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AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER CO INC  
Form 8-K  
March 14, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report: March 14, 2003  
(Date of earliest event reported)

Commission File Number	Registrant; State of Incorporation; Address; and Telephone Number	I.R.S. Employer Identification No.
1-3525	AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC. (A New York Corporation) 1 Riverside Plaza Columbus, Ohio 43215 Telephone (614) 223-1000	13-4922640

Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.

On March 11, 2003, American Electric Power Company, Inc. (the "Company") entered into an Underwriting Agreement with Barclays Capital Inc. and UBS Warburg LLC, as representatives of the several underwriters named therein, relating to the offering and sale by the Company of \$500,000,000 of its 5.375% Senior Notes, Series C, due 2010 (the "Notes").

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits

- 1(a) Underwriting Agreement, dated March 11, 2003, between the Company and Barclays Capital Inc. and UBS Warburg LLC, as representatives of the several underwriters named in Exhibit 1 thereto, in connection with the sale of the Notes.
- 4(a) Company Order and Officers' Certificate, dated March 14, 2002, establishing the terms of the Notes.
- 4(b) Form of the Notes (included in Exhibit 4(a) hereto).
- 5(a) Opinion of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett regarding the legality of the Notes.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC.

By:\_/s/ Thomas G. Berkemeyer\_

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Name: Thomas G. Berkemeyer  
Title: Assistant Secretary

March 14, 2003

Exhibit 1(a)

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC.

Underwriting Agreement

Dated March 11, 2003

AGREEMENT made between AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York (the Company), and the several persons, firms and corporations (the Underwriters) named in Exhibit 1 hereto.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Company proposes to issue and sell \$500,000,000 principal amount of its 5.375% Senior Notes, Series C, due 2010 (the Senior Notes) to be issued pursuant to the Indenture dated as of May 1, 2001, between the Company and The Bank of New York, as trustee (the Trustee), as heretofore supplemented and amended and as to be further supplemented and amended (said Indenture as so supplemented being hereafter referred to as the Indenture); and

WHEREAS, the Underwriters have designated the persons signing this Agreement (collectively the Representative) to execute this Agreement on behalf of the respective Underwriters and to act for the respective Underwriters in the manner provided in this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Company has prepared and filed, in accordance with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Act), with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission), a registration statement (File No. 333-86050) and a prospectus relating to \$3,000,000,000 principal amount of, among other securities, its Senior Notes and such registration statement has become effective; and

WHEREAS, such registration statement, including the financial statements, the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated therein by reference, the exhibits thereto, being herein called the Registration Statement, and the prospectus, including the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated therein by reference, constituting a part of such Registration Statement, as it may be last amended or supplemented prior to the effectiveness of this Agreement, but excluding any amendment or supplement relating solely to securities other than the Senior Notes, being herein called the Basic Prospectus, and the Basic Prospectus, as supplemented by a preliminary prospectus supplement and a final prospectus supplement (the Prospectus Supplement) to include information relating to the Senior Notes, including the names of the Underwriters, the price and terms of the offering, the interest rate, maturity date and certain other information relating to the Senior Notes, which will be filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Commission's General Rules and Regulations under the Act (the Rules), including all documents then incorporated or deemed to have been incorporated therein by reference, being herein called the Prospectus.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants

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herein contained, it is agreed between the parties as follows:

1. Purchase and Sale: Upon the basis of the warranties and representations and on the terms and subject to the conditions herein set forth, the Company agrees to sell to the respective Underwriters named in Exhibit 1 hereto, severally and not jointly, and the respective Underwriters, severally and not jointly, agree to purchase from the Company, the respective principal amounts of the Senior Notes set opposite their names in Exhibit 1 hereto, together aggregating all of the Senior Notes, at a price equal to 98.949% of the principal amount thereof.

2. Payment and Delivery: Payment for the Senior Notes shall be made to the Company in immediately available funds or in such other manner as the Company and the Representative shall mutually agree upon in writing, upon the delivery of the Senior Notes to the Representative for the respective accounts of the Underwriters against receipt therefor signed by the Representative on behalf of itself and for the other Underwriters. Such delivery shall be made at 10:00 A.M., New York Time, on March 14, 2003 (or on such later business day, not more than five business days subsequent to such day, as may be mutually agreed upon by the Company and the Underwriters), unless postponed in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 hereof, at the office of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, 425 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017, or at such other place as the Company and the Representative shall mutually agree in writing. The time at which payment and delivery are to be made is herein called the Time of Purchase.

The delivery of the Senior Notes shall be made in fully registered form, registered in the name of CEDE & CO., to the offices of The Depository Trust Company in New York, New York and the Underwriters shall agree, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, to accept such delivery.

3. Conditions of Underwriters' Obligations: The several obligations of the Underwriters hereunder are subject to the accuracy of the warranties and representations on the part of the Company on the date hereof and at the Time of Purchase and to the following other conditions:

(a) That all legal proceedings to be taken and all legal opinions to be rendered in connection with the issue and sale of the Senior Notes shall be satisfactory in form and substance to Dewey Ballantine LLP, counsel to the Underwriters.

(b) That, at the Time of Purchase, the Representative shall be furnished with the following opinions, dated the day of the Time of Purchase, with conformed copies or signed counterparts thereof for the other Underwriters, with such changes therein as may be agreed upon by the Company and the Representative with the approval of Dewey Ballantine LLP, counsel to the Underwriters:

(1) Opinion of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and either of Thomas G. Berkemeyer, Esq. or William E. Johnson, Esq., counsel to the Company, substantially in the forms heretofore previously provided to the Underwriters;

(2) Opinion of Dewey Ballantine LLP, counsel to the Underwriters, substantially in the form heretofore previously provided to the Underwriters.

(c) That the Representative shall have received a letter from Deloitte & Touche LLP in form and substance satisfactory to the Representative, dated as of the day of the Time of Purchase, (i) confirming that they are independent certified public accountants within the meaning of the Act and the applicable published rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, (ii) stating that in their opinion the financial statements audited by them and included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement complied as to form in

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all material respects with the then applicable accounting requirements of the Commission, including the applicable published rules and regulations of the Commission and (iii) covering as of a date not more than five business days prior to the day of the Time of Purchase such other matters as the Representative reasonably requests.

