

RRI ENERGY INC  
Form 11-K  
June 29, 2009

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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM 11-K**

(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE  
ACT OF 1934.**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008**

**OR**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE  
ACT OF 1934.**

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number 1-16455**

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

**RRI Energy, Inc. Union Savings Plan**  
(Formerly, the Reliant Energy, Inc. Union Savings Plan)  
P.O. Box 3795  
Houston, TX 77253-3795

B. Name and issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

RRI Energy, Inc.  
1000 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77002

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**RRI ENERGY, INC. UNION SAVINGS PLAN  
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<u>Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm - Melton &amp; Melton, L.L.P.</u>	

The following schedules required by the Department of Labor's regulations are omitted due to the absence of the conditions under which they are required:

Schedule of Reportable Transactions

Schedule of Nonexempt Transactions

Schedule of Loans or Fixed Income Obligations in Default or Classified as Uncollectible

Schedule of Leases in Default or Classified as Uncollectible

Schedule of Assets Acquired and Disposed of Within the Plan Year

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Trustees and Participants in the RRI Energy, Inc. Union Savings Plan (formerly, the Reliant Energy, Inc. Union Savings Plan):

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the RRI Energy, Inc. Union Savings Plan (the Plan ) as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2008. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan s internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2008 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule, listed in the Table of Contents, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan s management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ MELTON & MELTON, L.L.P.

Houston, Texas

June 26, 2009

**Table of Contents****RRI ENERGY, INC. UNION SAVINGS PLAN  
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	December 31,	
	2008	2007
ASSETS:		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 84,704,259	\$ 114,228,722
Contributions Receivable-Employer	248,430	597,947
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT FAIR VALUE	84,952,689	114,826,669
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for interest in collective trust relating to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	286,714	(148,723)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 85,239,403	\$ 114,677,946

See notes to financial statements.

**Table of Contents****RRI ENERGY, INC. UNION SAVINGS PLAN  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

## ADDITIONS, LESS LOSS ON INVESTMENTS:

## Contributions:

Employer	\$ 3,631,828
Participant	7,583,315

Total contributions	11,215,143
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## Loss on Investments:

Interest	1,040,341
Dividends	2,744,236
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	(37,258,106)

Total loss on investments	(33,473,529)
Other Income	396

Total additions, less loss on investments	(22,257,990)
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## DEDUCTIONS:

Benefits paid to participants	6,613,673
Administrative expenses	39,978
Assets transferred out, net	526,902

Total deductions	7,180,553
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NET DECREASE	(29,438,543)
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## NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:

BEGINNING OF YEAR	114,677,946
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## NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:

END OF YEAR	\$ 85,239,403
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See notes to financial statements.

**Table of Contents****RRI ENERGY, INC. UNION SAVINGS PLAN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN**

**General** The RRI Energy, Inc. Union Savings Plan (the Plan) is a defined contribution plan sponsored by RRI Energy, Inc. (formerly, Reliant Energy, Inc.) covering substantially all of the eligible bargaining unit employees of RRI Energy, Inc. or a subsidiary or an affiliate of RRI Energy, Inc. (collectively, the Company) that has adopted the Plan, and whose employment is covered by a collective bargaining agreement that provides for participation in the Plan. The following description of the Plan is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan provisions. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ( ERISA ).

**Eligibility** Under the provisions of the Plan, represented employees are eligible to participate in the Plan if provided in the terms of their respective collective bargaining agreements. Represented employees who participate or who are eligible to participate in the Plan immediately preceding January 1, 2006, continue to participate or be eligible to participate in the Plan on or after January 1, 2006. From and after January 1, 2006, except as specified in the participants' respective collective bargaining agreement, each eligible employee who is not a participant and who began service with the Company on or after January 1, 2006, was initially eligible to participate in the Plan as soon as practicable following the later of January 1, 2006 or the date the employee first began service with the Company. Any participant who terminates service and subsequently recommences service with the Company will again become eligible to participate in the Plan as soon as practicable following the first date the employee recommences service; provided, however, that each such participant who was a grandfathered employee of a specific bargaining unit, as defined in the plan document, prior to such termination of service, will not be a grandfathered employee on or after such re-employment date.

