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## ALABAMA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY

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### **CLAUSSEN BIDS FAREWELL TO AMEA AFTER 23 YEARS**

Robert W. Claussen, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority's (AMEA) President & CEO, will say goodbye to the AMEA family and public power industry this month after serving 23 years as the joint action agency's chief executive.

Claussen was hired by the AMEA Board of Directors in June 1984 as General Manager. In June 2001, Claussen was named President & CEO.

"Bob has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to advancing the ideals and goals of public power," said Fred Clark, AMEA's new President & CEO. "Throughout his career at AMEA, Bob has been a dedicated servant to our 11 Member cities and their customers."

On June 8, a celebratory reception and dinner were held in Claussen's honor in Montgomery. Colleagues, family, friends, AMEA staff, business advisors and partners commended Claussen for his leadership and dedication to the authority. The AMEA Board of Directors presented Claussen with a special resolution and plaque honoring him for his 23 years of service. Dean Argo, Executive Director, Electric Cities of Alabama, presented Claussen with a Joint Senate Resolution on behalf of State Senator Wendell Mitchell of Luverne. Claussen's official retirement date is June 30.

Some of the milestones in Claussen's career include the implementation of the Load Management Program to improve Members' load factor in 1990; launching a scholarship program in 1992 and a technical scholarship program in 2003; the implementation of a Capital Fund Program for Member cities' economic development purposes in 1997; the installation of a system-wide Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) in 1998; publishing the first issue of *Alabama Currents* in 2002; and, the dedication of the AMEA-Sylacauga Plant in 2004. AMEA became the first organization in more than 80 years to build a power generation plant owned by a municipality. The AMEA-Sylacauga

Plant, which is owned collectively by the 11 municipal electric systems that comprise AMEA utilizes two state-of-the-art combustion turbine generating units fueled by natural gas, each with a generating capacity of 47,500 kilowatts.

Throughout his career at AMEA, Claussen was actively involved in fuel cell programs, during which he served as the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fuel Cell Commercialization Group and served on the Board of Directors of the Direct Fuel Cell Group. Claussen is a former president of the Southeastern Federal Power Customers, Inc. (SeFPC). SeFPC is made up of customers who receive power from the Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA). He has testified before Congress on various issues including Power Marketing Agencies (PMAs) and retail competition.

Claussen served a six-year term on the American Public Power Association (APPA) Board of Directors. For two years of the six years, he served on the Executive Committee. Claussen also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hometown Connections™, a business venture to provide lower-priced, value-added products and services to APPA members.

Claussen has been honored throughout his career with various professional and industry awards, including the APPA Harold Kramer-John Preston Personal Service Award in 2001; the APPA Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award in 2004; Electric Cities of Alabama Public Service Award in 2006; and, the Electric Cities of Alabama Heritage Award in 2007.

Before coming to AMEA, Claussen served nine years in various senior management positions at the Tampa-based Seminole Electric Cooperative including Assistant General Manager and Vice President of the Technical Division. Claussen, a registered professional engineer, was involved with the planning, certification, design, and construction of the Seminole Plant, the first coal-fired power plant in the U.S. licensed under the more stringent EPA criteria standards. He worked as a Principal Engineer with R. W. Beck and Associates for two years and with Florida Power Corporation for 11 years before joining Beck.

Claussen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and a Master of Engineering degree from the University of South Florida. He and his wife, Julie, have one son, Jay.

“We celebrate and honor Bob as he enters a new chapter in his life,” said Clark. “Bob leaves an enduring legacy here at AMEA and with our Member cities.”

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 office is located at 804 South Perry Street in Montgomery, AL.