

## ALABAMA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** 

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## AMEA BOARD NAMES FRED CLARK NEW CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

The Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) Board of Directors today announced the hiring of Fred D. Clark, Jr. as the municipal power provider's chief operating officer (COO), effective October 2, 2006. AMEA generates and provides electricity to 11 Alabama municipalities that own and operate their own electric utility.

Clark, who currently serves as the executive director of Electric Cities of Alabama, will assume the duties of president and chief executive officer (CEO) upon the June 2007 retirement of longtime AMEA President and CEO Robert W. Claussen. Claussen, who is the only person to serve in that position since AMEA's inception in 1981, informed the board earlier this year of his plans to retire.

The AMEA Board of Directors conducted an exhaustive, nationwide search before selecting Clark for the position. "Fred's background and management experience in municipally-owned utilities, as well as his wealth of knowledge of national, state, and local governments, made him the obvious choice to lead AMEA into the future," said Wayne Duke, chairman of the AMEA board of directors. "The board had a wonderful opportunity to get to know Fred and observe firsthand his skills and abilities because of the close relationship between AMEA and Electric Cities of Alabama. Bob Claussen has done an outstanding job building AMEA into the successful organization it is today, and Fred Clark is the right person to take the reins of leadership."

In 1999, Clark became the first executive director of Electric Cities of Alabama, which is the statewide association for municipally-owned electric utilities. Clark's responsibilities included state and federal governmental affairs, as well as the development of other association services.

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Clark began his political and legislative career in 1987 as a legislative assistant for former United States Senator Howell Heflin. Clark's responsibilities for Sen. Heflin included all legislation considered or developed in the Senate Agriculture Committee and directing staff work on the Senate Subcommittee on Rural Development and Rural Electrification.

In 1989, Mr. Clark accepted a position as a Washington legislative representative for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. His primary legislative areas of responsibility included authorizations and appropriations in the U.S. Congress regarding rural electrification and energy issues.

In 1990, Clark accepted a position as state director for U.S. Senator Richard Shelby. His responsibilities included management of Sen. Shelby's five in-state offices, constituent relations, and in-state political strategic planning.

In 1991, Clark became the president of the Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives (AREA). Clark directed association programs, which included state and federal governmental affairs, regulatory compliance, and association insurance programs.

In 2003, while at Electric Cities of Alabama, Clark helped establish the Alabama Public Utilities Alliance, a state legislative monitoring service for Alabama's public utilities.

Clark is a native of Elba, Alabama, and is married to Blake Guthrie Clark of Enterprise. They have two children; a daughter, Laura Catherine Clark and a son, Fred Denson Clark, III. Clark is a graduate of Auburn University and holds a Bachelor of Science and Master's of Agriculture degree.

The Alabama Municipal Electric Authority provides electricity to more than 350,000 municipal customers in Alexander City, Dothan, Fairhope, Foley, LaFayette, Lanett, Luverne, Opelika, Piedmont, Sylacauga, and Tuskegee. The AMEA headquarters is located at 804 South Perry Street in Montgomery, AL. For more information about AMEA or this release, please contact Dean R. Argo at (334) 387-3501.