(d) That no amendment to the Registration Statement and that no prospectus or prospectus supplement of the Company (other than the prospectus or amendments, prospectuses or prospectus supplements relating solely to securities other than the Senior Notes) relating to the Senior Notes and no document which would be deemed incorporated in the Prospectus by reference filed subsequent to the date hereof and prior to the Time of Purchase shall contain material information substantially different from that contained in the Registration Statement which is unsatisfactory in substance to the Representative or unsatisfactory in form to Dewey Ballantine LLP, counsel to the Underwriters.

(e) That, at the Time of Purchase, an appropriate order of the Commission under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended (the 1935 Act), necessary to permit the sale of the Senior Notes to the Underwriters, shall be in effect; and that, prior to the Time of Purchase, no stop order with respect to the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall have been issued under the Act by the Commission or proceedings therefor initiated.

(f) That, from the date hereof to the Time of Purchase, there shall not have been any material adverse change in the business, properties or financial condition of the Company from that set forth in the Prospectus (other than changes referred to in or contemplated by the Prospectus), and that the Company shall, at the Time of Purchase, have delivered to the Representative a certificate of an executive officer of the Company to the effect that, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, there has been no such change.

(g) That the Company shall have performed such of its obligations under this Agreement as are to be performed at or before the Time of Purchase by the terms hereof.

In case any of the conditions specified in this Section 3 shall not have been fulfilled, this Agreement may be terminated by the Underwriters at any time at or prior to the Time of Purchase upon written notice thereof to the Company. Any such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except as otherwise provided in Section 4(f), Section 4(g) and Section 4(h) hereof and except for any liability under Section 7 hereof.

4. Certain Covenants of the Company: In further consideration of the agreements of the Underwriters herein contained, the Company covenants as follows:

(a) As soon as practicable, and in any event within the time prescribed by Rule 424 under the Act, to file the Prospectus with the Commission; as soon as the Company is advised thereof, to advise the Representative and confirm the advice in writing of any request made by the Commission for amendments to the Registration Statement or Prospectus or for additional information with respect thereto or of the entry of a stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or of the initiation or threat of any proceedings for that purpose and, if such a stop order should be entered by the Commission, to make every reasonable effort to obtain the prompt lifting or removal thereof.

(b) To deliver to the Underwriters, without charge, as soon as practicable (and in any event within 24 hours after the date hereof), and from time to time thereafter during such period of time (not exceeding nine months) after the date hereof as they are required by law to deliver a prospectus, as many copies of the Prospectus (as supplemented or amended if the Company shall have made any supplements or amendments thereto, other than supplements or amendments relating

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solely to securities other than the Senior Notes) as the Representative may reasonably request; and in case any Underwriter is required to deliver a prospectus after the expiration of nine months after the date hereof, to furnish to any Underwriter, upon request, at the expense of such Underwriter, a reasonable quantity of a supplemental prospectus or of supplements to the Prospectus complying with Section 10(a)(3) of the Act.

(c) To furnish to the Representative a copy, certified by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company, of the Registration Statement as initially filed with the Commission and of all amendments thereto (exclusive of exhibits), other than amendments relating solely to securities other than the Senior Notes and, upon request, to furnish to the Representative sufficient plain copies thereof (exclusive of exhibits) for distribution to the other Underwriters.

(d) For such period of time (not exceeding nine months) after the date hereof as they are required by law to deliver a prospectus, if any event shall have occurred as a result of which it is necessary to amend or supplement the Prospectus in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances when the Prospectus is delivered to a purchaser, not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or not omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading, forthwith to prepare and furnish, at its own expense, to the Underwriters and to dealers (whose names and addresses are furnished to the Company by the Representative) to whom principal amounts of the Senior Notes may have been sold by the Representative for the accounts of the Underwriters and, upon request, to any other dealers making such request, copies of such amendments to the Prospectus or supplements to the Prospectus.

(e) As soon as practicable, the Company will make generally available to its security holders and to the Underwriters an earnings statement or statement of the Company and its subsidiaries which will satisfy the provisions of Section 11(a) of the Act and Rule 158 under the Act.

(f) To use its best efforts to qualify the Senior Notes for offer and sale under the securities or "blue sky" laws of such jurisdictions as the Representative may designate within six months after the date hereof and itself to pay, or to reimburse the Underwriters and their counsel for, reasonable filing fees and expenses in connection therewith in an amount not exceeding \$3,500 in the aggregate (including filing fees and expenses paid and incurred prior to the effective date hereof), provided, however, that the Company shall not be required to qualify as a foreign corporation or to file a consent to service of process or to file annual reports or to comply with any other requirements deemed by the Company to be unduly burdensome.

(g) To pay all expenses, fees and taxes (other than transfer taxes on resales of the Senior Notes by the respective Underwriters) in connection with the issuance and delivery of the Senior Notes, provided that the Company shall be required to pay the fees and disbursements (other than disbursements referred to in paragraph (f) of this Section 4) of Dewey Ballantine LLP, counsel to the Underwriters, only in the events provided in paragraph (h) of this Section 4 and paragraph (a) of Section 7, the Underwriters hereby agreeing to pay such fees and disbursements in any other event.

(h) If the Underwriters shall not take up and pay for the Senior Notes due to the failure of the Company to comply with any of the conditions specified in Section 3 hereof, or, if this Agreement shall be terminated in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 or 9 hereof, to pay the fees and disbursements of Dewey Ballantine LLP, counsel to the Underwriters, and, if the Underwriters shall not take up and pay for the Senior Notes due to the failure of the Company to comply with any of the conditions specified in Section 3 hereof, to reimburse the Underwriters for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, in an aggregate

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amount not exceeding a total of \$10,000, incurred in connection with the financing contemplated by this Agreement.

(i) During the period from the date hereof and continuing to and including the earlier of (i) the date which is after the Time of Purchase on which the distribution of the Senior Notes ceases, as determined by the Representative in its sole discretion, and (ii) the date which is 30 days after the Time of Purchase, the Company agrees not to offer, sell, contract to sell or otherwise dispose of any Senior Notes of the Company or any substantially similar securities of the Company without the consent of the Representative.