**Contributions** Participants may elect to contribute a percentage of their compensation on a pre-tax and/or after-tax basis as permitted under the terms of their respective collective bargaining agreements, and/or up to the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) section 401(a) (17) limit. The annual eligible compensation limit was \$230,000 and \$225,000 for 2008 and 2007, respectively. Active participants who are, or will be, age 50 or older during a calendar year are eligible to make additional pre-tax contributions ( Catch-Up Contributions ) to the Plan for that year in excess of the annual pre-tax contribution limit up to a maximum amount permitted by the Code.

The Plan adopted a qualified Roth contribution program for certain represented employees. Under this program, participants may elect to treat all or a portion of compensation that would otherwise be eligible to defer as pre-tax contributions as designated Roth contributions, as defined in section 402A(c)(1) of the Code. The total amount of participant pre-tax contributions combined with Roth contributions was limited to \$15,500 for 2008 and 2007. The maximum Catch-Up Contribution amount was \$5,000 for 2008 and 2007. The Company makes matching contributions in accordance with the terms of the participants' respective collective bargaining agreement. Some collective bargaining agreements provide for a discretionary Company contribution each pay period and an annual discretionary Company contribution. At December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Plan had an annual discretionary Company contributions receivable of \$248,430 and \$597,947, respectively. Plan participants who are eligible for these annual discretionary Company contributions do not have to contribute to the Plan to receive the Company contribution.

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The Plan was amended, effective January 1, 2008, to determine eligible compensation for the purpose of annual discretionary contributions, to include compensation earned while participating in another qualified plan sponsored by the Company.

***Participant Accounts*** Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company's matching contributions, allocations of Company discretionary contributions, if applicable, any rollover contributions made by the participant and Plan earnings, and may be charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Participant accounts are funded as soon as administratively possible. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

***Investments*** Participants direct the investment of their contributions, Company matching contributions (if any) and Company payroll discretionary contributions (if any) into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Company's annual discretionary contribution, if applicable, may be made in cash or Company stock. If the contribution is made in Company stock, participants can transfer this contribution to any available investment option.

***Vesting*** Participants are fully vested in their contributions as of their participation date. Participants vest in Company contributions according to their respective collective bargaining agreements.

***Participant Loans*** Participants may borrow from their fund accounts up to a maximum of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance, whichever is less. During the period from July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006, as a result of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, and in response to new federal laws and IRS guidance, the Plan was amended to provide loans of up to \$100,000 or 100% of the participant's vested account balance for certain eligible participants entitled to disaster relief. Eligible participants may also request a one-year delay of the scheduled repayment date. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined under the Plan. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

***Payment of Benefits*** On termination of service, a participant or beneficiary may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, or monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments not to exceed ten years.

***Forfeited Accounts*** At December 31, 2008 and 2007, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$66,953 and \$59,968, respectively. These accounts will be used to reduce future Company contributions. Company contributions were reduced by \$637 from forfeited nonvested accounts during 2008.

## **2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

***Basis of Financial Presentation*** The accompanying financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts*** The Plan accounts for fully benefit-responsive contracts according to Financial Accounting Standards Board Staff Position, FSP AAG INV-1 and SOP 94-4-1, *Reporting of Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts Held by Certain Investment Companies Subject to the AICPA Investment Company Guide and Defined-Contribution Health and Welfare Pension Plans* (the "FSP"). As described in the FSP, investment contracts held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because



contract value is the amount

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participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The Plan invests in investment contracts through participation in the Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust, a common/collective trust fund. As required by the FSP, the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits presents the fair value of the Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust as well as the adjustment of the portion of the Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust related to fully benefit-responsive contracts from fair value to contract value. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits is prepared on a contract value basis. The effect on the 2008 and 2007 financial statements was an increase and decrease to the fair value of investments of \$286,714 and (\$148,723), respectively.

***Use of Estimates*** The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, as of the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

***Market Risk*** The Plan provides for investments in various investment securities, including CenterPoint Energy, Inc. common stock (closed to new investment) and the Company's common stock, that are exposed to certain risks such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility. During the year ended December 31, 2008, net depreciation in fair value of investments totaled approximately (\$37.3) million due to a significant amount of market volatility that was, in part, a result of a general decline in global economic conditions. Due to the level of risk, changes in the value of investment securities could occur in the near term, and these changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

***Administrative Expenses*** Administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by either the Plan or the Plan's sponsor as provided in the Plan document.

***Payment of Benefits*** Benefits are recorded when paid.

***Investment Valuation and Income Recognition*** Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 5 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation or net depreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

**3. ASSETS TRANSFERRED FROM THE PLAN**

During 2008, assets of approximately \$527,000 transferred out of the Plan as a result of net plan-to-plan transfers of participant account balances to the RRI Energy, Inc. Savings Plan.

**Table of Contents****4. INVESTMENTS**

Plan assets are held at Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company (the Trustee). The following presents investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets:

	December 31,	
	2008	2007
<b>Mutual Funds:</b>		
American Funds: EuroPacific Growth Fund	\$	\$ 6,367,200
Neuberger Berman Genesis Trust	5,940,921	10,396,501
Vanguard 500 Index Fund Investor Shares	7,985,887	11,784,798
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Investor Shares	5,194,359	
<b>Common/Collective Trust Funds:</b>		
Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust *	22,218,027	19,506,791
<b>Common Stock Funds:</b>		
RRI Energy Common Stock Fund	4,660,034	9,010,865

\* The Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust, a fully benefit-responsive investment contract, as listed above represents the contract value of the Plan's investment.

During 2008 the Plan's investments, including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year, depreciated in value as follows:

	Net depreciation in fair value of investments
Mutual funds	\$ ( 7,641,415)
Common stocks	(29,616,691)
	\$ ( 37,258,106)

**5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

As of January 1, 2008, the Plan adopted the provisions of Statement on Financial Accounting Standards No. 157 ( SFAS 157 ), *Fair Value Measurements*, for its investments. SFAS 157 establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include: Level 1, defined as observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets; Level 2, defined as inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are either directly or indirectly observable; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exists, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for the investments measured at fair value, including the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

*Mutual funds*

The shares of registered investment companies are valued at quoted market prices in an exchange and active market, which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year end and are classified as Level 1 investments.

**Table of Contents***Common/collective trust fund*

The Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust is a collective investment trust fund that invests solely in the Vanguard Retirement Savings Master Trust. The underlying investments of the Master Trust are primarily in pools of investment contracts that are issued by insurance companies and commercial banks and in contracts that are backed by high-quality bonds, bond and securities trusts, and mutual funds. The investments of the Master Trust are valued based on the aggregate market values of the applicable bonds, bond and securities trusts, and other investments and are classified as Level 2 investments.

*Common stock funds*

The common stock funds consist of the common stock of RRI Energy, Inc., the common stock of CenterPoint Energy Inc. and cash and/or money market investments sufficient to help accommodate daily transactions within each fund and are classified as Level 1 investments.

*Participant loans*

Participant loans are valued at their outstanding balances, which approximate fair value and are classified as Level 3 investments.

As of December 31, 2008, the Plan's investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis were as follows:

	Fair Value Measurements Using Input			Total
	Level 1	Type Level 2	Level 3	
Mutual funds	\$ 55,441,500	\$	\$	\$ 55,441,500
Common/collective trust fund		21,931,313		21,931,313
Common stock funds	5,084,311			5,084,311
Participant loans			2,247,135	2,247,135
Total	\$ 60,525,811	\$ 21,931,313	\$ 2,247,135	\$ 84,704,259

Changes in the fair value of the Plan's Level 3 investments during the year ended December 31, 2008 were as follows:

Beginning balance	\$	2,277,422
Issuances and settlements (net)		(30,287)
Ending balance	\$	2,247,135

**6. PLAN TERMINATION**

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of a plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their accounts.

**7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Plan invests in shares of mutual funds and a common/collective trust fund managed by an affiliate of the Trustee, as well as in shares of common stock of the Company. The Plan also provides for loans

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to participants. Transactions in such investments qualify as party-in-interest transactions which are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules.

**8. TAX STATUS**

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter dated July 23, 2007, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. The plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

**9. SUBSEQUENT EVENT**

Effective May 2, 2009, Reliant Energy, Inc. changed its name to RRI Energy, Inc. and the Plan was amended to reflect the change in the Company's name.

**Table of Contents****RRI ENERGY, INC. UNION SAVINGS PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

As of December 31, 2008

EIN 76-0655566

PLAN 002

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
<b>Mutual Funds:</b>				
	American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund Class A	Registered Investment Company	(1)	\$ 3,539,271
	American Funds: Growth Fund Of America Class A	Registered Investment Company	(1)	685,460
	American Funds: New Perspective Fund Class A	Registered Investment Company	(1)	2,235,753
	Artisan International Fund, Investor Class	Registered Investment Company	(1)	618,807
	Davis New York Venture Fund, Inc. Class A Shares	Registered Investment Company	(1)	251,752
	Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	1,967,190
	Neuberger Berman Genesis Trust	Registered Investment Company	(1)	5,940,921
	PIMCO Total Return Fund Administrative Class	Registered Investment Company	(1)	3,726,979
	T. Rowe Price Equity Income Fund Advisor Class	Registered Investment Company	(1)	327,881
	T. Rowe Small-Cap Stock Fund Advisor Class	Registered Investment Company	(1)	1,403,672
	Turner Small Cap Growth Fund Class I Shares	Registered Investment Company	(1)	2,043,594
*	Vanguard 500 Index Fund Investor Shares	Registered Investment Company	(1)	7,985,887
*	Vanguard Capital Opportunity Fund Investor Shares	Registered Investment Company	(1)	1,172,022
*	Vanguard Dividend Growth Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	2,859,951
*	Vanguard Growth Equity Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	2,008,511
*	Vanguard PRIMECAP Fund Investor Shares	Registered Investment Company	(1)	602,276



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*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2005 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	198,304
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2010 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	235,648
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2015 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	2,362,813
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	343,898

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**Table of Contents****RRI ENERGY, INC. UNION SAVINGS PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

As of December 31, 2008 continued

EIN 76-0655566

PLAN 002

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	2,822,424
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	201,879
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	1,412,456
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	270,522
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	558,478
*	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050 Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	123,691
*	Vanguard Target Retirement Income Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	184,081
*	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	5,194,359
*	Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund	Registered Investment Company	(1)	1,118,859
*	Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund Investor Shares	Registered Investment Company	(1)	997,787
*	Vanguard Windsor II Fund Investor Shares	Registered Investment Company	(1)	2,046,374
*	<b>Common/Collective Trust Funds:</b>	Common/Collective Trust	(1)	22,218,027
*	CenterPoint Energy Stock Fund	Company Stock Fund	(1)	424,277
*	RRI Energy Common Stock Fund	Company Stock Fund	(1)	4,660,034
*	Participant Loans		\$ 0	2,247,135

Interest rates between  
4.0% - 9.25%

Total assets held for investment purposes

\$ 84,990,973

\* Party-in-interest.

(1) Cost information has  
been omitted  
because all  
investments are  
participant-directed.

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SIGNATURE

THE PLAN. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Benefits Committee of RRI Energy, Inc. has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

RRI ENERGY, INC. UNION SAVINGS  
PLAN

By /s/ DAVID FREYSINGER  
David Freysinger, Chairman of the  
Benefits  
Committee of RRI Energy, Inc., Plan  
Administrator

June 26, 2009

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