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AMEREN CORP
Form U-1
June 12, 2003

(As filed on June 12, 2003)

File No. 70-[_____]

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM U-1
APPLICATION OR DECLARATION
UNDER THE
PUBLIC UTILITY HOLDING COMPANY ACT OF 1935

AMEREN CORPORATION
1901 Chouteau Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

(Names of companies filing this statement and addresses
of principal executive offices)

NONE

(Name of top registered holding company parent
of each applicant or declarant)

Steven R. Sullivan, Vice President Regulatory Policy,
General Counsel and Secretary
Ameren Services Company
1901 Chouteau Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

(Name and address of agent for service)

The Commission is requested to mail copies of all orders, notices and other
communications to:

Ronald K. Evans,
Managing Associate General Counsel
Ameren Services Company
1901 Chouteau Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

William T. Baker, Jr., Esq.
Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
875 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ITEM 1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED TRANSACTION.

A. Background.

Ameren Corporation, a registered holding company (the "Applicant"),
herein requests approval from the Commission pursuant to Sections 9(a)(1) and 10

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of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended (the "Act") to acquire a membership interest in PowerTree Carbon Company, LLC (the "Company"), a Delaware limited liability company formed to facilitate investments by the Applicant and other energy companies in forestation projects in the Lower Mississippi River Valley, and possibly other sites, as a means for removing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. The Applicant proposes to acquire such membership interest either directly or indirectly through one or more subsidiaries, including a new subsidiary formed exclusively for the purpose of acquiring and holding the membership interest.

The Applicant directly or indirectly owns all of the outstanding common stock of Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE ("AmerenUE"), Central Illinois Public Service Company d/b/a AmerenCIPS ("AmerenCIPS"), and Central Illinois Light Company, d/b/a AmerenCILCO ("AmerenCILCO," and together with AmerenUE and AmerenCIPS, the "Utility Subsidiaries"). Together, the Utility Subsidiaries provide retail and wholesale electric service to approximately 1.7 million customers and retail natural gas service to approximately 500,000 customers in parts of Missouri and Illinois. The Utility Subsidiaries and other non-regulated generating subsidiaries of the Applicant own all or portions of electric generating plants in the United States having a combined generating capability of approximately 14,500 megawatts (MW).

The Company has been formed under the sponsorship of the electric utility sector in cooperation with the Department of Energy ("DOE"). The Company is part of an industry-wide effort to voluntarily address climate change through measures designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in response to President Bush's recent "Climate VISION" plan, or Climate, Voluntary Innovative Sector Initiatives: Opportunities Now. Climate VISION is the first step in the President's policy of encouraging industry to produce voluntary cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. One proven means for reducing greenhouse gases is to use trees to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it in tree biomass and roots and soil. The Bush Administration has also proposed, as part of its Global Climate Change program, the creation of transferable credits for measures which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Company has obtained commitments totaling approximately \$3.5 million from approximately 25 electric utilities, electric utility holding companies and other energy concerns that will be used to fund six forestation projects located in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. These projects will provide multiple environmental benefits, including removing from the atmosphere and storing over 2 million tons of CO₂ over the projects' 100-year lifetimes. Other benefits will include: restoring habitat for birds and animals; reducing fertilizer inputs to waters; and stabilizing soils. Two of the projects will involve purchase and donation of land to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, while other projects will involve obtaining easements for tree planting on private land. The contributions of the members to the Company will be utilized for land acquisition and to pay the cost of planting tree seedlings. It is estimated that

these projects will provide carbon benefits of more than 400 and 450 tons of CO₂ per acre by years 70 and 100, respectively, at a cost of less than \$2.00 per ton.

Unlike some earlier forestation projects that U.S. electricity generators have supported in the past, the Company is being formed as a for-profit limited liability company ("LLC"), which it is believed will allow carbon or CO₂ reduction credits, if and when they become available, to be more readily transferred. The LLC structure will also allow the members of the

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Company to take advantage of tax benefits of land donation. Nevertheless, although formed as a for-profit LLC, the Company is essentially a passive medium for making investments in projects that are not expected to have any operating revenues, and will not engage in any active business operations.