5. Warranties of the Company: The Company represents and warrants to you as set forth below:

(a) the Registration Statement on its effective date complied with the applicable provisions of the Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission and the Registration Statement at its effective date did not, and at the Time of Purchase will not, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, and the Basic Prospectus on the date of this Agreement and the Prospectus when first filed in accordance with Rule 424(b) complies, and at the Time of Purchase the Prospectus will comply, with the applicable provisions of the Act and the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the Commission, the Basic Prospectus on the date of this Agreement and the Prospectus when first filed in accordance with Rule 424(b) under the Act do not, and the Prospectus at the Time of Purchase will not, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, except that the Company makes no warranty or representation to the Underwriters with respect to any statements or omissions made in the Registration Statement, the Basic Prospectus or the Prospectus in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished in writing to the Company by, or through the Representative on behalf of, any Underwriter expressly for use in the Registration Statement, the Basic Prospectus or Prospectus, or to any statements in or omissions from that part of the Registration Statement that shall constitute the Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of any indenture trustee under an indenture of the Company.

(b) As of the Time of Purchase, the Indenture will have been duly authorized by the Company and duly qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and, when executed and delivered by the Trustee and the Company, will constitute a legal, valid and binding instrument enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms and such Senior Notes will have been duly authorized, executed, authenticated and, when paid for by the purchasers thereof, will constitute legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company entitled to the benefits of the Indenture, except as the enforceability thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, or other similar laws affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights in general, and except as the availability of the remedy of specific performance is subject to general principles of equity (regardless of whether such remedy is sought in a proceeding in equity or at law), and by an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

(c) The documents incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement or Prospectus, when they were filed with the Commission, complied in all material respects with the applicable provisions of the 1934 Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, and as of such time of filing, when read together with the Prospectus, none of such documents contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light

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of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(d) Since the respective dates as of which information is given in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, except as otherwise referred to or contemplated therein, there has been no material adverse change in the business, properties or financial condition of the Company.

(e) This Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company.

(f) The consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated herein is not in violation of its charter or bylaws, will not result in the violation of any applicable law, statute, rule, regulation, judgment, order, writ or decree of any government, government instrumentality or court having jurisdiction over the Company or its properties, and will not conflict with, or result in a breach of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, or result in the creation or imposition of any lien, charge or encumbrance upon any property or assets of the Company under any contract, indenture, mortgage, loan agreement, note, lease or other agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it may be bound or to which any of its properties may be subject (except for conflicts, breaches or defaults which would not, individually or in the aggregate, be materially adverse to the Company or materially adverse to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.)

(g) No authorization, approval, consent or order of any court or governmental authority or agency is necessary in connection with the issuance and sale by the Company of the Senior Notes or the transactions by the Company contemplated in this Agreement, except (A) such as may be required under the 1933 Act or the rules and regulations thereunder; (B) such as may be required under the 1935 Act; (C) the qualification of the Indenture under the 1939 Act; and (D) such consents, approvals, authorizations, registrations or qualifications as may be required under state securities or Blue Sky laws.

(h) The Company and each "significant subsidiary" of the Company (as such term is defined in Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X promulgated under the Act) has been duly organized and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its incorporation.

(i) The consolidated financial statements of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries together with the notes thereto, included or incorporated by reference in the Prospectus present fairly the financial position of the Company at the dates or for the periods indicated; said consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles applied, apart from reclassifications disclosed therein, on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved; and the selected consolidated financial information of the Company included in the Prospectus present fairly the information shown therein and have been compiled, apart from reclassifications disclosed therein, on a basis consistent with that of the audited financial statements of the Company included or incorporated by reference in the Prospectus.

(j) There is no pending action, suit, investigation, litigation or proceeding, including, without limitation, any environmental action, affecting the Company before any court, governmental agency or arbitration that is reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the business, properties, financial condition or results of operations of the Company, except as disclosed in the Prospectus

The Company's covenants, warranties and representations contained in this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect regardless of any investigation made by or on behalf of any person, and shall survive the delivery of and

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payment for the Senior Notes hereunder.

6. Warranties of Underwriters: Each Underwriter warrants and represents that the information furnished in writing to the Company through the Representative for use in the Registration Statement, in the Basic Prospectus, in the Prospectus, or in the Prospectus as amended or supplemented is correct as to such Underwriter. The warranties and representations of such Underwriter contained in this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect regardless of any investigation made by or on behalf of the Company or other person, and shall survive the delivery of and payment for the Senior Notes hereunder

### 7. Indemnification and Contribution:

(a) To the extent permitted by law, the Company agrees to indemnify and hold you harmless, your officers and directors and each person, if any, who controls you within the meaning of Section 15 of the Act, against any and all losses, claims, damages or liabilities, joint or several, to which you, they or any of you or them may become subject under the Act or otherwise, and to reimburse you and such controlling person or persons, if any, for any legal or other expenses incurred by you or them in connection with defending any action, insofar as such losses, claims, damages, liabilities or actions arise out of or are based upon any alleged untrue statement or untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement, in the Basic Prospectus (if used prior to the effective date of this Agreement), or in the Prospectus, or if the Company shall furnish or cause to be furnished to you any amendments or any supplements to the Prospectus, in the Prospectus as so amended or supplemented except to the extent that such amendments or supplements relate solely to securities other than the Senior Notes (provided that if such Prospectus or such Prospectus, as amended or supplemented, is used after the period of time referred to in Section 4(b) hereof, it shall contain such amendments or supplements as the Company deems necessary to comply with Section 10(a) of the Act), or arise out of or are based upon any alleged omission or omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, except insofar as such losses, claims, damages, liabilities or actions arise out of or are based upon any such alleged untrue statement or omission, or untrue statement or omission which was made in the Registration Statement, in the Basic Prospectus or in the Prospectus, or in the Prospectus as so amended or supplemented, in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished in writing to the Company by or through the Representative expressly for use therein or with any statements in or omissions from that part of the Registration Statement that shall constitute the Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of any indenture trustee under an indenture of the Company, and except that this indemnity shall not inure to your benefit (or of any person controlling you) on account of any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or actions arising from the sale of the Senior Notes to any person if such loss arises from the fact that a copy of the Prospectus, as the same may then be supplemented or amended to the extent such Prospectus was provided to you by the Company (excluding, however, any document then incorporated or deemed incorporated therein by reference), was not sent or given by you to such person with or prior to the written confirmation of the sale involved and the alleged omission or alleged untrue statement or omission or untrue statement was corrected in the Prospectus as supplemented or amended at the time of such confirmation, and such Prospectus, as amended or supplemented, was timely delivered to you by the Company. You agree promptly after the receipt by you of written notice of the commencement of any action in respect to which indemnity from the Company on account of its agreement contained in this Section 7(a) may be sought by you, or by any person controlling you, to notify the Company in writing of the commencement thereof, but your omission so to notify the Company of any such action shall not release the Company from any liability which it may have to you or to such controlling person otherwise than on account of the indemnity agreement contained in this Section 7(a). In case any such action shall be brought against you or any such person controlling you and you



