

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY INC  
Form S-3  
April 09, 2001

Registration No. 333-\_\_\_\_\_

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
Under  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

American Electric Power Company, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New York 13-4922640  
(State or other jurisdiction  
(I.R.S. Employer  
of incorporation or organization)  
Identification No.)

1 Riverside Plaza 43215  
Columbus, Ohio (Zip Code)  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (614) 223-1000

ARMANDO A. PENA, Treasurer  
JEFFREY D. CROSS, Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel  
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER SERVICE CORPORATION  
1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 223-1580

(Names, addresses and telephone numbers, including  
area code, of agents for service)

It is respectfully requested that the Commission send copies of  
all notices, orders and communications to:

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett  
425 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10017-3909  
Attention: James M. Cotter

Dewey Ballantine LLP  
1301 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10019-6092  
Attention: E. N. Ellis, IV

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon  
as practicable after the effective date of the Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered  
pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following  
box. [ ]

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered  
on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act  
of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or  
interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. [x]

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If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. [ ]

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. [ ]

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box. [ ]

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit* | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price* | Amount of Registration Fee |
|--|-------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| Unsecured Notes                                    | \$1,500,000,000         | 100%                                      | \$1,500,000,000                            | \$375,000                  |

\*Estimated solely for purpose of calculating the registration fee.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED APRIL 9, 2001

PROSPECTUS

AMERICAN ELECTRIC Power Company, INC.  
 1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA  
 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215  
 (614) 223-1000

\$1,500,000,000  
 UNSECURED NOTES

TERMS OF SALE

The following terms may apply to the notes that we may sell at one or more

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times. A prospectus supplement or pricing supplement will include the final terms for each note. If we decide to list upon issuance any note or notes on a securities exchange, a prospectus supplement or pricing supplement will identify the exchange and state when we expect trading could begin.

- Maturity date or dates
- Fixed or floating interest rate
- Remarketing features
- Certificate or book-entry form
- Subject to redemption
- Not convertible, amortized or subject to a sinking fund
- Interest paid on fixed rate notes quarterly or semi-annually
- Interest paid on floating rate notes daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually
- Issued in multiples of a minimum denomination

The notes have not been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

### 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. In addition, in recent years we have been pursuing various unregulated business opportunities in the U.S. and worldwide. 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: Appalachian Power Company, Central Power and Light 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, West Texas Utilities 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.

On June 15, 2000, one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries merged with and into Central and South West Corporation, a publicly owned electric utility holding company whose public utility companies supply electric service in portions of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. As a result of the merger, the shareholders of Central and South West Corporation became shareholders of us and we became the sole owner of Central and South West Corporation.

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### 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 450 Fifth Street, N. W., 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 document 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 until we sell all the notes.

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000.

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

Mr. G. C. Dean  
American Electric Power Service Corporation  
1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 223-1000

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these notes 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.

### PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENTS

We will provide information to you about the notes 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 notes, (b) the accompanying prospectus supplement provides more specific terms of your notes, and (c) the pricing supplement, if any, provides the final terms of your notes. 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.

### RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

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

| Twelve Months<br>Period Ended | Ratio |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| December 31, 1996             | 2.22  |
| December 31, 1997             | 2.22  |
| December 31, 1998             | 2.25  |

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December 31, 1999 2.14

December 31, 2000 1.59

For current information on the Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges, please see our most recent Form 10-K and 10-Q. See Where You Can Find More Information.

### USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the sale of the notes 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, 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 April 3, 2001, our outstanding short-term debt was \$3,691,000,000.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

#### General

We will issue the notes under an Indenture to be entered into by us and the Trustee, The Bank of New York. 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 notes that may be issued. The Indenture permits us to issue 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 notes may differ as to their terms. The Indenture also gives us the ability to reopen a previous issue of a series of notes and issue additional 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 notes) to participate in the assets of the subsidiary upon the subsidiary's liquidation.

The 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.