To the extent not exempt under Rule 43, the Applicant is also requesting authorization pursuant to Section 12(f) of the Act to sell all or a portion of its membership interest in the Company at any time to any of its associate companies. Any sale by the Applicant of its membership interest in the Company to an associate company shall be for an amount equal to the Applicant's investment or pro rata share thereof in the case of a sale of a portion of the Applicant's membership interest. No sale to an associate company that requires approval by any other regulatory commission shall take place until such approval has been obtained.

B. Capital Contribution Commitments of Initial Members.

The Applicant is one of eleven registered holding companies that have committed, either directly or through subsidiaries, to make capital contributions to the Company. The others are American Electric Power Company, Inc., Cinergy Corp., Dominion Resources, Inc., Entergy Corporation, Exelon Corporation, FirstEnergy Corp., Great Plains Energy Incorporated, PEPCO Holdings, Inc., Progress Energy, Inc., and Xcel Energy, Inc. Other energy companies that have committed to make capital contributions are: CLECO Corporation, The Detroit Edison Company, Duke Energy Corporation, Minnesota Power (a division of ALLETE, Inc.), OGE Energy Corp., Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Peabody Energy Corporation, Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Reliant Resources, Inc., Tennessee Valley Authority, TXU Corp., We Energies (the trade name of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas Company), and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. The amount of the commitments of the eleven registered holding companies is as follows:

Name of Registered Holding Company	Total Capital Contribution Commitment
Ameren Corp.	\$100,000
American Electric Power Co.	\$300,000
Cinergy Corp.	\$100,000
Dominion Resources, Inc.	\$100,000
Entergy Corp.	\$100,000
Exelon Corp.	\$100,000
FirstEnergy Corp.	\$100,000
Great Plains Energy Inc.	\$ 50,000

PEPCO Holdings, Inc.	\$ 50,000
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Progress Energy, Inc.	\$100,000
Xcel Energy, Inc.	\$100,000
Total	\$1,200,000

In the aggregate, the capital contribution commitments of the eleven registered holding companies represent approximately 35% of the commitments of all of the initial members.

C. Principal Terms of Operating Agreement.

Under the Company's Operating Agreement (Exhibit A hereto), the business and affairs of the Company shall be managed by its Board of Managers. Each member that commits to make a capital contribution of at least \$100,000 is entitled to appoint one representative to the Board of Managers. In general, actions by the Board of Managers may be taken by a majority of the managers present at a meeting. However, certain actions of the Board of Managers or of any individual manager or any officer require authorization by a two-thirds vote of the full board. These include, among others actions: the sale, exchange or other disposition of any of the assets of the Company greater than \$20,000 in value; the commencement of a voluntary bankruptcy proceeding; the declaration or making of any distributions to members; the incurrence of any indebtedness by the Company; capital expenditures exceeding \$20,000; and the acquisition or lease of any real property and any sale of, donation, lease or sublease affecting real property owned by the Company.

New members may be admitted to the Company only upon the unanimous approval of the then existing members. Upon admission of any new member, the percentage interests of existing members shall be reduced accordingly. A member may transfer all or a portion of its membership interest only upon receiving approval of two-thirds of the existing members, except that, without the prior approval of the other members, a member may transfer all or a part of its membership interest to an affiliate of such member or to any other member. A two-thirds vote of the members is also required for the election of officers of the Company. The members have equal voting rights, regardless of their percentage interests in the Company.

The Operating Agreement provides that, so long as any member is a registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, any voting rights in the Company received or otherwise obtained by such member equal to or exceeding 10% of the total outstanding voting rights in the Company shall be automatically (and without any requirement for consent on the part of the affected member) allocated to the other members in equal portions such that no registered holding company member will hold 10% or more of voting rights in the Company. In addition, any member may elect to limit its voting rights to less than 5% of the total voting rights in the Company, in which case the voting rights of such member or members equal to or exceeding 5% of the total voting rights in the Company would be automatically allocated in equal portions to the other members.

