the pricing supplement, if any, provides the final terms of your securities. It is important for you to consider the information contained in this prospectus, the prospectus supplement, and the pricing supplement, if any, in making your investment decision.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. Please see the risk factors described in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and all subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The risks and uncertainties described are those presently known to us. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations, our financial results and the value of our securities.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the SEC. We also file annual, quarterly and special reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. You may also examine our SEC filings through the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with them, 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 later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (including any documents filed after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to its effectiveness) until we sell all the securities.

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007;
- Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 30, 2008;
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 20, 2008;
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed April 10, 2008;
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed July 1, 2008;
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed July 23, 2008;
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 10, 2008
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 2, 2008; and
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 9, 2008.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Ms. R. Buonavolonte
American Electric Power Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-716-1000

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any supplement and in any written communication from us or any underwriters specifying the final terms of the particular offering. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer 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.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

Twelve Months Period Ended	Ratio
December 31, 2003	1.81
December 31, 2004	2.69
December 31, 2005	2.57
December 31, 2006	2.47
December 31, 2007	2.43
September 30, 2008	2.76

The Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges for the nine-months ended September 30, 2008 was 3.04. For current information on the Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges, please see our most recent Form 10-K and Form 10-Q. See Where You Can Find More Information on page 2.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the sale of any of the offered securities by us will be used for general corporate purposes relating to our business. Unless stated otherwise in a prospectus supplement, these purposes include redeeming or repurchasing outstanding debt, replenishing working capital, and financing our subsidiaries' ongoing construction and maintenance programs. If we do not use the net proceeds immediately, we temporarily invest them in short-term, interest-bearing obligations. At December 18, 2008, our outstanding short-term debt was approximately \$1.969 billion.

The prospectus supplement of a particular offering of securities will identify the use of proceeds for the offering.

If this prospectus is used for resale of our common stock by any of our affiliates (see Plan of Distribution –Affiliates and Resale Prospectus below), we will not receive any proceeds from any such resale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR NOTES

General

We will issue the Senior Notes directly to the public, to a trust or as part of a Stock Purchase Unit, under an Indenture dated May 1, 2001 between us and the Trustee, The Bank of New York Mellon. This prospectus briefly outlines some provisions of the Indenture. If you would like more information on these provisions, you should review the Indenture and any supplemental indentures or company orders that we have filed or will file with the SEC. See Where You Can Find More Information on how to locate these documents. You may also review these documents at the Trustee's offices at 101 Barclay Street, New York, New York.

The Indenture does not limit the amount of Senior Notes that may be issued. The Indenture permits us to issue Senior Notes in one or more series or tranches upon the approval of our board of directors and as described in one or more company orders or supplemental indentures. Each series of Senior Notes may differ as to their terms. The Indenture also gives us the ability to reopen a previous issue of a series of Senior Notes and issue additional Senior Notes of such series.

Because we are a holding company, the claims of creditors of our subsidiaries will have a priority over our equity rights and the rights of our creditors (including the holders of the Senior Notes) to participate in the assets of the subsidiary upon the subsidiary's liquidation.

The Senior Notes are unsecured and will rank equally with all our unsecured unsubordinated debt. For current information on our debt outstanding see our most recent Form 10-K and 10-Q. See Where You Can Find More Information.

A pricing or prospectus supplement will include the final terms for each Senior Note. If we decide to list upon issuance any Senior Note or Senior Notes on a securities exchange, a pricing or prospectus supplement will identify the exchange and state when we expect trading could begin. The following terms of the Senior Notes that we may sell at one or more times will be established in the applicable pricing or prospectus supplement:

- Maturity
- Fixed or floating interest rate
- Remarketing features
- Certificate or book-entry form
- Redemption
- Not convertible, amortized or subject to a sinking fund
- Interest paid on fixed rate Senior Notes quarterly or semi-annually
- Interest paid on floating rate Senior Notes monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually
- Issued in multiples of a minimum denomination
- Ability to defer payment of interest
- Any other terms not inconsistent with the Indenture
- Issued with Original Issue Discount

The Senior Notes will be denominated in U.S. dollars and we will pay principal and interest in U.S. dollars. Unless an applicable pricing or prospectus supplement states otherwise, the Senior Notes will not be subject to any conversion, amortization, or sinking fund. We expect that the Senior Notes issued to the public will be "book-entry," represented by a permanent global Senior Note registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, or its nominee. We reserve the right, however, to issue Senior Note certificates registered in the name of the Senior Noteholders.

In the discussion that follows, whenever we talk about paying principal on the Senior Notes, we mean at maturity or redemption. Also, in discussing the time for notices and how the different interest rates are calculated, all times are New York City time and all references to New York mean the City of New York, unless otherwise noted.

The Indenture does not protect holders of the Senior Notes if we engage in a highly leveraged transaction.

The following terms may apply to each Senior Note as specified in the applicable pricing or prospectus supplement and the Senior Note:

Redemptions

If we issue redeemable Senior Notes, we may redeem such Senior Notes at our option unless an applicable pricing or prospectus supplement states otherwise. The pricing or prospectus supplement will state the terms of redemption. We

may redeem Senior Notes in whole or in part by delivering written notice to the Senior Noteholders no more than 60, and not less than 30, days prior to redemption. If we do not redeem all the Senior Notes of a series at one time, the Trustee selects the Senior Notes to be redeemed in a manner it determines to be fair.