The 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 notes will not be subject to any conversion, amortization, or sinking fund. We expect that the notes will be "book-entry," represented by a permanent global note registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, or its nominee. We reserve the right, however, to issue note certificates registered in the name of the noteholders.

In the discussion that follows, whenever we talk about paying principal on the 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.

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

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

### Redemptions

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

### Remarketed Notes

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

### Book-Entry Notes - Registration, Transfer, and Payment of Interest and Principal

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, book-entry notes of a series will be issued in the form of a global note that the Trustee will deposit with The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"). This means that we will not issue note certificates to each holder. One or more global notes will be issued to DTC who will keep a computerized record of its participants (for example, your broker) whose clients have purchased the notes. The participant will then keep a record of its clients who purchased the notes. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for a note certificate, a global note may not be transferred, except that DTC, its nominees, and their successors may transfer a global note as a whole to one another.

Beneficial interests in global notes will be shown on, and transfers of global notes will be made only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants.

DTC has provided us the following information: 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 United States Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered under the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds securities that its participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also records the settlement among Direct Participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through computerized records for Direct Participant's accounts. This eliminates the need to exchange note certificates. Direct Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

Other organizations such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that work through a Direct Participant also use DTC's book-entry system. The rules that apply to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

A number of its Direct Participants and the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., The American Stock Exchange, Inc. and the National Association of Securities

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Dealers, Inc. own DTC.

We will wire principal and interest payments to DTC's nominee. We and the Trustee will treat DTC's nominee as the owner of the global notes for all purposes. Accordingly, we, the Trustee and (any paying agent) will have no direct responsibility or liability to pay amounts due on the global notes to owners of beneficial interests in the global notes.

It is DTC's current practice, upon receipt of any payment of principal or interest, to credit Direct Participants' accounts on the payment date according to their respective holdings of beneficial interests in the global notes as shown on DTC's records. In addition, it is DTC's current practice to assign any consenting or voting rights to Direct Participants whose accounts are credited with notes on a record date. The customary practices between the participants and owners of beneficial interests will govern payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global notes and voting by participants, as is the case with notes held for the account of customers registered in "street name." However, payments will be the responsibility of the participants and not of DTC, the Trustee or us.

According to DTC, the foregoing information with respect to DTC has been provided to the Direct Participants and other members of the financial community for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as a representation, warranty or contract modification of any kind.

Notes represented by a global note will be exchangeable for note certificates with the same terms in authorized denominations only if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under applicable law and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days; or

we determine not to require all of the notes of a series to be represented by a global note and notify the Trustee of our decision.

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

If we issue note certificates, they will be registered in the name of the noteholder. The 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 on note certificates will be made by check.

Interest Rate

The interest rate on the 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 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 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 Notes

A pricing or prospectus supplement will designate the record dates, payment dates and the fixed rate of interest payable on a note. We will pay

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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 note will have an interest rate formula. The applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement will state the initial interest rate or interest rate formula on each 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

"Event of Default" means any of the following:

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

An Event of Default for a particular series of notes does not necessarily mean that an Event of Default has occurred for any other series of 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 notes of the series affected may require us to repay the entire principal of the notes of such series immediately ("Repayment Acceleration"). In most instances, the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the 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 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 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 notes.

### Modification of Indenture



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Under the Indenture, our rights and obligations and the rights of the holders of any notes may be changed. Any change affecting the rights of the holders of any series of notes requires the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding 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 a reduction in the percentage required for changes or a waiver of default, unless the holder consents. We may issue additional series of 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 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 notes.

### Legal Defeasance

We will be discharged from our obligations on the 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 note of the series, and
- we deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel stating that the federal income tax obligations of noteholders of that series will not change as a result of our performing the action described above.

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

### Covenant Defeasance

We will be discharged from our obligations under any restrictive covenant applicable to the 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 notes of that series. In that instance, we would remain liable for such amounts.

### Governing Law

The Indenture and 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.

### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the notes (a) through agents; (b) through underwriters or dealers; or (c) directly to one or more purchasers.

