

# **BOARD OF REGENTS**

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE**

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Michael G. Morris, chairman, president and chief executive officer, American Electric Power Co., Inc., as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, April 27, 2008 commencement ceremonies. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctorate of Public Service to Mr. Morris.

#### **SUMMARY**

Mr. Morris' biography follows on the next page.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and it is recommended for Board approval.

Donald Loppnow

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University Executive Officer  
Provost and Executive Vice President

March 24, 2008

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Date

Michael G. Morris  
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer



Michael G. Morris is chairman, president and chief executive officer of American Electric Power Co., Inc.

Since joining AEP in January 2004, Morris has led AEP's efforts to build an integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) plant -- the first commercial-scale use of the technology for power generation and the largest IGCC plant announced to date.

He was chairman, president and CEO of Northeast Utilities System from 1997 to 2003, where he led the company during its \$1.3 billion sale of the Millstone Station nuclear plant in 2001, a \$679 million merger with Yankee Energy System Inc., and the acquisition of Connecticut Valley Electric Co.

Before joining Northeast Utilities, Morris was president and CEO of Consumers Energy, principal subsidiary of CMS Energy, and president of CMS Marketing, Services and Trading. He was previously president of Colorado Interstate Gas Co. and executive vice president of marketing, transportation and gas supply for ANR Pipeline Co., both subsidiaries of El Paso Energy. Morris was the founder and president of

ANR Gathering Co., one of the first gas marketing companies in the United States.

Morris is past chairman of the Edison Electric Institute. He also serves on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board, the National Governors Association's Task Force on Electricity Infrastructure, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, Business Roundtable (chairing the Business Roundtable's Energy Task Force), and the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation. Morris serves as a director of the boards of Alcoa, Battelle, Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited, and The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. He is past chairman of the board of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association. He also serves as current chair of the Ohio Business Roundtable and chair of the 2007 United Way of Central Ohio campaign.

Morris was born in Fremont, Ohio, and graduated from Eastern Michigan University with both bachelor's and master's degrees in science. He was appointed to the Board of Regents at Eastern Michigan University in 1997. In 1995 he received the university's Distinguished Alumnus Award. While an undergraduate, Morris served as president of the Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity. During his graduate years, he was commander of the ROTC Brigade.

Morris received a law degree, cum laude, from the Detroit College of Law and is a member of the Michigan Bar Association. He is a past member of the Board of the Detroit College of Law.