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shall notify the Company of the commencement thereof, as above provided, the Company shall be entitled to participate in, and, to the extent that it shall wish, including the selection of counsel (such counsel to be reasonably acceptable to the indemnified party), to direct the defense thereof at its own expense. In case the Company elects to direct such defense and select such counsel (hereinafter, Company's counsel), you or any controlling person shall have the right to employ your own counsel, but, in any such case, the fees and expenses of such counsel shall be at your expense unless (i) the Company has agreed in writing to pay such fees and expenses or (ii) the named parties to any such action (including any impleaded parties) include both you or any controlling person and the Company and you or any controlling person shall have been advised by your counsel that a conflict of interest between the Company and you or any controlling person may arise (and the Company's counsel shall have concurred in good faith with such advice) and for this reason it is not desirable for the Company's counsel to represent both the indemnifying party and the indemnified party (it being understood, however, that the Company shall not, in connection with any one such action or separate but substantially similar or related actions in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances, be liable for the reasonable fees and expenses of more than one separate firm of attorneys for you or any controlling person (plus any local counsel retained by you or any controlling person in their reasonable judgment), which firm (or firms) shall be designated in writing by you or any controlling person).

(b) Each Underwriter agrees, to the extent permitted by law, severally and not jointly, to indemnify, hold harmless and reimburse the Company, its directors and such of its officers as shall have signed the Registration Statement, and each person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the Act, to the same extent and upon the same terms as the indemnity agreement of the Company set forth in Section 7(a) hereof, but only with respect to untrue statements or alleged untrue statements or omissions or alleged omissions made in the Registration Statement, or in the Basic Prospectus, or in the Prospectus, or in the Prospectus as so amended or supplemented, in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished in writing to the Company by the Representative on behalf of such Underwriter expressly for use therein. The Company agrees promptly after the receipt by it of written notice of the commencement of any action in respect to which indemnity from you on account of your agreement contained in this Section 7(b) may be sought by the Company, or by any person controlling the Company, to notify you in writing of the commencement thereof, but the Company's omission so to notify you of any such action shall not release you from any liability which you may have to the Company or to such controlling person otherwise than on account of the indemnity agreement contained in this Section 7(b).

(c) If recovery is not available or insufficient under Section 7(a) or 7(b) hereof for any reason other than as specified therein, the indemnified party shall be entitled to contribution for any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities and expenses for which such indemnification is so unavailable or insufficient under this Section 7(c). In determining the amount of contribution to which such indemnified party is entitled, there shall be considered the portion of the proceeds of the offering of the Senior Notes realized, the relative knowledge and access to information concerning the matter with respect to which the claim was asserted, the opportunity to correct and prevent any statement or omission, and any equitable considerations appropriate under the circumstances. The Company and the Underwriters agree that it would not be equitable if the amount of such contribution were determined by pro rata or per capita allocation (even if the Underwriters were treated as one entity for such purpose) without reference to the considerations called for in the previous sentence. No Underwriter or any person controlling such Underwriter shall be obligated to contribute any amount or amounts hereunder which in the aggregate exceeds the total price of the Senior Notes purchased by such Underwriter under this Agreement, less the aggregate amount of any damages which such Underwriter

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and its controlling persons have otherwise been required to pay in respect of the same claim or any substantially similar claim. No person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation. An Underwriter's obligation to contribute under this Section 7 is in proportion to its purchase obligation and not joint with any other Underwriter.

(d) No indemnifying party shall, without the prior written consent of the indemnified parties, settle or compromise or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever in respect of which contribution could be sought under this Section 7 (whether or not the indemnified parties are actual or potential parties thereto), unless such settlement, compromise or consent (i) includes an unconditional release of each indemnified party from all liability arising out of such litigation, investigation, proceeding or claim and (ii) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act by or on behalf of such indemnified party.

(e) In no event shall any indemnifying party have any liability or responsibility in respect of the settlement or compromise of, or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to, any pending or threatened action or claim effected without its prior written consent.

The agreements contained in this Section 7 hereof shall remain in full force and effect regardless of any investigation made by or on behalf of any person, and shall survive the delivery of and payment for the Senior Notes hereunder.

8. Default of Underwriters: If any Underwriter under this Agreement shall fail or refuse (otherwise than for some reason sufficient to justify, in accordance with the terms hereof, the cancellation or termination of its obligations hereunder) to purchase and pay for the principal amount of Senior Notes which it has agreed to purchase and pay for hereunder, and the aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes which such defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters agreed but failed or refused to purchase is not more than one-tenth of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes, the other Underwriters shall be obligated severally in the proportions which the amounts of Senior Notes set forth opposite their names in Exhibit 1 hereto bear to the aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes set forth opposite the names of all such non-defaulting Underwriters, to purchase the Senior Notes which such defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters agreed but failed or refused to purchase on the terms set forth herein; provided that in no event shall the principal amount of Senior Notes which any Underwriter has agreed to purchase pursuant to Section 1 hereof be increased pursuant to this Section 8 by an amount in excess of one-ninth of such principal amount of Senior Notes without the written consent of such Underwriter. If any Underwriter or Underwriters shall fail or refuse to purchase Senior Notes and the aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes with respect to which such default occurs is more than one-tenth of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes then this Agreement shall terminate without liability on the part of any non-defaulting Underwriter; provided, however, that the non-defaulting Underwriters may agree, in their sole discretion, to purchase the Senior Notes which such defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters agreed but failed or refused to purchase on the terms set forth herein. In the event of any such termination, the Company shall not be under any liability to any Underwriter (except to the extent, if any, provided in Section 4(h) hereof), nor shall any Underwriter (other than an Underwriter who shall have failed or refused to purchase the Senior Notes without some reason sufficient to justify, in accordance with the terms hereof, its termination of its obligations hereunder) be under any liability to the Company or any other Underwriter.