By Agents

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Notes may be sold on a continuing basis through agents designated by us. The agents will agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment.

Unless the pricing or prospectus supplement states otherwise, the notes will be sold to the public at 100% of their principal amount. Agents will receive commissions from .125% to .750% of the principal amount per note depending on the maturity of the note they sell.

The Agents will not be obligated to make a market in the notes. We cannot predict the amount of trading or liquidity of the notes.

By Underwriters

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the notes for their own account. The underwriters may resell the notes 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 obligations of the underwriters to purchase the notes will be subject to certain conditions. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the notes of the series offered if any of the notes are purchased. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Direct Sales

We may also sell notes directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved.

General Information

Underwriters, dealers, and agents that participate in the distribution of the notes may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Act"), and any discounts or commissions received by them from us and any profit on the resale of the notes by them may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Act.

We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Act.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us or our affiliates in the ordinary course of their businesses.

### LEGAL OPINIONS

Our counsel, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, New York, NY, and one of our lawyers will each issue an opinion about the legality of the notes for us. Dewey Ballantine LLP, New York, NY will issue an opinion for the agents or underwriters. From time to time, Dewey Ballantine LLP acts as counsel to our affiliates for some matters.

### EXPERTS

The financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (including Central and South West Corporation and its subsidiaries, as of December 31, 2000, and for the year then ended) and the related financial statement schedule incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, as stated in their reports dated February 26, 2001 (which report on

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the financial statements expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph referring to the restatement of the 1999 and 1998 financial statements to give retroactive effect to the conforming change in the method of accounting for vacation pay accruals), which are incorporated herein by reference.

The financial statements of Central and South West Corporation and its subsidiaries (excluding CSW UK Holdings and CSW UK Finance Company), as of December 31, 1999 and 1998, and for each of the two years ended December 31, 1999, have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. The financial statements of CSW UK Holdings, as of December 31, 1999, and the year then ended, and CSW UK Finance Company, as of December 31, 1998, and the year then ended, have been audited by KPMG Audit Plc, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Such financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries are included herein in reliance upon the respective reports of such firms given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing. All of the foregoing firms are independent auditors.

### PART II

#### INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

##### Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.\*

Estimation based upon the issuance of all of the unsecured notes in three issuances:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission Filing Fees.....   | \$ 375,000   |
| Printing Registration Statement, Prospectus, etc..... | 100,000      |
| Independent Auditors' fees.....                       | 100,000      |
| Charges of Trustee (including counsel fees).....      | 30,000       |
| Legal fees.....                                       | 150,000      |
| Rating Agency fees.....                               | 400,000      |
| Miscellaneous expenses.....                           | 100,000      |
|   | -----        |
| Total.....  | \$ 1,255,000 |
|   | =====        |

\* ...Estimated, except for filing fees.

##### Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The New York Business Corporation Law ("BCL"), Article 7, Sections 721-726 provide for the indemnification and advancement of expenses to officers and directors. Section 721 provides that indemnification and advancement pursuant to the BCL are not exclusive of any other rights an officer or director may be entitled to, provided that no indemnification may be made to or on behalf of any director or officer if a judgment or other final adjudication adverse to the director or officer establishes that his acts were committed in bad faith or were the result of active and deliberate dishonesty and were material to the cause of action so adjudicated, or that the director personally gained a financial profit or other advantage to which he or she was not legally entitled.

Section 722 of the BCL provides that a corporation may indemnify an officer or director, in the case of third party actions, against judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses and, in the case of derivative actions, against amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses,

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provided that the director or officer acted in good faith, for a purpose which he or she reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the corporation and, in the case of criminal actions, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. In addition, statutory indemnification may not be provided in derivative actions (i) which are settled or otherwise disposed of or (ii) in which the director or officer is adjudged liable to the corporation, unless and only to the extent a court determines that the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity.