Remarketed Notes

If we issue Senior Notes with remarketing features, an applicable pricing or prospectus supplement will describe the terms for the Senior Notes including: interest rate, remarketing provisions, our right to purchase or redeem Senior Notes, the holders' right to tender Senior Notes, and any other provisions.

Note Certificates-Registration, Transfer, and Payment of Interest and Principal

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of Senior Notes issued to the public will be issued initially in the form of one or more global notes, in registered form, without coupons, as described under Book-Entry System. However, if we issue Senior Note certificates, they will be registered in the name of the Senior Noteholder. The Senior Notes may be transferred or exchanged, pursuant to administrative procedures in the Indenture, without the payment of any service charge (other than any tax or other governmental charge) by contacting the paying agent. Payments to public holders of Senior Note certificates will be made by check.

Original Issue Discount

We may issue the Senior Notes at an original issue discount, bearing no interest or bearing interest at a rate that, at the time of issuance, is below market rate, to be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. Tax and other special considerations applicable to original issue discount debt will be described in the prospectus supplement in which we offer those Senior Notes.

Interest Rate

The interest rate on the Senior Notes will either be fixed or floating. The interest paid will include interest accrued to, but excluding, the date of maturity or redemption. Interest is generally payable to the person in whose name the Senior Note is registered at the close of business on the record date before each interest payment date. Interest payable at maturity or redemption, however, will be payable to the person to whom principal is payable.

If we issue a Senior Note after a record date but on or prior to the related interest payment date, we will pay the first interest payment on the interest payment date after the next record date. We will pay interest payments by check or wire transfer, at our option.

Fixed Rate Senior Notes

A pricing or prospectus supplement will designate the record dates, payment dates, our ability to defer interest payments and the fixed rate of interest payable on a Senior Note. We will pay interest quarterly or semi-annually, and upon maturity or redemption. Unless an applicable pricing or prospectus supplement states otherwise, if any payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, we will pay interest on the next business day and no additional interest will be paid. Interest payments will be the amount of interest accrued to, but excluding, each payment date. Interest will be computed using a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

Floating Rate Notes

Each floating rate Senior Note will have an interest rate formula. The applicable pricing or prospectus supplement will state the initial interest rate or interest rate formula on each Senior Note effective until the first interest reset date. The applicable pricing or prospectus supplement will state the method and dates on which the interest rate will

be determined, reset and paid.

Events of Default

The following are events of default under the Indenture with respect to any series of Senior Notes, unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement:

- failure to pay for three business days the principal of (or premium, if any, on) that series of Senior Notes when due and payable;
- failure to pay for 30 days any interest on that series of Senior Notes when due and payable;
- failure to perform any other requirements in such Senior Notes, or in the Indenture in regard to such Senior Notes, for 90 days after notice;
- certain events of our bankruptcy or insolvency; or
- any other event of default specified in a series of Senior Notes.

An event of default for a particular series of Senior Notes does not necessarily mean that an event of default has occurred for any other series of Senior Notes issued under the Indenture. If an event of default occurs and continues, the Trustee or the holders of at least 33% of the principal amount of the Senior Notes of the series affected may require us to repay the entire principal of the Senior Notes of such series immediately ("Repayment Acceleration"). In most instances, the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes of the affected series may rescind a previously triggered Repayment Acceleration. However, if we cause an event of default because we have failed to pay (unaccelerated) principal, premium, if any, or interest, Repayment Acceleration may be rescinded only if we have first cured our default by depositing with the Trustee enough money to pay all (unaccelerated) past due amounts and penalties, if any.

The Trustee must within 90 days after a default occurs, notify the holders of the Senior Notes of the series of default unless such default has been cured or waived. We are required to file an annual certificate with the Trustee, signed by an officer, concerning any default by us under any provisions of the Indenture.

Subject to the provisions of the Indenture relating to its duties in case of default, the Trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the Indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders unless such holders offer the Trustee reasonable indemnity. Subject to the provisions for indemnification, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the Senior Notes of any series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceedings for any remedy available to, or exercising any trust or power conferred on, the Trustee with respect to such Senior Notes.

Modification of Indenture

Under the Indenture, our rights and obligations and the rights of the holders of any Senior Notes may be changed. Any change affecting the rights of the holders of any series of Senior Notes requires the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Senior Notes of all series affected by the change, voting as one class. However, we cannot change the terms of payment of principal or interest, or reduce the percentage required for changes or a waiver of default, unless the holder consents. We may issue additional series of Senior Notes and take other action that does not affect the rights of holders of any series by executing supplemental indentures without the consent of any Senior Noteholders.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

We may merge or consolidate with any entity or sell substantially all of our assets as an entirety as long as the successor or purchaser (i) is organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and (ii) expressly assumes the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the Senior

Notes.