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Nothing herein contained shall release any defaulting Underwriter from its liability to the Company or any non-defaulting Underwriter for damages occasioned by its default hereunder.

9. Termination of Agreement by the Underwriters: This Agreement may be terminated at any time prior to the Time of Purchase by the Representative if, after the execution and delivery of this Agreement and prior to the Time of Purchase, in the Representative's reasonable judgment, the Underwriters' ability to market the Senior Notes shall have been materially adversely affected because:

(i) trading in securities on the New York Stock Exchange shall have been generally suspended by the Commission or by the New York Stock Exchange or trading in the securities of the Company shall have been suspended by the New York Stock Exchange, or

(ii) there shall have occurred any outbreak or escalation of hostilities, declaration by the United States of a national emergency or war or other national or international calamity or crisis, or

(iii) a general banking moratorium shall have been declared by Federal or New York State authorities, or

(iv) there shall have been any decrease in the ratings of the Company's debt securities by Moody's Investors Services, Inc. (Moody's) or Standard & Poor's Ratings Group (S&P) or either Moody's or S&P shall publicly announce that it has such debt securities under consideration for possible downgrade.

If the Representative elects to terminate this Agreement, as provided in this Section 9, the Representative will promptly notify the Company by telephone or by telex or facsimile transmission, confirmed in writing. If this Agreement shall not be carried out by any Underwriter for any reason permitted hereunder, or if the sale of the Senior Notes to the Underwriters as herein contemplated shall not be carried out because the Company is not able to comply with the terms hereof, the Company shall not be under any obligation under this Agreement and shall not be liable to any Underwriter or to any member of any selling group for the loss of anticipated profits from the transactions contemplated by this Agreement (except that the Company shall remain liable to the extent provided in Section 4(h) hereof) and the Underwriters shall be under no liability to the Company nor be under any liability under this Agreement to one another.

10. Notices: All notices hereunder shall, unless otherwise expressly provided, be in writing and be delivered at or mailed to the following addresses or by telex or facsimile transmission confirmed in writing to the following addresses: if to the Underwriters, to the Representative at Barclays Capital Inc., 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, Attention: Transaction Management (fax 212/412-7680), and at UBS Warburg LLC, 299 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10171, Attention: David Mikulka (fax 212/821-2467) and, if to the Company, to American Electric Power Company, Inc., c/o American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Attention: A. A. Pena, Treasurer, (fax 614/716-2807).

11. Parties in Interest: The agreement herein set forth has been and is made solely for the benefit of the Underwriters, the Company (including the directors thereof and such of the officers thereof as shall have signed the Registration Statement), the controlling persons, if any, referred to in Section 7 hereof, and their respective successors, assigns, executors and administrators, and, except as expressly otherwise provided in Section 8 hereof, no other person shall acquire or have any right under or by the virtue of this Agreement.

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12. Definition of Certain Terms: If there be two or more persons, firms or corporations named in Exhibit 1 hereto, the term "Underwriters", as used herein, shall be deemed to mean the several persons, firms or corporations, so named (including the Representative herein mentioned, if so named) and any party or parties substituted pursuant to Section 8 hereof, and the term "Representative", as used herein, shall be deemed to mean the representative or representatives designated by, or in the manner authorized by, the Underwriters. All obligations of the Underwriters hereunder are several and not joint. If there shall be only one person, firm or corporation named in Exhibit 1 hereto, the term "Underwriters" and the term "Representative", as used herein, shall mean such person, firm or corporation. The term "successors" as used in this Agreement shall not include any purchaser, as such purchaser, of any of the Senior Notes from any of the respective Underwriters.

13. Conditions of the Company's Obligations: The obligations of the Company hereunder are subject to the Underwriters' performance of their obligations hereunder, and the further condition that at the Time of Purchase the Commission shall have issued an appropriate order under the 1935 Act, and such order shall remain in full force and effect, authorizing the transactions contemplated hereby. In case these conditions shall not have been fulfilled, this Agreement may be terminated by the Company upon notice thereof to the Underwriters. Any such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except as otherwise provided in Sections 4(g) and 7 hereof.

14. Applicable Law: This Agreement will be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

15. Execution of Counterparts: This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized, on the date first above written.

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC.

By: /s/ Henry W. Fayne  
Henry W. Fayne  
Vice President

BARCLAYS CAPITAL INC.

By: /s/ Pamela Kendall  
Name: Pamela Kendall  
Title: Director

UBS Warburg LLC

By: /s/ Scott D. Whitney  
Name: Scott D. Whitney  
Title: Director

as Representatives and on behalf of  
the Underwriters named in Exhibit 1 hereto

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EXHIBIT 1

Name	Principal Amount
Barclays Capital Inc.....	\$175,000,000
UBS Warburg LLC .....	175,000,000
Banc of America Securities LLC.....	30,000,000
Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation.....	30,000,000
ABN AMRO Incorporated.....	15,000,000
Banc One Capital Markets, Inc.....	15,000,000
BNY Capital Markets, Inc.....	15,000,000
Credit Lyonnais Securities (USA) Inc.....	15,000,000
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.....	15,000,000
Utendahl Capital Partners, L.P.....	15,000,000
Total .....	\$500,000,000

Exhibit 4(a)

March 14, 2003

Company Order and Officers' Certificate  
5.375% Senior Notes, Series C, due 2010

The Bank of New York, as Trustee  
101 Barclay St. - 8W  
New York, New York 10286

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Article Two of the Indenture, dated as of May 1, 2001 (as it may be amended or supplemented, the "Indenture"), from American Electric Power Company, Inc. (the "Company") to The Bank of New York, as trustee (the "Trustee"), and the Board Resolutions dated April 23, 2002, a copy of which certified by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company is being delivered herewith under Section 2.01 of the Indenture, and unless otherwise provided in a subsequent Company Order pursuant to Section 2.04 of the Indenture,