Section 723 of the BCL provides that statutory indemnification is mandatory where the director or officer has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of a civil or criminal action or proceeding. Section 723 also provides that expenses of defending a civil or criminal action or proceeding may be advanced by the corporation upon receipt of an undertaking to repay them if and to the extent the recipient is ultimately found not to be entitled to indemnification. Section 725 provides for repayment of such expenses when the recipient is ultimately found not to be entitled to indemnification. Section 726 provides that a corporation may obtain indemnification insurance indemnifying itself and its directors and officers.

Section 402(b) of the BCL provides that a corporation may include in its certificate of incorporation a provision limiting or eliminating, with certain exceptions, the personal liability of directors to a corporation or its shareholders for damages for any breach of duty in such capacity. The certificate of incorporation of the registrant contains provisions eliminating the personal liability of directors to the extent permitted by New York law. The bylaws of the registrant provide for the indemnification of directors and officers of the registrant to the full extent permitted by law.

The above is a general summary of certain provisions of the registrant's bylaws and the BCL and is subject in all respects to the specific and detailed provisions of the registrant's bylaws and the BCL.

Reference is made to the Underwriting Agreement filed as Exhibit 1(a) hereto, which provide for indemnification of the registrant, certain of its directors and officers, and persons who control the registrant, under certain circumstances.

The registrant maintains insurance policies insuring its directors and officers against certain obligations that may be incurred by them.

Item 16. Exhibits.

Reference is made to the information contained in the Exhibit Index filed as part of this Registration Statement.

Item 17. Undertakings.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of unsecured notes offered (if the total dollar value of unsecured notes offered would not

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exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

Provided, however, that (i) and (ii) do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form S-8, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the unsecured notes offered, and the offering thereof at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(5) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the laws of the State of New York, the registrant's bylaws, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in said Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the unsecured notes, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in said Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(6) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

(7) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered

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therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Columbus and State of Ohio, on the 6th day of April, 2001.

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC.

E. Linn Draper, Jr.\*  
Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| Signature   | Title  | Date          |
|---|--|---------------|
| (i) Principal Executive Officer<br>E. Linn Draper, Jr.*   | Chairman of the Board<br>and Chief Executive Officer   | April 6, 2001 |
| (ii) Principal Financial Officer:<br><br>/s/ Henry W. Fayne_____<br>Henry W. Fayne  | Vice President<br>and Chief Financial Officer  | April 6, 2001 |
| (iii) Principal Accounting Officer:<br><br>/s/ L. V. Assante_____<br>L. V. Assante  | Deputy Controller  | April 6, 2001 |
| (iv) A Majority of the Directors:<br><br>*E. R. Brooks<br>*Donald M. Carlton<br>*John P. DesBarres<br>*E. Linn Draper, Jr.<br>*Robert W. Fri<br>William R. Howell<br>*Lester A. Hudson, Jr.<br>*Leonard J. Kujawa | James L. Powell<br>*Richard L. Sandor<br>*Thomas V. Shockley, III<br>*Donald G. Smith<br>*Linda Gillespie Stuntz<br>Kathryn D. Sullivan<br>*Morris Tanenbaum | April 6, 2001 |

\*By /s/ A. A. Pena\_\_\_\_\_  
(A. A. Pena, Attorney-in-Fact)

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are filed herewith.

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|-------------|
|-------------|-------------|

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- \* 1(a) Copy of proposed form of Underwriting Agreement for the unsecured notes
- \* 4(a) Proposed form of Indenture, between the Company and The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the unsecured notes
- \* 4(b) Proposed form of Supplemental Indenture
- \* 5 Opinion of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett with respect to the unsecured notes
- \*12 Computation of Consolidated Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges
- \*23(a) Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP
- \*23(b) Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP
- \*23(c) Consent of KPMG Audit Plc
- 23(d) Consent of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett (included in Exhibit 5 filed herewith)
- \*24 Powers of Attorney and resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Company
- \*25 Form T-1 re eligibility of The Bank of New York to act as Trustee under the Indenture