Legal Defeasance

We will be discharged from our obligations on the Senior Notes of any series at any time if:

- we deposit with the Trustee sufficient cash or government securities to pay the principal, interest, any premium and any other sums due to the stated maturity date or a redemption date of the Senior Note of the series, and
- we deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel stating that the federal income tax obligations of Senior Noteholders of that series will not change as a result of our performing the action described above.

If this happens, the Senior Noteholders of the series will not be entitled to the benefits of the Indenture except for registration of transfer and exchange of Senior Notes and replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated Senior Notes.

Covenant Defeasance

We will be discharged from our obligations under any restrictive covenant applicable to the Senior Notes of a particular series if we perform both actions described above. See Legal Defeasance. If this happens, any later breach of that particular restrictive covenant will not result in Repayment Acceleration. If we cause an event of default apart from breaching that restrictive covenant, there may not be sufficient money or government obligations on deposit with the Trustee to pay all amounts due on the Senior Notes of that series. In that instance, we would remain liable for such amounts.

Governing Law

The Indenture and Senior Notes of all series will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

Concerning the Trustee

We and our affiliates use or will use some of the banking services of the Trustee in the normal course of business. The Trustee is also the Subordinated Indenture Trustee under the Subordinated Indenture relating to the Junior Subordinated Debentures.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

Our authorized capital stock currently consists of 600,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$6.50 per share. 403,554,634 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding as of October 30, 2008. Our common stock, including the common stock offered in this prospectus once issued, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Computershare Trust Company, N.A., P.O. Box 43081, Providence, Rhode Island 02940-3081, is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Dividend Rights

The holders of our common stock are entitled to receive the dividends declared by our board of directors provided funds are legally available for such dividends. Our income derives from our common stock equity in the earnings of our subsidiaries. Various financing arrangements, charter provisions and regulating 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

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held. The holders of our common stock are entitled to cumulate their votes when voting for the election of directors.

Pre-emptive Rights

The holders of our common stock generally do not have the right to subscribe for or purchase any part of any new or additional issue of our common stock. If, however, our board of directors determines to issue and sell any common stock solely for money and not by (1) a public offering, (2) an offering to or through underwriters or dealers who have agreed to promptly make a public offering, or (3) any other offering which the holders of a majority of our outstanding common stock have authorized; then such common stock must first be offered pro rata to our existing shareholders on terms no less favorable than those offered to persons other than our existing shareholders.

Rights Upon Liquidation

If we are liquidated, holders of our common stock will be entitled to receive pro rata all assets available for distribution to our shareholders after payment of our liabilities, including liquidation expenses.

Restrictions on Dealing with Existing Shareholders

We are subject to Section 513 of New York's Business Corporation Law, which provides that no domestic corporation may purchase or agree to purchase more than 10% of its stock from a shareholder who has held the shares for less than two years at any price that is higher than the market price unless the transaction is approved by both the corporation's board of directors and a majority of the votes of all outstanding shares entitled to vote thereon at a meeting of shareholders, unless the certificate of incorporation requires a greater percentage or the corporation offers to purchase shares from all the holders on the same terms. Our certificate of incorporation does not currently provide for a higher percentage.

DESCRIPTION OF THE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES

General

We will issue the Junior Subordinated Debentures directly to the public, to a trust or as part of a Stock Purchase Unit under the Junior Subordinated Indenture dated March 1, 2008 between us and the Subordinated Indenture Trustee,

The Bank of New York Mellon. This prospectus briefly outlines some provisions of the Subordinated Indenture. If you would like more information on these provisions, you should review the Subordinated Indenture and any supplemental indentures or company orders that we will file with the SEC. See Where You Can Find More Information on how to locate these documents. You may also review these documents at the Trustee's offices at 101 Barclay Street, New York, New York.

The Junior Subordinated Debentures are unsecured obligations and are junior in right of payment to "Senior Indebtedness". You may find a description of the subordination provisions of the Junior Subordinated Debentures, including a description of Senior Indebtedness under Subordination.

Because we are a holding company, the claims of creditors of our subsidiaries will have a priority over our equity rights and the rights of our creditors (including the holders of the Junior Subordinated Debentures) to participate in the assets of the subsidiary upon the subsidiary's liquidation.

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit the amount of Junior Subordinated Debentures that we may issue under it. We may issue Junior Subordinated Debentures from time to time under the Subordinated Indenture in one or more series by entering into supplemental indentures or by our Board of Directors or a duly authorized committee authorizing the issuance. The Subordinated Indenture also gives us the ability to reopen a previous issue of a series of Junior Subordinated Debentures and issue additional Junior Subordinated Debentures of such series.

A pricing or prospectus supplement will include the final terms for each Junior Subordinated Debenture. If we decide to list upon issuance any Junior Subordinated Debenture or Junior Subordinated Debentures on a securities exchange, a pricing or prospectus supplement will identify the exchange and state when we expect trading could begin. The following terms of the Junior Subordinated Debentures that we may sell at one or more times will be established in a prospectus supplement:

- Maturity
- Fixed or floating interest rate
- Remarketing features
- Certificate or book-entry form
- Redemption
- Not convertible, amortized or subject to a sinking fund