1. The Company's 5.375% Senior Notes, Series C, due 2010 (the "Notes") are hereby established. The Notes shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

2. The terms and characteristics of the Notes shall be as follows (the numbered clauses set forth below corresponding to the numbered subsections of Section 2.01 of the Indenture, with terms used and not defined herein having the meanings specified in the Indenture):

(i) the aggregate principal amount of Notes which may be authenticated and delivered under the Indenture shall be limited to \$500,000,000, except as contemplated in Section 2.01 of the Indenture;

(ii) the date on which the principal of the Notes shall be payable shall be March 15, 2010;

(iii) interest shall accrue from the date of authentication of the Notes; the Interest Payment Dates on which such interest will be payable shall be March 15 and September 15, and the Regular Record Date for the determination of holders to whom interest is payable on any such Interest

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Payment Date shall be the last day of the month preceding the relevant Interest Payment Date; provided that the first Interest Payment Date shall be September 15, 2003 and interest payable on the Stated Maturity Date or any Redemption Date shall be paid to the Person to whom principal shall be paid;

(iv) the interest rate at which the Notes shall bear interest shall be 5.375% per annum;

(v) the Notes shall be redeemable at the option of the Company, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than thirty but not more than sixty days' previous notice given by mail to the registered owners of the Notes at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed and (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the Notes being redeemed (excluding the portion of any such interest accrued to the date of redemption) discounted (for purposes of determining present value) to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate (as defined below) plus 30 basis points, plus, in each case, accrued interest thereon to the date of redemption.

"Treasury Rate" means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

"Comparable Treasury Issue" means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Notes that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the Notes.

"Comparable Treasury Price" means, with respect to any redemption date, (i) the average of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) on the third Business Day preceding such redemption date, as set forth in the daily statistical release (or any successor release) published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and designated "Composite 3:30 p.m. Quotations for U. S. Government Securities" or (ii) if such release (or any successor release) is not published or does not contain such prices on such third Business Day, the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation for such redemption date.

"Independent Investment Banker" means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by the Company and reasonably acceptable to the Trustee.

"Reference Treasury Dealer" means a primary U.S. government securities dealer in New York City selected by the Company and reasonably acceptable to the Trustee.

"Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation" means, with respect to the Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Trustee, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Trustee by such Reference Treasury Dealer at or before 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third Business Day preceding such redemption date.

(vi) (a) the Notes shall be issued in the form of a Global Note; (b)

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the Depository for such Global Note shall be The Depository Trust Company; and (c) the procedures with respect to transfer and exchange of Global Notes shall be as set forth in the form of Note attached hereto;

(vii) the title of the Notes shall be "5.375% Senior Notes, Series C, due 2010";

(viii) the form of the Notes shall be as set forth in Paragraph 1, above;

(ix) not applicable;

(x) the Notes may be subject to a Periodic Offering;

(xi) not applicable;

(xii) not applicable;

(xiii) the Company will pay the principal of the Notes and any premium and interest payable at redemption, if any, or at maturity in immediately available funds at the office of The Bank of New York, 101 Barclay Street in New York, New York.

(xiv) the Notes shall be issuable in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

(xv) not applicable;

(xvi) the Notes shall not be issued as Discount Securities;

(xvii) not applicable;

(xviii) not applicable; and

(xix) Restrictive Covenants:

### Limitation upon Liens of Certain Subsidiaries

For so long as any Notes remain outstanding, the Company will not create or incur or allow any of its subsidiaries to create or incur any pledge or security interest on any of the capital stock of a Public Utility Subsidiary held by the Company or one of its subsidiaries or a Significant Subsidiary.

For purposes of this covenant:

(i) Public Utility Subsidiary means, at any particular time, a direct or indirect subsidiary of the Company that, as a substantial part of its business, distributes or transmits electric energy to retail or wholesale customers at rates or tariffs that are regulated by either a state or Federal regulatory authority.

(ii) Significant Subsidiary means, at any particular time, any direct subsidiary of the Company whose consolidated gross assets or consolidated gross revenues (having regard to the Company's direct beneficial interest in the shares, or the like, of that subsidiary) represent at least 25% of the Company's consolidated gross assets or consolidated gross revenues appearing in the most recent audited financial statements of the Company as of the date of determination.

### Limitation upon Mergers, Consolidations and Sale of Assets

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The provisions of Article Ten of the Indenture shall be applicable to the Notes.

3. You are hereby requested to authenticate \$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 5.375% Senior Notes, Series C, due 2010, executed by the Company and delivered to you concurrently with this Company Order and Officers' Certificate, in the manner provided by the Indenture.

4. You are hereby requested to hold the Notes as custodian for DTC in accordance with the Letter of Representations dated March 11, 2003, from the Company and the Trustee to DTC.

5. Concurrently with this Company Order and Officers' Certificate, an Opinion of Counsel under Sections 2.04 and 13.06 of the Indenture is being delivered to you.

6. The undersigned Henry W. Fayne and Thomas G. Berkemeyer, the Vice President and Assistant Secretary, respectively, of the Company do hereby certify that:

(i) we have read the relevant portions of the Indenture, including without limitation the conditions precedent provided for therein relating to the action proposed to be taken by the Trustee as requested in this Company Order and Officers' Certificate, and the definitions in the Indenture relating thereto;

(ii) we have read the Board Resolutions of the Company and the Opinion of Counsel referred to above;

(iii) we have conferred with other officers of the Company, have examined such records of the Company and have made such other investigation as we deemed relevant for purposes of this certificate;

(iv) in our opinion, we have made such examination or investigation as is necessary to enable us to express an informed opinion as to whether or not such conditions have been complied with; and

(v) on the basis of the foregoing, we are of the opinion that all conditions precedent provided for in the Indenture relating to the action proposed to be taken by the Trustee as requested herein have been complied with.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this Company Order and Officers' Certificate, including the documents listed herein, and confirm the arrangements set forth herein by signing and returning the copy of this document attached hereto.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC.