The Operating Agreement further provides that each member (or its designee(s) or transferee(s)) shall be entitled to claim a pro rata share of all carbon that is determined to be sequestered by the Company's efforts to which

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legal rights, if any, have been obtained ("Carbon Reductions") based on the member's percentage interest in the Company. A member may generally utilize such member's share of any Carbon Reductions in connection with its participation in any greenhouse gas reporting or regulatory program or transfer or assign such Carbon Reductions to one or more other persons.

ITEM 2. FEES, COMMISSIONS AND EXPENSES.

The fees, commissions and expenses incurred or to be incurred in connection with the preparation and filing of this Application/Declaration are estimated not to exceed \$2,000.

ITEM 3. APPLICABLE STATUTORY PROVISIONS.

A. General.

Sections 9(a)(1) and 10 of the Act are applicable to the proposed acquisition of a membership interest in the Company, as well as to the acquisition of the securities of any new subsidiary formed exclusively for the purpose of acquiring and holding the membership interest. The subsequent sale of all or a portion of the membership interest in the Company acquired by the Applicant to any associate company thereof is subject to Section 12(f) of the Act, but may be exempt under Rule 43.

B. Standards of Sections 9(a) and 10.

The transaction proposed herein involves an acquisition of securities, as well as an acquisition of an interest in an other (i.e., non-utility) business, and is therefore subject to the approval of this Commission under Section 10. The relevant standards for approval under Section 10 are set forth in subsections (b), (c) and (f). As applied to interests in non-utility businesses, Section 10(c)(1) of the Act provides that the Commission shall not approve an acquisition that is "detrimental to the carrying out of the provisions of section 11." Section 11(b)(1), in turn, directs the Commission to limit the operations of a holding company system to a single integrated public-utility system and such non-utility businesses as are "reasonably incidental, or economically necessary or appropriate to the operations" of its integrated system or systems. The Commission and the courts have interpreted these provisions as expressing a Congressional policy against non-utility activities that bear no operating or functional relationship to the utility operations of the registered system.¹

The Commission has previously authorized new registered holding companies to retain, under the standards of Section 11(b)(1), interests in ventures formed to invest in start-up companies that offer products or services that will generate greenhouse gas emission reductions for submission to the DOE as "Climate Challenge" credits pursuant to Title XVI of the Energy Policy Act of

¹ See Michigan Consolidated Gas Co., 44 S.E.C. 361, 363-365 (1970), aff'd 444 F.2d 913 (D.C.Cir.1971).

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1992.2 Further, under Rule 58(b)(1)(ii), a registered holding company may, without the need for prior approval by the Commission (subject to certain investment limitations), acquire the securities of companies that engage in the "development and commercialization of electrotechnologies related to energy conservation, storage and conversion, energy efficiency, waste treatment, greenhouse gas reduction, and similar innovations." (Emphasis supplied)

The Applicant's proposed investment in the Company is intended to contribute positively to the national goal of reducing greenhouse gases through voluntary industry specific efforts. The forestation projects that the Company will fund have received strong backing from the DOE, Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior. Moreover, the proposed investment in the Company will provide the Applicant with a means to obtain carbon or CO2 reduction credits, if and when such credits become available.

C. Compliance with Rule 54. The proposed transaction is also subject to Rule 54. Rule 54 provides that, in determining whether to approve the issue or sale of any securities for purposes other than the acquisition of any "exempt wholesale generator" ("EWG") or "foreign utility company" ("FUCO") or other transactions unrelated to EWGs or FUCOs, the Commission shall not consider the effect of the capitalization or earnings of subsidiaries of a registered holding company that are EWGs or FUCOs if the requirements of Rule 53(a), (b) and (c) are satisfied. Under Rule 53(a), the Commission shall not make certain specified findings under Sections 7 and 12 in connection with a proposal by a holding company to issue securities for the purpose of acquiring the securities of or other interest in an EWG, or to guarantee the securities of an EWG, if each of the conditions in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(4) thereof are met, provided that none of the conditions specified in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(3) of Rule 53 exists.

Rule 53(a)(1): The Applicant's "aggregate investment" (as defined in Rule 53(a)(1)) in EWGs as of March 31, 2003 was \$421,408,655, or approximately 23.8% of the Applicant's "consolidated retained earnings" (also as defined in Rule 53(a)(1)) for the four quarters ended March 31, 2003 (\$1,767,489,637). The Applicant does not currently hold an interest in any FUCO.

Rule 53(a)(2): The Applicant will maintain books and records enabling it to identify investments in and earnings from each EWG and FUCO in which it directly or indirectly acquires and holds an interest. The Applicant will cause each domestic EWG in which it acquires and holds an interest, and each foreign EWG and FUCO that is a majority-owned subsidiary, to maintain its books and records and prepare its financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. All of such books and records and financial statements will be made available to the Commission, in English, upon request.

Rule 53(a)(3): No more than 2% of the employees of Applicant's domestic utility subsidiaries will, at any one time, directly or indirectly, render services to EWGs and FUCOs.

2 See Exelon Corp., Holding Co. Act Release No. 27256 (Oct. 19, 2000); and CP&L Energy, Inc., Holding Co. Act Release No. 27284 (Nov. 27, 2000).

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Rule 53(a)(4): The Applicant will submit a copy of each Application/Declaration relating to investments in EWGs and FUCOs and copies of any related Rule 24 certificates, as well as a copy of the Applicant's Form U5S, to each of the public service commissions having jurisdiction over the retail rates of the Applicant's domestic utility subsidiaries.

In addition, the Applicant states that the provisions of Rule 53(a) are not made inapplicable to the authorization herein requested by reason of the occurrence or continuance of any of the circumstances specified in Rule 53(b). Rule 53(c) is inapplicable by its terms.

ITEM 4. REGULATORY APPROVAL.

No state commission, and no federal commission, other than this Commission, has jurisdiction over the proposed transaction.

ITEM 5. PROCEDURE.

The Commission is requested to publish a notice under Rule 23 with respect to the filing of this Application/Declaration as soon as practicable. The Applicant requests that the Commission's order be issued as soon as practicable after the notice period and in any event not later than July 31, 2003 in order to accommodate the initial call of capital contributions by the Company. The Applicant further requests that there should not be a 30-day waiting period between issuance of the Commission's order and the date on which the order is to become effective, hereby waives a recommended decision by a hearing officer or any other responsible officer of the Commission, and consents to the assistance of the Division of Investment Management in the preparation of the Commission's decision and/or order, unless the Division of Investment Management opposes the matters proposed herein.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

A. Exhibits.

- A - Draft of Operating Agreement of PowerTree Carbon Company, LLC
- B - None
- C - Inapplicable
- D - None
- E - Inapplicable
- F-1 - Opinion of Counsel for the Applicant.
- F-2 - Opinion of Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams LLP.

- G - Form of Federal Register Notice

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B. Financial Statements.

(Deemed unnecessary because of the de minimis nature of the proposed transaction)

ITEM 7. INFORMATION AS TO ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.

None of the matters that are the subject of this Application/Declaration involves a "major federal action" nor do such matters "significantly affect the quality of the human environment" as those terms are used in section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. The transaction that is the subject of this Application/Declaration will not result in changes in the operation of the Applicant that will have an impact on the environment. The Applicant is not aware of any federal agency that has prepared or is preparing an environmental impact statement with respect to the transaction that is the subject of this Application/Declaration.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, the undersigned company has duly caused this statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

AMEREN CORPORATION

By: /s/ Steven R. Sullivan

Name: Steven R. Sullivan

Title: Vice President Regulatory Policy,
General Counsel and Secretary

Date: June 12, 2003