By:           /s/ Henry W. Fayne  
Vice President

And:           /s/ Thomas G. Berkemeyer  
Assistant Secretary

Acknowledged by Trustee:



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By: /s/ Joseph A. Lloret \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signatory

Exhibit 1

Unless this certificate is presented by an authorized representative of The Depository Trust Company (55 Water Street, New York, New York) to the issuer or its agent for registration of transfer, exchange or payment, and any certificate to be issued is registered in the name of Cede & Co. or in such other name as is requested by an authorized representative of The Depository Trust Company and any payment is made to Cede & Co., ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL inasmuch as the registered owner hereof, Cede & Co., has an interest herein. Except as otherwise provided in Section 2.11 of the Indenture, this Security may be transferred, in whole but not in part, only to another nominee of the Depository or to a successor Depository or to a nominee of such successor Depository.

No. R1

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC.  
5.375% Senior Notes, Series C, due 2010

CUSIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Original Issue  
Date: March 14, 2003

Stated Maturity: March 15, 2010 Interest Rate:  
5.375%

Principal Amount: \$500,000,000

Redeemable: Yes  No   
In Whole: Yes  No   
In Part: Yes  No

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York (herein referred to as the "Company", which term includes any successor corporation under the Indenture hereinafter referred to), for value received, hereby promises to pay to CEDE & CO. or registered assigns, the Principal Amount specified above on the Stated Maturity specified above, and to pay interest on said Principal Amount from the Original Issue Date specified above or from the most recent interest payment date (each such date, an "Interest Payment Date") to which interest has been paid or duly provided for, semi-annually in arrears on March 15 and September 15 in each year, commencing on September 15, 2003, at the Interest Rate per annum specified above, until the Principal Amount shall have been paid or duly provided for. Interest shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

The interest so payable, and punctually paid or duly provided for, on any Interest Payment Date, as provided in the Indenture, as hereinafter defined, shall be paid to the Person in whose name this Note (or one or more Predecessor Securities) shall have been registered at the close of business on the Regular Record Date with respect to such Interest Payment Date, which shall be the last day of the month (whether or not a Business Day), as the case may be, immediately preceding such Interest Payment Date, provided that interest payable on the Stated Maturity or any redemption date shall be paid to the Person to whom principal is paid. Any such interest not so punctually paid or duly provided for shall forthwith cease to be payable to the Holder on such Regular Record Date and shall be paid as provided in said Indenture.

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If any Interest Payment Date, any redemption date or Stated Maturity is not a Business Day, then payment of the amounts due on this Note on such date will be made on the next succeeding Business Day, and no interest shall accrue on such amounts for the period from and after such Interest Payment Date, redemption date or Stated Maturity, as the case may be, with the same force and effect as if made on such date. The principal of (and premium, if any) and the interest on this Note shall be payable at the office or agency of the Company maintained for that purpose in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York, New York, in any coin or currency of the United States of America which at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts; provided, however, that payment of interest (other than interest payable on the Stated Maturity or any redemption date) may be made at the option of the Company by check mailed to the registered holder at such address as shall appear in the Security Register.

This Note is one of a duly authorized series of Notes of the Company (herein sometimes referred to as the "Notes"), specified in the Indenture, all issued or to be issued in one or more series under and pursuant to an Indenture dated as of May 1, 2001 duly executed and delivered between the Company and The Bank of New York, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, as Trustee (herein referred to as the "Trustee") (such Indenture, as originally executed and delivered and as thereafter supplemented and amended being hereinafter referred to as the "Indenture"), to which Indenture and all indentures supplemental thereto or Company Orders reference is hereby made for a description of the rights, limitations of rights, obligations, duties and immunities thereunder of the Trustee, the Company and the holders of the Notes. By the terms of the Indenture, the Notes are issuable in series which may vary as to amount, date of maturity, rate of interest and in other respects as in the Indenture provided. This Note is one of the series of Notes designated on the face hereof.

This Note may be redeemed by the Company at its option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than thirty but not more than sixty days' previous notice given by mail to the registered owners of the Note at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the Note being redeemed and (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the Note being redeemed (excluding the portion of any such interest accrued to the date of redemption) discounted (for purposes of determining present value) to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate (as defined below) plus 30 basis points, plus, in each case, accrued interest thereon to the date of redemption.

"Treasury Rate" means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

"Comparable Treasury Issue" means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Notes that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the Notes.

"Comparable Treasury Price" means, with respect to any redemption date, (1) the average of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) on the third Business Day preceding such redemption date, as set forth in the daily statistical release (or any successor release) published by the

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Federal Reserve Bank of New York and designated "Composite 3:30 p.m. Quotations for U.S. Government Securities" or (2) if such release (or any successor release) is not published or does not contain such prices on such third Business Day, the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation for such redemption date.

"Independent Investment Banker" means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by the Company and reasonably acceptable to the Trustee.

"Reference Treasury Dealer" means a primary U. S. government securities dealer in New York City selected by the Company and reasonably acceptable to the Trustee.

"Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation" means, with respect to the Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Trustee, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Trustee by such Reference Treasury Dealer at or before 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third Business Day preceding such redemption date.

The Company shall not be required to (i) issue, exchange or register the transfer of any Notes during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of the mailing of a notice of redemption of less than all the outstanding Notes of the same series and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing, nor (ii) register the transfer of or exchange of any Notes of any series or portions thereof called for redemption. This Global Note is exchangeable for Notes in definitive registered form only under certain limited circumstances set forth in the Indenture.

In the event of redemption of this Note in part only, a new Note or Notes of this series, of like tenor, for the unredeemed portion hereof will be issued in the name of the Holder hereof upon the surrender of this Note.

In case an Event of Default, as defined in the Indenture, shall have occurred and be continuing, the principal of all of the Notes may be declared, and upon such declaration shall become, due and payable, in the manner, with the effect and subject to the conditions provided in the Indenture.

The Indenture contains provisions for defeasance at any time of the entire indebtedness of this Note upon compliance by the Company with certain conditions set forth therein.

As described in the Company Order and Officers' Certificate, so long as this Note is outstanding, the Company is subject to the restrictive covenants described therein.

The Indenture contains provisions permitting the Company and the Trustee, with the consent of the Holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Notes of all series affected by such supplemental indentures or indentures at the time outstanding voting as a class, as defined in the Indenture, to execute supplemental indentures for the purpose of adding any provisions to or changing in any manner or eliminating any of the provisions of the Indenture or of any supplemental indenture or of modifying in any manner the rights of the Holders of the Notes; provided, however, that no such supplemental indenture shall (i) extend the fixed maturity of any Notes of any series, or reduce the principal amount thereof, or reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest thereon, or reduce any premium payable upon the redemption thereof, or reduce the amount of the principal of a Discount Security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof pursuant to the Indenture, without the consent of the holder of each Note then outstanding and affected; (ii) reduce the aforesaid percentage of

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Notes, the holders of which are required to consent to any such supplemental indenture, or reduce the percentage of Notes, the holders of which are required to waive any default and its consequences, without the consent of the holder of each Note then outstanding and affected thereby; or (iii) modify any provision of Section 6.01(c) of the Indenture (except to increase the percentage of principal amount of securities required to rescind and annul any declaration of amounts due and payable under the Notes), without the consent of the holder of each Note then outstanding and affected thereby. The Indenture also contains provisions permitting the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Notes of any series at the time outstanding affected thereby, on behalf of the Holders of the Notes of such series, to waive any past default in the performance of any of the covenants contained in the Indenture, or established pursuant to the Indenture with respect to such series, and its consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal of or premium, if any, or interest on any of the Notes of such series. Any such consent or waiver by the registered Holder of this Note (unless revoked as provided in the Indenture) shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders and owners of this Note and of any Note issued in exchange herefor or in place hereof (whether by registration of transfer or otherwise), irrespective of whether or not any notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Note.

No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Note or of the Indenture shall alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on this Note at the time and place and at the rate and in the money herein prescribed.

As provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations therein set forth, this Note is transferable by the registered holder hereof on the Note Register of the Company, upon surrender of this Note for registration of transfer at the office or agency of the Company as may be designated by the Company accompanied by a written instrument or instruments of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company or the Trustee duly executed by the registered Holder hereof or his or her attorney duly authorized in writing, and thereupon one or more new Notes of authorized denominations and for the same aggregate principal amount and series will be issued to the designated transferee or transferees. No service charge will be made for any such transfer, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in relation thereto.

Prior to due presentment for registration of transfer of this Note, the Company, the Trustee, any paying agent and any Note Registrar may deem and treat the registered Holder hereof as the absolute owner hereof (whether or not this Note shall be overdue and notwithstanding any notice of ownership or writing hereon made by anyone other than the Note Registrar) for the purpose of receiving payment of or on account of the principal hereof and premium, if any, and interest due hereon and for all other purposes, and neither the Company nor the Trustee nor any paying agent nor any Note Registrar shall be affected by any notice to the contrary.

No recourse shall be had for the payment of the principal of or the interest on this Note, or for any claim based hereon, or otherwise in respect hereof, or based on or in respect of the Indenture, against any incorporator, stockholder, officer or director, past, present or future, as such, of the Company or of any predecessor or successor corporation, whether by virtue of any constitution, statute or rule of law, or by the enforcement of any assessment or penalty or otherwise, all such liability being, by the acceptance hereof and as part of the consideration for the issuance hereof, expressly waived and released.

The Notes of this series are issuable only in registered form without coupons in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. As

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provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations, Notes of this series are exchangeable for a like aggregate principal amount of Notes of this series of a different authorized denomination, as requested by the Holder surrendering the same.

All terms used in this Note which are defined in the Indenture shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture.

This Note shall not be entitled to any benefit under the Indenture hereinafter referred to, be valid or become obligatory for any purpose until the Certificate of Authentication hereon shall have been signed by or on behalf of the Trustee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this Instrument to be executed.

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President

Attest:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

This is one of the Notes of the series of Notes designated in accordance with, and referred to in, the within-mentioned Indenture.

Dated March 14, 2003

THE BANK OF NEW YORK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signatory

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the undersigned hereby sell(s), assign(s) and transfer(s) unto

(PLEASE INSERT SOCIAL SECURITY OR OTHER IDENTIFYING NUMBER OF ASSIGNEE)

-----  
-----  
-----  
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAME AND ADDRESS, INCLUDING ZIP CODE, OF ASSIGNEE) the within Note and all rights thereunder, hereby irrevocably constituting and appointing such person attorney to transfer such Note on the books of the Issuer, with full power of substitution in the premises.

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Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE: The signature to this assignment must correspond with the name as written upon the face of the within Note in every particular, without alteration or enlargement or any change whatever and NOTICE: Signature(s) must be guaranteed by a financial institution that is a member of the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program ("STAMP"), the Stock Exchange Medallion Program ("SEMP") or the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. Medallion Signature Program ("MSP").

Exhibit 5(a)

March 14, 2003

American Electric Power Company, Inc.  
1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to American Electric Power Company, Inc. a New York corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-86050), as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto (the "Registration Statement") filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), relating to \$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 5.375% Senior Notes, Series C (the "Senior Notes").

The Senior Notes were issued under an Indenture dated as of May 1, 2001, as supplemented by a Company Order and Officers' Certificate dated March 14, 2003 relating to the Senior Notes (the "Indenture"), between the Company and The Bank of New York, as Trustee (the "Trustee").

We have examined the Registration Statement and the Indenture, which has been filed with the Commission as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. We also have examined the originals, or duplicates or certified or conformed copies, of such records, agreements, instruments and other documents and have made such other and further investigations as we have deemed relevant and necessary in connection with the opinions expressed herein. As to questions of fact material to this opinion, we have relied upon certificates of public officials and of officers and representatives of the Company.

In rendering the opinion set forth below, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity of natural persons, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as duplicates or certified or conformed copies, and the authenticity of the originals of such latter documents. We also have assumed that the Indenture is the valid and legally binding obligation of the Trustee.

Based upon the foregoing, and subject to the qualifications and limitations stated herein, we are of the opinion that assuming the due authentication thereof by the Trustee, the Senior Notes constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

Our opinion set forth above is subject to the effects of (i) bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent conveyance, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally, (ii)

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general equitable principles (whether considered in a proceeding in equity or at law) and (iii) an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

We are members of the Bar of the State of New York, and we do not express any opinion herein concerning any law other than the law of the State of New York and the Federal law of the United States.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter as Exhibit 5(a) to the Registration Statement and to the use of our name under the caption "Legal Opinions" in the Prospectus included in the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT