

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

GABELLI UTILITY TRUST
Form N-2
May 23, 2003

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 23, 2003
Securities Act File No. 333-[____]
Investment Company Act File No. 811-09243

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-2

Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933
 Pre-Effective Amendment No.
 Post-Effective Amendment No.

and/or

Registration Statement under the Investment
Company Act of 1940
 Amendment No. 6

(Check Appropriate Box or Boxes)

THE GABELLI UTILITY TRUST
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

One Corporate Center
Rye, New York 10580-1422
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (800) 422-3554

Bruce N. Alpert
The Gabelli Utility Trust
One Corporate Center
Rye, New York 10580-1422
(914) 921-5100
(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

Copies to:

Richard T. Prins, Esq.
Skadden, Arps, Slate,
Meagher & Flom LLP
Four Times Square
New York, New York 10036
(212) 735-3000

James McKee, Esq.
The Gabelli Utility Trust
One Corporate Center
Rye, New York 10580-1422
(914) 921-5100

Approximate date of proposed public offering: As soon as practicable
after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If any securities being registered on this form will be offered on a
delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of
1933, as amended, other than securities offered in connection with a dividend

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

reinvestment plan, check the following box. []

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box)

When declared effective pursuant to section 8(c).

If appropriate, check the following box:

This [post-effective] amendment designates a new effective date for a previously filed [post-effective amendment] [registration statement].

This form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act and the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering is [].

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Title of Securities -----	Amount Being Registered -----	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share -----	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1) -----
___% Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares	40,000 Shares	\$25	\$1,000,000
Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares	100 Shares	\$25,000	\$2,500,000

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee.

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(A) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(A), MAY DETERMINE.

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

N-2 Item Number	Location in Part A (Caption)

PART A

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

1.	Outside Front Cover.....	Outside Front Cover Page
2.	Inside Front and Outside Back Cover Page.....	Outside Front Cover Page; Inside Fr Page
3.	Fee Table and Synopsis.....	Not Applicable
4.	Financial Highlights.....	Financial Highlights
5.	Plan of Distribution.....	Outside Front Cover Page; Summary; Underwriting
6.	Selling Shareholders.....	Not Applicable
7.	Use of Proceeds.....	Use of Proceeds; Investment Objecti Policies
8.	General Description of the Registrant.....	Outside Front Cover Page; Summary; Investment Objective and Policies; Special Considerations; How the Fun Risk; Description of Series A Pref Series B Auction Rate Preferred; An Provisions of the Fund's Governing
9.	Management.....	Outside Front Cover Page; Summary; Management of the Fund; Custodian, Agent, Auction Agent and Dividend-D Agent
10.	Capital Stock, Long-Term Debt, and Other Securities.....	Outside Front Cover Page; Summary; Objective and Policies; Description Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Description of Capitalization; Taxa
11.	Defaults and Arrears on Senior Securities.....	Not Applicable
12.	Legal Proceedings.....	Not Applicable
13.	Table of Contents of the Statement of Additional Information.....	Table of Contents of the Statement Information
PART B		Location in Statement of Additional Information
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
14.	Cover Page.....	Outside Front Cover Page
15.	Table of Contents.....	Outside Front Cover Page
16.	General Information and History.....	The Fund
17.	Investment Objective and Policies.....	Investment Objective and Policies; Restrictions

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

share and are payable on March 26, June 26, September 26 and December 26 in each year, commencing on [__], 2003.

This prospectus also describes shares of the Fund's Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares (the "Series B Auction Rate Preferred"), liquidation preference \$25,000 per share. The dividend rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will vary from dividend period to dividend period. The annual dividend rate for the initial dividend period for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be [__]% of the liquidation preference of \$25,000 per share. The initial dividend period is from the date of issuance through [__], 2003. For subsequent dividend periods, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will pay dividends based on a rate set at auction, usually held weekly.

The Fund offers by this prospectus, in the aggregate, \$[__] million of preferred shares of either Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, or a combination of both series.

INVESTING IN OUR SERIES A PREFERRED OR SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED INVOLVES RISKS. SEE "RISK FACTORS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS" BEGINNING ON PAGE [__] .

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Series A Preferred Per Share	Total	Series B Auction Rate Preferred Per Share
Public Offering Price(1)	\$	\$	\$
Underwriting Discount(2)	\$	\$	\$
Proceeds to the Fund (before expenses) (3)	\$	\$	\$

(1) Plus accumulated dividends, if any, from [__], 2003.

(b) The Fund and the Investment Adviser have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

(c) Offering expenses payable by the Fund are estimated at \$[__].

[--]

GABELLI & COMPANY, INC.

[__], 2003

(continued from previous page)

The shares of Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred being offered by this prospectus are being offered by the underwriters listed in this prospectus, subject to prior sale, when, as and if accepted by them and subject to certain conditions. The Fund expects that delivery of any shares of Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be made in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") on or about [__], 2003.

Application has been made to list the Series A Preferred on the New York Stock Exchange. If offered, trading of the Series A Preferred on the New

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

York Stock Exchange is expected to commence within 30 days of the date of this prospectus. Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the Series A Preferred. See "Underwriting."

The Series B Auction Rate Preferred will not be listed on an exchange. Investors may only buy or sell Series B Auction Rate Preferred through an order placed at an auction with or through a broker-dealer in accordance with the procedures specified in this prospectus or in a secondary market maintained by certain broker-dealers should those broker-dealers decide to maintain a secondary market. Broker-dealers are not required to maintain a secondary market in the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and a secondary market may not provide you with liquidity.

The net proceeds of the offering, which are expected to be [___], will be invested in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies. See "Investment Objective and Policies" beginning on page [___].

The Fund expects that dividends paid on the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred will consist of long-term capital gains (consisting of 20% federal tax rate capital gains from the sale of assets held longer than 12 months), ordinary income (including net investment income and short-term capital gains), and, in certain circumstances, a return of capital. Over the past one, three and five fiscal years ending December 31, 2002, the distributions of taxable income by the Fund consisted of [___]%, [___]% and [___]% long-term capital gains. No assurance can be given, however, as to what percentage of the dividends paid on the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will consist of long-term capital gains, which are taxed at lower rates for individuals than ordinary income.

Neither the Series A Preferred nor the Series B Auction Rate Preferred may be issued unless it is rated [___] by [___]. In addition, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred may not be issued unless it is also rated [___] by [___]. In order to keep these ratings, the Fund will be required to maintain a minimum discounted asset coverage with respect to its outstanding Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred under guidelines established by each of [___] and [___]. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Rating Agency Guidelines." The Fund is also required to maintain a minimum asset coverage by the 1940 Act. If the Fund fails to maintain any of these minimum asset coverage requirements, the Fund can at its option (and in certain circumstances must) require, in accordance with its governing documents and the requirements of the 1940 Act, that some or all of its outstanding preferred shares, including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, be sold back to it (redeemed). Otherwise, prior to [___], 2008 the Series A Preferred will be redeemable at the option of the Fund only to the extent necessary for the Fund to continue to qualify for tax treatment as a regulated investment company. Subject to certain notice and other requirements (including those set forth in Section 23(c) of the 1940 Act), the Fund at its option may redeem (i) the Series A Preferred beginning on [___], 2008 and (ii) the Series B Auction Rate Preferred following the initial dividend period (so long as the Fund has not designated a non-call period). In the event the Fund redeems Series A Preferred such redemption will be for cash at a redemption price equal to \$25 per share plus accumulated but unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared). In the event the Fund redeems Series B Auction Rate Preferred, such redemptions will be for cash, generally at a redemption price equal to \$25,000 per share plus accumulated but unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared), though in limited circumstances the Fund's Board of Trustees may also declare a redemption premium.

This prospectus concisely sets forth important information about the Fund that you should know before deciding whether to invest in Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. You should read this prospectus and retain it for future reference.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

The Fund has also filed with the Securities Exchange Commission a Statement of Additional Information, dated [__], 2003 (the "SAI"), which contains additional information about the Fund. The SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this prospectus. You can review the table of contents of the SAI on page [__] of this prospectus. You may request a free copy of the SAI by writing to the Fund at its address at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422 or calling the Fund toll-free at (800) 422-3554. You may also obtain the SAI on the Securities and Exchange Commission's web site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

CERTAIN PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN THE OFFERING OF SERIES A PREFERRED, IN THE EVENT THEY ARE OFFERED, MAY ENGAGE IN TRANSACTIONS THAT STABILIZE, MAINTAIN OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THE MARKET PRICE OF THE SERIES A PREFERRED, INCLUDING THE ENTRY OF STABILIZING BIDS, SYNDICATE COVERING TRANSACTIONS OR THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTY BIDS. FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THESE ACTIVITIES, SEE "UNDERWRITING."

YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS PROSPECTUS. NEITHER THE FUND NOR THE UNDERWRITERS HAVE AUTHORIZED ANY OTHER PERSON TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT INFORMATION. IF ANYONE PROVIDES YOU WITH DIFFERENT OR INCONSISTENT INFORMATION, YOU SHOULD NOT RELY ON IT. NEITHER THE FUND NOR THE UNDERWRITERS ARE MAKING AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary.....	
Tax Attributes of Preferred Share Dividends.....	
Financial Highlights.....	
Use of Proceeds.....	
the Fund.....	
Capitalization.....	
Investment Objective and Policies.....	
Risk Factors and Special Considerations.....	
How the Fund Manages Risk.....	
Management of the Fund.....	
Portfolio Transactions.....	
Dividends and Distributions.....	
Description of the Series a Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred.....	
the Auction of Series B Auction Rate Preferred.....	
Capitalization.....	
Taxation.....	
Anti-takeover Provisions of the Fund's Governing Documents.....	
Custodian, Transfer Agent, Auction Agent and Dividend-Disbursing Agent.....	
Underwriting.....	
Legal Matters.....	
Experts.....	
Additional Information.....	
Special Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements.....	
Table of Contents of SAI.....	
Appendix A.....	

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

SUMMARY

This is only a summary. You should review the more detailed information contained in this prospectus and the SAI.

The Fund..... The Fund is a closed-end non-diversified management investment company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware on February 25, 1999. The Fund's outstanding common shares, with a par value of \$.001 per share, are listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"). As of March 31, 2003, the net assets of the Fund were approximately \$[] million. The Fund currently has [] shares outstanding and is offering [] shares to complete a rights offering for its common shares on []. Assuming the rights offering had been completed as of March 31, 2003, the net assets of the Fund as of that date would have been approximately []. Prior to the issuance of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered by this prospectus, the Fund had no preferred shares outstanding.

The Offering..... The Fund offers by this prospectus, in the aggregate, \$[] million of preferred shares of either Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, or a combination of both such series. The Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred are being offered by [] and Gabelli & Company, Inc. as underwriters. Upon completion of the offering, the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will have equal seniority with respect to dividends and liquidation preference. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

Series A Preferred. The Fund is offering [] shares of Series A Cumulative Preferred, par value \$.001 per share, with a liquidation preference of \$25 per share, at a purchase price of \$25 per share. Dividends on the shares of Series A Preferred will accumulate from the date on which such shares are issued; provided, however, that the shares of Series A Preferred issued within 30 days of the date of the series will accumulate dividends from the series' date of issue. Application has been made to list the Series A Preferred on the NYSE.

Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The Fund is offering [] shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred, par value \$.001 per share, with a liquidation preference of \$25,000 per share at a purchase price of \$25,000 per share, plus dividends, if any, that have accrued from the commencement date of the dividend period during which the Series B Auction Rate Preferred is issued. The Series B Auction Rate Preferred will not be listed on an exchange. Instead, investors may buy or sell Series B Auction Rate Preferred in an auction market by submitting orders to broker-dealers that have entered into an agreement with the auction agent and the Fund.

Generally, investors in Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will not receive certificates representing ownership of their shares. The securities depository (DTC or any successor) or its nominee for the account of the investor's broker-dealer will record ownership of the preferred shares in book-entry form. The investor's broker-dealer, in turn, will maintain records of the investor's beneficial ownership of preferred shares.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Investment Objective..... The objective of the Fund is long-term growth of capital which the Fund attempts to achieve by investing at least total assets in common stock and other securities of for domestic companies involved to a substantial extent (e.g of the assets, gross income or net profits of a company to or derived from) in providing products, services or e (i) the generation or distribution of electricity, gas a telecommunications services or infrastructure operations airports, toll roads and municipal services (collectivel Industry"). The remaining 20% of the Fund's assets may b in other securities including stocks, debt obligations a market instruments, as well as certain derivative instru utility industry or other industries. No assurance can Fund will achieve its investment objective. See "Invest and Policies."

Dividends and Distributions..... Series A Preferred. Dividends on the Series A Preferred rate of [__]% of its \$25 per share liquidation preferenc cumulative from the Series A Preferred's original issue shares issued within 30 days of such original issue date payable, when, as and if declared by the Board of Trustee Fund, out of funds legally available therefor, quarterly June 26, September 26 and December 26 in each year, comm on [__], 2003. Any Series A Preferred issued later than following the original issue date will accumulate divide date such shares are issued.

Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The holders of Series Rate Preferred are entitled to receive cash dividends st rates of its \$25,000 per share liquidation preference, t from dividend period to dividend period. The table belo dividend rate, the dividend payment date and the number the initial dividend period on the Series B Auction Rate

	Initial Dividend Rate	Dividend Payment Date for Initial Dividend Period
Series B Auction Rate Preferred.....	[__]%	[__], 2003

For subsequent dividend periods, the Series B Auction Ra will pay dividends based on a rate set at auctions, norm weekly. In most instances, dividends are payable weekly business day following the end of the dividend period. which dividends otherwise would be paid is not a busines dividends will be paid on the first business day that fa of the dividend period. The Fund may, subject to certai designate special dividend periods of more (orless) tha The dividend payment date for any such special dividend be set out in the notice designating the special dividend Dividends on shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred w cumulative from the date such shares are issued and will of legally available funds.

In no event will the dividend rate set at auction for the Auction Rate Preferred exceed the then-maximum rate. The

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

rate means (i) in the case of a dividend period of 184 days, the applicable percentage of the "AA" Financial Composite Company Paper Rate on the date of such auction determined as set forth in the following chart based on the lower of the credit ratings of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred by [] and [] or (ii) in the case of a dividend period of longer than 184 days, the applicable percentage of the Treasury Index Rate.

[] Credit Rating	[] Credit Rating
[] or higher	[] or higher
[] to []	[] to []
[] to []	[] to []
Below []	Below []

See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Dividends on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Maximum Rate." For example, calculated as of December 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003, respectively, the maximum rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred (assuming a rating of [] or above and [] or above by []) would have been approximately []%, for dividend periods of 90 days, and approximately

[]% for dividend periods of two years.* There is no maximum applicable rate with respect to any dividend period.

Any designation of a special dividend period will be effective only if, among other things, proper notice has been given, the auction immediately preceding the special dividend period was not held, and the Fund has confirmed that it has assets with an aggregate discounted value at least equal to the Basic Minimum Amount (as described under "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Rating Agency Guidelines"). See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Dividends on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- The Auction of Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

Preferred Share Dividends. Under current law, all preferred shares of the Fund must have the same seniority as to the payment of dividends. Accordingly, no full dividend will be declared or paid on any series of preferred shares of the Fund for any dividend period, if there is any amount of preferred shares of the Fund for which full cumulative dividends due through the dividend payment dates therefor for all series of outstanding preferred shares of the Fund are declared and paid. If full cumulative dividends due have not been declared and paid on all outstanding preferred shares of the Fund ranking on a parity with the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to the payment of dividends, any dividends being paid on such preferred shares (including any outstanding Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred) will be paid as nearly pro rata as possible in proportion to the respective amounts of dividends accumulated and unpaid on each such series of preferred shares on the relevant dividend payment date.

In the event that for any calendar year the total distribution to the Fund's preferred shares exceed the Fund's ordinary income plus capital gain allocable to those shares, the excess distribution will generally be treated as a tax-free return of capital (to the extent of a shareholder's tax basis in his or her shares). The amount of tax-free return of capital will reduce a shareholder's a

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

his or her preferred shares, thereby increasing the share potential gain or reducing his or her potential loss on shares.

Common Share Dividends. The Fund's policy is to make monthly distributions to holders of its common shares. For the period ending December 31, 2002, the Fund made distributions of one common share, of which [] constituted a return of capital.

* Dividend periods presented for illustrative purposes only. Actual dividend periods may be of lesser duration.

Fund has made monthly distributions with respect to its common shares since October of 1999.

Auction Procedures..... You may buy, sell or hold Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares in an auction. The following is a brief summary of the auction procedures which are described in more detail elsewhere in this prospectus in the SAI. These auction procedures are complicated, and there are many exceptions to these procedures. Many of the terms in this prospectus have a special meaning as set forth in this prospectus or the SAI.

The auctions determine the dividend rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, except that no dividend rate will be higher than the then-maximum rate. See "Description of the Series A Preferred Shares" and "Description of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Dividends on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

If you own shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred, you should instruct your broker-dealer to enter one of three kinds of orders in an auction with respect to your shares: sell, bid and hold.

If you enter a sell order, you indicate that you want to sell Series B Auction Rate Preferred at \$25,000 per share, no matter what the dividend period's rate will be.

If you enter a bid (or "hold at a rate") order, which means you want to buy Series B Auction Rate Preferred at a dividend rate, you indicate that you want to sell Series B Auction Rate Preferred only if the next dividend period's rate is less than the rate you specify.

If you enter a hold order you indicate that you want to hold Series B Auction Rate Preferred, no matter what the next dividend period's rate will be.

You may enter different types of orders for different portions of your Series B Auction Rate Preferred. You may also enter an order to sell all or a portion of your Series B Auction Rate Preferred. All orders apply to whole shares. All orders you submit are irrevocable. The dividend rate for Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares, and the dividend rate likely will vary from auction to auction depending on the number of bidders, the number of shares the bidders seek to buy, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and general economic conditions, including current interest rates. If you own Series B Auction Rate Preferred and submit a bid order specifying a rate that is less than the then-maximum rate, your bid order will be treated as a sell order. If you do not enter an order, the broker-dealer will assume you want to continue to hold your Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares. If you fail to submit an order and the dividend period is less than 10 days, the broker-dealer will treat your failure to submit an order as a sell order.

If you do not then own Series B Auction Rate Preferred, buy more shares, you may instruct a broker-dealer to enter an order to buy shares in an auction at \$25,000 per share at or above a dividend rate you specify. If you bid for shares you do not own at a rate higher than the then-maximum rate, your bid will not be considered.

Broker-dealers will submit orders from existing and potential holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred to the auction agent. The Fund nor the auction agent will be responsible for a broker-dealer's failure to submit orders from existing or potential holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred. A broker-dealer's failure to submit orders for Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by it or its customer will be treated in the same manner as a holder's failure to submit orders to the broker-dealer. A broker-dealer may submit orders to the auction agent for its own account. The Fund may not submit orders to the auction agent.

The auction agent after each auction for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will pay to each broker-dealer, from funds provided by the Fund, a service charge equal to, in the case of any auction immediately preceding a dividend period of less than one year, the product of (i) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares in such dividend period and the denominator of which is the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares placed by such broker-dealer at such auction or, in the case of any auction immediately preceding a dividend period of one year or longer, a percentage of the price of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred placed by such broker-dealers at the auction agreed to by the Fund and the broker-dealers.

If the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to sell orders by potential holders with a dividend rate equal to or above the then-maximum rate is at least equal to the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to sell orders, then the dividend rate for the next dividend period will be the lowest rate that, which, taking into account that rate and all lower rates submitted from existing and potential holders, would result in existing holders owning all the Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares available for purchase in the auction.

If the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to sell orders by potential holders with a dividend rate equal to or above the then-maximum rate is less than the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to sell orders, then the auction will be considered to be a failed auction, and the dividend rate for the next dividend period will be the then-maximum rate. In that event, existing holders that have submitted orders (or are treated as having submitted sell orders)

will not be permitted to sell any or all of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to their submitted sell orders.

The auction agent will not consider a bid above the then-maximum rate. The purpose of the maximum rate is to place an upper limit on dividends with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, so doing to help protect the earnings available to pay dividends on the Fund's common shares, and to serve as the dividend rate for the next dividend period of a failed auction (that is, an auction where there are more Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered for sale than there are buyers for those shares).

If broker-dealers submit or are deemed to submit hold or outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the auction will be an "all hold" auction and the dividend rate for the next period will be the "all hold rate," which is 80% of the "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate.

The auction procedures include a pro rata allocation of Auction Rate Preferred shares for purchase and sale. The process may result in an existing holder selling, or a purchaser buying, fewer shares than the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares in its order. If this happens, broker-dealers designated themselves as existing holders or potential holders in respect of customer orders will be required to make appropriate pro rata allocations among their respective customers.

Settlement of purchases and sales will be made through DTC on the next business day after the auction date (which also is the payment date). Purchasers will pay for their Series B Auction Rate Preferred through broker-dealers in same-day funds to DTC at the time of delivery to the broker-dealers. DTC will make payment to the broker-dealers in accordance with its normal procedures, which require broker-dealers to make payment against delivery of same-day funds. As used in this prospectus, a business day is a day on which the NYSE is open for trading, and which is not a Saturday or any other day on which banks in New York City are authorized to be closed or obligated by law to close.

The first auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be held on [___], 2003, the business day preceding the dividend payment date of the initial dividend period. Thereafter, except during the initial dividend period, auctions for Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be held every Tuesday (or the next preceding business day if that day is a holiday), and each subsequent dividend period for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred normally will begin on the following Wednesday.

If an auction is not held because an unforeseen event or events cause a day that otherwise would have been an auction day,

then the length of the then-current dividend period will be extended by seven days (or a multiple of seven days if necessary because of such unforeseen event or events), the dividend rate for such period will be the applicable rate for the then-current dividend period so extended and the dividend payment date for the dividend period will be the first business day immediately following the end of such period. See "The Auction of Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

Potential Tax Benefit

to Certain Investors.....

Most individuals pay federal income tax at a lower rate on capital gains than on ordinary income and short-term capital gains. For individuals in the highest tax brackets this difference can be as great as 18.6%, the difference between 38.6% on ordinary income and short-term capital gains and 20.0% on long-term capital gains. In accordance with the current view of the Internal Revenue Service, the Fund intends to allocate its net long-term capital gains and ordinary income (including net short-term capital gain and short-term capital income) proportionately between its common shares and preferred shares based on dividends paid during the year. Over the past three and five fiscal years ending December 31, 2002, the Fund's distributions of taxable income by the Fund consisted of

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

and []% long-term capital gains. If the Fund is able to continue to pay a portion of its distributions in the long-term capital gain distributions, most individual investors accordingly realize a tax benefit and pay a lower rate of income tax on their Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred dividends than if the Fund did not distribute long-term capital gains. No assurance can be given as to what, if any, portion of the Fund's dividends in future years will consist of long-term capital gains. See "Tax Attributes of Preferred Share Dividends" in the Fund's fiscal year ending December 31, 2002, []% of the Fund's distributions to common shareholders constituted a return

Pending legislation may eliminate or reduce federal income tax on dividends previously taxed at the corporate level and thereby may eliminate or reverse the preferential taxation to individual investors of dividend gain versus dividend income. While it is unclear whether such legislation may be enacted, or its applicability to investment company dividends, such a change in law could have a retroactive effect.

Rating and Asset

Coverage Requirements..... Series A Preferred. Before it can be issued, the Series A Preferred must receive a rating of [] from []. The Fund's Statement of Preferences setting forth the rights and preferences of the Series A Preferred contains certain tests that the Fund must satisfy to obtain and maintain a rating of [] from [] on the Series A Preferred. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred-- Rating Agency Guidelines."

Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Before it can be issued, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred must receive both a rating of [] from [] and a rating of [] from []. As with the Series A Preferred, the Statement of Preferences setting forth the rights and preferences of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred contains certain tests that the Fund must satisfy to obtain and maintain a rating of [] from [] and [] from []. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Rating Agency Guidelines."

Asset Coverage Requirements. Under the asset coverage test which each of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred is subject, the Fund is required to maintain (i) an asset coverage ratio having in the aggregate a discounted value greater than the Basic Maintenance Amount (as described under "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Rating Agency Guidelines") for each such series calculated pursuant to applicable rating agency guidelines and (ii) an asset coverage ratio of at least 200% (or such higher or lower percentage as may be specified in the Statement of Preferences) with respect to all outstanding shares of the Fund, including the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Asset Coverage Maintenance Requirements."

The Fund estimates that if the shares offered hereby had been issued and sold as of [], 2003, the asset coverage under the Act would have been approximately []% immediately following such issuance and sale and []% assuming that the Fund's offering had been completed as of that date (in each case giving effect to the deduction of the underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses for such shares of \$[]). The asset coverage would have been computed as follows:

value of Fund assets less liabilities not constituting s (\$[___]) / senior securities representing indebtedness plus liquidation preference of each class of preferred shares expressed as a percentage = [___]%.
value of Fund assets less liabilities not constituting s (including assets attributable to the rights offering) (securities representing indebtedness plus liquidation pr each class of preferred shares (\$[___]), expressed as a p [___]%.
The Statement of Preferences for each of the Series A Pr the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, which contain the t provisions of the various components of the asset covera will be filed as exhibits to this registration statement obtained through the web site of the SEC (<http://www.sec>

Mandatory Redemption..... The Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Pre may be subject to mandatory redemption by the Fund to th the Fund fails to maintain the asset coverage requiremen accordance with the rating agency guidelines or the 1940 described above and does not cure such failure by the ap cure date. If the Fund redeems preferred shares mandato may, but is not required to, redeem a sufficient number shares so that after the redemption the Fund exceeds the coverage required by each of the applicable rating agenc guidelines and the 1940 Act by 10%.

With respect to the Series A Preferred, any such redempt made for cash at a redemption price equal to \$25 per sha amount equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends (whethe earned or declared) to the redemption date.

With respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, any redemption will be made for cash at a redemption price e \$25,000 per share, plus an amount equal to accumulated b dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the red date, plus, in the case of Series B Auction Rate Preferr dividend period of more than one year, any applicable re premium determined by the Board of Trustees. See "Descr the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferr Mandatory Redemption."

In the event of a mandatory redemption, such redemption made from the Series A Preferred, the Series B Auction R Preferred or other preferred shares of the Fund in such as the Fund may determine, subject to the limitations of Act and Delaware law.

Optional Redemption..... Subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act and Delaware Fund may, at its option, redeem the Series A Preferred a Series B Auction Rate Preferred as follows:

Series A Preferred. Commencing [___], 2008 and at any ti thereafter, the Fund at its option may redeem the Series Preferred, in whole or in part, for cash at a redemption share equal to \$25, plus an amount equal to accumulated unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to redemption date. If fewer than all of the shares of the Preferred are to be redeemed, such redemption will be ma rata in accordance with the number of such shares held.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

[__], 2008 the Series A Preferred will be subject to optional redemption by the Fund at the redemption price only to the extent necessary for the Fund to continue to qualify for tax treatment as a regulated investment company. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Redemption -- Optional Redemption of the Series A Preferred."

Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The Fund generally may not redeem Series B Auction Rate Preferred, in whole or in part, at any time other than during a non-call period. The Fund may declare a non-call period during a dividend period of more than six months. If fewer than all of the shares of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred are to be redeemed, such redemption will be made pro rata in accordance with the number of such shares held. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Redemption -- Optional Redemption of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

The redemption price per Series B Auction Rate Preferred share will equal \$25,000, plus an amount equal to any accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon (whether or not earned or declared) as of the redemption date, plus, in the case of Series B Auction Rate Preferred having a dividend period of more than one year, a redemption premium applicable during such dividend period. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Redemption -- Optional Redemption of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

Voting Rights..... At all times, holders of the Fund's preferred shares outstanding (including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred), voting as a single class, will be entitled to elect members of the Fund's Board of Trustees, and holders of the Fund's preferred shares and common shares, voting as a single class, will elect the remaining directors. However, upon a failure to pay dividends on any of its preferred shares in an amount in arrears for two full years' dividends, holders of the preferred shares, voting as a single class, will have the right to elect the smallest number of directors that would then constitute a majority of the directors. All cumulative dividends on all preferred shares have been provided for. Holders of outstanding Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred and any other preferred shares will vote separately as a class on certain other matters as required by the applicable Statement of Preferences, the 1940 Act and Delaware law. Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus and otherwise required by applicable law, holders of Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be entitled to one vote per share on each matter submitted to a vote of shareholders. Holders of Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred will vote together with holders of common shares and any other shares of the Fund as a single class. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Voting Rights."

Liquidation Preference..... The liquidation preference of each share of Series A Preferred is \$25. The liquidation preference of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred is \$25,000 per share. Upon liquidation, preferred shareholders will be entitled to receive the liquidation proceeds with respect to their preferred shares plus an amount equal to the accumulated but unpaid dividends with respect to such shares

(whether or not earned or declared) to the date of distribution. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Liquidation Rights."

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Use of Proceeds..... The Fund will use the net proceeds from the offering to purchase additional portfolio securities in accordance with its investment objective and policies. See "Use of Proceeds."

Listing of the Series A

Preferred..... Prior to this offering there has been no public market for the Series A Preferred. Following its issuance (if issued), the Series A Preferred is expected to be listed on the NYSE. However, there will be an initial period which is not expected to exceed 30 days from the date of its initial issuance, the Series A Preferred will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Limitation on Secondary

Market Trading of the

Series B Auction Rate

Preferred..... The Series B Auction Rate Preferred will not be listed on any securities exchange. Broker-dealers may, but are not obliged to, make a secondary trading market in Series B Auction Rate Preferred outside of auctions. There can be no assurance that a secondary market will provide owners with liquidity. You may transfer Series B Auction Rate Preferred outside of auctions only to or through a broker-dealer that has entered into an agreement with the Fund, the agent and the Fund, or other persons as the Fund permits.

Special Characteristics

and Risks..... Risk is inherent in all investing. Therefore, before investing in Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred you should carefully consider the risks carefully.

Series A Preferred. Primary risks associated with an investment in the Series A Preferred include:

The market price for the Series A Preferred will be influenced by changes in interest rates, the perceived credit quality of the Series A Preferred and other factors.

During an initial period which is not expected to exceed 30 days after the date of its issuance, the Series A Preferred will not be listed on any securities exchange. During such period, the underwriters intend to make a market in the Series A Preferred; however, they have no obligation to do so. Consequently, the Series A Preferred may be illiquid during such period. No assurances can be provided that listing on any securities exchange or market making by the underwriters will result in the Series A Preferred being liquid at any time.

Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Primary risks associated with an investment in Series B Auction Rate Preferred include:

If an auction fails, you may not be able to sell some or all of your Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The Fund is not obligated to redeem your Series B Auction Rate Preferred if an auction fails. The underwriters are not required to make a market in the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. No broker-dealer is obligated to create a secondary market for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred outside of the auctions.

You may receive less than the price you paid for your Series B Auction Rate Preferred if you sell them outside of the auctions, especially when market interest rates are rising.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

In connection with the sale of the Series B Auction Rate the Fund may enter into interest rate swap or cap transactions in order to reduce the impact of changes in the dividend rate on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred or obtain the equivalent of a fixed rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred that is lower than the current rate. The use of interest rate swaps and caps is a highly specialized investment technique and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. See the Fund Manages Risk -- Interest Rate Transactions."

Both the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred. An investment in either the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred also includes the following primary risks:

A rating agency could downgrade or withdraw the rating assigned to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, which would likely have an adverse effect on the liquidity and market value of such preferred shares. The present credit rating does not eliminate or mitigate the risks of investing in the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares.

The Fund may mandatorily redeem your Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred to meet regulatory or other requirements or may voluntarily redeem your Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Subject to such requirements, these preferred shares are perpetual.

The Fund may not meet the asset coverage requirements or generate sufficient income from its investments to pay dividends to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

The Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred are not obligations of the Fund. Although unlikely, precipitous declines in the value of the Fund's assets could result

in the Fund having insufficient assets to redeem all of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred for the full redemption price plus accumulated dividends.

The value of the Fund's investment portfolio may decline, which could reduce the asset coverage for the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Further, if an issuer of a common stock in which the Fund invests experiences financial difficulties, or if an issuer in which the Fund invests is affected by adverse market factors, there may be a negative impact on the income and/or asset value of the Fund's investment portfolio.

As a non-diversified investment company under the 1940 Act, the Fund is not limited in the proportion of its assets that it may invest in securities of a single issuer, and according to the Fund's investment policy, under certain circumstances, an investment in the Fund may, under certain circumstances, pose a greater risk to an investor than an investment in a diversified company. See "Risk Factors and Special Considerations -- Non-Diversified Status."

The Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in the utility industry (as described under "Investment Objectives and Policies") and, as a result, the value of the Fund's shares is more susceptible to the factors affecting those particular companies, including government regulation, inflation, c

increases in fuel and other operating expenses, obsolescence of equipment, changes in products and services, and increasing interest rates resulting in increased interest costs on borrowings needed for capital construction programs, including compliance with environmental regulations. See "Risk Factors and Special Considerations -- Industry

There is no limitation on the amount of foreign securities that the Fund may invest. Investing in securities of foreign countries (or foreign governments), which are generally denominated in foreign currencies, may involve certain risks and opportunities typically associated with investing in domestic companies. Changes in currency exchange rates and revaluation of currencies could cause the Fund to be affected favorably or unfavorably. See "Risk Factors and Special Considerations -- Foreign Securities."

The Investment Adviser (as hereinafter defined) is dependent on the expertise of Mr. Mario J. Gabelli in providing investment advice with respect to the Fund's investments. If the Investment Adviser were to lose the services of Mr. Gabelli, its ability to provide investment advice to the Fund could be adversely affected. There can be no assurance that a suitable replacement could be found for Mr. Gabelli in the event of his death, resignation, retirement or inability to act as

Investment Adviser. See "Risk Factors and Special Considerations -- Dependence on Key Personnel."

Federal Income Tax

Considerations..... The Fund has qualified, and intends to remain qualified, for income tax purposes as a regulated investment company. Qualification requires, among other things, compliance with certain distribution requirements. Statutory limitations on distributions on the common shares if the Fund fails to meet the 1940 Act's asset coverage requirements could jeopardize the Fund's ability to meet such distribution requirements. The Fund intends, however, to purchase or redeem preferred shares to the extent necessary in order to maintain compliance with such coverage requirements. See "Taxation" for a more complete discussion of these and other federal income tax considerations.

Management and Fees..... Gabelli Funds, LLC serves as the Fund's investment adviser and is compensated for its services and its related expenses at a rate of 1.00% of the Fund's average weekly net assets. The Investment Adviser is responsible for administration of the Fund and currently utilizes and pays the fees of a third party sub-administrator. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Investment Adviser will waive the portion of its investment advisor fees attributable to an amount of assets of the Fund equal to the aggregate stated value of the Fund's outstanding Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as the case may be, for the calendar year in which the net asset value total return allocable to the common shares, including distributions to the common shares, advisory fee subject to potential waiver, is less than (i) 100% of the Series A Preferred, the stated annual dividend rate for the Series A Preferred and (ii) in the case of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the net cost of capital to the Fund with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred for such year expressed as a percentage of the net asset value total return (including, without duplication, dividends paid by the Fund to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and the net cost to the Fund of the associated swap or cap transaction if the Fund hedges its Series B Auction Rate Preferred dividend obligations). See "Management and Fees" for more information about the Fund.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Repurchase of Common
Shares and Anti-takeover

Provisions..... The Fund is authorized, subject to maintaining required coverage on its preferred shares, to repurchase its common shares in the open market when the common shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more (or such other percentage as the Board of Trustees may determine from time to time) from their fair market value. Such repurchases are subject to certain notice and reporting requirements, including those set forth in Rule 23c-1 under the Securities Act of 1934 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. See "Capitalization -- Common Shares." Through December 31, 2002, the Fund has repurchased in the open

[] shares of its common shares under this authorization. See "Capitalization -- Common Shares."

Certain provisions of the Fund's Declaration of Trust, Series A Preferred Shares and by-laws (collectively, the "Governing Documents") may be regarded as "anti-takeover" provisions. Pursuant to these provisions, only one of three classes of directors is elected each year, and the affirmative vote of the holders of 66 2/3% of the outstanding shares of the Fund and the vote of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the holders of preferred shares, taken as a single class, are necessary to authorize the conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company. The overall effect of these provisions is to render more difficult the accomplishment of a merger with, or the assumption of control by, a principal shareholder. These provisions may have the effect of depriving Fund shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium to the prevailing market price. See "Anti-takeover Provisions of the Fund's Governing Documents."

Custodian, Transfer Agent,
Auction Agent and
Dividend Disbursing Agent.....

State Street Bank and Trust Company (the "Custodian"), located at 150 Royall Street, Canton, MA 02021, serves as the custodian of the Fund's assets pursuant to a custody agreement. Under the custody agreement, the Custodian holds the Fund's assets and ensures compliance with the 1940 Act. For its services, the Custodian receives a monthly fee based upon the average weekly value of the total assets of the Fund, plus certain charges for securities transactions.

EquiServe Trust Company, N.A., located at P.O. Box 43025, Providence, RI 02940-3025, serves as the Fund's dividend disbursing agent, as agent under the Fund's automatic dividend reinvestment and voluntary cash purchase plan, and as transfer agent and registrar with respect to the common shares of the Fund.

EquiServe will also serve as the transfer agent, registrar, dividend paying agent and redemption agent with respect to the Series A Preferred.

The Bank of New York Mellon serves as the auction agent, transfer agent, registrar, dividend paying agent and redemption agent with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

Interest Rate Transactions

In connection with the sale of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the Fund may enter into interest rate swap or cap transactions in order to reduce the impact of changes in the dividend rate on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred or obtain the equivalent

rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred that is low

Fund would have to pay if it issued fixed rate preferred use of interest rate swaps and caps is a highly specialized that involves investment techniques and risks different associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions

In an interest rate swap, the Fund would agree to pay to party to the interest rate swap (which is known as the "counterparty") periodically a fixed rate payment in exchange for the counterparty agreeing to pay to the Fund periodically a variable rate payment that is intended to approximate the Fund's fixed rate payment obligation on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. If the Fund has an interest rate cap, the Fund would pay a premium to the counterparty to the interest rate cap and, to the extent the specified variable rate index exceeds a predetermined fixed rate, the Fund would receive from the counterparty payments of the difference based on the notional amount of such cap. Interest rate swap and cap transactions introduce additional risk because the Fund would remain obligated to pay preferred share dividends when due in accordance with the Statement of Preferences even if the counterparty defaulted. Depending on the general state of short-term interest rates and the returns on the Fund's investments in securities at that point in time, such a default could not only affect the Fund's ability to make dividend payments on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. In addition, at the time an interest rate swap or cap transaction reaches its scheduled termination there is a risk that the Fund will not be able to obtain a replacement transaction or that the terms of the replacement will not be as favorable as on the expiring transaction. If this occurs, it could have a negative impact on the Fund's ability to make dividend payments on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

A sudden and dramatic decline in interest rates may result in a significant decline in the asset coverage. If the Fund is unable to maintain the required asset coverage on its outstanding debt securities or fails to comply with other covenants, the Fund may have the option (and in certain circumstances mandatorily) to redeem some or all of its preferred shares (including the Series B Auction Rate Preferred or the Series B Auction Rate Preferred). Such a redemption likely would result in the Fund seeking to terminate early all or a portion of any swap or cap transaction. The termination of a swap could require the Fund to make a net cash payment to the counterparty.

The Fund intends to segregate cash or liquid securities with a value at least equal to the value of the Fund's net payment obligations under any swap transaction, marked to market. The Fund does not presently intend to enter into interest rate swap or cap transactions relating to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred in a notional amount in excess of the outstanding amount of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The Fund will monitor interest rate swap with a view to ensuring that the Fund remains in compliance with all applicable regulatory investment policy and tax requirements. See "How the Fund Manages Risk -- Interest Rate Swap Transactions."

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

The Fund intends to distribute to its shareholders substantially all of its net capital gains and ordinary income (including net investment income and short-term capital gains). The Fund operates as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the "Code") and distributions by a regulated investment company generally retain their character as capital gain or ordinary income when received by individual investors who hold its preferred or common shares. Thus, dividends paid by the Fund to holders of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred may, for federal income tax purposes, consist of varying proportions of long-term capital gain, ordinary income and/or returns of capital.

Capital gain on assets held longer than 12 months generally is currently taxable to individuals at a maximum rate of 20.0%. The 20.0% capital gains rate will be reduced to 18.0% for capital assets held for more than five years, if the holding period begins after December 31, 2000. Ordinary income, which includes short-term capital gain of the Fund, is currently taxable to individuals at a maximum rate of 38.6% (which rate is scheduled to be reduced periodically through 2006). Pending legislation would accelerate future reductions in individual tax rates (applicable to ordinary income and short-term capital gain) and apply a maximum 35% rate for 2003 and thereafter.

Although the Fund is not managed using a tax-focused investment strategy and does not seek to achieve any particular distribution composition, individual investors in the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred would, under current federal income tax law, realize a tax advantage on their investment to the extent that distributions by the Fund to its shareholders are composed of long-term capital gain which is taxed at a lower rate than ordinary income. In contrast, preferred share dividends distributed by corporations that are not regulated investment companies are generally taxed, for federal income tax purposes, as ordinary income.

Over the past one, three and five fiscal years ending December 31, 2002, the distributions of taxable income by the Fund consisted of [__]%, [__]%, and [__]% long-term capital gains. Given current market conditions, there is no assurance that over the next several years the percentage of its taxable distributions that consist of long-term capital gain will remain at such levels. For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2002, [__]% of the Fund's per share distributions to common shareholders constituted a return of capital.

Corporate taxpayers are subject to a 35% tax on capital gain and ordinary income dividends. In addition, corporate taxpayers that are eligible for the dividends received deduction on dividends that constitute ordinary income will not be able to utilize that deduction with respect to Fund distributions that constitute long-term capital gain, and so may incur a tax disadvantage by holding shares in the Fund.

Pending legislation may eliminate or reduce federal income taxation of dividends previously taxed at the corporate level and thereby reduce, eliminate or reverse the preferential taxation to individuals of capital gain versus dividend income. While it is unclear whether and in what form such legislation may be enacted, or its applicability to regulated investment company dividends, such a change in law could be given retroactive effect.

The federal income tax characteristics of the Fund and the taxation of its shareholders are described more fully under "Taxation."

The following tables show examples of the pure ordinary income equivalent yield that would be generated by the illustrated dividend rates on the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred, respectively, assuming distributions for federal income tax purposes consisting of different proportions of long-term capital gain and ordinary income (including short-term

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

capital gain) for an individual in the 38.6% and 30.0% federal marginal income tax brackets. In reading these tables, you should understand that a number of factors could affect the actual composition for federal income tax purposes of the Fund's distributions each year. Such factors include (i) the Fund's investment performance for any particular year, which may result in distributions of varying proportions of long-term capital gain, ordinary income and/or return of capital, (ii) revocation or revision of the Internal Revenue Service revenue ruling requiring the proportionate allocation of types of income among the holders of various classes of a regulated investment company's capital stock and (iii) the proposals pending before Congress to eliminate or reduce the rates of federal income tax on dividends.

THESE TABLES ARE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND CANNOT BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF THE ACTUAL COMPOSITION FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES OF THE FUND'S FUTURE DISTRIBUTIONS.

SERIES A PREFERRED

PERCENTAGE OF SERIES A PREFERRED ILLUSTRATIVE ANNUAL DIVIDEND COMPRISED OF		SERIES A PREFERRED ILLUSTRATIVE ANNUAL DIVIDEND RATE		%	%	%
LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS	ORDINARY INCOME	TAX EQUIVALENT YIELD FOR AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE 38.6% FEDERAL INCOME TAX BRACKET1				TAX IN FEDE
80.0%	20.0%	%	%			%
66.7%	33.3%	%	%			%
50.0%	50.0%	%	%			%
33.3%	66.7%	%	%			%
20.0%	80.0%	%	%			%
12.5%	87.5%	%	%			%
0.0%	100.0%	%	%			%

SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

PERCENTAGE OF SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED SHARE ILLUSTRATIVE ANNUAL DIVIDEND COMPRISED OF		SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED ILLUSTRATIVE ANNUAL DIVIDEND RATE*		%	%	%
LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS	ORDINARY INCOME	TAX EQUIVALENT YIELD FOR AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE 38.6% FEDERAL INCOME TAX BRACKET1				TAX IN FEDE
80.0%	20.0%	%	%			%
66.7%	33.3%	%	%			%
50.0%	50.0%	%	%			%
33.3%	66.7%	%	%			%
20.0%	80.0%	%	%			%

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

12.5%	87.5%	%
0.0%	100.0%	%

* Actual dividend rates for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be determined by periodic auctions. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred Dividends on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

(1) Annual taxable income levels for individuals corresponding to the 2003 federal marginal

2003 Federal Income Tax Bracket	Single	Joint
38.6%	over \$311,950	over \$311,950
35.0%	over \$143,500 - \$311,950	over \$174,700 - \$311,950
30.0%	over \$68,800 - \$143,500	over \$114,650 - \$174,700
27.0%	over \$28,400 - \$68,800	over \$47,450 - \$114,650
15.0%	over \$6,000 - \$28,400	over \$12,000 - \$47,450
10.0%	up to and including \$6,000	up to and including \$6,000

Your federal marginal income tax rates may exceed the rates shown in the above table due to the possible elimination, of the personal exemption deduction for high-income taxpayers on itemized deductions. Income may be subject to certain state, local and foreign taxes. ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX, OR AMT, EQUIVALENT YIELDS MAY BE LOWER THAN THOSE SHOWN ABOVE. rates shown above do not apply to corporate taxpayers.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 creates a new 10% tax bracket and reduces the tax rate applicable to ordinary income over a six year period. In the taxable year 2006, ordinary income will be subject to a 35% maximum rate, with proportionate reductions in the other ordinary rates. Legislation pending before Congress provides for future reductions in individual tax rates (applicable to ordinary income and short-term capital gains) to a maximum 35% rate for 2003 and thereafter.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The table below sets forth selected financial data for a common share outstanding throughout the periods presented. The per share operating performance and ratios for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2002, December 31, 2001, December 31, 2000 and the period ended December 31, 1999 have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Fund's independent accountants, as stated in their report which is incorporated by reference into the SAI. The following information should be read in conjunction with the Financial Statements and Notes thereto, which are incorporated by reference into the SAI.

Selected Data for a Common Share Outstanding Throughout Each Period

Year Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2001	Year Ended December 31, 2000

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

OPERATING PERFORMANCE:

Net asset value, beginning of period.....	\$ 7.32	\$ 8.21	\$ 7.62
	-----	-----	-----
Net investment income.....	0.11	0.12 (e)	0.15
Net realized and unrealized gain(loss) on investments.....	(0.62)	(0.32) (e)	1.44
	-----	-----	-----
Total from investment operations.....	(0.51)	(0.20)	1.59
	-----	-----	-----

CHANGE IN NET ASSET VALUE FROM
TRANSACTIONS IN SHARES OF BENEFICIAL
INTEREST:

Increase in net asset value from shares issued i rights offering.....n	0.15	--	--
Increase in net asset value from Trust share transactions.....	0.03	0.01	--
	-----	-----	-----

DISTRIBUTIONS TO
SHAREHOLDERS:

Net investment income.....	(0.11)	(0.21)	(0.06)
Net realized gain on investments.....	(0.36)	(0.49)	(0.94)
Return of Capital.....	(0.25)	--	--
	-----	-----	-----
Total distributions.....	(0.72)	(0.70)	(1.00)
	-----	-----	-----

NET ASSET VALUE, END OF PERIOD:

	\$ 6.27	\$7.32	\$8.21
	=====	=====	=====
Market value, end of period.....	\$ 8.72	\$9.33	\$8.75
	=====	=====	=====
Net asset value total return +	(6.79%)	(3.15%)	22.01%
	=====	=====	=====
Total Investment Return ++	1.70%	15.82%	29.95%
	=====	=====	=====

RATIOS TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS AND
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Net assets, end of period (in thousands).....	\$ 95,111	\$ 82,197	\$ 90,669
Ratio of net investment income to average net as (c).....sets	1.65%	1.57%	1.88%
Ratio of operating expenses to average net asset (c) (d).....s	1.93%	2.00%	1.95%
Portfolio turnover rate.....	29%	41%	92%

-
- + Based on net asset value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions. Total r
one year is not annualized.
 - ++ Based on market value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions, including t
pursuant to rights offering, assuming full subscription by shareholder. Total return fo
is not annualized.
 - (a) The Gabelli Utility Trust commenced investment operations on July 9, 1999.
 - (b) Annualized.
 - (c) During the period ended December 31, 1999, the Utility Trust's administrator voluntarily
If such reimbursement had not occurred, the annualized ratios of net investment income a
average net assets would have been 1.85% and 2.17%, respectively.
 - (d) The ratios do not include a reduction of expenses for custodian fee credits on cash bala
custodian. Including such custodian fee credits for the year ended December 31, 2002, D
year ended December 31, 2000, the expense ratios would be 1.93%, 2.00% and 1.93%, respec
2001's Net investment income per share and Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on in
presented in the Financial Highlights without regard to character of distributions paid
previously reported of \$0.61 and \$(0.81), respectively, have been revised to reflect rec
the character of 2001 distributions.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds of the offering are estimated at \$ _____, after deduction of the underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses payable by the Fund. The Investment Adviser expects that it will initially invest the proceeds of the offering in high quality short-term debt securities and instruments. The Investment Adviser anticipates that the investment of the proceeds will be made in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies, as appropriate investment opportunities are identified. Investment of the proceeds will not take more than six months.

THE FUND

The Fund, formed in Delaware on February 25, 1999, is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company registered under the 1940 Act. The Fund's common shares are traded on the NYSE under the symbol "GUT." The Fund had no operations prior to July 9, 1999, other than the sale of 7,579,739 shares to The Gabelli Equity Trust in exchange for approximately \$75 million of cash and short-term fixed income securities.

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth the unaudited capitalization of the Fund as of [___], 2003, and its adjusted capitalization assuming (i) the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered in this prospectus had been issued and (ii) such shares had been issued and the Fund's rights offering had been completed.

AS OF [___], 2003

	ACTUAL	AS ADJUSTED (Unaudited)
Preferred shares, \$0.001 par value, [___] shares authorized. (The "Actual" column reflects Fund's outstanding capitalization as of [___], 2003; the "As Adjusted" column assumes the issuance of an additional [___] shares of Series A Preferred and [___] shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred, \$25 and \$25,000 liquidation preference, respectively); the "As Adjusted Assuming Rights Offering" column assumes the issuance of such shares and that the rights offering had been completed.....	\$	\$
Shareholders' equity applicable to common shares.....		
Common shares, \$.001 par value per share; [___] shares outstanding.....	\$	\$
Paid-in surplus*.....		
Undistributed net investment loss.....		
Accumulated net realized loss from investment transactions.....		
Net unrealized depreciation.....		
Net assets applicable to common shares.....	\$	\$

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Net assets, plus liquidation preference of preferred shares \$ \$
=====

* As adjusted paid-in surplus reflects a reduction for the sales load and estimated offering of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred issuance of \$[___].

As used in this prospectus, unless otherwise noted, the Fund's "managed assets" include the aggregate net asset value of the common shares plus assets attributable to outstanding preferred shares, with no deduction for the liquidation preference of such preferred shares. For financial reporting purposes, however, the Fund is required to deduct the liquidation preference of its outstanding preferred shares from "managed assets," so long as the preferred shares have redemption features that are not solely within the control of the Fund. For all regulatory purposes, the Fund's preferred shares will be treated as stock (rather than as indebtedness).

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES

The Fund's investment objective is long-term growth of capital and income. Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in common stock and other securities of foreign and domestic companies involved to a substantial extent (e.g., at least 50% of the assets, gross income or net profits of a company is committed to or derived from) in providing products, services or equipment for (i) the generation or distribution of electricity, gas and water and (ii) telecommunications services or infrastructure operations, such as airports, toll roads and municipal services.

INVESTMENT METHODOLOGY OF THE FUND

In selecting securities for the Fund, the Investment Adviser normally will consider the following factors, among others:

- o the Investment Adviser's own evaluations of the private market value, cash flow, earnings per share and other fundamental aspects of the underlying assets and business of the company;
- o the potential for capital appreciation of the securities;
- o the interest or dividend income generated by the securities;
- o the prices of the securities relative to other comparable securities;
- o whether the securities are entitled to the benefits of call protection or other protective covenants;
- o the existence of any anti-dilution protections or guarantees of the security; and
- o the diversification of the portfolio of the Fund as to issuers.

The Investment Adviser's investment philosophy with respect to equity securities seeks to identify assets that are selling in the public market at a discount to their private market value. The Investment Adviser defines private market value as the value informed purchasers are willing to pay to acquire assets with similar characteristics. The Investment Adviser also normally evaluates an issuer's free cash flow and long-term earnings trends. Finally, the Investment Adviser looks for a catalyst, something indigenous to the

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

company, its industry or country that will surface additional value.

CERTAIN INVESTMENT PRACTICES

Securities Subject to Reorganization. The Fund may invest without limit in securities of companies for which a tender or exchange offer has been made or announced and in securities of companies for which a merger, consolidation, liquidation or reorganization proposal has been announced if, in the judgment of the Investment Adviser, there is a reasonable prospect of high total return significantly greater than the brokerage and other transaction expenses involved.

In general, securities which are the subject of such an offer or proposal sell at a premium to their historic market price immediately prior to the announcement of the offer or may also discount what the stated or appraised value of the security would be if the contemplated transaction were approved or consummated. Such investments may be advantageous when the discount significantly overstates the risk of the contingencies involved; significantly undervalues the securities, assets or cash to be received by shareholders of the prospective portfolio company as a result of the contemplated transaction; or fails adequately to recognize the possibility that the offer or proposal may be replaced or superseded by an offer or proposal of greater value. The evaluation of such contingencies requires unusually broad knowledge and experience on the part of the Investment Adviser which must appraise not only the value of the issuer and its component businesses as well as the assets or securities to be received as a result of the contemplated transaction but also the financial resources and business motivation of the offer and/or the dynamics and business climate when the offer or proposal is in process. Since such investments are ordinarily short-term in nature, they will tend to increase the turnover ratio of the Fund, thereby increasing its brokerage and other transaction expenses. The Investment Adviser intends to select investments of the type described which, in its view, have a reasonable prospect of capital appreciation which is significant in relation to both risk involved and the potential of available alternative investments.

Temporary Investments. Although under normal market conditions at least 80% of the Fund's assets will consist of common stock and other securities of foreign and domestic companies involved in the utility industry, when a temporary defensive posture is believed by the Investment Adviser to be warranted ("temporary defensive periods"), the Fund may without limitation hold cash or invest its assets in money market instruments and repurchase agreements in respect of those instruments. The money market instruments in which the Fund may invest are obligations of the United States government, its agencies or instrumentalities; commercial paper rated A-1 or higher by Standard & Poor's Corporation ("S&P") or Prime-1 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"); and certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances issued by domestic branches of U.S. banks that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. During temporary defensive periods, the Fund may also invest to the extent permitted by applicable law in shares of money market mutual funds, which, under current law, in the absence of an exemptive order will not be affiliated with the Investment Adviser. Money market mutual funds are investment companies and the investments in those companies by the Fund are in some cases subject to certain fundamental investment restrictions and applicable law. See "Investment Restrictions." As a shareholder in a mutual fund, the Fund will bear its ratable share of its expenses, including management fees, and will remain subject to payment of the fees to the Investment Adviser, with respect to assets so invested. See "Management of the Fund -- General."

Lower Rated Securities. The Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in fixed-income securities rated in the lower rating categories of recognized statistical rating agencies, such as securities rated "CCC" or lower

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

by S&P or "Caa" or lower by Moody's, or non-rated securities of comparable quality. These debt securities are predominantly speculative and involve major risk exposure to adverse conditions and are often referred to in the financial press as "junk bonds."

Generally, such lower rated securities and unrated securities of comparable quality offer a higher current yield than is offered by higher rated securities, but also (i) will likely have some quality and protective characteristics that, in the judgment of the rating organizations, are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions and (ii) are predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. The market values of certain of these securities also tend to be more sensitive to individual corporate developments and changes in economic conditions than higher quality bonds. In addition, such lower rated securities and comparable unrated securities generally present a higher degree of credit risk. The risk of loss due to default by these issuers is significantly greater because such lower rated securities and unrated securities of comparable quality generally are unsecured and frequently are subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. In light of these risks, the Investment Adviser, in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issue, whether rated or unrated, will take various factors into consideration, which may include, as applicable, the issuer's financial resources, its sensitivity to economic conditions and trends, the operating history of and the community support for the facility financed by the issue, the ability of the issuer's management and regulatory matters.

In addition, the market value of securities in lower rated categories is more volatile than that of higher quality securities, and the markets in which such lower rated or unrated securities are traded are more limited than those in which higher rated securities are traded. The existence of limited markets may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing its portfolio and calculating its net asset value. Moreover, the lack of a liquid trading market may restrict the availability of securities for the Fund to purchase and may also have the effect of limiting the ability of the Fund to sell securities at their fair value to respond to changes in the economy or the financial markets.

Lower-rated debt obligations also present risks based on payment expectations. If an issuer calls the obligation for redemption, the Fund may have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, resulting in a decreased return for investors. Also, as the principal value of bonds moves inversely with movements in interest rates, in the event of rising interest rates the value of the securities held by the Fund may decline proportionately more than a portfolio consisting of higher rated securities. Investments in zero coupon bonds may be more speculative and subject to greater fluctuations in value due to changes in interest rates than bonds that pay interest currently.

The Fund may invest in securities of issuers in default. The Fund will make an investment in securities of issuers in default only when the Investment Adviser believes that such issuers will honor their obligations or emerge from bankruptcy protection and the value of these securities will appreciate. By investing in securities of issuers in default, the Fund bears the risk that these issuers will not continue to honor their obligations or emerge from bankruptcy protection or that the value of the securities will not appreciate.

In addition to using recognized rating agencies and other sources, the Investment Adviser also performs its own analysis of issues in seeking investments that it believes to be underrated (and thus higher-yielding) in light of the financial condition of the issuer. Its analysis of issuers may include, among other things, current and anticipated cash flow and borrowing

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

requirements, value of assets in relation to historical cost, strength of management, responsiveness to business conditions, credit standing and current anticipated results of operations. In selecting investments for the Fund, the Investment Adviser may also consider general business conditions, anticipated changes in interest rates and the outlook for specific industries.

Subsequent to its purchase by the Fund, an issue of securities may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced. In addition, it is possible that statistical rating agencies might change their ratings of a particular issue to reflect subsequent events on a timely basis. None of these events will require the sale of the securities by the Fund, although the Investment Adviser will consider these events in determining whether the Fund should continue to hold the securities.

Fixed-income securities, including lower rated securities and comparable unrated securities, frequently have call or buy-back features that permit their issuers to call or repurchase the securities from their holders, such as the Fund. If an issuer exercises these rights during periods of declining interest rates, the Fund may have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, thus resulting in a decreased return for the Fund.

The market for certain lower rated and comparable unrated securities several years ago

experienced a major economic recession. Past recessions have adversely affected the value of such securities as well as the ability of certain issuers of such securities to repay principal and pay interest thereon. The market for those securities could react in a similar fashion in the event of any future economic recession.

Options. A call option is a contract that, in return for a premium, gives the holder of the option the right to buy from the writer of the call option the security or currency underlying the option at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the option. The writer of the call option has the obligation, upon exercise of the option, to deliver the underlying security or currency upon payment of the exercise price during the option period. A put option is the reverse of a call option, giving the holder the right to sell the security to the writer and obligating the writer to purchase the underlying security from the holder.

A written call option is "covered" if the writer owns the underlying security covered by the call or has an absolute and immediate right to acquire that security without additional cash consideration (or for additional cash consideration held in a segregated account by its custodian) upon conversion or exchange of other securities held in its portfolio. A call option is also covered if the Fund holds a call on the same security as the call written where the exercise price of the call held is (i) equal to or less than the exercise price of the call written or (ii) greater than the exercise price of the call written if the difference is maintained by the Fund in cash, U.S. government securities or other high grade short-term obligations in a segregated account held with its custodian. A written put option is "covered" if the Fund maintains cash or other high grade short-term obligations with a value equal to the exercise price in a segregated account held with its custodian, or else holds a put on the same security as the put written where the exercise price of the put held is equal to or greater than the exercise price of the put written.

If the Fund has written an option, it may terminate its obligation by effecting a closing purchase transaction. This is accomplished by purchasing an option of the same series as the option previously written. However, once it has been assigned an exercise notice, the Fund will be unable to effect a closing purchase transaction. Similarly, if the Fund is the holder of an option it may liquidate its position by effecting a closing sale transaction. This is

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

accomplished by selling an option of the same series as the option previously purchased. There can be no assurance that either a closing purchase or sale transaction can be effected when the Fund so desires.

The Fund will realize a profit from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is less than the premium received from writing the option or is more than the premium paid to purchase the option; the Fund will realize a loss from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is more than the premium received from writing the option or is less than the premium paid to purchase the option. Since call option prices generally reflect increases in the price of the underlying security, any loss resulting from the repurchase of a call option may also be wholly or partially offset by unrealized appreciation of the underlying security. Other principal factors affecting the market value of a put or a call option include supply and demand, interest rates, the current market price and price volatility of the underlying security and the time remaining until the expiration date. Gains and losses on investments in options depend, in part, on the ability of the Adviser to predict correctly the effect of these factors. The use of options cannot serve as a complete hedge since the price movement of securities underlying the options will not necessarily follow the price movements of the portfolio securities subject to the hedge.

An option position may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for an option of the same series or in a private transaction. Although the Fund will generally purchase or write only those options for which there appears to be an active secondary market, there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an exchange will exist for any particular option. In such event, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options, so that the Fund would have to exercise its options in order to realize any profit and would incur brokerage commissions upon the exercise of call options and upon the subsequent disposition of underlying securities for the exercise of put options. If the Fund, as a covered call option writer, is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or otherwise covers the position.

In addition to options on individual securities, the Fund may also purchase and sell call and put options on securities indices. A stock index reflects in a single number the market value of many different stocks. Relative values are assigned to the stocks included in an index and the index fluctuates with changes in the market values of the stocks. The options give the holder the right to receive a cash settlement during the term of the option based on the difference between the exercise price and the value of the index. By writing a put or call option on a securities index, the Fund is obligated, in return for the premium received, to make delivery of this amount. The Fund may offset its position in stock index options prior to expiration by entering into a closing transaction on an exchange or it may let the option expire unexercised.

The Fund also may buy or sell put and call options on foreign currencies. A put option on a foreign currency gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell a foreign currency at the exercise price until the option expires. A call option on a foreign currency gives the purchaser of the option the right to purchase the currency at the exercise price until the option expires. Currency options traded on U.S. or other exchanges may be subject to position limits which may limit the ability of the Fund to reduce foreign currency risk using such options. Over-the-counter options differ from exchange-traded options in that they are two-party contracts with price and other terms negotiated between buyer and seller and generally do not have as much market liquidity as exchange-traded options. Over-the-counter options are illiquid securities.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Use of options on securities indices entails the risk that trading in the options may be interrupted if trading in certain securities included in the index is interrupted. The Fund will not purchase these options unless the Investment Adviser is satisfied with the development, depth and liquidity of the market and the Investment Adviser believes the options can be closed out.

Price movements in the portfolio of the Fund are unlikely to correlate precisely with movements in the level of an index and, therefore, the use of options on indices cannot serve as a complete hedge and will depend, in part, on the ability of the Investment Adviser to predict correctly movements in the direction of the stock market generally or of a particular industry. Because options on securities indices require settlement in cash, the Investment Adviser may be forced to liquidate portfolio securities to meet settlement obligations. The staff of the SEC considers over-the-counter options such as options on indices illiquid securities.

Although the Investment Adviser will attempt to take appropriate measures to minimize the risks relating to the Fund's writing of put and call options, there can be no assurance that the Fund will succeed in any option-writing program it undertakes.

Futures Contracts and Options on Futures. The Fund will not enter into futures contracts or options on futures contracts unless (i) the aggregate initial margins and premiums do not exceed 5% of the fair market value of its assets and (ii) the aggregate market value of its outstanding futures contracts and the market value of the currencies and futures contracts subject to outstanding options written by the Fund do not exceed 50% of the market value of its total assets. It is anticipated that these investments, if any, will be made by the Fund solely for the purpose of hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities and in the value of securities it intends to purchase. Such investments will only be made if they are economically appropriate to the reduction of risks involved in the management of the Fund. In this regard, the Fund may enter into futures contracts or options on futures for the purchase or sale of securities indices or other financial instruments including but not limited to U.S. government securities.

A "sale" of a futures contract (or a "short" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to deliver the securities underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time. A "purchaser" of a futures contract (or a "long" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to acquire the securities underlying the contract at a specified future time. Certain futures contracts, including stock and bond index futures, are settled on a net cash payment basis rather than by the sale and delivery of the securities underlying the futures contracts.

No consideration will be paid or received by the Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Initially, the Fund will be required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or cash equivalents equal to approximately 1% to 10% of the contract amount (this amount is subject to change by the exchange or board of trade on which the contract is traded and brokers or members of such board of trade may charge a higher amount). This amount is known as "initial margin" and is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the contract. Subsequent payments, known as "variation margin," to and from the broker will be made daily as the price of the index or security underlying the futures contract fluctuates. At any time prior to the expiration of the futures contract, the Fund may elect to close the position by taking an opposite position, which will operate to terminate its existing position in the contract.

An option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures contract at a

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

specified exercise price at any time to the expiration of the option. Upon exercise of an option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer's futures margin account attributable to that contract, which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract exceeds, in the case of a call, or is less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. The potential loss related to the purchase of an option on futures contracts is limited to the premium paid for the option (plus transaction costs). Because the value of the option purchased is fixed at the point of sale, there are no daily cash payments by the purchaser to reflect changes in the value of the underlying contract; however, the value of the option does change daily and that change would be reflected in the net assets of the Fund.

Futures and options on futures entail certain risks, including but not limited to the following: no assurance that futures contracts or options on futures can be offset at favorable prices, possible reduction of the yield of the Fund due to the use of hedging, possible reduction in value of both the securities hedged and the hedging instrument, possible lack of liquidity due to daily limits on price fluctuations, imperfect correlation between the contracts and the securities being hedged, losses from investing in futures transactions that are potentially unlimited and the segregation requirements described below.

In the event the Fund sells a put option or enters into long futures contracts, under current interpretations of the 1940 Act, an amount of cash, U.S. government securities or other liquid securities equal to the market value of the contract must be deposited and maintained in a segregated account with the custodian of the Fund to collateralize the positions, in order for the Fund to avoid being treated as having issued a senior security in the amount of its obligations. For short positions in futures contracts and sales of call options, the Fund may establish a segregated account (not with a futures commission merchant or broker) with cash, U.S. government securities or other high grade debt securities that, when added to amounts deposited with a futures commission merchant or a broker as margin, equal the market value of the instruments or currency underlying the futures contracts or call options, respectively (but are no less than the stock price of the call option or the market price at which the short positions were established).

Forward Currency Transactions. The Fund may hold currencies to meet settlement requirements for foreign securities and may engage in currency exchange transactions to protect against uncertainty in the level of future exchange rates between a particular foreign currency and the U.S. dollar or between foreign currencies in which its securities are or may be denominated. Forward currency contracts are agreements to exchange one currency for another at a future date. The date (which may be any agreed-upon fixed number of days in the future), the amount of currency to be exchanged and the price at which the exchange takes place will be negotiated and fixed for the term of the contract at the time the Fund enters into the contract. Forward currency contracts (i) are traded in a market conducted directly between currency traders (typically, commercial banks or other financial institutions) and their customers, (ii) generally have no deposit requirements and (iii) are typically consummated without payment of any commissions. The Fund, however, may enter into forward currency contracts requiring deposits or involving the payment of commissions. To assure that its forward currency contracts are not used to achieve investment leverage, the Fund will segregate liquid assets consisting of cash, U.S. government securities or other liquid securities with its custodian, or a designated sub-custodian, in an amount at all times equal to or exceeding its commitment with respect to the contracts.

The dealings of the Fund in forward foreign exchange are limited to hedging involving either specific transactions or portfolio positions.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Transaction hedging is the purchase or sale of one forward foreign currency for another currency with respect to specific receivables or payables of the Fund accruing in connection with the purchase and sale of its portfolio securities or its payment of dividends and distributions. Position hedging is the purchase or sale of one forward foreign currency for another currency with respect to portfolio security positions denominated or quoted in the foreign currency to offset the effect of an anticipated substantial appreciation or depreciation, respectively, in the value of the currency relative to the U.S. dollar. In this situation, the Fund also may, for example, enter into a forward contract to sell or purchase a different foreign currency for a fixed U.S. dollar amount where it is believed that the U.S. dollar value of the currency to be sold or bought pursuant to the forward contract will fall or rise, as the case may be, whenever there is a decline or increase, respectively, in the U.S. dollar value of the currency in which its portfolio securities are denominated (this practice being referred to as a "cross-hedge").

In hedging a specific transaction, the Fund may enter into a forward contract with respect to either the currency in which the transaction is denominated or another currency deemed appropriate by the Investment Adviser. The amount the Fund may invest in forward currency contracts is limited to the amount of its aggregate investments in foreign currencies.

The use of forward currency contracts may involve certain risks, including the failure of the counterparty to perform its obligations under the contract, and such use may not serve as a complete hedge because of an imperfect correlation between movements in the prices of the contracts and the prices of the currencies hedged or used for cover. The Fund will only enter into forward currency contracts with parties which it believes to be creditworthy institutions.

When Issued, Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments. The Fund may enter into forward commitments for the purchase or sale of securities, including on a "when issued" or "delayed delivery" basis, in excess of customary settlement periods for the type of security involved. In some cases, a forward commitment may be conditioned upon the occurrence of a subsequent event, such as approval and consummation of a merger, corporate reorganization or debt restructuring, i.e., a when, as and if issued security. When such transactions are negotiated, the price is fixed at the time of the commitment, with payment and delivery taking place in the future, generally a month or more after the date of the commitment. While it will only enter into a forward commitment with the intention of actually acquiring the security, the Fund may sell the security before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable.

Securities purchased under a forward commitment are subject to market fluctuation, and no interest (or dividends) accrues to the Fund prior to the settlement date. The Fund will segregate with its custodian cash or liquid securities in an aggregate amount at least equal to the amount of its outstanding forward commitments.

Short Sales. The Fund may make short sales of securities. A short sale is a transaction in which the Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. The market value of the securities sold short of any one issuer will not exceed either 5% of the Fund's total assets or 5% of such issuer's voting securities. The Fund also will not make a short sale, if, after giving effect to such sale, the market value of all securities sold short exceeds 25% of the value of its assets or the Fund's aggregate short sales of a particular class of securities exceeds 25% of the outstanding securities of that class. The Fund may also make short sales "against the box" without respect to such limitations. In this type of short sale, at the time of the sale, the Fund owns, or has the immediate and unconditional right to acquire at no additional cost, the identical security.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

The Fund expects to make short sales both to obtain capital gains from anticipated declines in securities and as a form of hedging to offset potential declines in long positions in the same or similar securities. The short sale of a security is considered a speculative investment technique.

When the Fund makes a short sale, it must borrow the security sold short and deliver it to the broker-dealer through which it made the short sale in order to satisfy its obligation to deliver the security upon conclusion of the sale. The Fund may have to pay a fee to borrow particular securities and is often obligated to pay over any payments received on such borrowed securities.

The Fund's obligation to replace the borrowed security will be secured by collateral deposited with the broker-dealer, usually cash, U.S. government securities or other highly liquid debt securities. The Fund will also be required to deposit similar collateral with its custodian, Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company ("Boston Safe"), and, to the extent, if any, necessary so that the value of both collateral deposits in the aggregate is at all times equal to the greater of the price at which the security is sold short or 100% of the current market value of the security sold short. Depending on arrangements made with the broker-dealer from which it borrowed the security regarding payment over of any payments received by the Fund on such security, the Fund may not receive any payments (including interest) on its collateral deposited with such broker-dealer. If the price of the security sold short increases between the time of the short sale and the time the Fund replaces the borrowed security, the Fund will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Fund will realize a capital gain. Any gain will be decreased, and any loss will be increased, by the transaction costs described above. Although the Fund's gain is limited to the price at which it sold the security short, its potential loss is theoretically unlimited.

To secure its obligations to deliver the securities sold short, the Fund will deposit in escrow in a separate account with the custodian, an amount at least equal to the securities sold short or securities convertible into, or exchangeable for, the securities. The Fund may close out a short position by purchasing and delivering an equal amount of securities sold short, rather than by delivering securities already held by the Fund, because the Fund may want to continue to receive interest and dividend payments on securities in its portfolio that are convertible into the securities sold short.

Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may engage in repurchase agreement transactions involving money market instruments with banks, registered broker-dealers and government securities dealers approved by the Investment Adviser. The Fund will not enter into repurchase agreements with the Investment Adviser or any of its affiliates. Under the terms of a typical repurchase agreement, the Fund would acquire an underlying debt obligation for a relatively short period (usually not more than one week) subject to an obligation of the seller to repurchase, and the Fund to resell, the obligation at an agreed price and time, thereby determining the yield during its holding period. Thus, repurchase agreements may be seen to be loans by the Fund collateralized by the underlying debt obligation. This arrangement results in a fixed rate of return that is not subject to market fluctuations during the holding period. The value of the underlying securities will be at least equal to at all times to the total amount of the repurchase obligation, including interest. The Fund bears a risk of loss in the event that the other party to a repurchase agreement defaults on its obligations and the Fund is delayed in or prevented from exercising its rights to dispose of the collateral securities, including the risk of a possible decline in the value of the underlying securities during the period in which it seeks to assert these rights. The Investment Adviser, acting under the supervision of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, reviews the creditworthiness of those banks and dealers with which the Fund enters into repurchase agreements to evaluate these risks and monitors on an ongoing basis the value of the securities subject to repurchase

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

agreements to ensure that the value is maintained at the required level.

Leveraging. As provided in the 1940 Act and subject to certain exceptions, the Fund may issue debt or preferred stock (such as the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred) so long as its total assets, less certain ordinary course liabilities, exceed 300% of the amount of the debt outstanding and exceed 200% of the sum of the amount of preferred stock and debt outstanding. Any such debt or preferred stock may be convertible in accordance with SEC staff guidelines which may permit each fund to obtain leverage at attractive rates. Leverage entails two primary risks. The first risk is that the use of leverage magnifies the impact on the holders of common stock of changes in net asset value. For example, if the Fund were to use 33% leverage, it would show a 1.5% increase or decline in net asset value for each 1% increase or decline in the value of its total assets. The second risk is that the cost of leverage will exceed the return on the securities acquired with the proceeds of leverage, thereby diminishing rather than enhancing the return to holders of common stock. These two risks would generally make the Fund's total return to holders of common stock more volatile were it to use leverage.

So long as the Fund uses leverage it may be required to sell investments in order to meet dividend or interest payments on the debt or preferred stock when it may be disadvantageous to do so. In addition, a decline in net asset value could affect the ability of the Fund to make common stock dividend payments and such a failure to pay dividends or make distributions could result in the Fund ceasing to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Code. See "Taxation." Finally, if the asset coverage for preferred stock or debt securities declines to less than 200% or 300%, respectively (as a result of market fluctuations or otherwise), the Fund may be required to sell a portion of its investments to redeem the preferred stock or repay the debt when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The Fund will buy and sell securities to accomplish its investment objective. The investment policies of the Fund may lead to frequent changes in investments, particularly in periods of rapidly fluctuating interest or currency exchange rates. The portfolio turnover may be higher than that of other investment companies.

Portfolio turnover generally involves some expense to the Fund, including brokerage commissions or dealer mark-ups and other transaction costs on the sale of securities and reinvestment in other securities. The portfolio turnover rate is computed by dividing the lesser of the amount of the securities purchased or securities sold by the average monthly value of securities owned during the year (excluding securities whose maturities at acquisition were one year or less). To the extent the Fund experiences high portfolio turnover, such turnover is likely to decrease tax advantages to individual investors in the Fund to the extent it results in a decrease of the long term capital gains portion of distributions to shareholders.

RISK FACTORS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Investors should consider the following risk factors and special considerations associated with investing in the Fund.

PREFERRED SHARES

General. There are a number of risks associated with an investment in the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The market value for

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be influenced by changes in interest rates, the perceived credit quality of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred and other factors. The Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred are subject to redemption under specified circumstances and investors may not be able to reinvest the proceeds of any such redemption in an investment providing the same or a better rate than that of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Subject to such circumstances, the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred are perpetual.

The credit rating on the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred could be reduced or withdrawn while an investor holds shares, and the credit rating does not eliminate or mitigate the risks of investing in the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. A reduction or withdrawal of the credit rating would likely have an adverse effect on the market value of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

The Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred are not obligations of the Fund. The Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred would be junior in respect of dividends and liquidation preference to any indebtedness incurred by the Fund. Although unlikely, precipitous declines in the value of the Fund's assets could result in the Fund having insufficient assets to redeem all of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred for the full redemption price. The Fund has made monthly distributions with respect to its shares of common stock since October of 1999.

Leverage Risk. The Fund uses financial leverage for investment purposes by issuing preferred shares. It is currently anticipated that, taking into account the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred being offered in this prospectus, the amount of leverage will represent approximately [__]% of the Fund's managed assets (as defined below). The Fund's leveraged capital structure creates special risks not associated with unleveraged funds having a similar investment objective and policies. These include the possibility of greater loss and the likelihood of higher volatility of the net asset value of the Fund and the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred's asset coverage.

Because the fee paid to the Investment Adviser will be calculated on the basis of the Fund's managed assets, which equal the aggregate net asset value of the common shares plus assets attributable to outstanding preferred shares, with no deduction for the liquidation preference of such preferred shares (rather than only on the basis of net assets attributable to the common shares), the fee may be higher when leverage is utilized, giving the Investment Adviser an incentive to utilize leverage. However, the Adviser has agreed not to accept an incremental fee unless the Fund's total return at least equals the dividend rate on each series of the preferred shares.

Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions. Restrictions imposed on the declaration and payment of dividends or other distributions to the holders of the Fund's common shares and preferred shares, both by the 1940 Act and by requirements imposed by rating agencies, might impair the Fund's ability to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company for federal income tax purposes. While the Fund intends to redeem its preferred shares (including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred) to the extent necessary to enable the Fund to distribute its income as required to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company under the Code, there can be no assurance that such actions can be effected in time to meet the Code requirements. See "Taxation" in the SAI.

Ratings and Asset Coverage Risk. While it is a condition to the closing of the offering that [__] assigns a rating of [__] to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred and that [__] assigns a rating

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

of [__] to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the ratings do not eliminate or necessarily mitigate the risks of investing in Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The credit rating on the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred could be reduced or withdrawn while an investor holds shares, which would likely have an adverse effect on the market value of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. A reduction or withdrawal of the credit ratings on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred may also make your Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares less liquid at an auction or in the secondary market.

In addition, if a rating agency rating the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the Fund's request downgrades the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the maximum rate on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will increase. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Rating Agency Guidelines" for a description of the asset maintenance tests the Fund must meet. In addition, should the rating on the Fund's preferred shares be lowered or withdrawn by the relevant rating agency, the Fund may also be required to redeem all or part of its outstanding preferred shares.

SPECIAL RISKS OF THE SERIES A PREFERRED

Illiquidity Prior to Exchange Listing. Prior to the offering, there has been no public market for the Series A Preferred. In the event the Series A Preferred are issued, prior application will have been made to list the Series A Preferred on the NYSE. However, during an initial period, which is not expected to exceed 30 days after the date of its initial issuance, the Series A Preferred will not be listed on any securities exchange. During such period, the underwriters intend to make a market in the Series A Preferred, though, they have no obligation to do so. Consequently, an investment in the Series A Preferred may be illiquid during such period.

SPECIAL RISKS OF THE SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

Interest Rate Risk. In connection with the sale of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the Fund may enter into interest rate swap or cap transactions in order to reduce the impact of changes in the dividend rate of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred or obtain the equivalent of a fixed rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred that is lower than the Fund would have to pay if it issued fixed rate preferred shares. The use of interest rate swaps and caps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. See "How the Fund Manages Risk -- Interest Rate Transactions."

Auction Risk. You may not be able to sell your Series B Auction Rate Preferred at an auction if the auction fails, i.e., if there is more Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered for sale than there are buyers for those shares. Also, if you place orders (place a hold order) at an auction to retain Series B Auction Rate Preferred only at a specified rate that exceeds the rate set at the auction, you will not retain your Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Additionally, if you place a hold order without specifying a rate below which you would not wish to continue to hold your shares and the auction sets a below-market rate, you will receive a lower rate of return on your shares than the market rate. Finally, the dividend period may be changed, subject to certain conditions and with notice to the holders of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, which could also affect the liquidity of your investment. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred" and "The Auction of Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

Secondary Market Risk. If you try to sell your Series B Auction Rate Preferred between auctions, you may not be able to sell them for \$25,000 per share or \$25,000 per share plus accumulated dividends. If the Fund has designated a special dividend period of more than seven days, changes in

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

interest rates could affect the price you would receive if you sold your shares in the secondary market. Broker-dealers that maintain a secondary trading market for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred are not required to maintain this market, and the Fund is not required to redeem Series B Auction Rate Preferred if either an auction or an attempted secondary market sale fails because of a lack of buyers. The Series B Auction Rate Preferred is not registered on a stock exchange or the NASDAQ stock market. If you sell your Series B Auction Rate Preferred to a broker-dealer between auctions, you may receive less than the price you paid for them, especially when market interest rates have risen since the last auction or during a special dividend period.

INDUSTRY RISKS

The Fund will invest a significant portion of its assets in foreign and domestic companies involved in the Utility Industry and, as a result, the net asset value of the Fund will be more susceptible to factors affecting those particular types of companies, including governmental regulation, inflation, cost increases in fuel and other operating expenses, obsolescence of products and services, and increasing interest rates resulting in high interest costs on borrowings needed for capital construction programs, including compliance with environmental regulations.

Various regulatory regimes impose limitations on the percentage of the shares of a public utility held by an investment for its clients. These limitations may unfavorably restrict the ability of the Fund to make certain investments.

In addition, deregulation of the utility industry could have a positive or negative impact on the Fund. The Investment Adviser believes that certain utility companies' fundamentals should continue to improve as the industry undergoes deregulation. Companies may seek to strengthen their competitive positions through mergers and takeovers. The loosening of the government regulation of utilities should encourage convergence within the industry. Improving earnings prospects, strong cash flows, share repurchases and takeovers from industry consolidation may tend to boost share prices. However, as has occurred in California and elsewhere, certain companies may be less able to meet the challenge of deregulation as competition increases and investments in these companies would not be likely to perform well.

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE; NOT A COMPLETE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The Fund is intended for investors seeking long-term capital growth. The Fund is not meant to provide a vehicle for those who wish to play short-term swings in the stock market. An investment in shares of the Fund should not be considered a complete investment program. Each shareholder should take into account the Fund's investment objective as well as the shareholder's other investments when considering an investment in the Fund.

NON-DIVERSIFIED STATUS

The Fund is classified as a "non-diversified" investment company under the 1940 Act, which means the Fund is not limited by the 1940 Act in the proportion of its assets that may be invested in the securities of a single issuer. However, the Fund has in the past conducted and intends to conduct its operations so as to qualify as a "regulated investment company," or RIC, for purposes of the Code, which will relieve it of any liability for federal income tax to the extent its earnings are distributed to shareholders. To qualify as a "regulated investment company," among other requirements, the Fund will limit its investments so that, with certain exceptions, at the close of each quarter of the taxable year:

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

- o not more than 25% of the market value of its total assets will be invested in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other RICs) of a single issuer or any two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are determined to be engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses; and
- o at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's assets will be represented by cash, securities of other regulated investment companies, U.S. government securities and other securities, with such other securities limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer.

As a non-diversified investment company, the Fund may invest in the securities of individual issuers to a greater degree than a diversified investment company. As a result, the Fund may be more vulnerable to events affecting a single issuer and therefore, subject to greater volatility than a fund that is more broadly diversified. Accordingly, an investment in the Fund may present greater risk to an investor than an investment in a diversified company.

LOWER RATED SECURITIES

The Fund may invest up to 25% of its total assets in fixed-income securities rated in the lower rating categories of recognized statistical rating agencies. These high yield securities, also sometimes referred to as "junk bonds," generally pay a premium above the yields of U.S. government securities or debt securities of investment grade issuers because they are subject to greater risks than these securities. These risks, which reflect their speculative character, include the following:

- o greater volatility;
- o greater credit risk;
- o potentially greater sensitivity to general economic or industry conditions;
- o potential lack of attractive resale opportunities (illiquidity); and
- o additional expenses to seek recovery from issuers who default.

The market value of lower-rated securities may be more volatile than the market value of higher-rated securities and generally tends to reflect the market's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and short-term market developments to a greater extent than more highly rated securities, which primarily reflect fluctuations in general levels of interest rates.

Ratings are relative and subjective and not absolute standards of quality. Securities ratings are based largely on the issuer's historical financial condition and the rating agencies' analysis at the time of rating. Consequently, the rating assigned to any particular security is not necessarily a reflection of the issuer's current financial condition.

As a part of its investments in lower rated securities, the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in securities of issuers in default. The Fund will invest in securities of issuers in default only when the Investment Adviser believes that such issuers will honor their obligations, emerge from

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

bankruptcy protection and the value of these securities will appreciate. By investing in the securities of issuers in default, the Fund bears the risk that these issuers will not continue to honor their obligations or emerge from bankruptcy protection or that the value of these securities will not appreciate.

For a further description of lower rated securities and the risks associated therewith, see "Investment Objective and Policies -- Investment Practices" in the SAI. For a description of the ratings categories of certain recognized statistical ratings agencies, see Appendix A to this prospectus.

FOREIGN SECURITIES

Investments in the securities of foreign issuers involve certain considerations and risks not ordinarily associated with investments in securities of domestic issuers. Foreign companies are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial standards and requirements comparable to those applicable to U.S. companies. Foreign securities exchanges, brokers and listed companies may be subject to less government supervision and regulation than exists in the United States. Dividend and interest income may be subject to withholding and other foreign taxes, which may adversely affect the net return on such investments. There may be difficulty in obtaining or enforcing a court judgment abroad. In addition, it may be difficult to effect repatriation of capital invested in certain countries. In addition, with respect to certain countries, there are risks of expropriation, confiscatory taxation, political or social instability or diplomatic developments that could affect assets of the Fund held in foreign countries.

There may be less publicly available information about a foreign company than a U.S. company. Foreign securities markets may have substantially less volume than U.S. securities markets and some foreign company securities are less liquid than securities of otherwise comparable U.S. companies. A portfolio of foreign securities may also be adversely affected by fluctuations in the rates of exchange between the currencies of different nations and by exchange control regulations. Foreign markets also have different clearance and settlement procedures that could cause the Fund to encounter difficulties in purchasing and selling securities on such markets and may result in the Fund missing attractive investment opportunities or experiencing loss. In addition, a portfolio that includes foreign securities can expect to have a higher expense ratio because of the increased transaction costs on non-U.S. securities markets and the increased costs of maintaining the custody of foreign securities. The Fund does not have an independent limit on the amount of its assets that it may invest in the securities of foreign issuers.

The Fund also may purchase sponsored American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") or U.S. denominated securities of foreign issuers. ADRs are receipts issued by United States banks or trust companies in respect of securities of foreign issuers held on deposit for use in the United States securities markets. While ADRs may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the securities into which they may be converted, many of the risks associated with foreign securities may also apply to ADRs.

FUTURES TRANSACTIONS

Futures and options on futures entail certain risks, including but not limited to the following:

- o no assurance that futures contracts or options on futures can be offset at favorable prices;
- o possible reduction of the yield of the Fund due to the use of hedging;

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

- o possible reduction in value of both the securities hedged and the hedging instrument;
- o possible lack of liquidity due to daily limits or price fluctuations;
- o imperfect correlation between the contracts and the securities being hedged; and
- o losses from investing in futures transactions that are potentially unlimited and the segregation requirements for such transactions.

For a further description of the Fund's investments in futures, see "Investment Objective and Policies -- Investment Practices" in the SAI.

FORWARD CURRENCY EXCHANGE CONTRACTS

The use of forward currency contracts may involve certain risks, including the failure of the counter party to perform its obligations under the contract and that the use of forward contracts may not serve as a complete hedge because of an imperfect correlation between movements in the prices of the contracts and the prices of the currencies hedged or used for cover. For a further description of such investments, see "Investment Objective and Policies -- Investment Practices" in the SAI.

DEPENDENCE ON KEY PERSONNEL

The Investment Adviser is dependent upon the expertise of Mr. Mario J. Gabelli in providing advisory services with respect to the Fund's investments. If the Investment Adviser were to lose the services of Mr. Gabelli, its ability to service the Fund could be adversely affected. There can be no assurance that a suitable replacement could be found for Mr. Gabelli in the event of his death, resignation, retirement or inability to act on behalf of the Investment Adviser.

CURRENT MARKET UNCERTAINTIES

As a result of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, some of the U.S. Securities Markets were closed for a four-day period. These terrorists attacks and related events have led to increased short-term market volatility and may have long-term effects on U.S. and world markets. Similar events in the future or other disruptions of financial markets could affect interest rates, securities exchanges, auctions, secondary trading, rating, credit risk, inflation and other factors relating to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

HOW THE FUND MANAGES RISK

INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS

The Fund has adopted certain investment limitations designed to limit investment risk and maintain portfolio diversification. These limitations are fundamental and may not be changed without the approval of the holders of a majority, as defined in the 1940 Act, of the outstanding common shares and preferred shares voting together as a single class. See "Investment Restrictions" in the SAI for a complete list of the fundamental investment policies of the Fund. The Fund may become subject to guidelines that are more limiting than its fundamental investment restrictions set forth above in order to obtain and maintain ratings from [] or [] on its preferred shares.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

INTEREST RATE TRANSACTIONS

In order to reduce the impact of changes in the dividend rate of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred or obtain the equivalent of a fixed rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred that is lower than the Fund would have to pay if it issued fixed rate preferred shares, the Fund may enter into interest rate swap or cap transactions.

The use of interest rate swaps and caps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. In an interest rate swap, the Fund would agree to pay to the other party to the interest rate swap (which is known as the "counterparty") periodically a fixed rate payment in exchange for the counterparty agreeing to pay to the Fund periodically a variable rate payment that is intended to approximate the Fund's variable rate payment obligation on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. In an interest rate cap, the Fund would pay a premium to the counterparty to the interest rate cap and, to the extent that a specified variable rate index exceeds a predetermined fixed rate, would receive from the counterparty payments of the difference based on the notional amount of such cap. Interest rate swap and cap transactions introduce additional risk because the Fund would remain obligated to pay preferred share dividends when due in accordance with the Statement of Preferences even if the counterparty defaulted. Depending on the general state of short-term interest rates and the returns on the Fund's portfolio securities at that point in time, such a default could negatively affect the Fund's ability to make dividend payments on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. In addition, at the time an interest rate swap or cap transaction reaches its scheduled termination date, there is a risk that the Fund will not be able to obtain a replacement transaction or that the terms of the replacement will not be as favorable as on the expiring transaction. If this occurs, it could have a negative impact on the Fund's ability to make dividend payments on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. To the extent there is a decline in interest rates, the value of the interest rate swap or cap could decline, resulting in a decline in the asset coverage for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. A sudden and dramatic decline in interest rates may result in a significant decline in the asset coverage. Under the Statement of Preferences, if the Fund fails to maintain the required asset coverage on the outstanding preferred shares (including the Series B Auction Rate Preferred) or fails to comply with other covenants, the Fund may be required to redeem some or all of these shares. The Fund may also choose to redeem some or all of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at any time. Such redemption would likely result in the Fund seeking to terminate early all or a portion of any swap or cap transaction. Early termination of a swap could result in a termination payment by the Fund to the counterparty, while early termination of a cap could result in a termination payment to the Fund.

The Fund will usually enter into swaps or caps on a net basis; that is, the two payment streams will be netted out in a cash settlement on the payment date or dates specified in the instrument, with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments. The Fund intends to segregate cash or liquid securities having a value at least equal to the value of the Fund's net payment obligations under any swap transaction, marked to market daily. The Fund does not presently intend to enter into interest rate swap or cap transactions relating to Series B Auction Rate Preferred in a notional amount in excess of the outstanding amount of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The Fund will monitor any such swap with a view to ensuring that the Fund remains in compliance with all applicable regulatory investment policy and tax requirements.

MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

GENERAL

The Fund's Board of Trustees (who, with its officers, are described in the SAI) has overall responsibility for the management of the Fund. The Board decides upon matters of general policy and reviews the actions of the Investment Adviser, Gabelli Funds, LLC, located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422, and the Sub-Administrator (as defined below). Pursuant to an Investment Advisory Contract with the Fund, the Investment Adviser, under the supervision of the Fund's Board of Trustees, provides a continuous investment program for the Fund's portfolio; provides investment research and makes and executes recommendations for the purchase and sale of securities; and provides all facilities and personnel, including officers required for its administrative management and pays the compensation of all officers and directors of the Fund who are its affiliates. As compensation for its services and the related expenses borne by the Investment Adviser, the Fund pays the Investment Adviser a fee, computed daily and payable monthly, equal, on an annual basis, to 1.00% of the Fund's average weekly net assets. However, the Investment Adviser will waive the portion of its investment advisory fee attributable to an amount of assets of the Fund equal to the aggregate stated value of, as the case may be, its outstanding Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred for any calendar year in which the net asset value total return of the Fund allocable to the common shares, including distributions and the advisory fee subject to potential waiver, is less than (i) in the case of the Series A Preferred, the stated annual dividend rate of such series and (ii) in the case of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the net cost of capital to the Fund with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred for such year expressed as a percentage (including, without duplication, dividends paid by the Fund on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and the net cost to the Fund of any associated swap or cap transaction if the Fund hedges its Series B Auction Rate Preferred dividend obligations). For purposes of the calculation of the fees payable to the Investment Adviser by the Fund, average weekly net assets of the Fund are determined at the end of each month on the basis of its average net assets for each week during the month. The assets for each weekly period are determined by averaging the net assets at the end of a week with the net assets at the end of the prior week.

THE INVESTMENT ADVISER

Gabelli Funds, LLC acts as the Fund's Investment Adviser pursuant to an advisory agreement with the Fund. The Investment Adviser is a New York corporation with principal offices located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580. The Investment Adviser was organized in 1999 and is the successor to Gabelli Funds, Inc., which was organized in 1980. As of [___], 2003, the Investment Adviser acted as registered investment adviser to [___] management investment companies with aggregate net assets of \$[___] billion. The Investment Adviser, together with other affiliated investment advisers noted below had assets under management totaling approximately \$[___] billion as of [___], 2003. GAMCO Investors, Inc., an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, acts as investment adviser for individuals, pension trusts, profit sharing trusts and endowments, and as a sub-adviser to management investment companies having aggregate assets of \$[___] billion under management as of [___], 2003. Gabelli Fixed Income LLC, an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, acts as investment adviser for The Treasurer's Fund and separate accounts having aggregate assets of \$[___] billion under management as of [___], 2003. Gabelli Advisers, Inc., an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, acts as investment manager to the Gabelli Westwood Funds having aggregate assets of \$[___] million under management as of [___], 2003.

The Investment Adviser is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gabelli Asset Management Inc., a New York corporation, whose Class A Common Stock is traded on the NYSE under the symbol "GBL." Mr. Mario J. Gabelli may be deemed a

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

"controlling person" of the Investment Adviser on the basis of his ownership of a majority of the stock of the Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc., which owns a majority of the capital stock of Gabelli Asset Management Inc.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

The Investment Adviser is obligated to pay expenses associated with providing the services contemplated by the Investment Advisory Agreement between the Fund and the Investment Adviser (the "Advisory Agreement") including compensation of and office space for its officers and employees connected with investment and economic research, trading and investment management and administration of the Fund, as well as the fees of all directors of the Fund who are affiliated with the Investment Adviser. The Fund pays all other expenses incurred in its operation including, among other things, expenses for legal and independent accountants' services, costs of printing proxies, share certificates and shareholder reports, charges of the custodian, any subcustodian and transfer and dividend paying agent, expenses in connection with its respective automatic dividend reinvestment and voluntary cash purchase plan, SEC fees, fees and expenses of unaffiliated directors, accounting and pricing costs, including costs of calculating the net asset value of the Fund, membership fees in trade associations, fidelity bond coverage for its officers and employees, directors' and officers' errors and omission insurance coverage, interest, brokerage costs, taxes, stock exchange listing fees and expenses, expenses of qualifying its shares for sale in various states, litigation and other extraordinary or non-recurring expenses, and other expenses properly payable by the Fund.

In addition to the fees of the Investment Adviser, the Fund is responsible for the payment of all its other expenses incurred in the operation of the Fund, which include, among other things, expenses for legal and independent accountant's services, stock exchange listing fees, expenses relating to the offering of preferred shares, rating agency fees, costs of printing proxies, share certificates and shareholder reports, charges of State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street" or the "Custodian"), charges of EquiServe and The Bank of New York, SEC fees, fees and expenses of unaffiliated directors, accounting and printing costs, the Fund's pro rata portion of membership fees in trade organizations, fidelity bond coverage for the Fund's officers and employees, interest, brokerage costs, taxes, expenses of qualifying the Fund for sale in various states, expenses of personnel performing shareholder servicing functions, litigation and other extraordinary or non-recurring expenses and other expenses properly payable by the Fund.

SELECTION OF SECURITIES BROKERS

The Investment Advisory Contract contains provisions relating to the selection of securities brokers to effect the portfolio transactions of the Fund. Under those provisions, the Investment Adviser may (i) direct Fund portfolio brokerage to Gabelli & Company, Inc. or other broker-dealer affiliates of the Investment Adviser and (ii) pay commissions to brokers other than Gabelli & Company, Inc. that are higher than might be charged by another qualified broker to obtain brokerage and/or research services considered by the Investment Adviser to be useful or desirable for its investment management of the Fund and/or its other advisory accounts or those of any investment adviser affiliated with it. The SAI contains further information about the Investment Advisory Contract including a more complete description of the advisory and expense arrangements, exculpatory and brokerage provisions, as well as information on the brokerage practices of the Fund.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER

Mario J. Gabelli is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Mr. Gabelli has served as Chairman, President and Chief Investment

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Officer of the Investment Adviser since 1980. Mr. Gabelli also serves as Portfolio Manager for several other funds in the Gabelli fund family. Because of the diverse nature of Mr. Gabelli's responsibilities, he will devote less than all of his time to the day-to-day management at the Fund. Over the past five years, Mr. Gabelli has served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Gabelli Asset Management Inc.; Chief Investment Officer of GAMCO Investors, Inc.; and Vice Chairman of the Board of Lynch Corporation, a diversified manufacturing company, and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Lynch Interactive Corporation, a multimedia and communications services company.

NON-RESIDENT DIRECTOR

Karl Otto Pohl, a director of the Fund, resides outside the United States and all or a significant portion of his assets are located outside the United States. Mr. Pohl does not have an authorized agent in the United States to receive service of process. As a result, it may not be possible for investors to effect service of process within the United States or to enforce against Mr. Pohl in United States courts judgments predicated upon civil liability provisions of United States securities laws. It may also not be possible to enforce against Mr. Pohl in foreign courts judgments of United States courts or liabilities in original actions predicated upon civil liability provisions of the United States securities laws.

SUB-ADMINISTRATOR

The Investment Adviser has entered into sub-administration agreement with PFPC Inc. (the "Sub-Administrator") pursuant to which the Sub-Administrator provides certain administrative services necessary for the Fund's operations which do not include the investment advisory and portfolio management services provided by the Investment Adviser. For these services and the related expenses borne by the Sub-Administrator, the Investment Adviser pays a prorated monthly fee at the annual rate of .0275% of the first \$10.0 billion of the aggregate average net assets of the Fund and all other funds advised by the Investment Adviser and administered by the Sub-Administrator, .0125% of the aggregate average net assets exceeding \$10 billion and .01% of the aggregate average net assets in excess of \$15 billion. The Sub-Administrator has its principal office at 760 Moore Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406.

PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

Principal transactions are not entered into with affiliates of the Fund. However, Gabelli & Company, Inc., an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, may execute portfolio transactions on stock exchanges and in the over-the-counter markets on an agency basis and receive a stated commission therefor. For a more detailed discussion of the Fund's brokerage allocation practices, see "Portfolio Transactions" in the SAI.

DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The Fund may retain for reinvestment, and pay the resulting federal income taxes on, its net capital gain, if any, although the Fund reserves the authority to distribute its net capital gain in any year. If, for any calendar year, the total distributions exceed net investment income and net capital gain, the excess will generally be treated as a tax-free return of capital up to the amount of a shareholder's tax basis in the shares. The amount treated as a tax-free return of capital will reduce a shareholder's tax basis in the shares, thereby increasing such shareholder's potential gain or reducing his or her potential loss on the sale of the shares. Any amounts distributed to a

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

shareholder in excess of the basis in the shares will be taxable to the shareholder as capital gain. See "Taxation" below.

In the event the Fund distributes amounts in excess of its net investment income and net capital gain, such distributions will decrease the Fund's total assets and, therefore, have the likely effect of increasing the Fund's expense ratio. In addition, in order to make such distributions, the Fund might have to sell a portion of its investment portfolio at a time when independent investment judgment might not dictate such action.

The Fund, along with other registered investment companies advised by the Investment Adviser, has obtained an exemption from Section 19(b) of the 1940 Act and Rule 19b-1 thereunder permitting the Fund to make periodic distributions of long-term capital gains provided that any distribution policy of the Fund with respect to its common shares calls for periodic (e.g., quarterly or semi-annually, but in no event more frequently than monthly) distributions in an amount equal to a fixed percentage of the Fund's average net asset value over a specified period of time or market price per common share at or about the time of distribution or pay-out of a fixed dollar amount. The Fund's current policy is to make monthly distributions to holders of its common shares. The exemption also permits the Fund to make distributions with respect to its preferred shares in accordance with such shares' terms.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERIES A PREFERRED AND SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

The Fund offers by this prospectus, in the aggregate, \$[]million of preferred shares of either Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, or a combination of both such series. The following is a brief description of the terms of each of the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified by reference to the Fund's Governing Documents, including the provisions of the Statement of Preferences establishing each of the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. For complete terms of the Series A Preferred or the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, including definitions of terms used in this prospectus, please refer to the actual terms of such series, which are set forth in the applicable Statement of Preferences.

GENERAL

The Fund is authorized to issue up to [] preferred shares as Series A Preferred and up to [] preferred shares as Series B Auction Rate Preferred. No fractional shares of either series will be issued. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to issue additional preferred shares, including Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, from time to time, subject to the restrictions in the Fund's Governing Documents and the 1940 Act.

If and when issued, the Series A Preferred will have a liquidation preference of \$25 per share and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will have a liquidation preference of \$25,000 per share. Upon a liquidation, each holder of Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be entitled to receive out of the assets of the Fund available for distribution to shareholders (after payment of claims of the Fund's creditors but before any distributions with respect to the Fund's common shares or any other shares of the Fund ranking junior to the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to liquidation payments) an amount per share equal to such share's liquidation preference plus any accumulated but unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date of distribution. The Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will rank on a parity with any other series of preferred shares of the Fund as to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon liquidation. Series A Preferred and Series B

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Auction Rate Preferred each carry one vote per share on all matters on which such shares are entitled to vote. The Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will, upon issuance, be fully paid and nonassessable and will have no preemptive, exchange or conversion rights. [Any Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred repurchased or redeemed by the Fund will be classified as authorized but unissued preferred shares.] The Board of Trustees may by resolution classify or reclassify any authorized but unissued capital shares of the Fund from time to time by setting or changing the preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or terms or conditions of redemption. The Fund will not issue any class of shares senior to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

RATING AGENCY GUIDELINES

Upon issuance, both the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be rated [] by []. In addition, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will also be rated [] by []. The Fund is required under [] and [] guidelines to maintain assets having in the aggregate a discounted value at least equal to the Basic Maintenance Amount (as defined below) for its outstanding preferred shares, including any outstanding Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, with respect to the separate guidelines [] and [] has each established for determining discounted value. To the extent any particular portfolio holding does not satisfy the applicable rating agency's guidelines, all or a portion of such holding's value will not be included in the calculation of discounted value (as defined by such rating agency). The [] and [] guidelines also impose certain diversification requirements and industry concentration limitations on the Fund's overall portfolio, and apply specified discounts to securities held by the Fund (except certain money market securities). The "Basic Maintenance Amount" is equal to (i) the sum of (a) the aggregate liquidation preference of the preferred shares then outstanding plus (to the extent not included in the liquidation preference of such preferred shares) an amount equal to the aggregate accumulated but unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) in respect of such preferred shares, (b) the total principal of any debt (plus accrued and projected interest), (c) certain Fund expenses and (d) certain other current liabilities (excluding any unpaid dividends on the Fund's common shares) less (ii) the Fund's (a) cash and (b) assets consisting of indebtedness which (x) is to mature prior to or on the date of redemption or repurchase of the preferred shares, (y) are U.S. government obligations or evidences of indebtedness rated at least Aaa, P-1, VMIG-1 or MIG-1 by Moody's or AAA, SP-1+ or A-1+ by Standard and Poor's, and (z) is held by the Fund for the payment of dividends or distributions, the amounts needed to redeem or repurchase preferred shares, or the Fund's liabilities.

If the Fund does not timely cure a failure to maintain a discounted value of its portfolio equal to the Basic Maintenance Amount in accordance with the requirements of the applicable rating agency or agencies then rating the Series A Preferred or the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund, the Fund may, and in certain circumstances will be required to, mandatorily redeem preferred shares, including the Series A Preferred or the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as described below under " -- Redemption."

The Fund may, but is not required to, adopt any modifications to the rating agency guidelines that may hereafter be established by [] or []. Failure to adopt any such modifications, however, may result in a change in the relevant rating agency's ratings or a withdrawal of such ratings altogether. In addition, any rating agency providing a rating for the Series A Preferred or the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund may, at any time, change or withdraw any such rating. The Board of Trustees, without further action by the shareholders, may amend, alter, add to or repeal certain of the definitions and related provisions that have been adopted by the Fund

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

pursuant to the rating agency guidelines if the Board of Trustees determines that such modification is necessary to prevent a reduction in rating of the preferred shares by [] and/or [], as the case may be, or is in the best interests of the holders of common shares and is not adverse to the holders of preferred shares in view of advice to the Fund by [] and [] (or such other rating agency then rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund) that such modification would not adversely affect its then-current rating of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as the case may be.

In addition, with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the Board of Trustees may amend the Statement of Preferences definition of "Maximum Rate" (the "maximum rate" as defined below under " -- Dividends on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Maximum Rate") to increase the percentage amount by which the "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate or the Treasury Index Rate, whichever is applicable, is multiplied to determine the maximum rate without the vote or consent of the holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred or any other shareholder of the Fund, but only after consultation with the broker-dealers for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, and with confirmation from each applicable rating agency that the Fund could meet the Basic Maintenance Amount Test applicable to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred immediately following any such increase. See "-- Dividends on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Maximum Rate."

As described by [] and [], the ratings assigned to the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred are assessments of the capacity and willingness of the Fund to pay the obligations of each of the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The ratings on the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred are not recommendations to purchase, hold or sell shares of either series, inasmuch as the ratings do not comment as to market price or suitability for a particular investor. The rating agency guidelines also do not address the likelihood that an owner of Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be able to sell such shares on an exchange, in an auction or otherwise. The ratings are based on current information furnished to [] and [] by the Fund and the Investment Adviser and information obtained from other sources. The ratings may be changed, suspended or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or the unavailability of, such information.

The rating agency guidelines will apply to the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as the case may be, only so long as such rating agency is rating such shares at the request of the Fund. The Fund will pay fees to [] and [] for rating the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

ASSET MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirements summarized under " -- Rating Agency Guidelines" above, the Fund must also satisfy asset maintenance requirements under the 1940 Act with respect to its preferred shares. The 1940 Act requirements are summarized below.

The Fund will be required under the Statement of Preferences for each of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred to determine whether it has as of the last business day of each March, June, September and December of each year, an "asset coverage" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of at least 200% (or such higher or lower percentage as may be required at the time under the 1940 Act) with respect to all outstanding senior securities of the Fund that are stock, including any outstanding Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. If the Fund fails to maintain the asset coverage required under the 1940 Act on such dates and such failure is not cured within 60 days, in the case of the Series A Preferred, or 10 days, in the

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

case of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, (including the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred) the Fund may, and in certain circumstances will be required to, mandatorily redeem preferred shares sufficient to satisfy such asset coverage. See "-- Redemption" below.

If the shares of Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered hereby had been issued and sold as of [___], 2003, the asset coverage required under the 1940 Act immediately following such issuance and sale (after giving effect to the deduction of the underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses for such shares of \$[___]), would have been computed as follows:

value of Fund assets less liabilities not constituting senior securities (\$[___]) / senior securities representing indebtedness plus liquidation preference of each class of preferred shares (\$[___]), expressed as a percentage = [___]%.

Assuming in addition that the Fund's rights offering also had been completed as of March [___], 2003, the above computation would be as follows:

value of Fund assets less liabilities not constituting senior securities (\$[___]) / senior securities representing indebtedness plus liquidation preference of each class of preferred shares (\$[___]), expressed as a percentage = [___]%.

DIVIDENDS ON THE SERIES A PREFERRED

Upon issuance of the Series A Preferred (if issued), holders of shares of Series A Preferred will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Trustees of the Fund out of funds legally available therefor, cumulative cash dividends, at the annual rate of [___] % (computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) of the liquidation preference of \$25 per share, payable quarterly on March 26, June 26, September 26 and December 26 in each year or, if any such day is not a business day, the immediately succeeding business day. Such dividends will commence on [___], 2003, and will be payable to the persons in whose names the shares of Series A Preferred are registered at the close of business on the fifth preceding business day.

Dividends on the shares of Series A Preferred will accumulate from the date on which such shares are issued; provided, however, that any shares of Series A Preferred issued within 30 days of the original issue date of the series will accumulate dividends from the series' original date of issue.

DIVIDENDS ON THE SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

General. Upon issuance of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred (if issued), the holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be entitled to receive cash dividends stated at annual rates as a percentage of its \$25,000 per share liquidation preference, that will vary from dividend period to dividend period. The dividend rate for the initial dividend period for any Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered in this prospectus will be the rate set out on the cover of this prospectus. For subsequent dividend periods, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will pay dividends based on a rate set at the auction, normally held weekly, but the rates set at the auction will not exceed the maximum rate. Dividend periods generally will be seven days, and the dividend periods generally will begin on the first business day after an auction. In most instances, dividends are also paid weekly, on the business day following the end of the dividend period. The Fund, subject to some limitations, may change the length of the dividend periods, designating them as

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

"special dividend periods," as described below.

Dividend Payments. Except as described below, the dividend payment date will be the first business day after the dividend period ends. The dividend payment dates for special dividend periods of more (or less) than seven days will be set out in the notice designating a special dividend period. See " -- Designation of Special Dividend Periods" for a discussion of payment dates for a special dividend period.

Dividends on Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be paid on the dividend payment date to holders of record as their names appear on the Fund's share ledger or share records on the business day next preceding the dividend payment date. If dividends are in arrears, they may be declared and paid at any time to holders of record as their names appear on the Fund's share ledger or share records on a date not more than 15 days before the payment date, as the Fund's Board of Trustees may fix.

The dividend paying agent, in accordance with its current procedures, is expected to credit in same-day funds on each dividend payment date dividends received from the Fund to the accounts of broker-dealers who act on behalf of holders of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Such broker-dealers, in turn, are expected to distribute dividend payments to the person for whom they are acting as agents. If a broker-dealer does not make dividends available to Series B Auction Rate Preferred holders in same-day funds, these shareholders will not have funds available until the next business day.

Dividend Rate Set at Auction. The Series B Auction Rate Preferred pays dividends based on a rate set at auction at which Series B Auction Rate Preferred may be bought and sold. The auction usually is held weekly, but may be held more or less frequently. The Bank of New York, the auction agent, reviews orders from broker-dealers on behalf of existing holders who wish to sell, hold at the auction rate, or hold only at a specified dividend rate, and on behalf of potential holders who wish to buy Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The auction agent then determines the lowest dividend rate that will result in all of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred continuing to be held. See "The Auction of Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

If an auction is not held because an unforeseen event, or unforeseen events cause a day that otherwise would have been an auction date not to be a business day, then the length of the then-current dividend period will be extended by seven days (or a multiple thereof if necessary because of such unforeseen event or events), the applicable rate for such period will be the applicable rate for the then-current dividend period so extended and the dividend payment date for such dividend period will be the first business day immediately succeeding the end of such period.

Determination of Dividend Rates. The Fund computes the dividends per share by multiplying the applicable rate determined at the auction by a fraction, the numerator of which normally is the number of days in such dividend period and the denominator of which is 360. This applicable rate is then multiplied by \$25,000 to arrive at the dividend per share.

Maximum Rate. The dividend rate that results from an auction for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will not be greater than the applicable "maximum rate." The maximum rate means (i) in the case of a dividend period of 184 days or less, the applicable percentage of the "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate on the date of such auction determined as set forth in the following chart based on the lower of the credit ratings assigned to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred by [] and [] or (ii) in the case of a dividend period of longer than 184 days, the applicable percentage of the Treasury Index Rate.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

[] Credit Rating	[] Credit Rating	Applicable Percenta
[__] or higher	[__] or higher	150%
[__] to [__]	[__] to [__]	175%
[__] to [__]	[__] to [__]	250%
Below [__]	Below [__]--	275%

The "Treasury Index Rate" means the average yield to maturity for actively traded marketable U.S. Treasury fixed interest rate securities having the same number of 30-day periods to maturity as the length of the applicable dividend period, determined, to the extent necessary, by linear interpolation based upon the yield for such securities having the next shorter and next longer number of 30-day periods to maturity treating all dividend periods with a length greater than the longest maturity for such securities as having a length equal to such longest maturity, in all cases based upon data set forth in the most recent weekly statistical release published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (currently in H.15 (519)); provided, however, that if the most recent such statistical release will not have been published during the 15 days preceding the date of computation, the foregoing computations will be based upon the average of comparable data as quoted to the Fund by at least three recognized dealers in U.S. government securities selected by the Fund.

There is no minimum dividend rate in respect of any dividend period.

Effect of Failure to Pay Dividends in a Timely Manner. If the Fund fails to pay the paying agent the full amount of any dividend for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred in a timely manner, but the Fund cures the failure and pays any late charge before 12:00 noon, New York City time on the third business day following the date the failure occurred, no default will be deemed to have occurred and the dividend rate for the dividend period immediately following the dividend with respect to which the dividend payment default would otherwise have occurred will be the applicable rate set at the auction for such dividend period.

However, if the Fund does not effect a timely cure, the dividend rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred for such default period, and any subsequent dividend period for which such default is continuing, will be the default rate. In the event the Fund fully pays all default amounts due during a dividend period, the dividend rate for the remainder of that dividend period will be, as the case may be, the applicable rate (for the first dividend period following a dividend default) or the then-maximum rate (for any subsequent dividend period for which such default is continuing).

The default rate means 300% of the applicable "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate for a dividend period of 184 days or fewer and 300% of the applicable Treasury Index Rate for a dividend period of longer than 184 days. Late charges are also calculated at the applicable default rate.

Designation of Special Dividend Periods. The Fund may instruct the auction agent to hold auctions and pay dividends more or less frequently than weekly. The Fund may do this if, for example, the Fund expects that short-term rates might increase or market conditions otherwise change, in an effort to optimize the effect of the Fund's leverage on holders of its common shares. The Fund does not currently expect to hold auctions and pay dividends less

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

frequently than weekly in the near future. If the Fund designates a special dividend period, changes in interest rates could affect the price received if shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred are sold in the secondary market.

Any designation of a special dividend period will be effective only if (i) notice thereof will have been given as provided for in the Governing Documents, (ii) any failure to pay in a timely matter to the auction agent the full amount of any dividend on, or the redemption price of, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will have been cured as provided for in the Governing Documents, (iii) the auction immediately preceding the special dividend period was not a failed auction, (iv) if the Fund will have mailed a notice of redemption with respect to Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the Fund will have deposited with the paying agent all funds necessary for such redemption, and (v) the Fund has confirmed that as of the auction date next preceding the first day of such special dividend period, it has assets with an aggregate discounted value at least equal to the Basic Maintenance Amount (as defined below), and the Fund has consulted with the broker-dealers for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and has provided notice of such designation and a Basic Maintenance Report to each rating agency then rating the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund.

The dividend payment date for any special dividend period will be the first business day after the end of the special dividend period. In addition, for special dividend periods of (x) at least 91 days but not more than one year, dividend payment dates will occur on the 91st, 181st and 271st days within such dividend period, if applicable, and (y) more than one year, dividend payment dates will occur on each March 26, June 26, September 26 and December 26 during the special dividend period.

Before the Fund designates a special dividend period: (i) at least seven business days (or two business days in the event the duration of the dividend period prior to such special dividend period is less than eight days) and not more than 30 business days before the first day of the proposed special dividend period, the Fund will issue a press release stating its intention to designate a special dividend period and inform the auction agent of the proposed special dividend period by telephonic or other means and confirm it in writing promptly thereafter and (ii) the Fund must inform the auction agent of the proposed special dividend period by 3:00 p.m., New York City time on the second business day before the first day of the proposed special dividend period.

See the SAI for more information.

RESTRICTIONS ON DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SERIES A PREFERRED AND THE SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

So long as any Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred is outstanding, the Fund may not pay any dividend or distribution (other than a dividend or distribution paid in common shares or in options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase common shares) in respect of the common shares or call for redemption, redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire for consideration any common shares (except by conversion into or exchange for shares of the Fund ranking junior to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon liquidation), unless:

- o the Fund has declared and paid (or provided to the relevant dividend paying agent) all cumulative dividends on the Fund's preferred shares, including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, due on or prior to the date of such common share dividend or distribution;

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

- o the Fund has redeemed the full number of shares of Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred to be redeemed pursuant to any mandatory redemption provision in the Fund's Governing Documents; and
- o after paying the dividend, the Fund meets applicable asset coverage requirements described under " -- Rating Agency Guidelines" and " -- Asset Maintenance Requirements."

No full dividend will be declared or paid on the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred for any dividend period, or part thereof, unless full cumulative dividends due through the most recent dividend payment dates therefor for all outstanding series of preferred shares of the Fund ranking on a parity with the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to the payment of dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid. If full cumulative dividends due have not been paid on all outstanding preferred shares of the Fund ranking on a parity with the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to the payment of dividends, any dividends being paid on the preferred shares (including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred) will be paid as nearly pro rata as possible in proportion to the respective amounts of dividends accumulated but unpaid on each such series of preferred shares on the relevant dividend payment date.

REDEMPTION

Mandatory Redemption Relating to Asset Coverage Requirements. The Fund may, at its option, consistent with its Governing Documents and the 1940 Act, and in certain circumstances will be required to, mandatorily redeem preferred shares (including, at its discretion, the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred) in the event that:

- o the Fund fails to maintain the asset coverage requirements specified under the 1940 Act and such failure is not cured on or before 60 days, in the case of the Series A Preferred, or 10 business days in the case of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred following such failure; or
- o the Fund fails to maintain the asset coverage requirements as calculated in accordance with the applicable rating agency guidelines as of any monthly valuation date, and such failure is not cured on or before 10 business days after such valuation date.

The redemption price for shares of each of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to mandatory redemption will be, respectively, \$25 per share and \$25,000 per share, in each case plus an amount equal to any accumulated but unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date fixed for redemption, plus (in the case of Series B Auction Rate Preferred having a dividend period of more than one year) any applicable redemption premium determined by the Board of Trustees.

The number of preferred shares that will be redeemed in the case of a mandatory redemption will equal the minimum number of outstanding preferred shares, the redemption of which, if such redemption had occurred immediately prior to the opening of business on the applicable cure date, would have resulted in the relevant asset coverage requirement having been met or, if the required asset coverage cannot be so restored, all of the preferred shares. In the event that preferred shares are redeemed due to a failure to satisfy the 1940 Act asset coverage requirements, the Fund may, but is not required to, redeem a sufficient number of preferred shares so that the Fund's assets exceed the asset coverage requirements under the 1940 Act after the redemption by 10%

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

(that is, 220% asset coverage). In the event that preferred shares are redeemed due to a failure to satisfy applicable rating agency guidelines, the Fund may, but is not required to, redeem a sufficient number of preferred shares so that the Fund's discounted portfolio value (as determined in accordance with the applicable rating agency guidelines) after redemption exceeds the rating agency guidelines asset coverage requirements by up to 10% (that is, 110% rating agency asset coverage). In addition, as discussed under " -- Optional Redemption" below, the Fund generally may exercise its optional redemption rights with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at any time.

If the Fund does not have funds legally available for the redemption of, or is otherwise unable to redeem, all the preferred shares to be redeemed on any redemption date, the Fund will redeem on such redemption date that number of shares for which it has legally available funds, or is otherwise able to redeem, from the holders whose shares are to be redeemed ratably on the basis of the redemption price of such shares, and the remainder of those shares to be redeemed will be redeemed on the earliest practicable date on which the Fund will have funds legally available for the redemption of, or is otherwise able to redeem, such shares upon written notice of redemption.

If fewer than all of the Fund's outstanding preferred shares are to be redeemed, the Fund, at its discretion and subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act and Delaware law, will select the one or more series of preferred shares from which shares will be redeemed and the amount of preferred shares to be redeemed from each such series. If less than all preferred shares of a series are to be redeemed, such redemption will be made as among the holders of that series pro rata in accordance with the respective number of shares of such series held by each such holder on the record date for such redemption (or by such other equitable method as the Fund may determine). If fewer than all the preferred shares held by any holder are to be redeemed, the notice of redemption mailed to such holder will specify the number of shares to be redeemed from such holder, which may be expressed as a percentage of shares held on the applicable record date.

Optional Redemption of the Series A Preferred. Prior to [___], 2008, the shares of Series A Preferred are not subject to optional redemption by the Fund unless such redemption is necessary, in the judgment of the Fund, to maintain the Fund's status as a regulated investment company under the Code. Commencing on [___], 2008 and thereafter, the Fund may at any time redeem shares of Series A Preferred in whole or in part for cash at a redemption price per share equal to \$25 per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the redemption date. Such redemptions are subject to the notice requirements set forth under " -- Redemption Procedures" and the limitations of the 1940 Act and Delaware law.

Optional Redemption of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The Fund may, at its option, redeem the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, in whole or in part, at any time following the initial dividend period so long as the Fund has not designated a non-call period. The Fund may designate a non-call period during a dividend period of more than seven days. In the case of Series B Auction Rate Preferred having a dividend period of one year or less, the redemption price per share will equal \$25,000 plus an amount equal to any accumulated but unpaid dividends thereon (whether or not earned or declared) to the redemption date, and in the case of Series B Auction Rate Preferred having a dividend period of more than one year, for the redemption price plus any redemption premium applicable during such dividend period. Such redemptions are subject to the notice requirements set forth under " -- Redemption Procedures" and the limitations of the 1940 Act and Delaware law.

Redemption Procedures. A notice of redemption with respect to an optional redemption will be given to the holders of record of preferred shares

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

selected for redemption not less than 15 days (subject to NYSE requirements), in the case of the Series A Preferred, and not less than 7 days in the case of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, nor, in both cases, more than 40 days prior to the date fixed for redemption. Preferred shareholders may receive shorter notice in the event of a mandatory redemption. Each notice of redemption will state (i) the redemption date, (ii) the number or percentage of preferred shares to be redeemed (which may be expressed as a percentage of such shares outstanding), (iii) the CUSIP number(s) of such shares, (iv) the redemption price (specifying the amount of accumulated dividends to be included therein), (v) the place or places where such shares are to be redeemed, (vi) that dividends on the shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue on such redemption date, (vii) the provision of the Statement of Preferences under which the redemption is being made and (viii) any conditions precedent to such redemption. No defect in the notice of redemption or in the mailing thereof will affect the validity of the redemption proceedings, except as required by applicable law.

The holders of Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will not have the right to redeem their shares of the Fund at their option.

LIQUIDATION RIGHTS

Upon a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Fund (whether voluntary or involuntary), holders of Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred then outstanding will be entitled to receive out of the assets of the Fund available for distribution to shareholders, after satisfying claims of creditors but before any distribution or payment of assets is made to holders of the common shares or any other class of shares of the Fund ranking junior to the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to liquidation payments, a liquidation distribution in the amount of \$25 per share, in the case of the Series A Preferred, or \$25,000 per share, in the case of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, in either case plus an amount equal to all unpaid dividends accrued to and including the date fixed for such distribution or payment (whether or not earned or declared by the Fund but excluding interest thereon), and such holders will be entitled to no further participation in any distribution or payment in connection with any such liquidation, dissolution or winding up. If, upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Fund, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the Fund available for distribution among the holders of all outstanding preferred shares of the Fund ranking on a parity with the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to payment upon liquidation will be insufficient to permit the payment in full to such holders of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred and other parity preferred shares of the amounts due upon liquidation with respect to such shares, then such available assets will be distributed among the holders of the Series A Preferred, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and such other parity preferred shares ratably in proportion to the respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. Unless and until the liquidation payments due to holders of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred and such other parity preferred shares have been paid in full, no dividends or distributions will be made to holders of the common shares or any other shares of the Fund ranking junior to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred and other parity preferred stock as to liquidation.

VOTING RIGHTS

Except as otherwise stated in this prospectus, specified in the Fund's Governing Documents or as otherwise required by applicable law, holders of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred along with holders of other outstanding shares of series of preferred stock, will be entitled to one vote per share held on each matter submitted to a vote of shareholders and will

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

vote together with holders of shares of common stock and of any other preferred shares then outstanding as a single class.

In connection with the election of the Fund's directors, holders of the outstanding Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Rate Preferred and the other series of preferred shares, voting together as a single class, will be entitled at all times to elect two of the Fund's directors, and the remaining directors will be elected by holders of common shares and holders of the Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Rate Preferred and other series of preferred shares, voting together as a single class. In addition, if (i) at any time dividends on the outstanding Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Rate Preferred and/or any other preferred shares are unpaid in an amount equal to at least two full years' dividends thereon and sufficient cash or specified securities have not been deposited with the applicable paying agent for the payment of such accumulated dividends or (ii) at any time holders of any other series of preferred shares are entitled to elect a majority of the directors of the Fund under the 1940 Act or the Statements of Preferences creating such shares, then the number of directors constituting the Board of Trustees automatically will be increased by the smallest number that, when added to the two directors elected exclusively by the holders of the Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Rate Preferred and other series of preferred shares as described above, would then constitute a majority of the Board of Trustees as so increased by such smallest number. Such additional directors will be elected by the holders of the Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Rate Preferred and the other series of preferred shares, voting together as a single class, at a special meeting of shareholders which will be called as soon as practicable and will be held not less than 10 or more than 20 days after the mailing date of the meeting notice. If the Fund fails to send such meeting notice or to call such a special meeting, the meeting may be called by any preferred shareholder on like notice. The terms of office of the persons who are directors at the time of that election will continue. If the Fund thereafter pays or declares and sets apart for payment in full, all dividends payable on all outstanding preferred shares for all past dividend periods or the holders of other series of preferred shares are no longer entitled to elect such additional directors, the additional voting rights of the holders of the preferred shares as described above will cease, and the terms of office of all of the additional or replacement directors elected by the holders of the preferred shares (but not of the directors with respect to whose election the holders of common shares were entitled to vote or the two directors the holders of preferred shares have the right to elect as a separate class in any event) will terminate at the earliest time permitted by law.

So long as shares of Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred are outstanding, the Fund will not, without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the preferred shares outstanding at the time (including the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as applicable), voting separately as one class, amend, alter or repeal the provisions of the Fund's Governing Documents, whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise, so as to materially adversely affect any of the contract rights expressly set forth in the Governing Documents with respect to such preferred shares. Also, to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, in the event preferred shares of more than one series are outstanding, the Fund will not approve any of the actions set forth in the preceding sentence which materially adversely affects the contract rights expressly set forth in the Governing Documents with respect to such series of preferred shares (such as the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred) differently than those of a holder of any other series of preferred shares without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the preferred shares of each series materially adversely affected and outstanding at such time (each such materially adversely affected series voting separately as a class to the extent its rights are affected differently). Unless a higher percentage is

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

provided for under the Governing Documents or applicable provisions of Delaware law, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding preferred shares (including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred), voting together as a single class, will be required to approve any plan of reorganization adversely affecting the preferred shares or any action requiring a vote of security holders under Section 13(a) of the 1940 Act, including, among other things, changes in the Fund's investment objective or changes in the investment restrictions described as fundamental policies under "Investment Objective and Policies" and "Investment Restrictions" in this prospectus and the SAI. For purposes of the preferred share voting rights described in this section, except as otherwise required under the 1940 Act, the phrase "vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding preferred shares" (or any like phrase) means, in accordance with Section 2(a)(42) of the 1940 Act, the vote, at the annual or a special meeting of the shareholders of the Fund duly called (i) of 67% or more of the preferred shares present at such meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding preferred shares are present or represented by proxy or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding preferred shares, whichever is less. The class vote of holders of preferred shares described above in each case will be in addition to a separate vote of the requisite percentage of common shares, Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Rate Preferred and any other preferred shares, voting together as a single class, that may be necessary to authorize the action in question.

The calculation of the elements and definitions of certain terms of the rating agency guidelines may be modified by action of the Board of Trustees without further action by the shareholders if the Board of Trustees determines that such modification is necessary to prevent a reduction in rating of the preferred shares by [] and/or [] (or any other rating agency then rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund), as the case may be, or is in the best interests of the holders of common shares and is not adverse to the holders of preferred shares in view of advice to the Fund by the relevant rating agencies that such modification would not adversely affect its then-current rating of the preferred shares.

The foregoing voting provisions will not apply to any Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which such vote otherwise would be required will be effected, such shares will have been redeemed or called for redemption and sufficient cash or cash equivalents provided to the applicable paying agent to effect such redemption. The holders of Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred will have no preemptive rights or rights to cumulative voting.

LIMITATION ON ISSUANCE OF PREFERRED SHARES

So long as any Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred is outstanding, subject to receipt of approval from [] and, in the case of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, [], and subject to compliance with the Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions, the Fund may issue and sell one or more other series of preferred shares in addition to the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, provided that the Fund will, immediately after giving effect to the issuance of such additional preferred shares and to its receipt and application of the proceeds thereof (including, without limitation, to the redemption of preferred shares for which notice of redemption has been given prior to such issuance) have an "asset coverage" for all senior securities of the Fund which are stock, as defined in the 1940 Act, of at least 200% of the sum of the liquidation preference of the preferred shares of the Fund then outstanding and all indebtedness of the Fund constituting senior securities and no such additional preferred shares will have any preference or priority over any other preferred shares of the Fund

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

upon the distribution of the assets of the Fund or in respect of the payment of dividends.

The Fund does not currently intend to offer additional preferred shares or senior securities representing indebtedness. However, the Fund will consider from time to time whether to do so and may issue additional such securities were the Board of Trustees to conclude that such an offering would be consistent with the Fund's Governing Documents and applicable law, and in the best interest of existing common shareholders.

REPURCHASE OF SERIES A PREFERRED AND SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED SHARES

The Fund is a closed-end investment company and, as such, holders of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred do not and will not have the right to redeem their shares of the Fund. The Fund, however, may repurchase Series A Preferred or, outside of an auction, Series B Auction Rate Preferred when it is deemed advisable by the Board of Trustees in compliance with the requirements of the 1940 Act and regulations thereunder and other applicable requirements.

BOOK-ENTRY

Shares of Series A Preferred will initially be held in the name of Cede & Co. as nominee for DTC. The Fund will treat Cede & Co. as the holder of record of the Series A Preferred for all purposes. In accordance with the procedures of DTC, however, purchasers of Series A Preferred will be deemed the beneficial owners of shares purchased for purposes of dividends, voting and liquidation rights. Purchasers of Series A Preferred may obtain registered certificates by contacting the Transfer Agent.

Shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred will initially be held by the auction agent as custodian for Cede & Co., in whose name the shares of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred shall be registered. The Fund will treat Cede & Co. as the holder of record of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred for all purposes.

THE AUCTION OF SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

SUMMARY OF AUCTION PROCEDURES

The following is a brief summary of the auction procedures for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, which are described in more detail in the SAI. These auction procedures are complicated, and there are exceptions to these procedures. Many of the terms in this section have a special meaning. Accordingly, this description does not purport to be complete and is qualified, in its entirety, by reference to the Fund's Governing Documents, including the provisions of the Statement of Preferences establishing the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

The auctions determine the dividend rate for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, but each dividend rate will not be higher than the maximum rate. See "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Dividends on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred." If you own shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred, you may instruct your broker-dealer to enter one of three kinds of order in the auction with respect to your shares: sell, bid and hold.

- o If you enter a sell order, you indicate that you want to sell Series B Auction Rate Preferred at \$25,000 per share, no matter what the next dividend period's rate will be.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

- o If you enter a bid (or "hold at a rate") order, which must specify a dividends rate, you indicate that you want to sell Series B Auction Rate Preferred only if the next dividend period's rate is less than the rate you specify.
- o If you enter a hold order you indicate that you want to continue to own Series B Auction Rate Preferred, no matter what the next dividend period's rate will be.

You may enter different types of orders for different portions of your Series B Auction Rate Preferred. You may also enter an order to buy additional Series B Auction Rate Preferred. All orders must be for whole shares. All orders you submit are irrevocable. There is a fixed number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares, and the dividend rate likely will vary from auction to auction depending on the number of bidders, the number of shares the bidders seek to buy, the rating of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and general economic conditions including current interest rates. If you own Series B Auction Rate Preferred and submit a bid for them higher than the then-maximum rate, your bid will be treated as a sell order. If you do not enter an order, the broker-dealer will assume that you want to continue to hold Series B Auction Rate Preferred, but if you fail to submit an order and the dividend period is longer than 28 days, the broker-dealer will treat your failure to submit a bid as a sell order.

If you do not then own Series B Auction Rate Preferred, or want to buy more shares, you may instruct a broker-dealer to enter a bid order to buy shares in an auction at \$25,000 per share at or above the dividend rate you specify. If your bid for shares you do not own specifies a rate higher than the then-maximum rate, your bid will not be considered.

Broker-dealers will submit orders from existing and potential holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred to the auction agent. Neither the Fund nor the auction agent will be responsible for a broker-dealer's failure to submit orders from existing or potential holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred. A broker-dealer's failure to submit orders for Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by it or its customers will be treated in the same manner as a holder's failure to submit an order to the broker-dealer. A broker-dealer may submit orders to the auction agent for its own account. The Fund may not submit an order in any auction.

The auction agent after each auction for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will pay to each broker-dealer, from funds provided by the Fund, a service charge equal to, in the case of any auction immediately preceding a dividend period of less than 365 days, the product of (i) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days in such dividend period and the denominator of which is 365, times (ii) 1/4 of 1%, times (iii) \$25,000, times (iv) the aggregate number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares placed by such broker-dealer at such auction or, in the case of any auction immediately preceding a dividend period of one year or longer, a percentage of the purchase price of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred placed by the broker-dealers at the auction agreed to by the Fund and the broker-dealers.

If the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to bid orders by potential holders with a dividend rate equal to or lower than the then-maximum rate is at least equal to the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to sell orders, then the dividend rate for the next dividend period will be the lowest rate submitted which, taking into account that rate and all lower rates submitted in order from existing and potential holders, would result in existing and potential holders owning all the Series B Auction Rate Preferred available for purchase in the auction.

If the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to bid

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

orders by potential holders with a dividend rate equal to or lower than the then-maximum rate is less than the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to sell orders, then the auction is considered to be a failed auction, and the dividend rate will be the maximum rate. In that event, existing holders that have submitted sell orders (or are treated as having submitted sell orders) may not be able to sell any or all of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred for which they submitted sell orders.

The auction agent will not consider a bid above the then-maximum rate. The purpose of the maximum rate is to place an upper limit on dividends with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and in so doing to help protect the earnings available to pay dividends on common shares, and to serve as the dividend rate in the event of a failed auction (that is, an auction where there are more Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered for sale than there are buyers for those shares).

If broker-dealers submit or are deemed to submit hold orders for all outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the auction is considered an "all hold" auction and the dividend rate for the next dividend period will be the "all hold rate," which is 80% of the "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate, as determined in accordance with procedures set forth in the Statement of Preferences establishing the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

The auction procedures include a pro rata allocation of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares for purchase and sale. This allocation process may result in an existing holder continuing to hold or selling, or a potential holder buying, fewer shares than the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares in its order. If this happens, broker-dealers will be required to make appropriate pro rata allocations among their respective customers.

Settlement of purchases and sales will be made on the next business day (which also is a dividend payment date) after the auction date through DTC. Purchasers will pay for their Series B Auction Rate Preferred through broker-dealers in same-day funds to DTC against delivery to the broker-dealers. DTC will make payment to the sellers' broker-dealers in accordance with its normal procedures, which require broker-dealers to make payment against delivery in same-day funds. As used in this prospectus, a business day is a day on which the NYSE is open for trading, and which is not a Saturday, Sunday or any other day on which banks in New York City are authorized or obligated by law to close.

The first auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be held on [___], 2003, the business day preceding the dividend payment date for the initial dividend period. Thereafter, except during special dividend periods, auctions for Series B Auction Rate Preferred normally will be held every Tuesday (or the next preceding business day if Tuesday is a holiday), and each subsequent dividend period for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred normally will begin on the following Wednesday.

If an auction is not held because an unforeseen event or unforeseen events cause a day that otherwise would have been an auction date not to be a business day, then the length of the then-current dividend period will be extended by seven days (or a multiple thereof if necessary because of such unforeseen event or events), the applicable rate for such period will be the applicable rate for the then-current dividend period so extended and the dividend payment date for such dividend period will be the first business day immediately succeeding the end of such period.

The following is a simplified example of how a typical auction works. Assume that the Fund has 1,000 outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares and three current holders. The three current holders and three potential holders submit orders through broker-dealers at the auction:

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Current Holder A	Owens 500 shares, wants to sell all 500 shares if auction rate is less than 1.6%	Bid order at 1.6% rate for all 500 shares
Current Holder B	Owens 300 shares, wants to hold	Hold order - will take the auction rate
Current Holder C	Owens 200 shares, wants to sell all 200 shares if auction rate is less than 1.4%	Bid order at 1.4% rate for all 200 shares
Potential Holder D	Wants to buy 200 shares	Places order to buy at or above 1.5%
Potential Holder E	Wants to buy 300 shares	Places order to buy at or above 1.4%
Potential Holder F	Wants to buy 200 shares	Places order to buy at or above 1.6%

The lowest dividend rate that will result in all 1,000 Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares continuing to be held is 1.5% (the offer by D). Therefore, the dividend rate will be 1.5%. Current holders B and C will continue to own their shares. Current holder A will sell its shares because A's dividend rate bid was higher than the dividend rate. Potential holder D will buy 200 shares and potential holder E will buy 300 shares because their bid rates were at or below the dividend rate. Potential holder F will not buy any shares because its bid rate was above the dividend rate.

SECONDARY MARKET TRADING AND TRANSFER OF SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

The underwriters are not required to make a market in the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The broker-dealers (including the underwriters) may maintain a secondary trading market for outside of auctions, but they are not required to do so. There can be no assurance that a secondary trading market for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will develop or, if it does develop, that it will provide owners with liquidity of investment. The Series B Auction Rate Preferred will not be registered on any stock exchange or on the NASDAQ market. Investors who purchase Series B Auction Rate Preferred in an auction for a special dividend period should note that because the dividend rate on such shares will be fixed for the length of that dividend period, the value of such shares may fluctuate in response to the changes in interest rates, and may be more or less than their original cost if sold on the open market in advance of the next auction thereof, depending on market conditions.

You may sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred only in whole shares and only pursuant to a bid or sell order placed with the auction agent in accordance with the auction procedures, to the Fund or its affiliates or to or through a broker-dealer that has been selected by the Fund or to such other persons as may be permitted by the Fund. However, if you hold your Series B Auction Rate Preferred in the name of a broker-dealer, a sale or transfer of your Series B Auction Rate Preferred to that broker-dealer, or to another customer of that broker-dealer, will not be considered a sale or transfer for purposes of the foregoing if the shares remain in the name of the broker-dealer immediately after your transaction. In addition, in the case of all transfers other than through an auction, the broker-dealer (or other person, if the Fund permits) receiving the transfer must advise the auction agent of the transfer.

Further description of the auction procedures can be found in the SAI.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

CAPITALIZATION

COMMON SHARES

The Fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest, par value \$.001 per share, in multiple classes and series thereof as determined from time to time by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees of the Fund has authorized issuance of an unlimited number of shares of two classes, the common shares and preferred shares. Each share within a particular class or series thereof has equal voting, dividend, distribution and liquidation rights. Common shares are not redeemable and have no preemptive, conversion or cumulative voting rights.

The common shares are listed and traded on the NYSE under the symbol "GUT." The average weekly trading volume of the common shares on the NYSE for the 12 months ended December 31, 2002 was [__] shares. The Fund's common shares have traded in the market at both a premium to and a discount from net asset value. Since the beginning of 2001, the Fund's common shares have traded at a premium to net asset value. There can be no assurance, however, that the Fund's common shares will continue to do so in the future.

The Fund is authorized, subject to maintaining required asset coverage on its preferred shares, to repurchase its common shares in the open market when the common shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more (or such other percentage as the Fund's Board of Trustees may determine from time to time) from net asset value. Such repurchases are subject to certain notice and other requirements, including those set forth in Rule 23c-1 under the 1940 Act.

Currently, [__] of the Fund's shares have been classified by the Board of Trustees as preferred shares, par value \$.001 per share. The terms of such preferred shares may be fixed by the Board of Trustees and would materially limit and/or qualify the rights of the holders of the Fund's common shares. As of [__], 2003, the Fund had no preferred shares outstanding.

The following table shows the number of shares authorized, their classification and the shares outstanding for each class of authorized shares of the Fund as of [__], 2003.

Title of Class	Amount Authorized	Amount Held by Company or for its Own Account
Common Shares.....	unlimited	none

Preferred Shares.....	unlimited	none

* Does not include the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred being offered

TAXATION

The following is a description of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences to a shareholder of acquiring, holding and disposing of preferred shares of the Fund. The discussion reflects applicable tax laws of the United States as of the date of this prospectus, which tax laws may be changed or

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

subject to new interpretations by the courts or the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") retroactively or prospectively.

No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of all U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax concerns affecting the Fund and its shareholders, and the discussion set forth herein does not constitute tax advice. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers to determine the tax consequences to them of investing in the Fund.

TAXATION OF THE FUND

The Fund has elected to be treated and has qualified as, and intends to continue to qualify as, a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. Accordingly, the Fund must, among other things, (i) derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income (including tax-exempt interest) from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including but not limited to gain from options, futures and forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies; and (ii) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of each taxable year (a) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's total assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies and other securities, with such other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the market value of the Fund's total assets is invested in the securities of any issuer (other than U.S. government securities and the securities of other regulated investment companies) or of any two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are determined to be engaged in the same business or similar or related trades or businesses.

As a regulated investment company, the Fund generally is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on income and gains that it distributes each taxable year to shareholders, if it distributes at least 90% of the sum of the Fund's (i) investment company taxable income (which includes, among other items, dividends, interest and the excess of any net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses and other taxable income other than any net capital gain (as defined below) reduced by deductible expenses) determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and (ii) its net tax-exempt interest (the excess of its gross tax-exempt interest over certain disallowed deductions). The Fund intends to distribute at least annually substantially all of such income.

Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax at the Fund level. To avoid the tax, the Fund must distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (i) 98% of its ordinary income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year, (ii) 98% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for a one-year period generally ending on October 31 of the calendar year (unless an election is made to use the Fund's fiscal year), and (iii) certain undistributed amounts from previous years on which the Fund paid no U.S. federal income tax. While the Fund intends to distribute any income and capital gains in the manner necessary to minimize imposition of the 4% excise tax, there can be no assurance that sufficient amounts of the Fund's taxable income and capital gains will be distributed to avoid entirely the imposition of the tax. In that event, the Fund will be liable for the tax only on the amount by which it does not meet the foregoing distribution requirement.

If for any taxable year the Fund does not qualify as a regulated

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

investment company, all of its taxable income (including its net capital gain) will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for distributions to shareholders, and such distributions will be taxable to the shareholders as ordinary dividends to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits.

Based in part on a lack of present intention on the part of the Fund to voluntarily redeem the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred at any time in the future, the Fund intends to take the position that under present law the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred will constitute stock, rather than debt of the Fund. It is possible, however, that the IRS could take a contrary position asserting for example that the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred constitutes debt of the Fund. If that position were upheld, distributions on the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred would be considered interest, taxable as ordinary income regardless of the taxable income of the Fund.

TAXATION OF SHAREHOLDERS

Distributions paid to you by the Fund from its net investment income or from an excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses (together referred to hereinafter as "ordinary income dividends") are taxable to you as ordinary income to the extent of the Fund's earnings and profits. Distributions made to you from an excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses ("capital gain dividends"), including capital gain dividends credited to you but retained by the Fund, are taxable to you as long-term capital gains if they have been properly designated by the Fund, regardless of the length of time you have owned Fund shares. Distributions in excess of the Fund's earnings and profits will first reduce the adjusted tax basis of your shares and, after such adjusted tax basis is reduced to zero, will constitute capital gains to you (assuming the shares are held as a capital asset). Generally, not later than 60 days after the close of its taxable year, the Fund will provide you with a written notice designating the amount of any ordinary income dividends or capital gain dividends and other distributions.

The sale or other disposition of shares of the Fund will generally result in capital gain or loss to you, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year at the time of sale. Any loss upon the sale or exchange of Fund shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any capital gain dividends received (including amounts credited as an undistributed capital gain dividend) by you. A loss realized on a sale or exchange of shares of the Fund will be disallowed if other substantially identical Fund shares are acquired (whether through the automatic reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date that the shares are disposed of. In such case, the basis of the shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Present law taxes both long-term and short-term capital gains of corporations at the rates applicable to ordinary income. For non-corporate taxpayers, however, short-term capital gains and net investment income will currently be taxed at a maximum rate of 38.6% (which rate is scheduled to be reduced periodically through 2006) while long-term capital gains generally will be taxed at a maximum rate of 20%. The 20% capital gains rate will be reduced to 18% for capital assets held for more than five years if the holding period begins after December 31, 2000. Legislation pending before Congress would accelerate future reductions in individual tax rates (applicable to ordinary income and short-term capital gain) and apply a maximum 35% rate for 2003 and thereafter.

Dividends and other taxable distributions are taxable to you even though they are reinvested in additional shares of the Fund. If the Fund pays you a dividend in January that was declared in the previous October, November

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

or December to shareholders of record on a specified date in one of such months, then such dividend will be treated for tax purposes as being paid by the Fund and received by you on December 31 of the year in which the dividend was declared.

The Fund is required in certain circumstances to backup withhold on taxable dividends and certain other payments paid to non-corporate holders of the Fund's shares who do not furnish the Fund with their correct taxpayer identification number (in the case of individuals, their social security number) and certain certifications, or who are otherwise subject to backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld from payments made to you may be refunded or credited against your U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Pending legislation may eliminate or reduce federal income taxation of dividends previously taxed at the corporate level and thereby reduce, eliminate or reverse the preferential taxation to individuals of capital gain versus dividend income. While it is unclear whether and in what form such legislation may be enacted, or its applicability to regulated investment company dividends, such a change in law could be given retroactive effect. Accordingly, it is not possible to evaluate how such legislation might affect the taxation of the Fund's shareholders.

THE FOREGOING IS A GENERAL AND ABBREVIATED SUMMARY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE AND THE TREASURY REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AS THEY DIRECTLY GOVERN THE TAXATION OF THE FUND AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS. THESE PROVISIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, AND ANY SUCH CHANGE MAY BE RETROACTIVE. A MORE COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF THE TAX RULES APPLICABLE TO THE FUND AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT IS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS PROSPECTUS. SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISERS REGARDING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AS TO U.S. FEDERAL, FOREIGN, STATE, LOCAL INCOME OR OTHER TAXES.

ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS OF THE FUND'S GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The Fund presently has provisions in its Declaration of Trust and By-Laws (together, its "Governing Documents") which could have the effect of limiting, in each case, (i) the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund, (ii) the Fund's freedom to engage in certain transactions, or (iii) the ability of the Fund's trustees or shareholders to amend the Governing Documents or effectuate changes in the Fund's management. These provisions of the Governing Documents of the Fund may be regarded as "anti-takeover" provisions. The Board of Trustees of the Fund is divided into three classes, each having a term of no more than three years (except, to ensure that the term of a class of the Fund's trustees expires each year, one class of the Fund's trustees will serve an initial one-year term and three-year terms thereafter and another class of its trustees will serve an initial two-year term and three-year terms thereafter). Each year the term of one class of trustees will expire. Accordingly, only those trustees in one class may be changed in any one year, and it would require a minimum of two years to change a majority of the Board of Trustees. Such system of electing trustees may have the effect of maintaining the continuity of management and, thus, make it more difficult for the shareholders of the Fund to change the majority of trustees. See "Trustees and Officers." A trustee of the Fund may be removed with or without cause by 66 2/3% of the votes entitled to be cast for the election of such trustees. Special voting requirements also apply to mergers into or a sale of all or substantially all of the Fund's assets and conversion of the Fund into an open-end fund (or other closed-end fund commonly known as an "interval fund"). These special voting requirements are 75% of the outstanding voting shares (together with a separate vote by the holders of any preferred shares

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

outstanding). In addition, 80% of the holders of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund voting as a class is generally required in order to authorize any of the following transactions:

- o merger or consolidation of the Fund with or into any other corporation;
- o issuance of any securities of the Fund to any person or entity for cash;
- o sale, lease or exchange of all or any substantial part of the assets of the Fund to any entity or person (except assets having an aggregate fair market value of less than \$1,000,000);
- o sale, lease or exchange to the Fund, in exchange for securities of the Fund, of any assets of any entity or person (except assets having an aggregate fair market value of less than \$1,000,000); or
- o the purchase of the Fund's common shares by the Fund from any other person or entity;

if such corporation, person or entity is directly, or indirectly through affiliates, the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. However, such vote would not be required when, under certain conditions, the Board of Trustees approves the transaction. Reference is made to the Governing Documents of the Fund, on file with the SEC, for the full text of these provisions.

The provisions of the Governing Documents described above could have the effect of depriving the owners of shares in the Fund of opportunities to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices, by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control of the Fund in a tender offer or similar transaction. The overall effect of these provisions is to render more difficult the accomplishment of a merger or the assumption of control by a principal shareholder.

The Governing Documents of the Fund are on file with the SEC. For the full text of these provisions see "Further Information."

CUSTODIAN, TRANSFER AGENT, AUCTION AGENT AND DIVIDEND-DISBURSING AGENT

State Street Bank and Trust Company (the "Custodian"), located at 150 Royall Street, Canton, MA 02021, serves as the custodian of the Fund's assets pursuant to a custody agreement. Under the custody agreement, the Custodian holds the Fund's assets in compliance with the 1940 Act. For its services, the Custodian will receive a monthly fee based upon the average weekly value of the total assets of the Fund, plus certain charges for securities transactions.

EquiServe Trust Company, N.A., located at P.O. Box 43025, Providence, RI 02940-3025, serves as the Fund's dividend disbursing agent, as agent under the Fund's automatic dividend reinvestment and voluntary cash purchase plan and as transfer agent and registrar for the common shares of the Fund.

Series A Preferred. EquiServe will also serve as the Fund's transfer agent, registrar, dividend paying agent and redemption agent with respect to the Series A Preferred.

Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The Bank of New York, located at 5

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Penn Plaza, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10001, will serve as the Fund's auction agent, transfer agent, registrar, dividend paying agent and redemption agent with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

UNDERWRITING

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters will be passed on by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York, special counsel to the Fund in connection with the offering of the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, and by [___], counsel to the underwriters.

EXPERTS

The audited financial statements of the Fund as of December 31, 2002 have been incorporated by reference into the SAI in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of that firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is included in the SAI. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is located at 1177 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Fund is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the 1940 Act and in accordance therewith files reports and other information with the SEC. Reports, proxy statements and other information filed by the Fund with the SEC pursuant to the informational requirements of such Acts can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. The SEC maintains a web site at <http://www.sec.gov> containing reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants, including the Fund, that file electronically with the SEC.

The Fund's common shares are listed on the NYSE, and reports, proxy statements and other information concerning the Fund and filed with the SEC by the Fund can be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

This prospectus constitutes part of a Registration Statement filed by the Fund with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the 1940 Act. This prospectus omits certain of the information contained in the Registration Statement, and reference is hereby made to the Registration Statement and related exhibits for further information with respect to the Fund and the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered hereby. Any statements contained herein concerning the provisions of any document are not necessarily complete, and, in each instance, reference is made to the copy of such document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or otherwise filed with the SEC. Each such statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference. The complete Registration Statement may be obtained from the SEC upon payment of the fee prescribed by its rules and regulations or free of charge through the SEC's web site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Certain statements in this prospectus constitute forward-looking statements, which involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements of the Fund to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among others, those listed under "Risk Factors and Special Considerations" and elsewhere in this prospectus. As a result of the foregoing and other factors, no assurance can be given as to the future results, levels of activity or achievements, and neither the Fund nor any other person assumes responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of such statements.

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF SAI

An SAI dated as of [___], 2003, has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated by reference in this prospectus. An SAI may be obtained without charge by writing to the Fund at its address at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422 or by calling the Fund toll-free at (800) GABELLI (422-3554). The Table of Contents of the SAI is as follows:

THE FUND	
INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES	
INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS.....	
MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND.....	
PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS	
REPURCHASE OF COMMON SHARES.....	
PORTFOLIO TURNOVER	
AUTOMATIC DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE PLAN.....	
TAXATION	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING AUCTIONS FOR Series B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SERIES A PREFERRED AND SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED	
[___] AND [___] GUIDELINES	
NET ASSET VALUE.....	
BENEFICIAL OWNERS.....	
GENERAL INFORMATION.....	
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.....	
GLOSSARY.	

No person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations in connection with this offering other than those contained in this prospectus in connection with the offer contained herein, and, if given or made, such other information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Fund, the Investment Adviser or the underwriters. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale made hereunder will, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Fund since the date hereof or that the information contained herein is correct as of any time subsequent to its date. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities to which it relates. This prospectus does

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy such securities in any circumstance in which such an offer or solicitation is unlawful.

CORPORATE BOND RATINGS

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC.

- Aaa Bonds that are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edge." Interest payments are by a large or exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.
- Aa Bonds that are rated Aa are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the Aaa group they comprise what are generally known as high grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there are other elements present that make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than in Aaa Securities.
- A Bonds that are rated A possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present that suggest a susceptibility to impairment some time in the future.
- Baa Bonds that are rated Baa are considered as medium-grade obligations i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present, but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.
- Ba Bonds that are rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments is very moderate and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.
- B Bonds that are rated B generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. A lack of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over a long period of time may be small. Moody's applies numerical modifiers (1, 2, and 3) with respect to the bonds rated Aa through B. The modifier 1 indicates that the company ranks at the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking and the modifier 3 indicates that the company ranks in the lower end of its generic rating category.
- Caa Bonds that are rated Caa are of poor standing. These issues may be in default or they may have present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.
- Ca Bonds that are rated Ca represent obligations that are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.
- C Bonds that are rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds and issues so rated can be considered as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.
-

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

FITCH, INC.

AAA This is the highest rating assigned by Fitch to a debt obligation and indicates an extremely strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal.

AA Debt rated AA has a very strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal and differs from AAA issues only in small degree. Principal and interest payments on bonds in this category are regarded as safe.

A Debt rated A has a strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal although they are somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than debt in higher rated categories.

BBB This is the lowest investment grade. Debt rated BBB has an adequate capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Whereas it normally exhibits adequate protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay interest and repay principal for debt in this category than in higher rated categories.

SPECULATIVE GRADE

Debt rated BB, CCC, CC and C are regarded, on balance, as predominantly speculative with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. CCC indicates the lowest degree of speculation, and C the highest degree of speculation. While such ratings likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties and major exposures to adverse conditions. Debt rated C1 is reserved for income bonds on which no interest is being paid and debt rated D is in payment default.

AA to CCC may be modified by the addition of a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within the major categories.

"NR" indicates that no public rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that Fitch does not rate a particular type of obligation as a matter of policy.

STANDARD & POOR'S RATINGS SERVICES

AAA This is the highest rating assigned by S&P to a debt obligation and indicates an extremely strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal.

AA Debt rated AA has a very strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal and differs from AAA issues only in small degree.

A Principal and interest payments on bonds in this category are regarded as safe. Debt rated A has a strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal although they are somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than debt in higher rated categories.

BBB This is the lowest investment grade. Debt rated BBB has an adequate capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Whereas it normally exhibits adequate protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay interest and repay principal for debt in this category than in higher rated categories.

SPECULATIVE GRADE

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Debt rated BB, CCC, CC and C are regarded, on balance, as predominantly speculative with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. BB indicates the lowest degree of speculation, and C the highest degree of speculation. While such obligations likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties and major exposures to adverse conditions. Debt rated C 1 is reserved for income bonds on which no interest is being paid and debt rated D is in payment default.

In July 1994, S&P initiated an "r" symbol to its ratings. The "r" symbol is attached to ratings of derivatives, hybrids and certain other obligations that S&P believes may experience high variability in expected returns due to noncredit risks created by the terms of the obligations.

AA to CCC may be modified by the addition of a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within the major categories.

"NR" indicates that no public rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular type of obligation as a matter of

\$[]

THE GABELLI UTILITY TRUST

[] Shares, []% Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares
(Liquidation Preference \$25 per Share)

[] Shares, Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares
(Liquidation Preference \$25,000 per Share)

[Gabelli Logo]

PROSPECTUS
[], 2003

[]
Gabelli & Company, Inc.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MAY 23, 2003

THE GABELLI UTILITY TRUST

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Gabelli Utility Trust (the "Fund") is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company that seeks long-term growth of capital and income by investing primarily in a portfolio of equity securities selected by Gabelli Funds, LLC, the investment adviser to the Fund (the "Investment Adviser"). It is the policy of the Fund, under normal market conditions, to invest at least 80% of its total assets in common stock and other securities of foreign and domestic companies involved to a substantial extent (e.g., at least 50% of the assets, gross income or net profits of a company is committed to or derived from) in providing products, services or equipment for (i) the generation or distribution of electricity, gas and water and (ii) telecommunications services or infrastructure operations, such as airports, toll roads and municipal services.

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus, but should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus for the Fund dated June __, 2003 (the "Prospectus"). This SAI does not include any information that a prospective investor should consider before purchasing shares of the Fund, and investors should obtain and read the Prospectus prior to purchasing shares. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge, by calling the Fund at 1-800-GABELLI (1-800-422-3554) or (914) 921-5070. This SAI incorporates by reference the entire Prospectus.

The Prospectus and this SAI omit certain of the information contained in the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. The registration statement may be obtained from the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") upon payment of the fee prescribed, or inspected at the Commission's office or via its website (www.sec.gov) at no charge.

Each capitalized term used but not defined in this SAI has the meaning ascribed to it, as the case may be, in the Prospectus or in the glossary of this SAI.

This Statement of Additional Information is dated [__], 2003.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Fund	
Investment Objective and Policies.....	
Investment Restrictions.....	
Management of the Fund.....	
Portfolio Transactions.....	
Repurchase of Common Stock.....	
Portfolio Turnover.....	
Automatic Dividend Reinvestment and Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan.....	
Taxation	
Additional Information Concerning Auctions for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.....	
Additional Information Concerning the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred....	
[__] and [__] Guidelines.....	
Net Asset Value.....	

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Beneficial Owners.....	
General Information.....	
Financial Statements.....	
Glossary.....	
Appendix A.....	

THE FUND

The Fund was [] in Delaware on [], [], and is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company registered under the 1940 Act. The Fund's investment operations commenced on [], []. The Fund's Common Shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "[]."

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund's investment objective is long-term growth of capital and income. Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in common stock and other securities of foreign and domestic companies involved to a substantial extent (e.g., at least 50% of the assets, gross income or net profits of a company is committed to or derived from) in providing products, services or equipment for (i) the generation or distribution of electricity, gas and water and (ii) telecommunications services or infrastructure operations, such as airports, toll roads and municipal services. See "Investment Objective and Policies" in the Prospectus.

INVESTMENT PRACTICES

Special Situations. Subject to the Fund's policy of investing at least 80% of the value of its total assets in companies involved in the telecommunications, media, publishing and entertainment industries, the Fund from time to time may invest in companies that are determined by the Investment Adviser to possess "special situation" characteristics. In general, a special situation company is a company whose securities are expected to increase in value solely by reason of a development particularly or uniquely applicable to the company. Developments that may create special situations include, among others, a liquidation, reorganization, recapitalization or merger, material litigation, technological breakthrough or new management or management policies. The principal risk associated with investments in special situation companies is that the anticipated development thought to create the special situation may not occur and the investment therefore may not appreciate in value or may decline in value.

Temporary Defensive Investments. Although under normal market conditions at least 80% of the Fund's assets will consist of common stock and other securities of foreign and domestic companies involved in the telecommunications, media, publishing and entertainment industries, when a temporary defensive posture is believed by the Investment Adviser to be warranted ("temporary defensive periods"), the Fund may hold without limitation cash or invest its assets in money market instruments and repurchase agreements in respect of those instruments. The money market instruments in which the Fund may invest, which in the absence of an appropriate exemptive order will not be affiliates of the Fund, are U.S. government securities, commercial paper rated A-1 or higher by Standard & Poor's Corporation ("S&P") or Prime-1 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"); and certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances issued by domestic branches of U.S. banks that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. For a description of such ratings, see Appendix A to the Prospectus. The Fund may also invest up to 10% of the market

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

value of its total assets during temporary defensive periods in shares of money market mutual funds that invest primarily in U.S. government securities and repurchase agreements in respect of those securities. Money market mutual funds are investment companies and the investments by the Fund in those companies are subject to certain other limitations. See "Investment

Restrictions." As a shareholder in a mutual fund, the Fund will bear its ratable share of the fund's expenses, including management fees, and will remain subject to payment of the fees to the Investment Adviser with respect to assets so invested.

Lower Rated Securities. The Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in fixed-income securities rated in the lower rating categories of recognized statistical rating agencies, such as securities rated "CCC" or lower by S&P or "Caa" or lower by Moody's, or non-rated securities of comparable quality. These debt securities are predominantly speculative and involve major risk exposure to adverse conditions and are often referred to in the financial press as "junk bonds."

Generally, such lower rated securities and unrated securities of comparable quality offer a higher current yield than is offered by higher rated securities, but also (i) will likely have some quality and protective characteristics that, in the judgment of the rating organizations, are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions and (ii) are predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. The market values of certain of these securities also tend to be more sensitive to individual corporate developments and changes in economic conditions than higher quality bonds. In addition, such lower rated securities and comparable unrated securities generally present a higher degree of credit risk. The risk of loss due to default by these issuers is significantly greater because such lower rated securities and unrated securities of comparable quality generally are unsecured and frequently are subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. In light of these risks, the Investment Adviser, in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issue, whether rated or unrated, will take various factors into consideration, which may include, as applicable, the issuer's operating history, financial resources and its sensitivity to economic conditions and trends, the market support for the facility financed by the issue, the perceived ability and integrity of the issuer's management and regulatory matters.

In addition, the market value of securities in lower rated categories is more volatile than that of higher quality securities, and the markets in which such lower rated or unrated securities are traded are more limited than those in which higher rated securities are traded. The existence of limited markets may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing its portfolio and calculating its net asset value. Moreover, the lack of a liquid trading market may restrict the availability of securities for the Fund to purchase and may also have the effect of limiting the ability of the Fund to sell securities at their fair market value to respond to changes in the economy or the financial markets.

Lower rated debt obligations also present risks based on payment expectations. If an issuer calls the obligation for redemption (often a feature of fixed income securities), the Fund may have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, resulting in a decreased return for investors. Also, as the principal value of bonds moves inversely with movements in interest rates, in the event of rising interest rates the value of the securities held by the Fund may decline proportionately more than a portfolio consisting of higher rated securities. Investments in zero coupon bonds may be more speculative and subject to greater fluctuations in value due to changes in interest rates than bonds that pay interest currently.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

The Fund may invest in securities of issuers in default. The Fund will invest in securities of issuers in default only when the Investment Adviser believes that such issuers will honor their obligations or emerge from bankruptcy protection and the value of these securities will appreciate. By investing in securities of issuers in default, the Fund bears the risk that these issuers will not continue to honor their obligations or emerge from bankruptcy protection or that the value of the securities will not appreciate.

In addition to using recognized rating agencies and other sources, the Investment Adviser also

performs its own analysis in seeking investments that it believes to be underrated (and thus higher-yielding) in light of the financial condition of the issuer. Its analysis of issuers may include, among other things, current and anticipated cash flow and borrowing requirements, value of assets in relation to historical cost, strength of management, responsiveness to business conditions, credit standing and current anticipated results of operations. In selecting investments for the Fund, the Investment Adviser may also consider general business conditions, anticipated changes in interest rates and the outlook for specific industries.

Subsequent to its purchase by the Fund, an issue of securities may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced. In addition, it is possible that statistical rating agencies might not change their ratings of a particular issue or reflect subsequent events on a timely basis. Moreover, such ratings do not assess the risk of a decline in market value. None of these events will require the sale of the securities by the Fund, although the Investment Adviser will consider these events in determining whether the Fund should continue to hold the securities.

The market for certain lower rated and comparable unrated securities has in the past experienced a major economic recession. The recession adversely affected the value of such securities as well as the ability of certain issuers of such securities to repay principal and pay interest thereon. The market for those securities could react in a similar fashion in the event of any future economic recession.

Derivative Instruments.

Options. The Fund may, from time to time, subject to guidelines of the Board of Trustees and the limitations set forth in the Prospectus and applicable rating agency guidelines, purchase or sell, i.e., write, options on securities, securities indices and foreign currencies which are listed on a national securities exchange or in the OTC market, as a means of achieving additional return or of hedging the value of the Fund's portfolio.

A call option is a contract that gives the holder of the option the right to buy from the writer of the call option, in return for a premium, the security or currency underlying the option at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the option. The writer of the call option has the obligation, upon exercise of the option, to deliver the underlying security or currency upon payment of the exercise price during the option period.

A put option is a contract that gives the holder of the option the right, in return for a premium, to sell to the seller the underlying security at a specified price. The seller of the put option has the obligation to buy the underlying security upon exercise at the exercise price.

A call option is "covered" if the Fund owns the underlying instrument covered by the call or has an absolute and immediate right to acquire that instrument without additional cash consideration (or for additional cash

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

consideration held in a segregated account by its custodian) upon conversion or exchange of other instruments held in its portfolio. A call option is also covered if the Fund holds a call on the same instrument as the call written where the exercise price of the call held is (i) equal to or less than the exercise price of the call written or (ii) greater than the exercise price of the call written if the difference is maintained by the Fund in cash, U.S. government securities or other liquid securities in a segregated account with its custodian. A put option is "covered" if the Fund maintains cash or other high grade short-term obligations with a value equal to the exercise price in a segregated account with its custodian, or else holds a put on the same instrument as the put written where the exercise price of the put held is equal to or greater than the exercise price of the put written. The Investment Adviser, on behalf of the Fund, has no present intention to engage in uncovered option transactions. If the Fund has written an option, it may terminate its obligation by effecting a closing purchase transaction. This is accomplished by purchasing an option of the same series as the option previously written. However, once the Fund has been assigned an exercise notice, the Fund will be unable to effect a closing purchase transaction. Similarly, if the Fund is the holder of an option it may liquidate its position by effecting a closing sale transaction. This is accomplished by selling an option of the same series as the option previously purchased. There can be no assurance that either a closing purchase or sale transaction can be effected when the Fund so desires.

The Fund will realize a profit from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is less than the premium received from writing the option or is more than the premium paid to purchase the option; the Fund will realize a loss from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is more than the premium received from writing the option or is less than the premium paid to purchase the option. Since call option prices generally reflect increases in the price of the underlying security, any loss resulting from the repurchase of a call option may also be wholly or partially offset by unrealized appreciation of the underlying security. Other principal factors affecting the market value of a put or a call option include supply and demand, interest rates, the current market price and price volatility of the underlying security and the time remaining until the expiration date. Gains and losses on investments in options depend, in part, on the ability of the Investment Adviser to predict correctly the effect of these factors. The use of options cannot serve as a complete hedge since the price movement of securities underlying the options will not necessarily follow the price movements of the portfolio securities subject to the hedge.

An option position may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for an option of the same series. Although the Fund will generally purchase or write only those options for which there appears to be an active secondary market, there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an exchange will exist for any particular option. In such event it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options, so that the Fund would have to exercise its options in order to realize any profit and would incur brokerage commissions upon the exercise of call options and upon the subsequent disposition of underlying securities for the exercise of put options. If the Fund, as a covered call option writer, is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or otherwise covers the position.

Options on Securities Indices. The Fund may purchase and sell securities index options. One effect of such transactions may be to hedge all or part of the Fund's securities holdings against a general decline in the securities market or a segment of the securities market. Options on securities indices are similar to options on stocks except that, rather than the right to take or make delivery of stock at a specified price, an option on a securities index gives the holder the right to receive, upon exercise of the option, an

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

amount of cash if the closing level of the securities index upon which the option is based is greater than, in the case of a call, or less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option.

The Fund's successful use of options on indices depends upon its ability to predict the direction of the market and is subject to various additional risks. The correlation between movements in the index and the price of the securities being hedged against is imperfect and the risk from imperfect correlation increases as the composition of the Fund diverges from the composition of the relevant index. Accordingly, a decrease in the value of the securities being hedged against may not be wholly offset by a gain on the exercise or sale of a securities index put option held by the Fund.

Options on Foreign Currencies. Instead of purchasing or selling currency futures (as described below), the Fund may attempt to accomplish similar objectives by purchasing put or call options on currencies or by writing put options or call options on currencies either on exchanges or in OTC markets. A put option gives the Fund the right to sell a currency at the exercise price until the option expires. A

call option gives the Fund the right to purchase a currency at the exercise price until the option expires. Both types of options serve to insure against adverse currency price movements in the underlying portfolio assets designated in a given currency. The Fund's use of options on currencies will be subject to the same limitations as its use of options on securities, described above and in the Prospectus. Currency options may be subject to position limits which may limit the ability of the Fund to fully hedge its positions by purchasing the options.

As in the case of interest rate futures contracts and options thereon, described below, the Fund may hedge against the risk of a decrease or increase in the U.S. dollar value of a foreign currency denominated debt security which the Fund owns or intends to acquire by purchasing or selling options contracts, futures contracts or options thereon with respect to a foreign currency other than the foreign currency in which such debt security is denominated, where the values of such different currencies (vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar) historically have a high degree of positive correlation.

Futures Contracts. The Fund will enter into futures contracts only for certain bona fide hedging, yield enhancement and risk management purposes. The Fund may enter into futures contracts for the purchase or sale of debt securities, financial indices, and U.S. government securities (collectively, "interest rate futures contracts"). It may also enter into futures contracts for the purchase or sale of foreign currencies in which securities held or to be acquired by the Fund are denominated, or the value of which have a high degree of positive correlation to the value of such currencies as to constitute an appropriate vehicle for hedging. In addition, the Fund may enter into futures contracts on stock and bond indices (collectively, "securities indices"). The Fund may enter into such futures contracts both on U.S. and foreign exchanges.

A "sale" of a futures contract (or a "short" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to deliver the assets underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time. A "purchase" of a futures contract (or a "long" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to acquire the assets underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time. Certain futures contracts are settled on a net cash payment basis rather than by the sale and delivery of the assets underlying the futures contracts. U.S. futures contracts have been designed by exchanges that have been designated as "contract markets" by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "CFTC"), an agency of the U.S. government, and must be executed through a futures commission merchant, i.e., a brokerage firm, which is a member of the relevant contract market. Futures

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

contracts trade on these contract markets and their affiliated clearing organizations guarantee performance of the contracts as between the clearing members of the exchange.

At the time a futures contract is purchased or sold, the Fund must allocate cash or securities as a deposit payment (initial margin). It is expected that the initial margin on U.S. exchanges will vary from 0.5% to 4% of the face value of the contract. Under certain circumstances, however, such as during periods of high volatility, the Fund may be required by an exchange to increase the level of its initial margin payment. Thereafter, the futures contract is valued daily and the payment in cash of "variation margin" may be required, a process known as "mark-to-the-market." Each day the Fund is required to provide or is entitled to receive variation margin in an amount equal to any change in the value of the contract since the preceding day.

Although futures contracts by their terms may call for the actual delivery or acquisition of underlying assets, in most cases the contractual obligation is extinguished by offset before the expiration of the contract.

The offsetting of a contractual obligation is accomplished by buying (to offset an earlier sale) or selling (to offset an earlier purchase) an identical futures contract calling for delivery in the same month.

Such a transaction cancels the obligation to make or take delivery of the underlying commodity. When the Fund purchases or sells futures contracts, the Fund will incur brokerage fees and related transactions costs.

In addition, futures contracts entail risks. The ordinary spreads between values in the cash and futures markets, due to differences in the characters of those markets, are subject to distortions. First, all participants in the futures market are subject to initial and variation margin requirements. Rather than meeting additional variation margin requirements, investors may close futures contracts through offsetting transactions which could distort the normal relationship between the cash and futures markets. Second, the liquidity of the futures market depends on participants entering into offsetting transactions rather than making or taking delivery. To the extent participants decide to make or take delivery, liquidity in the futures market could be reduced, thus producing price distortions. Third, from the point of view of speculators, the margin deposit requirements in the futures market are less onerous than margin requirements in the securities market. Increased participation by speculators in the futures market may cause temporary price distortions. Thus, a correct forecast of interest rate trends by the Investment Adviser may still not result in a successful transaction.

If the Fund seeks to hedge against a decline in the value of its portfolio securities and sells futures contracts on other securities that historically have had a high degree of positive correlation to the value of the portfolio securities, the value of its portfolio securities might decline more rapidly than the value of a poorly correlated futures contract rises. In that case, the hedge will be less effective than if the correlation had been greater. In a similar but more extreme situation, the value of the futures position might in fact decline while the value of the portfolio securities holds steady or rises. This would result in a loss that would not have occurred but for the attempt to hedge.

Options on Futures Contracts. The Fund may also enter into options on futures contracts for certain bona fide hedging, yield enhancement and risk management purposes. The Fund may purchase put and call options and write put and call options on futures contracts that are traded on U.S. and foreign exchanges. The Investment Adviser, on behalf of the Fund, has no present intention to engage in uncovered option transactions. An option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

assume a position in a futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put) at a specified exercise price at any time during the option exercise period. The writer of the option is required upon exercise to assume a short futures position (if the option is a call) or a long futures position (if the option is a put). Upon exercise of the option, the assumption of offsetting futures positions by the writer and holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated cash balance in the writer's futures margin account which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract at exercise, exceeds, in the case of a call, or is less than, in the case of a put, the exercise of the option on the futures contract.

The Fund will be considered "covered" with respect to a call option it writes on a futures contract if the Fund owns the asset which is deliverable under the futures contract or an option to purchase that futures contract having a strike price equal to or less than the strike price of the "covered" option and having an expiration date not earlier than the expiration date of the "covered" option, or if it segregates and maintains with its custodian for the term of the option, cash or liquid securities equal to the fluctuating value of the optioned futures. The Fund will be considered "covered" with respect to a put option it writes on a futures contract if it owns an option to sell that futures contract having a strike price equal to or greater than the strike price of the "covered" option and having an expiration date not earlier than the expiration date of the "covered" option, or if it segregates and maintains with its custodian for the term of the option, cash or liquid securities at all times equal in value to the exercise price of the put (less any initial margin deposited by the Fund with its custodian with respect to such put option). There is no limitation on the amount of the Fund's assets which can be placed in the segregated account.

Writing a put option on a futures contract serves as a partial hedge against an increase in the value of debt securities the Fund intends to acquire. If the futures price at expiration of the option is above the exercise price, the Fund will retain the full amount of the option premium which provides a partial hedge against any increase that may have occurred in the price of the debt securities the Fund intends to acquire. If the market price of the underlying futures contract is below the exercise price when the option is exercised, the Fund will incur a loss, which may be wholly or partially offset by the decrease in the value of the securities the Fund intends to acquire.

Writing a call option on a futures contract serves as a partial hedge against a decrease in the value of the Fund's portfolio securities. If the market price of the underlying futures contract at expiration of a written call option is below the exercise price, the Fund will retain the full amount of the option premium, thereby partially hedging against any decline that may have occurred in the Fund's holding of debt securities. If the futures price when the option is exercised is above the exercise price, however, the Fund will incur a loss, which may be wholly or partially offset by the increase in the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio which were being hedged.

The Fund may purchase put options on futures contracts to hedge its portfolio against the risk of a decline in the value of the debt securities it owns as a result of rising interest rates or fluctuating currency exchange rates. The Fund may also purchase call options on futures contracts as a hedge against an increase in the value of securities the Fund intends to acquire as a result of declining interest rates or fluctuating currency exchange rates.

Interest Rate Futures Contracts and Options Thereon. The Fund may purchase or sell interest rate futures contracts to take advantage of or to protect the Fund against fluctuations in interest rates affecting the value of debt securities which the Fund holds or intends to acquire. For example, if interest rates are expected to increase, the Fund might sell futures contracts

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

on debt securities, the values of which historically have a high degree of positive correlation to the values of the Fund's portfolio securities. Such a sale would have an effect similar to selling an equivalent value of the Fund's portfolio securities. If interest rates increase, the value of the Fund's portfolio securities will decline, but the value of the futures contracts to the Fund will increase at approximately an equivalent rate thereby keeping the net asset value of the Fund from declining as much as it otherwise would have. The Fund could accomplish similar results by selling debt securities with longer maturities and investing in debt securities with shorter maturities when interest rates are expected to increase. However, since the futures market may be more liquid than the cash market, the use of futures contracts as a risk management technique allows the Fund to maintain a defensive position without having to sell its portfolio securities.

Similarly, the Fund may purchase interest rate futures contracts when it is expected that interest rates may decline. The purchase of futures contracts for this purpose constitutes a hedge against increases in the price of debt securities (caused by declining interest rates) which the Fund intends to acquire. Since fluctuations in the value of appropriately selected futures contracts should approximate that of the debt securities that will be purchased, the Fund can take advantage of the anticipated rise in the cost of the debt securities without actually buying them. Subsequently, the Fund can make its intended purchase of the debt securities in the cash market and currently liquidate its futures position. To the extent the Fund enters into futures contracts for this purpose, it will maintain in a segregated asset account with the Fund's custodian, assets sufficient to cover the Fund's obligations with respect to such futures contracts, which will consist of cash or other liquid securities from its portfolio in an amount equal to the difference between the fluctuating market value of such futures contracts and the aggregate value of the initial margin deposited by the Fund with its custodian with respect to such futures contracts.

The purchase of a call option on a futures contract is similar in some respects to the purchase of a call option on an individual security. Depending on the pricing of the option compared to either the price

of the futures contract upon which it is based or the price of the underlying debt securities, it may or may not be less risky than ownership of the futures contract or underlying debt securities. As with the purchase of futures contracts, when the Fund is not fully invested it may purchase a call option on a futures contract to hedge against a market advance due to declining interest rates.

The purchase of a put option on a futures contract is similar to the purchase of protective put options on portfolio securities. The Fund will purchase a put option on a futures contract to hedge the Fund's portfolio against the risk of rising interest rates and consequent reduction in the value of portfolio securities.

The writing of a call option on a futures contract constitutes a partial hedge against declining prices of the securities which are deliverable upon exercise of the futures contract. If the futures price at expiration of the option is below the exercise price, the Fund will retain the full amount of the option premium which provides a partial hedge against any decline that may have occurred in the Fund's portfolio holdings. The writing of a put option on a futures contract constitutes a partial hedge against increasing prices of the securities that are deliverable upon exercise of the futures contract. If the futures price at expiration of the option is higher than the exercise price, the Fund will retain the full amount of the option premium, which provides a partial hedge against any increase in the price of debt securities that the Fund intends to purchase. If a put or call option the Fund has written is exercised, the Fund will incur a loss which will be reduced by the amount of the premium it

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

received. Depending on the degree of correlation between changes in the value of its portfolio securities and changes in the value of its futures positions, the Fund's losses from options on futures it has written may to some extent be reduced or increased by changes in the value of its portfolio securities.

Currency Futures and Options Thereon. Generally, foreign currency futures contracts and options thereon are similar to the interest rate futures contracts and options thereon discussed previously. By entering into currency futures and options thereon, the Fund will seek to establish the rate at which it will be entitled to exchange U.S. dollars for another currency at a future time. By selling currency futures, the Fund will seek to establish the number of dollars it will receive at delivery for a certain amount of a foreign currency. In this way, whenever the Fund anticipates a decline in the value of a foreign currency against the U.S. dollar, the Fund can attempt to "lock in" the U.S. dollar value of some or all of the securities held in its portfolio that are denominated in that currency. By purchasing currency futures, the Fund can establish the number of dollars it will be required to pay for a specified amount of a foreign currency in a future month. Thus, if the Fund intends to buy securities in the future and expects the U.S. dollar to decline against the relevant foreign currency during the period before the purchase is effected, the Fund can attempt to "lock in" the price in U.S. dollars of the securities it intends to acquire.

The purchase of options on currency futures will allow the Fund, for the price of the premium and related transaction costs it must pay for the option, to decide whether or not to buy (in the case of a call option) or to sell (in the case of a put option) a futures contract at a specified price at any time during the period before the option expires. If the Investment Adviser, in purchasing an option, has been correct in its judgment concerning the direction in which the price of a foreign currency would move as against the U.S. dollar, the Fund may exercise the option and thereby take a futures position to hedge against the risk it had correctly anticipated or close out the option position at a gain that will offset, to some extent, currency exchange losses otherwise suffered by the Fund. If exchange rates move in a way the Fund did not anticipate, however, the Fund will have incurred the expense of the option without obtaining the expected benefit; any such movement in exchange rates may also thereby reduce rather than enhance the Fund's profits on its underlying securities transactions.

Securities Index Futures Contracts and Options Thereon. Purchases or sales of securities index futures contracts are used for hedging purposes to attempt to protect the Fund's current or intended

investments from broad fluctuations in stock or bond prices. For example, the Fund may sell securities index futures contracts in anticipation of or during a market decline to attempt to offset the decrease in market value of the Fund's securities portfolio that might otherwise result. If such decline occurs, the loss in value of portfolio securities may be offset, in whole or part, by gains on the futures position. When the Fund is not fully invested in the securities market and anticipates a significant market advance, it may purchase securities index futures contracts in order to gain rapid market exposure that may, in part or entirely, offset increases in the cost of securities that the Fund intends to purchase. As such purchases are made, the corresponding positions in securities index futures contracts will be closed out. The Fund may write put and call options on securities index futures contracts for hedging purposes.

Limitations on the Purchase and Sale of Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts. Subject to the guidelines of the Board of Trustees, the Fund may engage in transactions in futures contracts and options hereon only for bona fide hedging, yield enhancement and risk management purposes, in each case in accordance with the rules and regulations of the CFTC.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Regulations of the CFTC currently applicable to the Fund permit the Fund's futures and options on futures transactions to include (i) bona fide hedging transactions without regard to the percentage of the Fund's assets committed to margin and option premiums and (ii) non-hedging transactions, provided that the Fund not enter into such non-hedging transactions if, immediately thereafter, the sum of the amount of initial margin deposits on the Fund's existing futures positions and option premiums would exceed 5% of the market value of the Fund's liquidating value, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such transactions.

In addition, investment in future contracts and related options generally will be limited by the rating agency guidelines applicable to any of the Fund's outstanding Preferred Shares.

Forward Currency Exchange Contracts. The Fund may engage in currency transactions other than on futures exchanges to protect against future changes in the level of future currency exchange rates. The Fund will conduct such currency exchange transactions either on a spot, i.e., cash, basis at the rate then prevailing in the currency exchange market or on a forward basis, by entering into forward contracts to purchase or sell currency. A forward contract on foreign currency involves an obligation to purchase or sell a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days agreed upon by the parties from the date of the contract, at a price set on the date of the contract. The risk of shifting of a forward currency contract will be substantially the same as a futures contract having similar terms. The Fund's dealing in forward currency exchange will be limited to hedging involving either specific transactions or portfolio positions. Transaction hedging is the purchase or sale of forward currency with respect to specific receivables or payables of the Fund generally arising in connection with the purchase or sale of its portfolio securities and accruals of interest receivable and Fund expenses. Position hedging is the forward sale of currency with respect to portfolio security positions denominated or quoted in that currency or in a currency bearing a high degree of positive correlation to the value of that currency.

The Fund may not position hedge with respect to a particular currency for an amount greater than the aggregate market value (determined at the time of making any sale of forward currency) of the securities held in its portfolio denominated or quoted in, or currently convertible into, such currency. If the Fund enters into a position hedging transaction, the Fund's custodian or subcustodian will place cash or other liquid securities in a segregated account of the Fund in an amount equal to the value of the Fund's total assets committed to the consummation of the given forward contract. If the value of the securities placed in the segregated account declines, additional cash or securities will be placed in the account so that the value of the account will, at all times, equal the amount of the Fund's commitment with respect to the forward contract.

At or before the maturity of a forward sale contract, the Fund may either sell a portfolio security and make delivery of the currency, or retain the security and offset its contractual obligations to deliver the currency by purchasing a second contract pursuant to which the Fund will obtain, on the same maturity date, the same amount of the currency which it is obligated to delivery. If the Fund retains the portfolio security and engages in an offsetting transaction, the Fund, at the time of execution of the offsetting transaction, will incur a gain or a loss to the extent that movement has occurred in forward contract prices. Should forward prices decline during the period between the Fund's entering into a forward contract for the sale of a currency and the date it enters into an offsetting contract for the purchase of the currency, the Fund will realize a gain to the extent the price of the currency it has agreed to purchase is less than the price of the currency it has agreed to sell. Should forward prices increase, the Fund will suffer a loss to

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

the extent the price of the currency it has agreed to purchase exceeds the price of the currency it has agreed to sell. Closing out forward purchase contracts involves similar offsetting transactions.

The cost to the Fund of engaging in currency transactions varies with factors such as the currency involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Because forward transactions in currency exchange are usually conducted on a principal basis, no fees or commissions are involved. The use of foreign currency contracts does not eliminate fluctuations in the underlying prices of the securities, but it does establish a rate of exchange that can be achieved in the future. In addition, although forward currency contracts limit the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, they also limit any potential gain that might result if the value of the currency increases.

If a decline in any currency is generally anticipated by the Investment Adviser, the Fund may not be able to contract to sell the currency at a price above the level to which the currency is anticipated to decline.

Special Risk Considerations Relating to Futures and Options Thereon. The Fund's ability to establish and close out positions in futures contracts and options thereon will be subject to the development and maintenance of liquid markets. Although the Fund generally will purchase or sell only those futures contracts and options thereon for which there appears to be a liquid market, there is no assurance that a liquid market on an exchange will exist for any particular futures contract or option thereon at any particular time. In the event no liquid market exists for a particular futures contract or option thereon in which the Fund maintains a position, it will not be possible to effect a closing transaction in that contract or to do so at a satisfactory price and the Fund would have to either make or take delivery under the futures contract or, in the case of a written option, wait to sell the underlying securities until the option expires or is exercised or, in the case of a purchased option, exercise the option. In the case of a futures contract or an option thereon which the Fund has written and which the Fund is unable to close, the Fund would be required to maintain margin deposits on the futures contract or option thereon and to make variation margin payments until the contract is closed.

Successful use of futures contracts and options thereon and forward contracts by the Fund is subject to the ability of the Investment Adviser to predict correctly movements in the direction of interest and foreign currency rates. If the Investment Adviser's expectations are not met, the Fund will be in a worse position than if a hedging strategy had not been pursued. For example, if the Fund has hedged against the possibility of an increase in interest rates that would adversely affect the price of securities in its portfolio and the price of such securities increases instead, the Fund will lose part or all of the benefit of the increased value of its securities because it will have offsetting losses in its futures positions. In addition, in such situations, if the Fund has insufficient cash to meet daily variation margin requirements, it may have to sell securities to meet the requirements. These sales may be, but will not necessarily be, at increased prices which reflect the rising market. The Fund may have to sell securities at a time when it is disadvantageous to do so.

Additional Risks of Foreign Options, Futures Contracts, Options on Futures Contracts and Forward Contracts. Options, futures contracts and options thereon and forward contracts on securities and currencies may be traded on foreign exchanges. Such transactions may not be regulated as effectively as similar transactions in the U.S., may not involve a clearing mechanism and related guarantees, and are subject to the risk of governmental actions affecting trading in, or the prices of, foreign securities. The value of such positions also could be adversely affected by (i) other complex foreign

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

political, legal and economic factors, (ii) lesser availability than in the U.S. of data on which to make trading decisions, (iii) delays in the Fund's ability to act upon economic events occurring in the foreign markets during non-business hours in the U.S., (iv) the imposition of different exercise and settlement terms and procedures and margin requirements than in the U.S. and (v) lesser trading volume.

Exchanges on which options, futures and options on futures are traded may impose limits on the positions that the Fund may take in certain circumstances.

Risks of Currency Transactions. Currency transactions are also subject to risks different from those of other portfolio transactions. Because currency control is of great importance to the issuing governments and influences economic planning and policy, purchases and sales of currency and related instruments can be adversely affected by government exchange controls, limitations or restrictions on repatriation of currency, and manipulation, or exchange restrictions imposed by governments. These forms of governmental action can result in losses to the Fund if it is unable to deliver or receive currency or monies in settlement of obligations and could also cause hedges it has entered into to be rendered useless, resulting in full currency exposure as well as incurring transaction costs.

Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may engage in repurchase agreements as set forth in the Prospectus. A repurchase agreement is an instrument under which the purchaser, i.e., the Fund, acquires a debt security and the seller agrees, at the time of the sale, to repurchase the obligation at a mutually agreed upon time and price, thereby determining the yield during the purchaser's holding period. This results in a fixed rate of return insulated from market fluctuations during such period. The underlying securities are ordinarily U.S. Treasury or other government obligations or high quality money market instruments. The Fund will require that the value of such underlying securities, together with any other collateral held by the Fund, always equals or exceeds the amount of the repurchase obligations of the counter party. The Fund's risk is primarily that, if the seller defaults, the proceeds from the disposition of the underlying securities and other collateral for the seller's obligation are less than the repurchase price. If the seller becomes insolvent, the Fund might be delayed in or prevented from selling the collateral. In the event of a default or bankruptcy by a seller, the Fund will promptly seek to liquidate the collateral. To the extent that the proceeds from any sale of such collateral upon a default in the obligation to repurchase are less than the repurchase price, the Fund will experience a loss.

If the financial institution which is a party to the repurchase agreement petitions for bankruptcy or becomes subject to the United States Bankruptcy Code, the law regarding the rights of the Fund is unsettled. As a result, under extreme circumstances, there may be a restriction on the Fund's ability to sell the collateral and the Fund would suffer a loss.

Loans of Portfolio Securities. Consistent with applicable regulatory requirements and the Fund's investment restrictions, the Fund may lend its portfolio securities to securities broker-dealers or financial institutions, provided that such loans are callable at any time by the Fund (subject to notice provisions described below), and are at all times secured by cash or cash equivalents, which are maintained in a segregated account pursuant to applicable regulations and that are at least equal to the market value, determined daily, of the loaned securities. The advantage of such loans is that the Fund continues to receive the income on the loaned securities while at the same time earns interest on the cash amounts deposited as collateral, which will be invested in short-term obligations. The Fund will not lend its

portfolio securities if such loans are not permitted by the laws or regulations

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

of any state in which its shares are qualified for sale. The Fund's loans of portfolio securities will be collateralized in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and no loan will cause the value of all loaned securities to exceed 20% of the value of the Fund's total assets. The Fund's ability to lend portfolio securities will be limited by the rating agency guidelines applicable to any of the Fund's outstanding Preferred Shares.

A loan may generally be terminated by the borrower on one business day notice, or by the Fund on five business days notice. If the borrower fails to deliver the loaned securities within five days after receipt of notice, the Fund could use the collateral to replace the securities while holding the borrower liable for any excess of replacement cost over collateral. As with any extensions of credit, there are risks of delay in recovery and in some cases even loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially. However, these loans of portfolio securities will only be made to firms deemed by the Fund's management to be creditworthy and when the income which can be earned from such loans justifies the attendant risks. The Board of Trustees will oversee the creditworthiness of the contracting parties on an ongoing basis. Upon termination of the loan, the borrower is required to return the securities to the Fund. Any gain or loss in the market price during the loan period would inure to the Fund. The risks associated with loans of portfolio securities are substantially similar to those associated with repurchase agreements. Thus, if the counter party to the loan petitions for bankruptcy or becomes subject to the United States Bankruptcy Code, the law regarding the rights of the Fund is unsettled. As a result, under extreme circumstances, there may be a restriction on the Fund's ability to sell the collateral and the Fund would suffer a loss. When voting or consent rights which accompany loaned securities pass to the borrower, the Fund will follow the policy of calling the loaned securities, to be delivered within one day after notice, to permit the exercise of such rights if the matters involved would have a material effect on the Fund's investment in such loaned securities. The Fund will pay reasonable finder's, administrative and custodial fees in connection with a loan of its securities.

When Issued, Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments. The Fund may enter into forward commitments for the purchase or sale of securities, including on a "when issued" or "delayed delivery" basis, in excess of customary settlement periods for the type of security involved. In some cases, a forward commitment may be conditioned upon the occurrence of a subsequent event, such as approval and consummation of a merger, corporate reorganization or debt restructuring, i.e., a when, as and if issued security. When such transactions are negotiated, the price is fixed at the time of the commitment, with payment and delivery taking place in the future, generally a month or more after the date of the commitment. While it will only enter into a forward commitment with the intention of actually acquiring the security, the Fund may sell the security before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable.

Securities purchased under a forward commitment are subject to market fluctuation, and no interest (or dividends) accrues to the Fund prior to the settlement date. The Fund will segregate with its custodian cash or liquid high-grade debt securities in an aggregate amount at least equal to the amount of its outstanding forward commitments.

Short Sales. The Fund may make short sales of securities. A short sale is a transaction in which the Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. The market value of the securities sold short of any one issuer will not exceed either 5% of the Fund's total assets or 5% of such issuer's voting securities. The Fund will not make a short sale, if, after giving effect to such sale, the market value of all securities sold short exceeds 25% of the value of its assets or the Fund's aggregate short sales of a particular class of securities exceeds 25% of the outstanding securities of that class. The Fund may also make short sales

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

"against the box" without respect to such limitations. In this type of short sale, at the time of the sale, the Fund owns, or has the immediate and unconditional right to acquire at no additional cost, the identical security.

The Fund expects to make short sales both to obtain capital gains from anticipated declines in securities and as a form of hedging to offset potential declines in long positions in the same or similar securities. The short sale of a security is considered a speculative investment technique. Short sales "against the box" may be subject to special tax rules, one of the effects of which may be to accelerate income to the Fund.

When the Fund makes a short sale, it must borrow the security sold short and deliver it to the broker-dealer through which it made the short sale in order to satisfy its obligation to deliver the security upon conclusion of the sale. The Fund may have to pay a fee to borrow particular securities and is often obligated to pay over any payments received on such borrowed securities.

The Fund's obligation to replace the borrowed security will be secured by collateral deposited with the broker-dealer, usually cash, U.S. government securities or other highly liquid debt securities. The Fund will also be required to deposit similar collateral with its custodian to the extent, if any, necessary so that the value of both collateral deposits in the aggregate is at all times equal to the greater of the price at which the security is sold short or 100% of the current market value of the security sold short. Depending on arrangements made with the broker-dealer from which it borrowed the security regarding payment over of any payments received by the Fund on such security, the Fund may not receive any payments (including interest) on its collateral deposited with such broker-dealer. If the price of the security sold short increases between the time of the short sale and the time the Fund replaces the borrowed security, the Fund will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Fund will realize a capital gain. Any gain will be decreased, any loss increased, by the transaction costs described above. Although the Fund's gain is limited to the price at which it sold the security short, its potential loss is theoretically unlimited.

To secure its obligations to deliver the securities sold short, the Fund will deposit in escrow in a separate account with its custodian, State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street"), an amount at least equal to the securities sold short or securities convertible into, or exchangeable for, the securities. The Fund may close out a short position by purchasing and delivering an equal amount of securities sold short, rather than by delivering securities already held by the Fund, because the Fund may want to continue to receive interest and dividend payments on securities in its portfolio that are convertible into the securities sold short.

INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

The Fund operates under the following restrictions that constitute fundamental policies that, except as otherwise noted, cannot be changed without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Except as otherwise noted, all percentage limitations set forth below apply immediately after a purchase or initial investment and any subsequent change in any applicable percentage resulting from market fluctuations does not require any action. The Fund may not:

- (1) invest 25% or more of its total assets, taken at market value at the time of each investment, in the securities of issuers in any particular industry other than the Utility Industry. This restriction does not apply to investments in U.S. government securities.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

- (2) purchase or sell commodities or commodity contracts except that the Fund may purchase or sell futures contracts and related options thereon if immediately thereafter (i) no more than 5% of its total assets are invested in margins and premiums and (ii) the aggregate market value of its outstanding futures contracts and market value of the currencies and futures contracts subject to outstanding options written by the Fund do not exceed 50% of the market value of its total assets. The Fund may not purchase or sell real estate, provided that the Fund may invest in securities secured by real estate or interests therein or issued by companies which invest in real estate or interests therein.
- (3) make loans of money, except by the purchase of a portion of private or publicly distributed debt obligations or the entering into of repurchase agreements. The Fund reserves the authority to make loans of its portfolio securities to financial intermediaries in an aggregate amount not exceeding 20% of its total assets. Any such loans will only be made upon approval of, and subject to any conditions imposed by, the Board of Trustees of the Fund. Because these loans are required to be fully collateralized at all times, the risk of loss in the event of default of the borrower should be slight.
- (4) borrow money except to the extent permitted by applicable law. The 1940 Act currently requires that the Fund have 300% asset coverage with respect to all borrowings other than temporary borrowings of up to 5% of the value of its total assets.
- (5) issue senior securities, except to the extent permitted by applicable law.
- (6) underwrite securities of other issuers except insofar as the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act 1933 (the "1933 Act") in selling portfolio securities; provided, however, this restriction shall not apply to securities of any investment company organized by the Fund that are to be distributed pro rata as a dividend to its shareholders.

MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Overall responsibility for management and supervision of the Fund rests with its Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees approves all significant agreements between the Fund and the companies that furnish the Fund with services, including agreements with the Adviser, the Fund's custodian and the Fund's transfer agent. The day-to-day operations of the Fund are delegated to the Investment Adviser.

The names and business addresses of the trustees and principal officers of the Fund are set forth in the following table, together with their positions and their principal occupations during the past five years and, in the case of the trustees, their positions with certain other organizations and companies. Trustees who are "interested persons" of the Fund, as defined by the 1940 Act, are indicated by an asterisk.

TRUSTEES

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

NAME (AND AGE), POSITION WITH THE FUND AND BUSINESS ADDRESS1 -----	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED2 -----	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST FIVE YEARS -----	NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN FUND COMPLEX OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE -----
INTERESTED TRUSTEES: *Mario J. Gabelli (60) Trustee and Chief Investment Officer	Since 1999*	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer of Gabelli Asset Management Inc. and Chief Investment Officer of the Investment Adviser and GAMCO Investors, Inc; Director/Trustee and Chief Investment Officer of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.	22
*John D. Gabelli (58) Trustee	Since 1999***	Senior Vice President of Gabelli & Company and Director of Gabelli Advisers, Inc.; Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.	9
*Karl Otto Pohl (73) Trustee	Since 1999***	Member of the Shareholder Committee of Sal. Oppenheim Jr. & Cie, Zurich (private investment bank); Former President of the Deutsche Bundesbank and Chairman of its Central Bank Council from 1980 through 1991; Director/Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.	31
Dr. Thomas E. Bratter (63)	Since 1999*	Director, President and Founder, The John Dewey Academy (residential college preparatory therapeutic high school); Trustee Director/Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.	3
Anthony J. Colavita (67) Trustee	Since 1999**	President and Attorney at law in the law firm of Anthony J. Colavita, P.C. since 1961; Director/Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.	33
James P. Conn (65) Trustee	Since 1999***	Former Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer of Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd., 1992-1998; Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.	11

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

<p>Vincent D. Enright (59) Trustee</p>	<p>Since 1999*</p>	<p>Former Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of KeySpan Energy Corporation through 1998; Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr. (63) Trustee</p>	<p>Since 1999**</p>	<p>President and CEO of the American Gaming Association since June 1995; Partner of Hogan & Hartson; Chairman of International Trade Practice Group; Co-Chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates; former Chairman of the Republican National Committee; Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Robert J. Morrissey (63) Trustee</p>	<p>Since 1999**</p>	<p>Partner in the law firm of Morrissey, Hawkins & Lynch; Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>Anthony R. Pustorino (77) Trustee</p>	<p>Since 1999***</p>	<p>Certified Public Accountant; Professor Emeritus, Pace University; Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>Salvatore J. Zizza (67) Trustee</p>	<p>Since 1999**</p>	<p>Chairman of Hallmark Electrical Supply Corp.; Former Executive Vice President of FMG Group (a Pharmaceuticals healthcare provider); Trustee of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli fund complex.</p>	<p>9</p>

OFFICERS

NAME (AND AGE), POSITION WITH THE FUND AND BUSINESS ADDRESS1	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRI OCCUPAT PAST F
<p>Bruce N. Alpert (51)</p>	<p>Since 1999</p>	<p>Executive Vice Pr President Operati Adviser since Jun President of Gabe Officer of all ot investment compan complex; Vice Pre Treasurer's Fund</p>
<p>Gus A. Coursouros (40) Vice President and Treasurer</p>	<p>Since 2003</p>	<p>Vice President an Officer of Gabell 1998 and an offic advised by Gabell</p>

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

David Schachter (49)
Vice President

Since 1999

affiliates. Chief
Gabelli Advisers,
Treasurer of Laza

Vice President of
Financial Services
Gabelli & Company
1998 to July 9, 1998,
1998, Vice President
Herzfeld Advisers
investment adviser
closed-end fund a

James E. McKee (39)
Secretary of the Fund

Since 1999

Vice President, G
Secretary of the
and Vice President
Investors, Inc. (I
of the registered
in the Gabelli fu

* "Interested person" of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act. Mr. Mario Gabelli is an "interested person" of the Fund as a result of his employment as an officer of the Fund and the Investment Adviser. Messrs. John and Mario Gabelli are registered representatives of an affiliated broker-dealer. Mr. Pohl is a director of the parent company of the Adviser.

1 Address: One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422, unless otherwise noted.

2 The Fund's Board of Trustees is divided into three classes, each class having a term of three years. Each year the term of office of one class expires and the successor or successors elected to such class serve for a three year term. The three year term for each class expires as follows:

- *-- Term expires at the Fund's 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- **-- Term expires at the Fund's 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- ***-- Term expires at the Fund's 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

The Board of Trustees of the Fund are divided into three classes, with a class having a term of three years except as described below. Each year the term of office of one class of trustees of the Fund will expire. However, to ensure that the term of a class of the Fund's trustees expires each year, one class of the Fund's trustees will serve three-year terms. The terms of Messrs. Bratter, Enright and Mario Gabelli as trustees of the Fund expire in 2004; and the terms of Messrs. Colavita, Fahrenkopf, Morrissey and Zizza as trustees of the Fund expire in 2005; the terms of Messrs. Conn, John Gabelli, Pohl and Pustorino as trustees of the Fund expire in 2006.

NAME OF DIRECTOR	DOLLAR RANGE OF EQUITY SECURITIES IN THE FUND	AGGREGATE DOLLAR EQUITY SECURITIES
------------------	--	---------------------------------------

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

REGISTERED INVEST
COMPANIES OVERSEE
DIRECTORS IN FAMI
COMPANIES

INTERESTED TRUSTEES		
Mario J. Gabelli	B	E
John D. Gabelli	A	E
Karl Otto Pohl	A	A
DISINTERESTED TRUSTEES		
Dr. Thomas E. Bratter	A	E
James P. Conn	C	E
Vincent D. Enright	A	E
Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.	A	B
Robert J. Morrissey	A	C
Anthony J. Pustonino	C	
Salvatore J. Zizza	D	E

* KEY TO DOLLAR RANGES

A. None
B. \$1 - \$10,000
C. \$10,001 - \$50,000
D. \$50,001 - \$100,000
E. Over \$100,000

All shares were valued as of December 31, 2002.

The Trustees serving on the Fund's Nominating Committee are Messrs. Zizza (Chairman) and Colavita. The Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending qualified candidates to the Board in the event that a position is vacated or created. The Nominating Committee would consider recommendations by shareholders if a vacancy were to exist. Such recommendations should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Fund. The Nominating Committee did not meet during the year ended December 31, 2002. The Fund does not have a standing compensation committee.

Messrs. Pustorino (Chairman), Colavita and Enright serve on the Fund's Audit Committee and these Trustees are not "interested persons" of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act. The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating issues related to the accounting and financial reporting policies and internal controls of the Fund and the internal controls of certain service providers, overseeing the quality and objectivity of the Fund's financial statements and the audit thereof and to act as a liaison between the Board of Trustees and the Fund's independent accountants. During the year ended December 31, 2002, the Audit Committee met twice.

As of April 30, 2003, the Directors and Officers of the Fund as a group beneficially owned approximately less than [__]% of the outstanding shares of the Fund's Common Shares.

REMUNERATION OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

The Fund pays each trustee who is not affiliated with the Investment Adviser or its affiliates a fee of \$3,000 per year plus \$500 per meeting attended, together with each trustee's actual out-of-pocket expenses relating to attendance at such meetings.

The following table shows certain compensation information for the Trustees and Officers of the Fund for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002. Mr. Schachter is employed by the Fund and his compensation is evaluated and approved by the Trustees. Other officers who are employed by the Investment

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Adviser receive no compensation or expense reimbursement from the Fund.

COMPENSATION TABLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

NAME OF PERSON AND POSITION	AGGREGATE COMPENSATION FROM THE FUND	TOTAL COMPEN FROM THE FUND COMPLEX TO TRUST OFFICER
MARIO J. GABELLI Chairman of the Board	\$0	\$0
DR. THOMAS E. BRATTER Trustee	\$5,000	\$31,000
ANTHONY J. COLAVITA Trustee	\$6,000	\$152,200
JAMES P. CONN Trustee	\$5,000	\$53,500
VINCENT D. ENRIGHT Trustee	\$6,000	\$54,500
FRANK J. FAHRENKOPF, JR. Trustee	\$5,000	\$31,000
JOHN D. GABELLI Trustee	\$0	\$0
ROBERT J. MORRISSEY Trustee	\$6,000	\$45,000
KARL OTTO POHL Trustee	\$0	\$0
ANTHONY R. PUSTORINO Trustee	\$6,000	\$132,200
SALVATORE J. ZIZZA Trustee	\$5,000	\$73,750

* Represents the total compensation paid to such persons during the calendar year ended December 31, 2002 by investment companies (including the Fund) or portfolios thereof from which such person receives compensation that are considered part of the same fund complex as the Fund because they have common or affiliated investment advisers. The number in parenthesis represents the number of such investment companies.

For his services as Vice President of the Fund, Mr. Schachter received compensation in 2002 of \$130,000.

INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS; LIMITATIONS ON LIABILITY

The Governing Documents of the Fund provide that the Fund will indemnify its trustees and officers and may indemnify its employees or agents against liabilities and expenses incurred in connection with litigation in which they may be involved because of their positions with the Fund, to the fullest extent permitted by law. However, nothing in the Governing Documents of the Fund protects or indemnifies a trustee, officer, employee or agent of the Fund against any liability to which such person would otherwise be subject in the event of such person's willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her position.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Gabelli Funds, LLC acts as the Fund's Investment Adviser pursuant to an advisory agreement with the Fund (the "Advisory Agreement"). The Investment Adviser is a New York corporation with principal offices located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580. The Investment Adviser was organized in 1999 and is the successor to Gabelli Funds, Inc., which was organized in 1980. As of December 31, 2002, the Investment Adviser acted as registered investment

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

advisers to [] management investment companies with aggregate net assets of \$[] billion. The Investment Adviser, together with other affiliated investment advisers set forth below, had assets under management totaling approximately \$[] billion, as of December 31, 2002. GAMCO Investors, Inc., an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, acts as investment adviser for individuals, pension trusts, profit sharing trusts and endowments and as a sub-adviser to management investment companies, having aggregate assets of \$[] billion under management as of December 31, 2002. Gabelli Fixed Income LLC, an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, acts as investment adviser for The Treasurer's Fund and separate accounts having aggregate assets of \$[] billion under management as of December 31, 2002. Gabelli Advisors, Inc., an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, acts as investment manager to the Gabelli Westwood Funds, having aggregate assets of \$[] million under management as of December 31, 2002.

The Investment Adviser is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gabelli Asset Management Inc., a New York corporation, whose Class A Common Stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "GBL." Mr. Mario J. Gabelli may be deemed a "controlling person" of the Investment Adviser on the basis of his ownership of a majority of the stock of the Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc., which owns a majority of the capital stock of Gabelli Asset Management Inc.

Under the terms of the Advisory Agreement, the Investment Adviser manages the portfolio of the Fund in accordance with its stated investment objective and policies, makes investment decisions for the Fund, places orders to purchase and sell securities on behalf of the Fund and manages its other business and affairs, all subject to the supervision and direction of the Fund's Board of Trustees. In addition, under the Advisory Agreement, the Investment Adviser oversees the administration of all aspects of the Fund's business and affairs and provides, or arranges for others to provide, at the Investment Adviser's expense, certain enumerated services, including maintaining the Fund's books and records, preparing reports to the Fund's shareholders and supervising the calculation of the net asset value of its shares. All expenses of computing the net asset value of the Fund, including any equipment or services obtained solely for the purpose of pricing shares or valuing its investment portfolio, will be an expense of the Fund under its Advisory Agreement unless the Investment Adviser voluntarily assumes responsibility for such expense.

The Advisory Agreement combines investment advisory and administrative responsibilities in one agreement. For services rendered by the Investment Adviser on behalf of the Fund under the Advisory Agreement, the Fund pays the Investment Adviser a fee computed daily and paid monthly at the annual rate of 1.00% of the average weekly net assets of the Fund. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Investment Adviser will waive the portion of its investment advisory fee attributable to an amount of assets of the Fund equal to the aggregate stated value of the applicable series of its Preferred Shares for any calendar year in which the net asset value total return of the Fund allocable to the Common Shares, including distributions and the advisory fee subject to potential waiver, is less than the stated annual dividend rate of such series, prorated during the year such series is issued and the final year such series is outstanding.

The Advisory Agreement provides that in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard for its obligations and duties thereunder, the Investment Adviser is not liable for any error or judgment or mistake of law or for any loss suffered by the Fund. As part of the Advisory Agreement, the Fund has agreed that the name "Gabelli" is the Investment Adviser's property, and that in the event the Investment Adviser ceases to act as an investment adviser to the Fund, the Fund will change its name to one not including "Gabelli."

Pursuant to its terms, the Advisory Agreement will remain in effect

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

with respect to the Fund until the second anniversary of shareholder approval of such Agreement, and from year to year thereafter if approved annually (i) by the Fund's Board of Trustees or by the holders of a majority of its outstanding voting securities and (ii) by a majority of the directors who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any party to the Advisory Agreement, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Advisory Agreement was initially approved by the Board of Trustees at a meeting held on [___] and was approved most recently by the Board of Trustees on [___]. The Advisory Agreement terminates automatically on its assignment and may be terminated without penalty on 60 days written notice at the option of either party thereto or by a vote of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding shares.

For each of the years ended December 31, 2000, December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2002, the Investment Adviser was paid \$[___], \$[___] and \$[___], respectively, for advisory and administrative services rendered to the Fund.

PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

Subject to policies established by the Board of Trustees of the Fund, the Investment Adviser is responsible for placing purchase and sale orders and the allocation of brokerage on behalf of the Fund. Transactions in equity securities are in most cases effected on U.S. stock exchanges and involve the payment of negotiated brokerage commissions. In general, there may be no stated commission in the case of securities traded in over-the-counter markets, but the prices of those securities may include undisclosed commissions or mark-ups. Principal transactions are not entered into with affiliates of the Fund. However, Gabelli & Company, Inc. may execute transactions in the over-the-counter markets on an agency basis and receive a stated commission therefrom. To the extent consistent with applicable provisions of the 1940 Act and the rules and exemptions adopted by the SEC thereunder, as well as other regulatory requirements, the Fund's Board of Trustees have determined that portfolio transactions may be executed through Gabelli & Company, Inc. and its broker-dealer affiliates if, in the judgment of the Investment Adviser, the use of those broker-dealers is likely to result in price and execution at least as favorable as those of other qualified broker-dealers, and if, in particular transactions, those broker-dealers charge the Fund a rate consistent with that charged to comparable unaffiliated customers in similar transactions. The Fund has no obligations to deal with any broker or group of brokers in executing

transactions in portfolio securities. In executing transactions, the Investment Adviser seeks to obtain the best price and execution for the Fund, taking into account such factors as price, size of order, difficulty of execution and operational facilities of the firm involved and the firm's risk in positioning a block of securities. While the Investment Adviser generally seeks reasonably competitive commission rates, the Fund does not necessarily pay the lowest commission available.

Subject to obtaining the best price and execution, brokers who provide supplemental research, market and statistical information to the Investment Adviser or its affiliates may receive orders for transactions by the Fund. The term "research, market and statistical information" includes advice as to the value of securities, and advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities, and the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities, and furnishing analyses and reports concerning issues, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy and the performance of accounts. Information so received will be in addition to and not in lieu of the services required to be performed by the Investment Adviser under the Advisory Agreement and the expenses of the Investment Adviser will not necessarily be reduced as a result of the receipt of such supplemental information. Such information may be useful to the Investment Adviser and its

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

affiliates in providing services to clients other than the Fund, and not all such information is used by the Investment Adviser in connection with the Fund. Conversely, such information provided to the Investment Adviser and its affiliates by brokers and dealers through whom other clients of the Investment Adviser and its affiliates effect securities transactions may be useful to the Investment Adviser in providing services to the Fund.

Although investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of the other accounts managed by the Investment Adviser and its affiliates, investments of the kind made by the Fund may also be made by those other accounts. When the same securities are purchased for or sold by the Fund and any of such other accounts, it is the policy of the Investment Adviser and its affiliates to allocate such purchases and sales in the manner deemed fair and equitable to all of the accounts, including the Fund.

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2000, December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2002, the Fund paid a total of \$[___], \$[___], and \$[___], respectively, in brokerage commissions, of which Gabelli & Company, Inc. and its affiliates received \$[___], \$[___], and \$[___], respectively. The amount received by Gabelli & Company, Inc. and its affiliates from the Fund in respect of brokerage commissions for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 represented approximately [___]% of the aggregate dollar amount of brokerage commissions paid by the Fund for such period and approximately [___]% of the aggregate dollar amount of transactions by the Fund for such period.

REPURCHASE OF COMMON SHARES

The Fund is a closed-end, non-diversified, management investment company and as such its shareholders do not, and will not, have the right to redeem their shares. The Fund, however, may repurchase its Common Shares from time to time as and when it deems such a repurchase advisable. Such repurchases will be made when the Fund's Common Shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more (or such other percentage as the Board of Trustees of the Fund may determine from time to time) from net asset value. Pursuant to the 1940 Act, the Fund may repurchase its Common Shares on a securities exchange (provided that the Fund has informed its shareholders within the preceding six months of its intention to repurchase such shares) or as otherwise permitted in accordance with Rule 23c-1 under the 1940 Act. Under that Rule, certain conditions must be met regarding, among other things, distribution of net income for the preceding fiscal year, status of the seller, price paid, brokerage commissions, prior notice to shareholders of an intention to purchase shares and purchasing in a manner and on a basis that does not discriminate unfairly against the other shareholders through their interest in the Fund.

When the Fund repurchases its Common Shares for a price below net asset value, the net asset value of the Common Shares that remain outstanding will be enhanced, but this does not necessarily mean that the market price of the outstanding Common Shares will be affected, either positively or negatively.

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The portfolio turnover rates of the Fund for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2002, December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2000 were [___]%, [___] % and [___]%, respectively. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of an investment company's annual sales or purchases of portfolio securities by the monthly average value of securities in its portfolio during the year, excluding portfolio securities the maturities of which at the time of acquisition were one year or less. A high rate of portfolio turnover involves correspondingly greater brokerage commission expense than a lower rate, which expense must be borne by the Fund and its shareholders, as applicable. A higher

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

rate of portfolio turnover may also result in taxable gains being passed to shareholders.

AUTOMATIC DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE PLAN

Under the Fund's Automatic Dividend Reinvestment and Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan (the "Plan"), a shareholder whose Common Shares are registered in his or her own name will have all distributions reinvested automatically by EquiServe, which is agent under the Plan, unless the shareholder elects to receive cash. Distributions with respect to shares registered in the name of a broker-dealer or other nominee (that is, in "street name") will be reinvested by the broker or nominee in additional shares under the Plan, unless the service is not provided by the broker or nominee or the shareholder elects to receive distributions in cash. Investors who own Common Shares registered in street name should consult their broker-dealers for details regarding reinvestment. All distributions to investors who do not participate in the Plan will be paid by check mailed directly to the record holder by EquiServe as dividend disbursing agent.

Under the Plan, whenever the market price of the Common Shares is equal to or exceeds net asset value at the time shares are valued for purposes of determining the number of shares equivalent to the cash dividend or capital gains distribution, participants in the Plan are issued Common Shares, valued at the greater of (i) the net asset value as most recently determined or (ii) 95% of the then-current market price of the Common Shares. The valuation date is the dividend or distribution payment date or, if that date is not a New York Stock Exchange trading day, the next preceding trading day. If the net asset value of the Common Shares at the time of valuation exceeds the market price of the Common Shares, participants will receive shares from the Fund, valued at market price. If the Fund should declare a dividend or capital gains distribution payable only in cash, EquiServe will buy the Common Shares for such Plan in the open market, on the New York Stock Exchange or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts, except that EquiServe will endeavor to terminate purchases in the open market and cause the Fund to issue shares at net asset value if, following the commencement of such purchases, the market value of the Common Shares exceeds net asset value.

Participants in the Plan have the option of making additional cash payments to EquiServe, monthly, for investment in the shares as applicable. Such payments may be made in any amount from \$250 to \$10,000. EquiServe will use all funds received from participants to purchase shares of the Fund

in the open market on or about the 15th of each month. EquiServe will charge each shareholder who participates \$0.75, plus a pro rata share of the brokerage commissions. Brokerage charges for such purchases are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions. It is suggested that participants send voluntary cash payments to EquiServe in a manner that ensures that EquiServe will receive these payments approximately 10 days before the 15th of the month. A participant may without charge withdraw a voluntary cash payment by written notice, if the notice is received by EquiServe at least 48 hours before such payment is to be invested.

EquiServe maintains all shareholder accounts in the Plan and furnishes written confirmations of all transactions in the account, including information needed by shareholders for personal and tax records. Shares in the account of each Plan participant will be held by EquiServe in noncertificated form in the name of the participant. A Plan participant may send its share certificates to EquiServe so that the shares represented by such certificates will be held by EquiServe in the participant's shareholder account under the Plan.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

In the case of shareholders such as banks, brokers or nominees, which hold shares for others who are the beneficial owners, EquiServe will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of shares certified from time to time by the shareholder as representing the total amount registered in the shareholder's name and held for the account of beneficial owners who participate in the Plan.

Experience under the Plan may indicate that changes are desirable. Accordingly, the Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate its Plan as applied to any voluntary cash payments made and any dividend or distribution paid subsequent to written notice of the change sent to the members of such Plan at least 90 days before the record date for such dividend or distribution. The Plan also may be amended or terminated by EquiServe on at least 90 days written notice to the participants in such Plan. All correspondence concerning the Plan should be directed to EquiServe at P.O. Box 43025, Providence, RI 02940-3025.

TAXATION

The following discussion is a brief summary of certain United States federal income tax considerations affecting the Fund and its shareholders. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of all federal, state, local and foreign tax concerns, and the discussions set forth here and in the Prospectus do not constitute tax advice. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers with any specific questions relating to federal, state, local and foreign taxes. The discussion reflects applicable tax laws of the United States as of the date of this SAI, which tax laws may be changed or subject to new interpretations by the courts or the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") retroactively or prospectively.

TAXATION OF THE FUND

The Fund has qualified as and intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company (a "RIC") under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). If it so qualifies, the Fund will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the portion of its net investment income (i.e., its investment company taxable income as defined in the Code without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and on its net capital gain (i.e., the excess of its net realized long-term capital gain over its net realized short-term capital loss), if any, which it distributes to its shareholders in each taxable year, provided that an amount equal to at least 90% of the sum of its net investment income and any net tax-exempt income for the taxable year is distributed to its shareholders.

Qualification as a RIC requires, among other things, that the Fund: (i) derive at least 90% of its gross income in each taxable year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies or other income (including gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in stock, securities or currencies and (ii) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of each taxable year, subject to certain exceptions, (a) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's assets is represented by cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs and other securities with such other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of its assets is invested in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other RICs) of any one issuer or any two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

If the Fund were unable to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement or otherwise were to fail to qualify as a RIC in any year, it would be taxed in the same manner as an ordinary corporation and distributions to the Fund's shareholders would not be deductible by the Fund in computing its taxable income. To qualify again to be taxed as a RIC in a subsequent year, the Fund would be required to distribute to preferred shareholders and common shareholders its earnings and profits attributable to non-RIC years reduced by an interest charge on 50% of such earnings and profits payable by the Fund to the IRS. In addition, if the Fund failed to qualify as a RIC for a period greater than one taxable year, then the Fund would be required to recognize and pay tax on any net built-in gains (the excess of aggregate gains, including items of income, over aggregate losses that would have been realized if the Fund had been liquidated) or, alternatively, to elect to be subject to taxation on such built-in gains recognized for a period of ten years, in order to qualify as a RIC in a subsequent year.

Based in part on a lack of present intention on the part of the Fund to voluntarily redeem the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred at any time in the future, the Fund intends to take the position that under present law the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred will constitute stock, rather than debt of the Fund. It is possible, however, that the IRS could take a contrary position asserting for example that the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred constitutes debt of the Fund. If that position were upheld, distributions on the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred would be considered interest, taxable as ordinary income regardless of the taxable income of the Fund.

The IRS has taken the position that if a regulated investment company has two classes of shares, it may designate distributions made to each class in any year as consisting of no more than such class's proportionate share of particular types of income, such as long-term capital gain. A class's proportionate share of a particular type of income is determined according to the percentage of total dividends paid by the regulated investment company during such year that was paid to such class. Consequently, the Fund will designate distributions made to the common shareholders and preferred shareholders as consisting of particular types of income in accordance with the classes' proportionate shares of such income. Because of this rule, the Fund is required to allocate a portion of its net capital gain, ordinary investment income and dividends qualifying for the dividends received deduction to common shareholders and preferred shareholders. The amount of net capital gain and ordinary investment income and dividends qualifying for the dividends received deduction allocable among common shareholders and the preferred shareholders will depend upon the amount of such net capital gain and ordinary investment income and dividends qualifying for the dividends received deduction realized by the Fund and the total dividends paid by the Fund on the Common Shares and the Preferred Shares during a taxable year.

Under the Code, amounts not distributed by a RIC on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a 4% excise tax. To avoid the tax, the Fund must

distribute during each calendar year, an amount at least equal to the sum of (i) 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year, (ii) 98% of its capital gain net income (both long-term and short-term) for the one year period ending on October 31 of such year, (unless an election is made to use the Fund's fiscal year), and (iii) all ordinary income and capital gain net income for previous years that were not previously distributed or subject to tax under Subchapter M. A distribution will be treated as paid during the calendar year if it is paid during the calendar year or declared by the Fund in October, November or December of the year, payable to shareholders of record on a date during such a month and paid by the Fund during January of the following year. Any such distributions paid during January of the following year will be deemed to be

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

received on December 31 of the year the distributions are declared, rather than when the distributions are received. While the Fund intends to distribute its ordinary income and capital gain net income in the manner necessary to minimize imposition of the 4% excise tax, there can be no assurance that sufficient amounts of the Fund's ordinary income and capital gain net income will be distributed to avoid entirely the imposition of the tax. In such event, the Fund will be liable for the tax only on the amount by which it does not meet the foregoing distribution requirements.

Gain or loss on the sales of securities by the Fund will be long-term capital gain or loss if the securities have been held by the Fund for more than one year. Gain or loss on the sale of securities held for one year or less will be short-term capital gain or loss.

Foreign currency gain or loss on non-U.S. dollar denominated bonds and other similar debt instruments and on any non-U.S. dollar denominated futures contracts, options and forward contracts that are not section 1256 contracts (as defined below) generally will be treated as net investment income and loss.

If the Fund invests in stock of a passive foreign investment company (a "PFIC"), the Fund may be subject to federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" with respect to, or gain from the disposition of, such stock even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the Fund to its shareholders. The tax would be determined by allocating such distribution or gain ratably to each day of the Fund's holding period for the stock. The amount so allocated to any taxable year of the Fund prior to the taxable year in which the excess distribution or disposition occurs would be taxed to the Fund at the highest marginal federal corporate income tax rate in effect for the year to which it was allocated, and the tax would be further increased by an interest charge. The amount allocated to the taxable year of the distribution or disposition would be included in the Fund's net investment income and, accordingly, would not be taxable to the Fund to the extent distributed by the Fund as a taxable dividend to shareholders.

If the Fund invests in stock of a PFIC, the Fund may be able to elect to treat the PFIC as a "qualified electing fund," in lieu of being taxable in the manner described in the above paragraph, and to include annually in income its pro rata share of the ordinary earnings and net capital gain (whether or not distributed) of the PFIC. In order to make this election, the Fund would be required to obtain annual information from the PFICs in which it invests, which may be difficult to obtain. Alternatively, the Fund may elect to mark-to-market at the end of each taxable year all shares that it hold in PFICs. If it makes this election, the Fund would recognize as ordinary income any increase in the value of such shares over their adjusted basis and as ordinary loss any decrease in such value to the extent it does not exceed prior increases.

The Fund may invest in debt obligations purchased at a discount with the result that the Fund may be required to accrue income for federal income tax purposes before amounts due under the obligations are paid. The Fund may also invest in securities rated in the medium to lower rating categories of nationally recognized rating organizations, and in unrated securities ("high yield securities"). A portion of the interest payments on such high yield securities may be treated as dividends for federal income tax purposes.

As a result of investing in stock of PFICs or securities purchased at a discount or any other investment that produces income that is not matched by a corresponding cash distribution to the Fund, the Fund could be required to include in current income, income it has not yet received. Any such income would be treated as income earned by the Fund and therefore would be subject to the distribution requirements of the Code. This might prevent the Fund from distributing 90% of its net investment income as is required in order to avoid Fund-level federal income taxation on all of its income, or might prevent the

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Fund from distributing enough ordinary income and capital gain net income to avoid completely the imposition of the excise tax. To avoid this result, the Fund may be required to borrow money or dispose of other securities to be able to make distributions to its shareholders.

If the Fund does not meet the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act and the Statements of Preferences, the Fund will be required to suspend distributions to the holders of the Common Shares until the asset coverage is restored. Such a suspension of distributions might prevent the Fund from distributing 90% of its net investment income as is required in order to avoid Fund-level federal income taxation on all of its income, or might prevent the Fund from distributing enough income and capital gain net income to avoid completely imposition of the excise tax. Upon any failure to meet the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act or the Statements of Preferences, the Fund may, and in certain circumstances will, be required to partially redeem Preferred Shares in order to restore the requisite asset coverage and avoid the adverse consequences to the Fund and its shareholders of failing to qualify as a RIC. If asset coverage were restored, the Fund would again be able to pay dividends and would generally be able to avoid Fund-level federal income taxation on the income that it distributes.

HEDGING TRANSACTIONS

Certain options, futures contracts and options on futures contracts are "section 1256 contracts." Any gains or losses on section 1256 contracts are generally considered 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses ("60/40"). Also, section 1256 contracts held by the Fund at the end of each taxable year are "marked-to-market" with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized and the resulting gain or loss is treated as 60/40 gain or loss.

Hedging transactions undertaken by the Fund may result in "straddles" for federal income tax purposes. The straddle rules may affect the character of gains (or losses) realized by the Fund. In addition, losses realized by the Fund on positions that are part of a straddle may be deferred under the straddle rules, rather than being taken into account in calculating the taxable income for the taxable year in which such losses are realized. Further, the Fund may be required to capitalize, rather than deduct currently, any interest expense on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry any positions that are part of a straddle.

The Fund may make one or more of the elections available under the Code which are applicable to straddles. If the Fund makes any of the elections, the amount, character and timing of the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions may be determined under rules that vary according to the election(s) made. The rules applicable under certain of the elections accelerate the recognition of gain or loss from the affected straddle positions.

Because application of the straddle rules may affect the character and timing of the Fund's gains, losses and deductions, the amount which must be distributed to shareholders, and which will be taxed to shareholders as ordinary income or long-term capital gain, may be increased or decreased substantially as compared to a fund that did not engage in such hedging transactions.

FOREIGN TAXES

Since the Fund may invest in foreign securities, its income from such securities may be subject to non-U.S. taxes. The Fund historically has invested less than 50% of its total assets in foreign securities. As long as the Fund continues to invest less than 50% of its assets in foreign securities it will not be eligible to elect to "pass-through" to shareholders of the Fund the ability to use the foreign tax deduction or foreign tax credit for foreign taxes

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

paid with respect to qualifying taxes.

TAXATION OF SHAREHOLDERS

The Fund will determine either to distribute or to retain for reinvestment all or part of its net capital gain. If any such gains are retained, the Fund will be subject to a tax of 35% of such amount. In that event, the Fund expects to designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders, each of whom (i) will be required to include in income for tax purposes as long-term capital gains its share of such undistributed amounts, (ii) will be entitled to credit its proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund against its federal income tax liability and to claim refunds to the extent that the credit exceeds such liability and (iii) will increase its basis in its shares of the Fund by an amount equal to 65% of the amount of undistributed capital gains included in such shareholder's gross income.

Distributions of ordinary income are taxable to a U.S. shareholder as ordinary income, whether paid in cash or shares. Ordinary income dividends paid by the Fund may qualify for the dividends received deduction available to corporations, but only to the extent that the Fund's income consists of qualified dividends received from U.S. corporations. Distributions of net capital gain designated as capital gain dividends, if any, are taxable to shareholders at rates applicable to long-term capital gains, whether paid in cash or in shares, regardless of how long the shareholder has held the Fund's shares, and are not eligible for the dividends received deduction. Distributions in excess of the Fund's earnings and profits will first reduce the adjusted tax basis of a holder's shares and, after such adjusted tax basis is reduced to zero, will constitute capital gain to such holder (assuming the shares are held as a capital asset). For non-corporate taxpayers, net investment income will currently be taxed at a maximum rate of 38.6% (which rate is scheduled to be reduced periodically through 2006) while net capital gain generally will be taxed at a maximum rate of 20%. For corporate taxpayers, both net investment income and net capital gain are taxed at a maximum rate of 35%. Legislation pending before Congress would accelerate future reductions in individual tax rates (applicable to ordinary income and short-term capital gain) and apply a maximum 35% rate for 2003 and thereafter.

Shareholders may be entitled to offset their capital gain dividends with capital losses. There are a number of statutory provisions affecting when capital losses may be offset against capital gains, and limiting the use of losses from certain investments and activities. Accordingly, shareholders with capital losses are urged to consult their tax advisers.

Shareholders receiving distributions in the form of newly issued shares will have a basis in such shares of the Fund equal to the fair market value of such shares on the distribution date. If the net asset value of shares is reduced below a shareholder's cost as a result of a distribution by the Fund, such distribution will be taxable even though it represents a return of invested capital. The price of shares purchased at any time may reflect the amount of a forthcoming distribution. Those purchasing shares just prior to a distribution will receive a distribution which will be taxable to them even though it represents in part a return of invested capital.

Upon a sale or exchange of shares, a shareholder will realize a taxable gain or loss depending upon his or her basis in the shares. Such gain or loss will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year. Any loss realized on a sale or exchange will be

disallowed to the extent the shares disposed of are replaced within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date that the shares are disposed of. In such a case, the basis of the shares acquired will be

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

Any loss realized by a shareholder on the sale of Fund shares held by the shareholder for six months or less will be treated for tax purposes as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any capital gain dividends received by the shareholder (or amounts credited to the shareholder as an undistributed capital gain) with respect to such shares.

Ordinary income dividends and capital gain dividends also may be subject to state and local taxes. Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisers regarding specific questions about the U.S. federal (including the application of the alternative minimum tax rules), state, local or foreign tax consequences to them of investing in the Fund.

Ordinary income dividends (but not capital gain dividends) paid to shareholders who are non-resident aliens or foreign entities will be subject to a 30% United States withholding tax under existing provisions of the Code applicable to foreign individuals and entities unless a reduced rate of withholding or a withholding exemption is provided under applicable treaty law. Non-resident shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisers concerning the applicability of the United States withholding tax.

Pending legislation may eliminate or reduce federal income taxation of dividends previously taxed at the corporate level and thereby reduce, eliminate or reverse the preferential taxation to individuals of capital gain versus dividend income. While it is unclear whether and in what form such legislation may be enacted, or its applicability to regulated investment company dividends, such a change in law could be given retroactive effect. Accordingly, it is not possible to evaluate how such legislation might affect the taxation of the Fund's shareholders.

BACKUP WITHHOLDING

The Fund may be required to withhold federal income tax on all taxable distributions and redemption proceeds payable to non-corporate shareholders who fail to provide the Fund with their correct taxpayer identification number or to make required certifications, or who have been notified by the IRS that they are subject to backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be refunded or credited against such shareholder's federal income tax liability, if any, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

THE FOREGOING IS A GENERAL AND ABBREVIATED SUMMARY OF THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE AND TREASURY REGULATIONS PRESENTLY IN EFFECT. FOR THE COMPLETE PROVISIONS, REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PERTINENT CODE SECTIONS AND THE TREASURY REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER. THE CODE AND THE TREASURY REGULATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, EITHER PROSPECTIVELY OR RETROACTIVELY. PERSONS CONSIDERING AN INVESTMENT IN SERIES A PREFERRED OR SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED SHOULD CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISERS REGARDING THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF SERIES A PREFERRED OR SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING AUCTIONS FOR SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

GENERAL

The Statement of Preferences provide that the Applicable Rate for each Dividend Period of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be equal to the rate per annum that the Auction Agent advises has resulted on the Business Day

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

preceding the first day of a Dividend Period (an "Auction Date") from implementation of the Auction Procedures set forth in the Statement of Preferences, and summarized below, in which persons determine to hold or offer to sell or, based on dividend rates bid by them, offer to purchase or sell shares of such Series. Each periodic implementation of the Auction Procedures is referred to herein as an "Auction." The following summary is qualified by reference to the Auction Procedures set forth in the Statements of Preferences.

Auction Agency Agreement. The Fund has entered into an Auction Agency Agreement (the "Auction Agency Agreement") with the Auction Agent (currently, The Bank of New York), which provides, among other things, that the Auction Agent will follow the Auction Procedures for purposes of determining the Applicable Rate for Series B Auction Rate Preferred so long as the Applicable Rate is to be based on the results of the Auction.

Broker-Dealer Agreements. Each Auction requires the participation of one or more Broker-Dealers. The Auction Agent has entered into agreements (collectively, the "Broker-Dealer Agreements") with several Broker-Dealers selected by the Fund, which provide for the participation of those Broker-Dealers in Auctions for Series B Auction Rate Preferred. See "Broker-Dealers" below.

Securities Depository. DTC will act as the Securities Depository for the Agent Members with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. One certificate for all of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of the Securities Depository.

Such certificate will bear a legend to the effect that such certificate is issued subject to the provisions restricting transfers of Series B Auction Rate Preferred contained in the Statement of Preferences. The Fund will also issue stop-transfer instructions to the transfer agent for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Prior to the commencement of the right of Holders of the Preferred Shares to elect a majority of the Fund's directors, as described under "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Voting Rights" in the Prospectus, Cede & Co. will be the Holder of all the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and owners of such shares will not be entitled to receive certificates representing their ownership interest in such shares.

DTC, a New York chartered limited purpose trust company, performs services for its participants (including Agent Members), some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. DTC maintains lists of its participants and will maintain the positions (ownership interests) held by each such Agent Member in Series B Auction Rate Preferred, whether for its own account or as a nominee for another person.

ORDERS BY EXISTING HOLDERS AND POTENTIAL HOLDERS

On or prior to the Submission Deadline on each Auction Date for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred:

- (i) each Beneficial Owner of Series B Auction Rate Preferred may submit to its Broker-Dealer by telephone or otherwise a:
 - (a) "Hold Order" - indicating the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares, if any, that such Beneficial Owner desires to continue to hold without regard to the Applicable Rate for such shares for the next succeeding Dividend Period of such shares;
 - (b) "Bid" - indicating the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares, if any, that such Beneficial Owner offers to sell if the Applicable Rate for

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

such Series B Auction Rate Preferred for the next succeeding Dividend Period is less than the rate per annum specified by such Beneficial Owner in such Bid; and/or

- (c) "Sell Order" - indicating the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares, if any, that such Beneficial Owner offers to sell without regard to the Applicable Rate for such Series B Auction Rate Preferred for the next succeeding Dividend Period; and
- (ii) Broker-Dealers will contact customers who are Potential Beneficial Owners by telephone or otherwise to determine whether such customers desire to submit Bids, in which case they will indicate the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares that they offer to purchase if the Applicable Rate for Series B Auction Rate Preferred for the next succeeding Dividend Period is not less than the rate per annum specified in such Bids.

The communication to a Broker-Dealer of the foregoing information is herein referred to as an "Order" and collectively as "Orders." A Beneficial Owner or a Potential Beneficial Owner placing an Order with its Broker-Dealer is herein referred to as a "Bidder" and collectively as "Bidders." The submission by a Broker-Dealer of an Order to the Auction Agent is referred to herein as an "Order" and collectively as "Orders," and an Existing Holder or Potential Holder who places an Order with the Auction Agent or on whose behalf an Order is placed with the Auction Agent is referred to herein as a "Bidder" and collectively as "Bidders."

A Bid placed by a Beneficial Owner specifying a rate higher than the Applicable Rate determined in the Auction will constitute an irrevocable offer to sell the shares subject thereto. A Beneficial Owner that submits a Bid to its Broker-Dealer having a rate higher than the Maximum Rate on the Auction Date thereof will be treated as having submitted a Sell Order to its Broker-Dealer. A Sell Order will constitute an irrevocable offer to sell Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject thereto at a price per share equal to \$25,000.

A Beneficial Owner that fails to submit to its Broker-Dealer prior to the Submission Deadline for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred an Order or Orders covering all the Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by such Beneficial Owner will be deemed to have submitted a Hold Order to its Broker-Dealer covering the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares held by such Beneficial Owner and not subject to Orders submitted to its Broker-Dealer; provided, however, that if a Beneficial Owner fails to submit to its Broker-Dealer prior to the Submission Deadline for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred an Order or Orders covering all of the Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by such Beneficial Owner for an Auction relating to a Special Dividend Period consisting of more than 28 Dividend Period days, such Beneficial Owner will be deemed to have submitted a Sell Order to its Broker-Dealer covering the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares held by such Beneficial Owner and not subject to Orders submitted to its Broker-Dealer.

A Potential Beneficial Owner of Series B Auction Rate Preferred may submit to its Broker-Dealer Bids in which it offers to purchase Series B Auction Rate Preferred if the Applicable Rate

for the next Dividend Period is not less than the rate specified in such Bid. A Bid placed by a Potential Beneficial Owner specifying a rate not higher than the Maximum Rate will constitute an irrevocable offer to purchase the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares specified in such Bid if the rate determined in the Auction is equal to or greater than the rate specified in such Bid. A Beneficial Owner of Series B Auction Rate Preferred that offers to become

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

the Beneficial Owner of additional Series B Auction Rate Preferred is, for purposes of such offer, a Potential Beneficial Owner.

As described more fully below under "-- Submission of Orders by Broker-Dealers to Auction Agent," the Broker-Dealers will submit the Orders of their respective customers who are Beneficial Owners and Potential Beneficial Owners to the Auction Agent, designating themselves (unless otherwise permitted by the Fund) as Existing Holders in respect of Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to Orders submitted or deemed submitted to them by Beneficial Owners and as Potential Holders in respect of Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to Orders submitted to them by Potential Beneficial Owners. However, neither the Fund nor the Auction Agent will be responsible for a Broker-Dealer's failure to comply with the foregoing. Any Order placed with the Auction Agent by a Broker-Dealer as or on behalf of an Existing Holder or a Potential Holder will be treated in the same manner as an Order placed with a Broker-Dealer by a Beneficial Owner or a Potential Beneficial Owner, as described above. Similarly, any failure by a Broker-Dealer to submit to the Auction Agent an Order in respect of any Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by it or its customers who are Beneficial Owners will be treated in the same manner as a Beneficial Owner's failure to submit to its Broker-Dealer an Order in respect of Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by it, as described in the second preceding paragraph. For information concerning the priority given to different types of Orders placed by Existing Holders, see "-- Submission of Orders by Broker-Dealers to Auction Agent" below.

The Fund may not submit an Order in any Auction.

The Auction Procedures include a pro rata allocation of shares for purchase and sale, which may result in an Existing Holder continuing to hold or selling, or a Potential Holder purchasing, a number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares that is fewer than the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares specified in its Order. See "-- Acceptance and Rejection of Submitted Bids and Submitted Sell Orders and Allocation of Shares" below. To the extent the allocation procedures have that result, Broker-Dealers that have designated themselves as Existing Holders or Potential Holders in respect of customer Orders will be required to make appropriate pro rata allocations among their respective customers. Each purchase or sale will be made for settlement on the Business Day next succeeding the Auction Date at a price per share equal to \$25,000. See "-- Notification of Results; Settlement" below.

As described above, any Bid specifying a rate higher than the Maximum Rate will (i) be treated as a Sell Order if submitted by a Beneficial Owner or an Existing Holder and (ii) not be accepted if submitted by a Potential Beneficial Owner or a Potential Holder. Accordingly, the Auction Procedures establish the Maximum Rate as a maximum rate per annum that can result from an Auction up to the Maximum Rate. See "Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate" and "Acceptance and Rejection of Submitted Bids and Submitted Sell Orders and Allocation of Shares" below.

CONCERNING THE AUCTION AGENT

The Auction Agent is acting as agent for the Fund in connection with Auctions. In the absence of willful misconduct or gross negligence on its part, the Auction Agent will not be liable for any action taken, suffered, or omitted or for any error of judgment made by it in the performance of its duties under the Auction Agency Agreement and will not be liable for any error of judgment made in good faith unless the Auction Agent will have been grossly negligent in ascertaining the pertinent facts.

The Auction Agent may rely upon, as evidence of the identities of the Existing Holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the Auction Agent's registry of Existing Holders, the results of Auctions and notices from any

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Broker-Dealer (or other person, if permitted by the Fund) with respect to transfers described under "The Auction of Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Secondary Market Trading and Transfer of Series B Auction Rate Preferred" in the Prospectus and notices from the Fund. The Auction Agent is not required to accept any such notice for an Auction unless it is received by the Auction Agent by 3:00 p.m., New York City time, on the Business Day preceding such Auction.

The Auction Agent may terminate the Auction Agency Agreement upon written notice to the Fund on a date no earlier than 30 days after the date of delivery of such notice. If the Auction Agent should resign, the Fund will use its best efforts to enter into an agreement with a successor Auction Agent containing substantially the same terms and conditions as the Auction Agency Agreement. The Fund may remove the Auction Agent, provided that prior to such removal, the Fund has entered into such an agreement with a successor Auction Agent.

BROKER-DEALERS

The Auction Agent after each Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred will pay to each Broker-Dealer, from funds provided by the Fund, a service charge equal to, in the case of any auction immediately preceding a dividend period of less than 365 days the product of (i) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days in such dividend period and the denominator of which is 365, times (ii) 1/4 of 1%, times (iii) \$25,000, times (iv) the aggregate number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares placed by such broker-dealer at such auction or, in the case of any auction immediately preceding a dividend period of one year or longer, a percentage of the purchase price of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred placed by the broker-dealers at the auction agreed to by the Fund and the broker-dealers. For the purposes of the preceding sentence, Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be placed by a Broker-Dealer if such shares were (i) the subject of Hold Orders deemed to have been submitted to the Auction Agent by the Broker-Dealer and were acquired by such Broker-Dealer for its customers who are Beneficial Owners or (ii) the subject of an Order submitted by such Broker-Dealer that is (a) a Submitted Bid of an Existing Holder that resulted in such Existing Holder continuing to hold such shares as a result of the Auction, (b) a Submitted Bid of a Potential Holder that resulted in such Potential Holder purchasing such shares as a result of the Auction or (c) a valid Hold Order.

The Fund may request the Auction Agent to terminate one or more Broker-Dealer Agreements at any time, provided that at least one Broker-Dealer Agreement is in effect after such termination.

The Broker-Dealer Agreement provides that a Broker-Dealer (other than an affiliate of the Fund) may submit Orders in Auctions for its own account, unless the Fund notifies all Broker-Dealers that they may no longer do so, in which case Broker-Dealers may continue to submit Hold Orders and Sell Orders for their own accounts. Any Broker-Dealer that is an affiliate of the Fund may submit Orders in Auctions, but only if such Orders are not for its own account. If a Broker-Dealer submits an Order for its own account in any Auction, it might have an advantage over other Bidders because it would have knowledge of all Orders submitted by it in that Auction. Such Broker-Dealer, however, would not have knowledge of Orders submitted by other Broker-Dealers in that Auction.

SUBMISSION OF ORDERS BY BROKER-DEALERS TO AUCTION AGENT

Prior to 1:00 p.m., New York City time, on each Auction Date, or such other time on the Auction Date specified by the Auction Agent (i.e., the Submission Deadline), each Broker-Dealer will submit to the Auction Agent in writing all Orders obtained by it for the Auction to be conducted on such Auction Date, designating itself (unless otherwise permitted by the Fund) as the Existing Holder or Potential Holder, as the case may be, in respect of Series B

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Orders. Any Order submitted by a Beneficial Owner or a Potential Beneficial Owner to its Broker-Dealer, or by a Broker-Dealer to the Auction Agent, prior to the Submission Deadline on any Auction Date, will be irrevocable.

If any rate specified in any Bid contains more than three figures to the right of the decimal point, the Auction Agent will round such rate to the next highest one-thousandth (0.001) of 1%.

If one or more Orders of an Existing Holder is submitted to the Auction Agent covering in the aggregate more than the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to an Auction held by such Existing Holder, such Orders will be considered valid in the following order of priority:

- (i) all Hold Orders for Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be considered valid, but only up to and including in the aggregate the number of Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by such Existing Holder, and, if the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to such Hold Orders exceeds the number of shares of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by such Existing Holder, the number of shares subject to each such Hold Order will be reduced pro rata to cover the number of Outstanding shares held by such Existing Holder;
- (ii)
 - (a) any Bid for Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be considered valid up to and including the excess of the number of Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by such Existing Holder over the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to any Hold Orders referred to in clause (i) above;
 - (b) subject to subclause (a), if more than one Bid of an Existing Holder for Series B Auction Rate Preferred is submitted to the Auction Agent with the same rate and the number of Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Bids is greater than such excess, such Bids will be considered valid up to and including the amount of such excess, and the number of shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to each Bid with the same rate will be reduced pro rata to cover the number of shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred equal to such excess;
 - (c) subject to subclauses (a) and (b), if more than one Bid of an Existing Holder for Series B Auction Rate Preferred is submitted to the Auction Agent with different rates, such Bids will be considered valid in the ascending order of their respective rates up to and including the amount of such excess; and
 - (d) in any such event, the number, if any, of such Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to any portion of Bids considered not valid in whole or in part under this clause (ii) will be treated as the subject of a Bid for Series B Auction Rate Preferred by or on behalf of a Potential Holder at the rate specified therein; and
- (iii) all Sell Orders for Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be considered valid up to and including the excess of the number of Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by such Existing Holder over the sum of shares subject to valid

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Hold Orders referred to in clause (i) above and valid Bids referred to in clause (ii) above.

If more than one Bid of a Potential Holder for Series B Auction Rate Preferred is submitted to the Auction Agent by or on behalf of any Potential Holder, each such Bid submitted will be a separate Bid with the rate and number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares specified therein.

DETERMINATION OF SUFFICIENT CLEARING BIDS, WINNING BID RATE AND APPLICABLE RATE

Not earlier than the Submission Deadline on each Auction Date for Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the Auction Agent will assemble all valid Orders submitted or deemed submitted to it by the Broker-Dealers (each such Hold Order, Bid or Sell Order as submitted or deemed submitted by a Broker-Dealer being herein referred to as a "Submitted Hold Order," a "Submitted Bid" or a "Submitted Sell Order," as the case may be, or as a "Submitted Order" and collectively as "Submitted Hold Orders," "Submitted Bids" or "Submitted Sell Orders," as the case may be, or as "Submitted Orders") and will determine the excess of the number of Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred over the number of Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to Submitted Hold Orders (such excess being herein referred to as the "Available Series B Auction Rate Preferred") and whether Sufficient Clearing Bids have been made in the Auction. "Sufficient Clearing Bids" will have been made if the number of Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred that are the subject of Submitted Bids of Potential Holders specifying rates not higher than the Maximum Rate equals or exceeds the number of Outstanding shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred that are the subject of Submitted Sell Orders (including the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to Bids of Existing Holders specifying rates higher than the Maximum Rate).

If Sufficient Clearing Bids for Series B Auction Rate Preferred have been made, the Auction Agent will determine the lowest rate specified in such Submitted Bids (the Winning Bid Rate for shares of such Series) which, taking into account the rates in the Submitted Bids of Existing Holders, would result in Existing Holders continuing to hold an aggregate number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares which, when added to the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares to be purchased by Potential Holders, based on the rates in their Submitted Bids, would equal not less than the Available Series B Auction Rate Preferred. In such event, the Winning Bid Rate will be the Applicable Rate for the next Dividend Period for all shares of such Series.

If Sufficient Clearing Bids have not been made (other than because all of the Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred is subject to Submitted Hold Orders), the Applicable Rate for the next Dividend Period for all Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be equal to the Maximum Rate. In such a case, Beneficial Owners that have submitted or that are deemed to have submitted Sell Orders may not be able to sell in the Auction all Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Sell Orders but will continue to own Series B Auction Rate Preferred for the next Dividend Period. See " - Acceptance and Rejection of Submitted Bids and Submitted Sell Orders and Allocation of Shares" below.

If all of the Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred is subject to Submitted Hold Orders, the Applicable Rate for all Series B Auction Rate Preferred for the next succeeding Dividend Period will be the All Hold Rate.

ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION OF SUBMITTED BIDS AND SUBMITTED SELL ORDERS AND ALLOCATION OF SHARES

Based on the determinations made under " - Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate" above and, subject to the

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

discretion of the Auction Agent to round and allocate certain shares as described below, Submitted Bids and Submitted Sell Orders will be accepted or rejected in the order of priority set forth in the Auction Procedures, with the result that Existing Holders and Potential Holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred will sell, continue to hold and/or purchase such shares as set forth below. Existing Holders that submitted or were deemed to have submitted Hold

Orders (or on whose behalf Hold Orders were submitted or deemed to have been submitted) will continue to hold the Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Hold Orders.

If Sufficient Clearing Bids for Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares have been made:

- (i) Each Existing Holder that placed or on whose behalf was placed a Submitted Sell Order or Submitted Bid specifying any rate higher than the Winning Bid Rate will sell the Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Submitted Sell Order or Submitted Bid;
- (ii) Each Existing Holder that placed or on whose behalf was placed a Submitted Bid specifying a rate lower than the Winning Bid Rate will continue to hold the Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Submitted Bid;
- (iii) Each Potential Holder that placed or on whose behalf was placed a Submitted Bid specifying a rate lower than the Winning Bid Rate will purchase the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to such Submitted Bid;
- (iv) Each Existing Holder that placed or on whose behalf was placed a Submitted Bid specifying a rate equal to the Winning Bid Rate will continue to hold Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Submitted Bid, unless the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to all such Submitted Bids is greater than the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares ("remaining shares") in excess of the Available Series B Auction Rate Preferred over the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares accounted for in clauses (ii) and (iii) above, in which event each Existing Holder with such a Submitted Bid will continue to hold Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Submitted Bid determined on a pro rata basis based on the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to all such Submitted Bids of such Existing Holders; and
- (v) Each Potential Holder that placed or on whose behalf was placed a Submitted Bid specifying a rate equal to the Winning Bid Rate for Series B Auction Rate Preferred will purchase any Available Series B Auction Rate Preferred not accounted for in clauses (ii) through (iv) above on a pro rata basis based on the Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to all such Submitted Bids.

If Sufficient Clearing Bids for Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares have not been made (unless this results because all Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares are subject to Submitted Hold Orders):

- (i) Each Existing Holder that placed or on whose behalf was placed a Submitted Bid specifying a rate equal to or lower than the Maximum Rate will continue to hold the Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Submitted Bid;

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

- (ii) Each Potential Holder that placed or on whose behalf was placed a Submitted Bid specifying a rate equal to or lower than the Maximum Rate will purchase the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to such Submitted Bid; and
- (iii) Each Existing Holder that placed or on whose behalf was placed a Submitted Bid specifying a rate higher than the Maximum Rate or a Submitted Sell Order will sell a number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to such Submitted Bid or

Submitted Sell Order determined on a pro rata basis based on the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares subject to all such Submitted Bids and Submitted Sell Orders.

If, as a result of the pro rata allocation described in clauses (iv) or (v) of the second preceding paragraph or clause (iii) of the next preceding paragraph, any Existing Holder would be entitled or required to sell, or any Potential Holder would be entitled or required to purchase, a fraction of a Series B Auction Rate Preferred share, the Auction Agent will, in such manner as, in its sole discretion, it determines, round up or down to the nearest whole share the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares being sold or purchased on such Auction Date so that the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares sold or purchased by each Existing Holder or Potential Holder will be whole shares of such Series. If as a result of the pro rata allocation described in clause (v) of the second preceding paragraph, any Potential Holder would be entitled or required to purchase less than a whole Series B Auction Rate Preferred share, the Auction Agent will, in such manner as, in its sole discretion, it will determine, allocate Series B Auction Rate Preferred for purchase among Potential Holders so that only whole Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares are purchased by any such Potential Holder, even if such allocation results in one or more of such Potential Holders not purchasing shares of such Series.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS; SETTLEMENT

The Auction Agent will be required to advise each Broker-Dealer that submitted an Order of the Applicable Rate for the next Dividend Period and, if the Order was a Bid or Sell Order, whether such Bid or Sell Order was accepted or rejected, in whole or in part, by telephone by approximately 3:00 p.m., New York City time, on each Auction Date. Each Broker-Dealer that submitted an Order for the account of a customer will then be required to advise such customer of the Applicable Rate for the next Dividend Period and, if such Order was a Bid or a Sell Order, whether such Bid or Sell Order was accepted or rejected, in whole or in part, will be required to confirm purchases and sales with each customer purchasing or selling Series B Auction Rate Preferred as a result of the Auction and will be required to advise each customer purchasing or selling Series B Auction Rate Preferred as a result of the Auction to give instructions to its Agent Member of the Securities Depository to pay the purchase price against delivery of such shares or to deliver such shares against payment therefor, as appropriate. The Auction Agent will be required to record each transfer of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares on the registry of Existing Holders to be maintained by the Auction Agent.

In accordance with the Securities Depository's normal procedures, on the Business Day after the Auction Date, the transactions described above will be executed through the Securities Depository and the accounts of the respective Agent Members at the Securities Depository will be debited and credited and shares delivered as necessary to effect the purchases and sales of Series B Auction Rate Preferred as determined in the Auction. Purchasers will make payment through their Agent Members in same-day funds to the Securities Depository against delivery through their Agent Members; the Securities Depository will make payment in accordance with its normal procedures, which now

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

provide for payment against delivery by their Agent Members in same-day funds.

If any Existing Holder selling Series B Auction Rate Preferred in an Auction fails to deliver such shares, the Broker-Dealer of any person that was to have purchased such shares in such Auction may deliver to such person a number of whole Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares that is less than the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares that otherwise was to be purchased by such person. In such event, the number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares to be so delivered will be determined by the Broker-Dealer. Delivery of such lesser number of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares will constitute good delivery.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SERIES A PREFERRED AND SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

The additional information concerning the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred contained in this SAI does not purport to be complete a complete description of those Series and should be read in conjunction with the description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred contained in the Prospectus under "Description of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred." This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the Fund's Governing Documents, including the provisions of the Statements of Preferences establishing, respectively, the Series A Preferred and the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Copies of these Statements of Preferences are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which the Prospectus and this SAI are a part and may be inspected, and a copy thereof may be obtained, as described under "Additional Information" in the Prospectus.

DIVIDENDS AND DIVIDEND PERIODS FOR THE SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

Holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Trustees, out of funds legally available therefor, cumulative cash dividends on their shares, at the Applicable Rate determined as described under " -- Determination of Dividend Rate," payable as and when set forth below. Dividends so declared and payable will be paid to the extent permitted under the Code, and to the extent available and in preference to and priority over any dividend declared and payable on the Fund's Common Shares.

By 12:00 noon, New York City time, on the Business Day immediately preceding each Dividend Payment Date, the Fund is required to deposit with the Paying Agent sufficient same-day funds for the payment of declared dividends. The Fund does not intend to establish any reserves for the payment of dividends.

Each dividend will be paid by the Paying Agent to the Holder, which Holder is expected to be the nominee of the Securities Depository. The Securities Depository will credit the accounts of the Agent Members of the beneficial owners in accordance with the Securities Depository's normal procedures. The Securities Depository's current procedures provide for it to distribute dividends in same-day funds to Agent Members who are in turn expected to distribute such dividends to the persons for whom they are acting as agents. The Agent Member of a beneficial owner will be responsible for holding or disbursing such payments on the applicable Dividend Payment Date to such beneficial owner in accordance with the instructions of such beneficial owner.

Holders of Series B Auction Rate Preferred will not be entitled to any dividends, whether payable in cash, property or shares, in excess of full cumulative dividends. No interest will be payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments that may be in arrears. See " - Default Period."

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

The amount of dividends per Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred share payable (if declared) on each Dividend Payment Date of each Dividend Period of less than one year (or in respect of dividends on another date in connection with a redemption during such Dividend Period) will be computed by multiplying the Applicable Rate (or the Default Rate) for such Dividend Period (or a portion thereof) by a fraction, the numerator of which will be the number of days in such Dividend Period (or portion thereof) such share was Outstanding and for which the Applicable Rate or the Default Rate was applicable (but in no event will the numerator exceed 360) and the denominator of which will be 360, multiplying the amount so obtained by the \$25,000, and rounding the amount so obtained to the nearest cent. During any Dividend Period of one year or more, the amount of dividends per Series B Auction Rate Preferred share payable on any Dividend Payment Date (or in respect of dividends on

another date in connection with a redemption during such Dividend Period) will be computed as described in the preceding sentence except that the numerator, with respect to any full twelve month period, will be 360.

Determination of Dividend Rate. The dividend rate for the initial Dividend Period (i.e., the period from and including the Date of Original Issue to and including the initial Auction Date) and the initial Auction Date for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred is set forth in the Prospectus. See "The Auction of Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Summary of Auction Procedures" in the Prospectus. For each subsequent Dividend Period, subject to certain exceptions, the dividend rate will be the Applicable Rate that the Auction Agent advises the Fund has resulted from an Auction.

Dividend Periods after the initial Dividend Period will either be Standard Dividend Periods (generally seven days) or, subject to certain conditions and with notice to Holders, Special Dividend Periods.

A Special Dividend Period will not be effective unless Sufficient Clearing Bids exist at the Auction in respect of such Special Dividend Period (that is, in general, the number of shares subject to Bids by Potential Beneficial Owners is at least equal to the number of shares subject to Sell Orders by Existing Holders). If Sufficient Clearing Bids do not exist at any Auction in respect of a Special Dividend Period, the Dividend Period commencing on the Business Day succeeding such Auction will be the Standard Dividend Period, and the Holders of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred will be required to continue to hold such shares for such Standard Dividend Period. The designation of a Special Dividend Period is also subject to additional conditions. See "-- Notification of Dividend Period" below.

Dividends will accumulate at the Applicable Rate from the Date of Original Issue and will be payable on each Dividend Payment Date thereafter. Dividends will be paid through the Securities Depository on each Dividend Payment Date. The Applicable Rate resulting from an Auction will not be greater than the Maximum Rate. The Maximum Rate is subject to upward, but not downward, adjustment in the discretion of the Board of Trustees after consultation with the Broker-Dealers, provided that immediately following any such increase the Fund would be in compliance with the Series B Auction Rate Preferred Basic Maintenance Amount.

The Maximum Rate will apply automatically following an Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred in which Sufficient Clearing Bids have not been made (other than because all Series B Auction Rate Preferred were subject to Submitted Hold Orders) or following the failure to hold an Auction for any reason on the Auction Date scheduled to occur (except for (i) circumstances in which the Dividend Rate is the Default Rate, as described below or (ii) in the event an auction is not held because an unforeseen event or unforeseen events cause a day that otherwise would have been an Auction Date not to be a Business Day, in which case the length of the then-current dividend period will be

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

extended by seven days, or a multiple thereof if necessary because of such unforeseen event or events, the applicable rate for such period will be the applicable rate for the then-current dividend period so extended and the dividend payment date for such dividend period will be the first business day next succeeding the end of such period). The All Hold Rate will apply automatically following an Auction in which all of the Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares are subject (or are deemed to be subject) to Hold Orders.

Prior to each Auction, Broker-Dealers will notify Holders of the term of the next succeeding Dividend Period as soon as practicable after the Broker-Dealers have been so advised by the Fund. After each Auction, on the Auction Date, Broker-Dealers will notify Holders of the Applicable Rate for the next succeeding Dividend Period and of the Auction Date of the next succeeding Auction.

Notification of Dividend Period. The Fund will designate the duration of Dividend Periods of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred; provided, however, that no such designation is necessary for a Standard Dividend Period and that any designation of a Special Dividend Period will be effective only if (i) notice thereof has been given as provided herein, (ii) any failure to pay in the timely manner to the Auction Agent the full amount of any dividend on, or the redemption price of, the Series B Auction Rate Preferred has been cured as set forth under " - Default Period," (iii) Sufficient Clearing Orders existed in an Auction held on the Auction Date immediately preceding the first day of such proposed Special Dividend Period, (iv) if the Fund mailed a notice of redemption with respect to any shares, the Redemption Price with respect to such shares has been deposited with the Paying Agent, and (v) the Fund has confirmed that, as of the Auction Date next preceding the first day of such Special Dividend Period, it has Eligible Assets with an aggregate Discounted Value at least equal to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred Basic Maintenance Amount and has consulted with the Broker-Dealers and has provided notice and a Series B Auction Rate Preferred Basic Maintenance Report to each Rating Agency which is then rating the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and so requires.

If the Fund proposes to designate any Special Dividend Period, not fewer than seven Business Days (or two Business Days in the event the duration of the Special Dividend Period is fewer than eight days) nor more than 30 Business Days prior to the first day of such Special Dividend Period, notice will be made by press release and communicated by the Fund by telephonic or other means to the Auction Agent and confirmed in writing promptly thereafter. Each such notice will state (x) that the Fund proposes to exercise its option to designate a succeeding Special Dividend Period, specifying the first and last days thereof and (y) that the Fund will, by 3:00 p.m., New York City time, on the second Business Day next preceding the first day of such Special Dividend Period, notify the Auction Agent, who will promptly notify the Broker-Dealers, of either its determination, subject to certain conditions, to proceed with such Special Dividend Period, in which case the Fund may specify the terms of any Specific Redemption Provisions, or its determination not to proceed with such Special Dividend Period, in which case the succeeding Dividend Period will be a Standard Dividend Period.

No later than 3:00 p.m., New York City time, on the second Business Day next preceding the first day of any proposed Special Dividend Period, the Fund will deliver to the Auction Agent, who will promptly deliver to the Broker-Dealers and Existing Holders, either:

- (a) a notice stating (i) that the Fund has determined to designate the immediately succeeding Dividend Period as a Special Dividend Period, specifying the first and last days thereof and (ii) the terms of the Specific Redemption Provisions, if any; or

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

- (b) a notice stating that the Fund has determined not to exercise its option to designate a Special Dividend Period.

If the Fund fails to deliver either such notice with respect to any designation of any proposed Special Dividend Period to the Auction Agent or is unable to make the confirmation described above by 3:00 p.m., New York City time, on the second Business Day next preceding the first day of such proposed Special Dividend Period, the Fund will be deemed to have delivered a notice to the Auction Agent with respect to such Dividend Period to the effect set forth in clause (b) above, thereby resulting in a Standard Dividend Period.

Default Period. A "Default Period" with respect to Series B Auction Rate Preferred will commence on any date upon which the Fund fails to deposit irrevocably in trust in same-day funds with the Paying Agent by 12:00 noon, New York City time, on the Business Day immediately preceding the relevant Dividend Payment Date or Redemption Date, as the case may be, (i) the full amount of any declared dividend on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred payable on such Dividend Payment Date (a

"Dividend Default") or (ii) the full amount of any redemption price (the "Redemption Price") payable on the Series B Auction Rate Preferred being redeemed on such Redemption Date (a "Redemption Default" and, together with a Dividend Default, a "Default").

A Default Period with respect to a Dividend Default or a Redemption Default will end by 12:00 noon, New York City time, on the Business Day on which all unpaid dividends and any unpaid Redemption Price will have been deposited irrevocably in trust in same-day funds with the Paying Agent.

In the case of a Dividend Default, no Auction will be held during a Default Period applicable to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, and the dividend rate for each Dividend Period commencing during a Default Period will be equal to the Default Rate; provided, however, that if a Default Period is deemed not to have occurred because the Default has been cured, then the dividend rate for the period shall be the Applicable Rate set at the auction for such period.

Each subsequent Dividend Period commencing after the beginning of a Default Period will be a Standard Dividend Period; provided, however, that the commencement of a Default Period will not by itself cause the commencement of a new Dividend Period. No Auction will be held during a Default Period applicable to such Series; provided, however, that if a Default Period shall end prior to the end of Standard Dividend Period that had commenced during the Default Period, an Auction shall be held on the last day of such Standard Dividend Period.

In the event the Fund fully pays all default amounts due during a Dividend Period, the dividend rate for the remainder of that Dividend Period will be, as the case may be, the Applicable Rate (for the first Dividend Period following a Dividend Default) or the Maximum Rate (for any subsequent Dividend Period for which such Default is continuing).

No Default Period with respect to a Dividend Default or Redemption Default will be deemed to commence if the amount of any dividend or any Redemption Price due (if such Default is not solely due to the willful failure of the Fund) is deposited irrevocably in trust, in same-day funds with the Paying Agent by 12:00 noon, New York City time, within three Business Days after the applicable Dividend Payment Date or Redemption Date, together with an amount equal to the Default Rate applied to the amount of such non-payment based on the actual number of days comprising such period divided by 360. The Default Rate will be equal to the Reference Rate multiplied by three.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

RESTRICTIONS ON DIVIDENDS, REDEMPTION AND OTHER PAYMENTS

Under the 1940 Act, the Fund may not (i) declare any dividend (except a dividend payable in shares of the issuer) or other distributions upon any of its outstanding Common Shares, or purchase any such Common Shares, if at the time of the declaration, distribution or purchase, as applicable (and after giving effect thereto), asset coverage with respect to the Fund's outstanding senior securities representing stock, including the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, would be less than 200% (or such higher percentage as may in the future be specified in or under the 1940 Act as the minimum asset coverage for senior securities representing indebtedness of a closed-end investment company as a condition of declaring distributions, purchases or redemptions of its capital stock), or (ii) declare any dividend (except a dividend payable in shares of the issuer) or other distributions upon any of its outstanding capital stock, including the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, or purchase any such capital stock if, at the time of such declaration, distribution or purchase, as applicable (and after giving effect thereto), asset coverage with respect to the senior securities representing indebtedness would be less than 300% (or such other percentage as may in the future be specified in or under the 1940 Act as the minimum asset coverage for senior securities representing stock of a closed-end investment company as a condition of declaring dividends on its Preferred Shares), except

that dividends may be declared upon any Preferred Shares, including the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, if, at the time of such declaration (and after giving effect thereto), asset coverage with respect to the senior securities representing indebtedness would be equal to or greater than 200% (or such other percentage as may in the future be specified in or under the 1940 Act as the minimum asset coverage for senior securities representing stock of a closed-end investment company as a condition of declaring dividends on its Preferred Shares). A declaration of a dividend or other distribution on or purchase or redemption of Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred is prohibited, unless there is no event of default under indebtedness senior to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred and, immediately after such transaction, the Fund would have Eligible Assets with an aggregated Discounted Value at least equal to the asset coverage requirements under indebtedness senior to its Preferred Shares (including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred).

For so long as the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred is Outstanding, except as otherwise provided in the Statement of Preferences, the Fund will not pay any dividend or other distribution (other than a dividend or distribution paid in shares of, or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase, Common Shares or other shares, if any, ranking junior to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to dividends or upon liquidation) with respect to Common Shares or any other shares of the Fund ranking junior to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to dividends or upon liquidation, or call for redemption, redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire for consideration any Common Shares or other shares ranking junior to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred (except by conversion into or exchange for shares of the Fund ranking junior to the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred as to dividends and upon liquidation), unless, in each case, (x) immediately after such transaction, the Fund would have Eligible Assets with an aggregate Discounted Value at least equal to the Basic Maintenance Amount applicable to, as the case may be, the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred and the 1940 Act Asset Coverage with respect to the Fund's Outstanding Preferred Shares, including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, would be achieved, (y) all cumulative and unpaid dividends due on or prior to the date of the transaction have been declared and paid in full with respect to the Preferred Shares, including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred (or will have been declared and

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

sufficient funds for the full payment thereof will have been deposited with the Paying Agent or the dividend-disbursement agent, as applicable) and (z) the Fund has redeemed the full number of Preferred Shares to be redeemed pursuant to any provision for mandatory redemption contained in the Statements of Preferences, including any Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred required or determined to be redeemed pursuant to any such provision.

No full dividend will be declared or paid on the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred for any Dividend Period or part thereof, unless full cumulative dividends due through the most recent Dividend Payment Dates of the Outstanding Preferred Shares (including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred) have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid. If full cumulative dividends due have not been paid on all such Preferred Shares, any dividends being paid on such Preferred Shares (including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred) will be paid as nearly pro rata as possible in proportion to the respective amounts of dividends accumulated but unpaid on each such series of Preferred Shares on the relevant Dividend Payment Date.

ASSET MAINTENANCE

The Fund is required to satisfy two separate asset maintenance requirements in respect of its Preferred Shares, including the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred: (i) the Fund must maintain assets in its portfolio that have a value, discounted in accordance with the Rating Agency Guidelines, at least equal to the aggregate liquidation preference of each of the series of Preferred Shares, including Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, plus specified liabilities, payment obligations and other amounts; and (ii) the Fund must maintain asset coverage for its Outstanding Preferred Shares, including for the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, of at least 200%.

Basic Maintenance Amount. The Fund is required to maintain, as of each Valuation Date, Eligible Assets having in the aggregate a Discounted Value at least equal to the Basic Maintenance Amount, calculated separately for [___] (if [___] is then rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund) and [___] (if [___] is then rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund). For this purpose, the value of the Fund's portfolio securities will be the Market Value. If the Fund fails to meet such requirement on any Valuation Date and such failure is not cured by the related Cure Date, the Fund will be required under certain circumstances to redeem some or all of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

The "Basic Maintenance Amount" means, as of any Valuation Date, the dollar amount equal to (i) the sum of (a) the product of the number of shares of each class or series of Preferred Shares Outstanding on such Valuation Date multiplied by the Liquidation Preference per share; (b) to the extent not included in (a) the aggregate amount of cash dividends (whether or not earned or declared) that will have accumulated for each Outstanding Preferred Share from the most recent Dividend Payment Date to which dividends have been paid or duly provided for (or, in the event the Basic Maintenance Amount is calculated on a date prior to the initial Dividend Payment Date with respect to a class or series of the Preferred Shares, then from the date of original issue) through the Valuation Date plus all dividends to accumulate on the Preferred Shares then Outstanding during the 70 days following such Valuation Date or, if less, during the number of days following such Valuation Date that Preferred Shares called for redemption are scheduled to remain Outstanding; (c) the Fund's other liabilities due and payable as of such Valuation Date (except that dividends and other distributions payable by the Fund on Common Shares will not be included as a liability) and such liabilities projected to become due and payable by the Fund during the 90 days following such Valuation Date (excluding liabilities for

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

investments to be purchased and for dividends and other distributions not declared as of such Valuation Date); and (d) any current liabilities of the Fund as of such Valuation Date to the extent not reflected in (or specifically excluded by) any of (i)(a) through (i)(c) (including, without limitation, and immediately upon determination, any amounts due and payable by the Fund pursuant to reverse repurchase agreements and any payables for assets purchased as of such Valuation Date) less (ii) (a) the adjusted value of any of the Fund's assets or (b) the face value of any of the Fund's assets if, in the case of both (ii)(a) and (ii)(b), such assets are either cash or evidences of indebtedness which mature prior to or on the date of redemption or repurchase of Preferred Shares or payment of another liability and are either U.S. Government Obligations or evidences of indebtedness which have a rating assigned by Moody's of at least Aaa, P-1, VMIG-1 or MIG-1 or by S&P of at least AAA, SP-1+ or A-1+, and are irrevocably held by the Fund's custodian bank in a segregated account or deposited by the Fund with the dividend-disbursing agent or Paying Agent, as the case may be, for the payment of the amounts needed to redeem or repurchase Preferred Shares subject to redemption or repurchase or any of (i)(b) through (i)(d); and provided that in the event the Fund has repurchased Preferred Shares and irrevocably segregated or deposited assets as described above with its custodian bank or the dividend-disbursing agent or Paying Agent for the payment of the repurchase price the Fund may deduct 100% of the Liquidation Preference of such Preferred Shares to be repurchased from (i) above.

The Discount Factors, the criteria used to determine whether the assets held in the Fund's portfolio are Eligible Assets, and guidelines for determining the market value of the Fund's portfolio holdings for purposes of determining compliance with the Basic Maintenance Amount are based on the criteria established in connection with rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as the case may be. These factors include, but are not limited to, the sensitivity of the market value of the

relevant asset to changes in interest rates, the liquidity and depth of the market for the relevant asset, the credit quality of the relevant asset (for example, the lower the rating of a debt obligation, the higher the related discount factor) and the frequency with which the relevant asset is marked to market. In no event will the Discounted Value of any asset of the Fund exceed its unpaid principal balance or face amount as of the date of calculation.

The Discount Factor relating to any asset of the Fund, the Basic Maintenance Amount, the assets eligible for inclusion in the calculation of the Discounted Value of the Fund's portfolio and certain definitions and methods of calculation relating thereto may be changed from time to time by the Fund, without shareholder approval, but only in the event that the Fund receives written confirmation from each Rating Agency which is then rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as the case may be, and which so requires that any such changes would not impair an applicable [] credit rating from [] or [] rating from [].

A Rating Agency's Guidelines will apply to the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred only so long as such Rating Agency is rating such shares at the request of the Fund. The Fund will pay certain fees to [] and [] for rating, as the case may be, the Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. The ratings assigned to the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred. Such ratings may be subject to revision or withdrawal by the assigning Rating Agency at any time. Any rating of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

Upon any failure to maintain the required Discounted Value of the Fund's Eligible Assets, the Fund will seek to alter the composition of its portfolio to re-attain the Basic Maintenance Amount on or prior to the

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

applicable Cure Date, thereby incurring additional transaction costs and possible losses and/or gains on dispositions of portfolio securities.

Under certain circumstances, as described in the Statements of Preferences, the Board of Trustees without further action by the shareholders may modify the calculation of Adjusted Value (as defined in the Statements of Preferences), Basic Maintenance Amount and the elements of each of them and the definitions of such terms and elements if the Board of Trustees determines that such modification is necessary to prevent a reduction in rating of the Preferred Shares by a rating agency rating such shares at the request of the Fund or is in the best interests of the holders of Common Shares and is not adverse to the holders of Preferred Shares in view of advice to the Fund by the relevant rating agency that such modification would not adversely affect the then-current rating of the affected Preferred Shares. In addition, subject to compliance with applicable law, the Board of Trustees may amend the definition of Maximum Rate to increase the percentage amount by which the Reference Rate is multiplied to determine the Maximum Rate shown therein without the vote or consent of the Holders of Preferred Shares, including the Series B Auction Rate Preferred Shares, or any other shareholder of the Fund, after consultation with the Broker-Dealers, and with confirmation from each Rating Agency that immediately following any such increase the Fund would meet the Series B Auction Rate Preferred Basic Maintenance Amount Test.

1940 Act Series B Auction Rate Preferred Asset Coverage. As of each Valuation Date, the Fund will determine whether the 1940 Act Asset Coverage is met as of that date. The Fund will deliver to the Auction Agent and each Rating Agency a 1940 Act Asset Coverage Certificate which sets forth the determination of the preceding sentence (i) as of the Date of Original Issue and, thereafter, (ii) as of (x) the last Business Day of each March, June, September and December and (y) a Business Day on or before any 1940 Act Asset Coverage Cure Date following a failure to meet 1940 Act Asset Coverage. Such 1940 Act Asset Coverage Certificate will be delivered in the case of clause (i) on the Date of Original Issue and in the case of clause (ii) on or before the seventh Business Day after the last Business Day of such March, June, September and December, as the case may be, or the relevant Cure Date.

Notices. The Fund must deliver a Basic Maintenance Report to each applicable Rating Agency and the Auction Agent, if any, which sets forth, as of the related Valuation Date, Eligible Assets sufficient to meet or exceed the applicable Basic Maintenance Amount, the Market Value and Discounted Value thereof (in a series and in the aggregate) and the applicable Basic Maintenance Amount. Such Basic Maintenance Reports must be delivered as of the applicable Date of Original Issue and thereafter upon the occurrence of specified events on or before the seventh Business Day after the relevant Valuation Date or Cure Date.

DEPOSIT ASSETS REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

The Fund is obligated to deposit in a segregated custodial account a specified amount of Deposit Assets not later than 12:00 noon, New York City time, on each Dividend Payment Date and each Redemption Date relating to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred. These Deposit Assets, in all cases, will have an initial combined value greater than or equal to the cash amounts payable on the applicable Dividend Payment Date or Redemption Date, and will mature prior to such date.

RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER RELATING TO THE SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED

Series B Auction Rate Preferred may be transferred only (i) pursuant to an Order placed in an Auction, (ii) to or through a Broker-Dealer, or (iii) to the Fund or any Affiliate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transfer other than

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

pursuant to an Auction will not be effective unless the selling Existing Holder or the Agent Member of such Existing Holder, in the case of an Existing Holder whose shares are listed in its own name on the books of the Auction Agent, or the Broker-Dealer or Agent Member of such Broker-Dealer, in the case of a transfer between persons holding Series B Auction Rate Preferred through different Broker-Dealers, advises the Auction Agent of such transfer. Any certificates representing the Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares issued to the Securities Depository will bear legends with respect to the restrictions described above and stop-transfer instructions will be issued to the Transfer Agent and/or Registrar.

[] AND [] GUIDELINES

The descriptions of the [] and [] Guidelines contained in this SAI do not purport to be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable Statement of Preferences. Copies of the Statements of Preferences are filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which the Prospectus and this SAI are a part and may be inspected, and copies thereof may be obtained, as described under "Additional Information" in the Prospectus.

The composition of the Fund's portfolio reflects guidelines (referred to herein as the "Rating Agency Guidelines") established by [] and [], each a Rating Agency, in connection with the Fund's receipt of a rating of [] from [] and [] from [], respectively, for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred and a rating of [] from [] for the Series A Preferred. These Rating Agency Guidelines relate, among other things, to industry and credit quality characteristics of issuers and diversification requirements and specify various Discount Factors for different types of securities (with the level of discount greater as the rating of a security becomes lower). Under the Rating Agency Guidelines, certain types of securities in which the Fund may otherwise invest consistent with its investment strategy are not eligible for inclusion in the calculation of the Discounted Value of the Fund's portfolio. Such instruments include, for example, private placements (other than Rule 144A Securities) and other

securities not within the Rating Agency Guidelines. Accordingly, although the Fund reserves the right to invest in such securities to the extent set forth herein, such securities have not and it is anticipated that they will not constitute a significant portion of the Fund's portfolio.

The Rating Agency Guidelines require that the Fund maintain assets having an aggregate Discounted Value, determined on the basis of the Guidelines, greater than the aggregate liquidation preference of the Outstanding Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Rate Preferred and other Preferred Shares plus specified liabilities, payment obligations and other amounts, as of periodic Valuation Dates. The Rating Agency Guidelines also require the Fund to maintain asset coverage for the Outstanding Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Rate Preferred and other Preferred Shares on a non-discounted basis of at least 200% as of the end of each month, and the 1940 Act requires this asset coverage as a condition to paying dividends or other distributions on its Common Shares. See "Additional Information Concerning The Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Asset Maintenance." The effect of compliance with the Rating Agency Guidelines may be to cause the Fund to invest in higher quality assets and/or to maintain relatively substantial balances of highly liquid assets or to restrict the Fund's ability to make certain investments that would otherwise be deemed potentially desirable by the Investment Adviser, including private placements of other than Rule 144A Securities (as defined herein). The Rating Agency Guidelines are subject to change from time to time with the consent of the relevant Rating Agency and would not apply if the Fund in the future elected not to use investment leverage consisting of senior securities rated by either

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

[] or [], although other similar arrangements might apply with respect to other rated senior securities that the Fund may issue.

The Fund intends to maintain, at specified times, a Discounted Value for its portfolio at least equal to the amount specified by each Rating Agency (the "Basic Maintenance Amount"), the determination of which is as set forth under "Additional Information Concerning The Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Asset Maintenance." [] and [] have each established separate guidelines for determining Discounted Value. To the extent any particular portfolio holding does not satisfy the applicable Rating Agency's Guidelines, all or a portion of such holding's value will not be included in the calculation of Discounted Value (as defined by such Rating Agency).

Upon any failure to maintain the required Discounted Value, the Fund may seek to alter the composition of its portfolio to reestablish required asset coverage within the specified ten Business Day cure period, thereby incurring additional transaction costs and possible losses and/or gains on dispositions of portfolio securities. To the extent any such failure is not cured in a timely manner, the holders of the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred will acquire certain rights. See "Additional Information Concerning The Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Asset Maintenance."

The Rating Agency Guidelines do not impose any limitations on the percentage of Fund assets that may be invested in holdings not eligible for inclusion in the calculation of the Discounted Value of the Fund's portfolio. The amount of such assets included in the portfolio at any time may vary depending upon the rating, diversification and other characteristics of the assets included in the portfolio which are eligible for inclusion in the Discounted Value of the portfolio under the Rating Agency Guidelines.

A rating of preferred shares as [] (as described by []) or [] (as described by []) indicates strong asset protection, conservative balance sheet ratios and positive indications of continued protection of preferred dividend requirements. A [] or [] credit rating of preferred shares does not address the likelihood that a resale mechanism (such as the Auction) will be successful. As described respectively by [] and [], an issue of preferred shares which is rated [] or [] is considered to be top-quality preferred shares with good asset protection and the least risk of dividend impairment within the universe of preferred shares.

Ratings are not recommendations to purchase, hold or sell Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, inasmuch as the rating does not comment as to market price or suitability for a particular investor. The rating is based on current information furnished to [] and [] by the Fund and obtained by [] and [] from other sources. The rating may be changed, suspended or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or unavailability of, such information.

[] GUIDELINES

[] GUIDELINES

NET ASSET VALUE

The net asset value of the Fund's shares will be computed based on the market value of the securities it holds and will generally be determined daily

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Portfolio instruments of the Fund which are traded in a market subject to government regulation on which trades are reported contemporaneously generally will be valued at the last sale price on the principal market for such instruments as of the close of regular trading on the day the instruments are being valued, or lacking any sales, at the average of the bid and asked price on the principal market for such instruments on the most recent date on which bid and asked prices are available. Initial public offering securities are initially valued at cost, and thereafter as any other equity security. Other readily marketable assets will be valued at the average of quotations provided by dealers maintaining an active market in such instruments. Short-term debt instruments that are credit impaired or mature in more than 60 days for which market quotations are available are valued at the latest average of the bid and asked prices obtained from a dealer maintaining an active market in that security. Short-term investments that are not credit impaired and mature in 60 days or fewer are valued at amortized cost from purchase price or value on the 61st day prior to maturity. Securities and other assets for which market quotations are not readily available will be valued at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of the Investment Adviser in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Fund. The Fund may employ recognized pricing services from time to time for the purpose of pricing portfolio instruments (including non-U.S. dollar denominated assets and futures and options).

Trading takes place in various foreign markets on days which are not Business Days and on which therefore the Fund's net asset value per share is not calculated. The calculation of the Fund's net asset value may not take place contemporaneously with the determination of the prices of portfolio securities held by the Fund. Events affecting the values of portfolio securities that occur between the time their prices are determined and the close of the NYSE will not be reflected in the Fund's calculation of net asset value unless the Board of Trustees deems that the particular event would materially affect the net asset value, in which case the fair value of those securities will be determined by consideration of other factors by or under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

Net asset value per share is calculated by dividing the value of the securities held plus any cash or other assets minus all liabilities, including accrued expenses, by the total number of shares outstanding at such time.

BENEFICIAL OWNERS

NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL/RECORD OWNER AS OF [], 2003 -----	TITLE OF CLASS -----	AMOUNT OF SHARES AND NATURE OF OWNERSHIP -----
--	-------------------------	---

* A nominee partnership of DTC.
** Shares held at DTC

As of May [__], 2003, the Directors and Officers of the Fund as a group beneficially owned approximately [__]% of the Fund's outstanding Common Shares.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

GENERAL INFORMATION

BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY ISSUANCE

DTC will act as securities depository for the shares of Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred offered pursuant to the Prospectus. The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system is based upon information obtained from DTC. The securities offered hereby initially will be issued only as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (as nominee for DTC). One or more fully-registered global security certificates initially will be issued, representing in the aggregate the total number of securities, and deposited with DTC.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct DTC participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly through other entities.

Purchases of securities within the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of a security, a beneficial owner, is in turn to be recorded on the direct or indirect participants' records. Beneficial owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchases, but beneficial owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transactions, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct or indirect participants through which the beneficial owners purchased securities. Transfers of ownership interests in securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in securities, except as provided herein.

DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the securities being offered pursuant to this Prospectus; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts such securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants, and by direct participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Payments on the securities will be made to DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts on the relevant payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payments on such payment date. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices and will be the responsibility of such participant and not

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

of DTC or the Fund, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of dividends to DTC

is the responsibility of the Fund, disbursement of such payments to direct participants is the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners is the responsibility of direct and indirect participants. Furthermore each beneficial owner must rely on the procedures of DTC to exercise any rights under the Securities.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Fund. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, certificates representing the Securities will be printed and delivered.

COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Four Times Square, New York, New York 10036 is special counsel to the Fund in connection with the issuance of Series A Preferred and/or Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, 1177 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036, serve as auditors of the Fund and will annually render an opinion on the financial statements of the Fund.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The audited financial statements included in the Annual Report to the Fund's Shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002, together with the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP thereon, are also incorporated herein by reference from the Fund's Annual Report to Shareholders. All other portions of the Annual Report to Shareholders are not incorporated herein by reference and are not part of the Registration Statement. A copy of the Annual Report to Shareholders may be obtained without charge by writing to the Fund at its address at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422 or by calling the Fund toll-free at 800-GABELLI (422-3554).

GLOSSARY

"AA FINANCIAL COMPOSITE COMMERCIAL PAPER RATE" on any date means (i) the interest equivalent of the 7-day rate, in the case of a Dividend Period of 7 days or shorter; for Dividend Periods greater than 7 days but fewer than or equal to 31 days, the 30-day rate; for Dividend Periods greater than 31 days but fewer than or equal to 61 days, the 60-day rate; for Dividend Periods greater than 61 days but fewer than or equal to 91 days, the 90 day rate; for Dividend Periods greater than 91 days but fewer than or equal to 270 days, the rate described in (ii) below; for Dividend Periods greater than 270 days, the Treasury Index Rate; on commercial paper on behalf of issuers whose corporate bonds are rated "AA" by S&P, or the equivalent of such rating by another nationally recognized rating agency, as announced by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the close of business on the Business Day immediately preceding such date; or (ii) if the Federal Reserve Bank of New York does not make available such a rate, then the arithmetic average of the interest equivalent of such rates on commercial paper placed on behalf of such issuers, as quoted on a discount basis or otherwise by the Commercial Paper Dealers to the Auction Agent for the close of business on the Business Day immediately preceding such date (rounded to the next highest .001 of 1%). If any Commercial Paper Dealer does not quote a rate required to determine the "AA"

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate, such rate will be determined on the basis of the quotations (or quotation) furnished by the remaining Commercial Paper Dealers (or Dealer), if any, or, if there are no such Commercial Paper Dealers, by the Auction Agent pursuant to instructions from the Fund. For purposes of this definition, (A) "Commercial Paper Dealers" will mean (i) Salomon Smith Barney Inc., Lehman Brothers Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Goldman Sachs & Co.; (ii) in lieu of any thereof, its respective affiliate or successor; and (iii) in the event that any of the foregoing will cease to quote rates for commercial paper of issuers of the sort described above, in substitution therefor, a nationally recognized dealer in commercial paper of such issuers then making such quotations selected by the Fund, and (B) "interest equivalent" of a rate stated on a discount basis for commercial paper of a given number of days maturity will mean a number equal to the quotient (rounded upward to the next higher one-thousandth of 1%) of (1) such rate expressed as a decimal, divided by (2) the difference between (x) 1.00 and (y) a fraction, the numerator of which will be the product of such rate expressed as a decimal, multiplied by the number of days in which such commercial paper will mature and the denominator of which will be 360.

"ADJUSTED VALUE" of each Eligible Asset shall be computed as follows:

- (i) cash shall be valued at 100% of the face value thereof; and
- (ii) all other Eligible Assets shall be valued at the applicable Discounted Value thereof; and
- (iii) each asset that is not an Eligible Asset shall be valued at zero.

"ADMINISTRATOR" means the other party to the Administration Agreement with the Fund which shall initially be Gabelli Funds, LLC.

"AFFILIATE" means, with respect to the Auction Agent, any person known to the Auction Agent to be controlled by, in control of or under common control with the Fund; provided, however, that no Broker-Dealer controlled by, in control of or under common control with the Fund will be deemed to be an Affiliate nor will any corporation or any Person controlled by, in control of or under common control with such corporation one of the directors or executive officers of which is director of the Fund be deemed to be an Affiliate solely because such director or executive officer is also a director of the Fund.

"AGENT MEMBER" means a member of or a participant in the Securities Depository that will act on behalf of a Bidder.

"ALL HOLD RATE" means 80% of the "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate.

"APPLICABLE RATE" means, with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, for each Dividend Period (i) if Sufficient Clearing Bids exist for the Auction in respect thereof, the Winning Bid Rate, (ii) if Sufficient Clearing Orders do not exist for the Auction in respect thereof or an Auction does not take place with respect to such Dividend Period because of the commencement of a Default Period that ends prior to an Auction Date, the Maximum Rate and (iii) if all Series B Auction Rate Preferred is the subject of Submitted Hold Orders for the Auction in respect thereof, the All Hold Rate.

"AUCTION" means each periodic operation of the Auction Procedures.

"AUCTION AGENT" means The Bank of New York unless and until another commercial bank, trust company, or other financial institution appointed by a resolution of the Board of Trustees enters into an agreement with the Fund to follow the Auction Procedures for the purpose of determining the Applicable Rate.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

"AUCTION DATE" means the last day of the initial Dividend Period and each seventh day after the immediately preceding Auction Date; provided, however, that if any such seventh day is not a Business Day, such Auction Date shall be the first preceding day that is a Business Day and the next Auction Date, if for a Standard Dividend Period, shall (subject to the same advancement procedure) be the seventh day after the date that the preceding Auction Date would have been if not for the advancement procedure; provided further, however, that the Auction Date for the Auction at the conclusion of any Special Dividend Period shall be the last Business Day in such Special Dividend Period and that no more than one Auction shall be held during any Dividend Period. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event an auction is not held because an unforeseen event or unforeseen events cause a day that otherwise would have been an Auction Date not to be a Business Day, then the length of the then-current dividend period will be extended by seven days (or a multiple thereof if necessary because of such unforeseen event or events).

"AUCTION PROCEDURES" means the procedures for conducting Auctions described in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred."

"AVAILABLE SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate."

"BASIC MAINTENANCE AMOUNT" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning The Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Asset Maintenance."

"BASIC MAINTENANCE REPORT" means, with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, a report prepared by the Administrator which sets forth, as of the related Valuation Date, [__] Eligible Assets and [__] Eligible Assets sufficient to meet or exceed the Basic Maintenance Amount, the Market Value and Discounted Value thereof (seriatim and in the aggregate), and the Basic Maintenance Amount, and shall have a correlative meaning with respect to any other class or series of Preferred Shares.

"BENEFICIAL OWNER" with respect to Series B Auction Rate Preferred, means a customer of a Broker-Dealer who is listed on the records of that Broker-Dealer (or, if applicable, the Auction Agent) as a holder of such shares of such series.

"BID" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Submission of Orders by Broker-Dealers to Auction Agent."

"BIDDER" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Submission of Orders by Broker-Dealers to Auction Agent."

"BOARD OF TRUSTEES" or "BOARD" means the Board of Trustees of the Fund or any duly authorized committee thereof as permitted by applicable law.

"BROKER-DEALER" means any broker-dealer or broker-dealers, or other entity permitted by law to perform the functions required of a Broker-Dealer by the Auction Procedures, that has been selected by the Fund and has entered into a Broker-Dealer Agreement that remains effective.

"BROKER-DEALER AGREEMENT" means an agreement between the Auction Agent and a Broker-Dealer, pursuant to which such Broker-Dealer agrees to follow the Auction Procedures.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

"BUSINESS DAY" means a day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading and which is not a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which banks in The City of New York, New York are authorized or obligated by law to close.

"CODE" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

"COMMISSION" means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"COMMON SHARES" means the shares of the Fund's common beneficial interest, par value \$.001 per share.

"CURE DATE" has the meaning set forth in [] of the Statement of Preferences for the Series A Preferred and [] of the Statement of Preferences for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

"DATE OF ORIGINAL ISSUE" means the date on which the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as the case may be, is originally issued by the Fund.

"DEFAULT PERIOD" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Dividends and Dividend Period."

"DEFAULT RATE" means the Reference Rate multiplied by three (3).

"DEPOSIT ASSETS" means cash, Short-Term Money Market Instruments and U.S. Government Obligations. Except for determining whether the Fund has Eligible Assets with an Adjusted Value equal to or greater than the Basic Maintenance Amount, each Deposit Asset shall be deemed to have a value equal to its principal or face amount payable at maturity plus any interest payable thereon after delivery of such Deposit Asset but only if payable on or prior to the applicable payment date in advance of which the relevant deposit is made.

"DISCOUNT FACTOR" means (i) so long as [] is rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the Fund's request, the [] Discount Factor, (ii) so long as [] is rating the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the [] Discount Factor, and/or (iii) any applicable discount factor established by any Other Rating Agency, whichever is applicable.

"DISCOUNTED VALUE" means, as applicable, (i) the quotient of the Market Value of an Eligible Asset divided by the applicable Discount Factor, provided that with respect to an Eligible Asset that is currently callable, Discounted Value will be equal to the applicable quotient or product as calculated above or the call price, whichever is lower, and that with respect to an Eligible Asset that is prepayable, Discounted Value will be equal to the applicable quotient or product as calculated above or the par value, whichever is lower.

"DIVIDEND DEFAULT" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Dividends and Dividend Period."

"DIVIDEND PAYMENT DATE" means, with respect to the Series A Preferred, any date on which dividends declared by the Board of Trustees thereon are payable pursuant to the provisions of [] of the Statement of Preferences of the Series A Preferred, and, with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, any date on which dividends declared by the Board of Trustees thereon are payable pursuant to the provisions of [] of the Statement of Preferences, for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, and shall have a correlative meaning with respect to any other class or series of Preferred Shares.

"DIVIDEND PERIOD" means, with respect to Series A Preferred, the quarterly

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

dividend specified in paragraph [__] of the Statement of Preferences for the Series A Preferred and, with respect to Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the initial period determined in the manner set forth under ["__"] in the Statement of Preferences of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, and thereafter, the period commencing on the Business Day following each Auction Date and ending on the next Auction Date or, if such next Auction Date is not immediately followed by a Business Day, on the latest day prior to the next succeeding Business Day.

"ELIGIBLE ASSETS" means [__] Eligible Assets (if [__] is then rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund), [__] Eligible Assets (if [__] is then rating the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund), and/or Other Rating Agency Eligible Assets if any Other Rating Agency is then rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, whichever is applicable.

"EXISTING HOLDER" means (i) a person who beneficially owns those shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred listed in that person's name in the records of the Fund or the Auction Agent or (ii) the beneficial owner of those shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred which are listed under such person's Broker-Dealer's name in the records of the Auction Agent, which Broker-Dealer will have signed a master purchaser's letter.

"GOVERNING DOCUMENTS" means the [__].

"HOLD ORDER" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Orders By Existing Holders and Potential Holders."

"HOLDER" means, with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the registered holder of Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares as the same appears on the share ledger or share records of the Fund or records of the Auction Agent, as the case may be.

"INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION" means a six-digit industry classification in the Standard Industry Classification system published by the United States.

"LIQUIDATION PREFERENCE" means \$25 per share of Series A Preferred and \$25,000 per share of Series B Auction Rate Preferred and will have a correlative meaning with respect to shares of any other class or series of Preferred Shares.

"MARKET CAPITALIZATION" means, with respect to any issue of common stock, as of any date, the product of (i) the number of shares of such common stock issued and outstanding as of the close of business on the date of determination thereof and (ii) the Market Value per share of such common stock as of the close of business on the date of determination thereof.

"MARKET VALUE" means the amount determined by the Fund with respect to specific Eligible Assets in accordance with valuation policies adopted from time to time by the Board of Trustees as being in compliance with the requirements of the 1940 Act.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, "Market Value" may, at the option of the Fund with respect to any of its assets, mean the amount determined with respect to specific Eligible Assets of the Fund in the manner set forth below:

- (i) as to any common or preferred stock which is an Eligible Asset,
 - (a) if the stock is traded on a national securities exchange or quoted on the Nasdaq System, the last sales price reported on the Valuation Date or
 - (b) if there was no reported sales price on the Valuation Date, the lower of two bid prices for such

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

stock provided to the Administrator by two recognized securities dealers with a minimum capitalization of \$25,000,000 (or otherwise approved for such purpose by [] and []) or by one such securities dealer and any other source (provided that the utilization of such source would not adversely affect [] and [] then-current rating of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred), at least one of which will be provided in writing or by telecopy, telex, other electronic transcription, computer obtained quotation reducible to written form or similar means, and in turn provided to the Fund by any such means by such administrator, or, if two bid prices cannot be obtained, such Eligible Asset will have a Market Value of zero;

- (ii) as to any U.S. Government Obligation, Short-Term Money Market Instrument (other than demand deposits, federal funds, bankers' acceptances and next Business Day repurchase agreements) and commercial paper, with a maturity of greater than 60 days, the product of (a) the principal amount (accreted principal to the extent such instrument accretes interest) of such instrument and (b) the lower of the bid prices for the same kind of instruments having, as nearly as practicable, comparable interest rates and maturities provided by two recognized securities dealers having minimum capitalization of \$25,000,000 (or otherwise approved for such purpose by [] and []) or by one such dealer and any other source (provided that the utilization of such source would not adversely affect [] and [] then-current rating of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as the case may be,) to the administrator, at least one of which will be provided in writing or by telecopy, telex, other electronic transcription, computer obtained quotation reducible to written form or similar means, and in turn provided to the Fund by any such means by such administrator, or, if two bid prices cannot be obtained, such Eligible Asset will have a Market Value of zero;
- (iii) as to cash, demand deposits, federal funds, bankers' acceptances and next Business Day repurchase agreements included in Short-Term Money Market Instruments, the face value thereof;
- (iv) as to any U.S. Government Obligation, Short-Term Money Market Instrument or commercial paper with a maturity of 60 days or fewer, amortized cost unless the Board of Trustees determines that such value does not constitute fair value; or
- (v) as to any other evidence of indebtedness which is an Eligible Asset, (a) the product of (1) the unpaid principal balance of such indebtedness as of the Valuation Date and (2) (A) if such indebtedness is traded on a national securities exchange or quoted on the Nasdaq System, the last sales price reported on the Valuation Date or (B) if there was no reported sales price on the Valuation Date or if such indebtedness is not traded on a national securities exchange or quoted on the Nasdaq System, the lower of two bid prices for such indebtedness provided by two recognized dealers with a minimum capitalization of \$25,000,000 (or otherwise approved for such purpose by [] and []) or by one such dealer and any other source (provided that the utilization of such source would not adversely affect [] and [] then-current rating of the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred, as the case may be,) to the administrator of the Fund's assets, at least one of which will be provided in writing or by telecopy, telex, other electronic

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

transcription, computer obtained quotation reducible to written form or similar means, and in turn provided to the Fund by any such means by such administrator, plus (b) accrued interest on such indebtedness.

"MAXIMUM RATE" means, on any date on which the Applicable Rate is determined, the applicable percentage of (i) in the case of dividend period of 184 days or less, the "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate on the date of such Auction determined as set forth below based on the lower of the credit ratings assigned to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred by [] and [] subject to upward but not downward adjustment in the discretion of the Board of Trustees after consultation with the Broker-Dealers; provided that immediately following any such increase the Fund would be in compliance with the Series B Auction Rate Preferred Basic Maintenance Amount or (ii) in the case of a dividend period of longer than 184 days, the Treasury Index Rate.

[] Credit Rating	[] Credit Rating	Applicable Percentage
[] or higher	[] or higher	150%
[] to []	[] to []	175%
[] to []	[] to []	250%
Below []	Below []	275%

"MOODY'S" means Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and its successors at law.

"[] DISCOUNT FACTOR" has the meaning ascribed to it in "[] and [] Guidelines -- [] Guidelines."

"[] ELIGIBLE ASSETS" has the meaning ascribed to it in "[] and [] Guidelines -- [] Guidelines."

"1940 ACT" means the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or any successor statute.

"1940 ACT ASSET COVERAGE" means asset coverage, as determined in accordance with Section 18(h) of the 1940 Act, of at least 200% with respect to all outstanding senior securities of the Fund which are stock, including all Outstanding shares of Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred (or such other asset coverage as may in the future be specified in or under the 1940 Act as the minimum asset coverage for senior securities which are stock of a closed-end investment company as a condition of declaring dividends on its common stock), determined on the basis of values calculated as of a time within 48 hours (not including Saturdays, Sundays or holidays) next preceding the time of such determination.

"1940 ACT ASSET COVERAGE CERTIFICATE" means the certificate required to be delivered by the Fund pursuant to [] of the Statement of Preferences of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

"NON-CALL PERIOD" means a period determined by the Board of Trustees after consultation with the Broker-Dealers, during which the Series B Auction Rate Preferred subject to such Special Dividend Period is not subject to redemption

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

at the option of the Fund but only to mandatory redemption.

"NRSRO" means a Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organization.

"ORDER" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Orders By Existing Holders and Potential Holders."

"OTHER RATING AGENCY" means any rating agency other than [__] or [__] then providing a rating for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred pursuant to the request of the Fund.

"OTHER RATING AGENCY ELIGIBLE ASSETS" means assets of the Fund designated by any Other Rating Agency as eligible for inclusion in calculating the discounted value of the Fund's assets in connection with such Other Rating Agency's rating of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

"OUTSTANDING" means, as of any date, Preferred Shares theretofore issued by the Fund except:

- (i) any such Preferred Share theretofore cancelled by the Fund or delivered to the Fund for cancellation;
- (ii) any such Preferred Share other than the Series B Auction Rate Preferred (or other auction market preferred stock) as to which a notice of redemption will have been given and for whose payment at the redemption thereof Deposit Assets in the necessary amount are held by the Fund on in trust for or were paid by the Fund to the holder of such share pursuant to the Statement of Preferences with respect thereto;
- (iii) in the case of shares of the Series B Auction Rate Preferred or other auction market preferred shares, any such shares theretofore delivered to the applicable auction agent for cancellation or with respect to which the Fund has given notice of redemption and irrevocably deposited with the applicable paying agent sufficient funds to redeem such shares; and
- (iv) any such share in exchange for or in lieu of which other shares have been issued and delivered.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, (x) for purposes of voting rights (including the determination of the number of shares required to constitute a quorum), any Preferred Shares as to which the Fund or any subsidiary is the holder or Existing Holder, as applicable, will be disregarded and deemed not Outstanding; (y) in connection with any auction, any auction rate Preferred Shares as to which the Fund or any Person known to the auction agent to be a subsidiary is the holder or Existing Holder, as applicable, will be disregarded and not deemed Outstanding; and (z) for purposes of determining the Basic Maintenance Amount, Series B Auction Rate Preferred held by the Fund will be disregarded and deemed not Outstanding.

"PAYING AGENT" means with respect to Series B Auction Rate Preferred, The Bank of New York unless and until another entity appointed by a resolution of the Board of Trustees enters into an agreement with the Fund to serve as paying agent, which paying agent may be the same as the Auction Agent and, with respect to any other class or series of Preferred Shares, the Person appointed by the Fund as dividend disbursing or paying agent with respect to such class or series.

"PERSON" means and includes an individual, a partnership, the Fund, a trust, a corporation, a limited liability company, an unincorporated association, a

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

joint venture or other entity or a government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

"POTENTIAL BENEFICIAL OWNER OR HOLDER" means (i) any Existing Holder who may be interested in acquiring additional shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred or (ii) any other person who may be interested in acquiring shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred and who has signed a master purchaser's letter or whose shares will be listed under such person's Broker-Dealer's name on the records of the Auction Agent which Broker-Dealer will have executed a master purchaser's letter.

"PREFERRED SHARES" means the preferred shares, par value \$.001 per share, of the Fund, and includes the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

"PREMIUM CALL PERIOD" means a period consisting of a number of whole years as determined by the Board of Trustees after consultation with the Broker-Dealers, during each year of which the shares subject to such Special Dividend Period will be redeemable at the Fund's option at a price per share equal to the Liquidation Preference plus accumulated but unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) plus a premium expressed as a percentage or percentages of the Liquidation Preference or expressed as a formula using specified variables as determined by the Board of Trustees after consultation with the Broker-Dealers.

"PRICING SERVICE" means any of the following: Bloomberg Financial Service, Bridge Information Services, Data Resources Inc., FT Interactive, International Securities Market Association, Merrill Lynch Securities Pricing Service, Muller Data Corp., Reuters, S&P/J.J. Kenny, Telerate, Trepp Pricing and Wood Gundy.

"RATING AGENCY" means [] and [] as long as such rating agency is then rating the Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund.

"RATING AGENCY GUIDELINES" has the meaning set forth in set forth in "[] and [] Guidelines."

"REDEMPTION DATE" means, with respect to the Fund's Outstanding Preferred Shares, the date fixed by the Fund for the redemption of such shares.

"REDEMPTION DEFAULT" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Series A Preferred and Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Dividends and Dividend Period."

"REDEMPTION PRICE" means, with respect to the Series A Preferred, the price set forth in [] of the Statement of Preferences for the Series A Preferred and, with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred, the price set forth in [] of the Statement of Preferences for the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

"REFERENCE RATE" means, with respect to the determination of the Default Rate, the applicable "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate for a Dividend Period of 184 days or fewer or the applicable Treasury Index Rate for a Dividend Period of longer than 184 days and, with respect to the determination of the Maximum Rate, the "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate or the Treasury Index Rate, as appropriate.

"S&P" means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, or its successors at law.

"SECURITIES ACT" means The Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any successor statute.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

"SECURITIES DEPOSITORY" means The Depository Trust Company and its successors and assigns or any successor securities depository selected by the Fund that agrees to follow the procedures required to be followed by such securities depository in connection with the shares of Series A Preferred or Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

"SELL ORDER" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Submission of Orders by Broker-Dealers to Auction Agent."

"SERIES A PREFERRED" means the Fund's []% Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares, \$.001 par value per share and liquidation preference \$25 per share.

"SERIES A PREFERRED BASIC MAINTENANCE AMOUNT TEST" means a test which is met if the lower of the aggregate Discounted Values of the [] Eligible Assets or the [] Eligible Assets if both [] and [] are then rating the Series A Preferred at the request of the Fund, or the Eligible Assets of whichever of [] or [] is then doing so if only one of [] or [] is then rating the Series A Preferred at the request of the Fund, meets or exceeds the Basic Maintenance Amount with respect to the Series A Preferred.

"SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED" means the Fund's Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares, \$.001 par value per share and liquidation preference \$25,000 per share.

"SERIES B AUCTION RATE PREFERRED BASIC MAINTENANCE AMOUNT TEST" means a test which is met if the lower of the aggregate Discounted Values of the [] Eligible Assets or the [] Eligible Assets if both [] and [] are then rating the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund, or the Eligible Assets of whichever of [] or [] is then doing so if only one of [] or [] is then rating the Series B Auction Rate Preferred at the request of the Fund, meets or exceeds the Basic Maintenance Amount with respect to the Series B Auction Rate Preferred.

"SHORT-TERM MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENT" means the following types of instruments if, on the date of purchase or other acquisition thereof by the Fund, the remaining term to maturity thereof is not in excess of 180 days:

- (i) commercial paper rated A-1 if such commercial paper matures in 30 days or A-1+ if such commercial paper matures in over 30 days;
- (ii) demand or time deposits in, and banker's acceptances and certificates of deposit of (a) a depository institution or trust company incorporated under the laws of the United States of America or any state thereof or the District of Columbia or (b) a United States branch office or agency of a foreign depository institution (provided that such branch office or agency is subject to banking regulation under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia);
- (iii) overnight funds; and
- (iv) U.S. Government Obligations.

"SPECIAL DIVIDEND PERIOD" means a Dividend Period that is not a Standard Dividend Period.

"SPECIFIC REDEMPTION PROVISIONS" means, with respect to any Special Dividend Period of more than one year, either, or any combination of (i) a Non-Call Period and (ii) a Premium Call Period.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

"STANDARD DIVIDEND PERIOD" means a Dividend Period of seven days, subject to increase or decrease to the extent necessary for the next Auction Date and Dividend Payment Date to each be Business Days.

"SUBMISSION DEADLINE" means 1:00 p.m., New York City time, on any Auction Date or such other time on any Auction Date by which Broker-Dealers are required to submit Orders to the Auction Agent as specified by the Auction Agent from time to time.

"SUBMITTED BID" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate."

"SUBMITTED BID ORDER" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate."

"SUBMITTED HOLD ORDER" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate."

"SUBMITTED ORDER" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate."

"SUBMITTED SELL ORDER" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate."

"SUFFICIENT CLEARING BIDS" has the meaning set forth in "Additional Information Concerning the Auction for Series B Auction Rate Preferred -- Determination of Sufficient Clearing Bids, Winning Bids, Winning Bid Rate and Applicable Rate."

"SUFFICIENT CLEARING ORDERS" means that all shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred are the subject of Submitted Hold Orders or that the number of shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred that are the subject of Submitted Bids by Potential Holders specifying one or more rates equal to or less than the Maximum Rate exceeds or equals the sum of (i) the number of shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred that are subject of Submitted Bids by Existing Holders specifying one or more rates higher than the Maximum Rate and (ii) the number of shares of Series B Auction Rate Preferred that are subject to Submitted Sell Orders.

"TREASURY INDEX RATE" means the average yield to maturity for actively traded marketable U.S. Treasury fixed interest rate securities having the same number of 30-day periods to maturity as the length of the applicable Dividend Period, determined, to the extent necessary, by linear interpolation based upon the yield for such securities having the next shorter and next longer number of 30-day periods to maturity treating all Dividend Periods with a length greater than the longest maturity for such securities as having a length equal to such longest maturity, in all cases based upon data set forth in the most recent weekly statistical release published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (currently in H.15 (519)); provided, however, if the most recent such statistical release will not have been published during the 15 days preceding the date of computation, the foregoing computations will be based upon the average of comparable data as quoted to the Fund by at least three recognized dealers in U.S. Government Obligations selected by the Fund.

"U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS" means direct obligations of the United States or by its agencies or instrumentalities that are entitled to the full faith and

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

credit of the United States and that, other than United States Treasury Bills, provide for the periodic payment of interest and the full payment of principal at maturity or call for redemption.

"UTILITY INDUSTRY" means foreign and domestic companies involved to a substantial extent (e.g., at least 50% of the assets, gross income or net profits of a company is committed to or derived from) in providing products, services or equipment for (i) the generation or distribution of electricity, gas and water and (ii) telecommunications services or infrastructure operations, such as airports, toll roads and municipal services.

"VALUATION DATE" means the last Business Day of each month, or such other date as the Fund and Rating Agencies may agree to for purposes of determining the Basic Maintenance Amount.

"WINNING BID RATE" means the lowest rate specified in the Submitted Bids which if:

- (i) (a) each such Submitted Bid of Existing Holders specifying such lowest rate and
- (b) all other such Submitted Bids of Existing Holders specifying lower rates were rejected, thus entitling such Existing Holders to continue to hold the shares of such series that are subject to such Submitted Bids; and
- (ii) (a) each such Submitted Bid of Potential Holders specifying such lowest rate and
- (b) all other such Submitted Bids of Potential Holders specifying lower rates were accepted;

would result in such Existing Holders described in subclause (i) above continuing to hold an aggregate number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares which, when added to the number of Outstanding Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares to be purchased by such Potential Holders described in subclause (ii) above, would equal not less than the Available Series B Auction Rate Preferred shares.

PART C

OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 24. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

(1) Financial Statements

Part A

Financial highlights (audited) for a share outstanding throughout the periods ended December 31, 2002, 2001, 2000 and 1999.

Part B

Financial Statements (audited) for the fiscal year 2002(1)

- (i) Portfolio of Investments as of December 31, 2002
- (ii) Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of December 31, 2002
- (iii) Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2002
- (iv) Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended December

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

31, 2002

- (v) Financial highlights for a share outstanding throughout the periods 2002, 2001, 2000 and 1999.
- (vi) Notes to Financial Statements
- (vii) Report of Independent Accountants

(2) Exhibits

- (a)
 - (i) Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust of Registrant(3)
 - (ii) Form of Statement of Preferences for the ___% Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares(2)
 - (iii) Form of Statement of Preferences for the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares(2)
- (b) Amended and Restated By-Laws of Registrant(3)
- (c) Not applicable
- (d)
 - (i) Specimen Share Certificate for the ___% Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares(3)
 - (ii) Specimen Share Certificate for the Series B Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares(3)
- (e) Automatic Dividend Reinvestment and Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan of Registrant(2)
- (f) Not applicable
- (g) Form of Investment Advisory Agreement between Registrant and Gabelli Funds, LLC(2)
- (h) Form of Underwriting Agreement(2)
- (i) Not applicable
- (j)
 - (i) Form of Custodian Contract between Registrant and Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company(3)
 - (ii) Form of Custodian Fee Schedule between Registrant and Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company(3)
- (k)
 - (i) Registrar, Transfer Agency and Service Agreement between Registrant and EquiServe Trust Company relating to the common shares(3)
 - (ii) Form of Auction Agency Agreement(2)
 - (iii) Form of Broker-Dealer Agreement(2)
 - (iv) Form of DTC Agreement(2)
- (l) Opinion and Consent of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP with respect to legality(2)
- (m) Not applicable
- (n)
 - (i) Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP(4)
 - (ii) Powers of Attorney(3)
- (o) Not applicable
- (p) Not applicable
- (q) Codes of Ethics of the Trust and the Advisor(3)

-
- (1) Incorporated by reference to the Fund's annual report filed on March 10, 2003.
 - (2) To be filed by Amendment.
 - (3) Filed Previously.
 - (4) Filed Herewith.

Item 25. Marketing Arrangements

See Exhibit 2(h) to this Registration Statement.

Item 26. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following table sets forth the estimated expenses to be incurred

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

in connection with the offering described in this Registration Statement:

SEC registration fees	\$
New York Stock Exchange listing fee	
Rating Agency Fees.....	
Printing and engraving expenses	
Auditing fees and expenses	
Legal fees and expenses	
Blue Sky fees and expenses	
Miscellaneous.....	
Total.....	\$

Item 27. Persons Controlled by or Under Common Control with Registrant

NONE

Item 28. Number of Holders of Securities as of May [__], 2003

Title of Class	Number of Record
-----	-----
-----	-----
Common Shares, par value \$.001 per share	

Item 29. Indemnification

The response of this Item is incorporated by reference to the caption "Limitation of Officers' and Directors Liability" in the Part B of this Registration Statement.

Insofar as indemnification for liability arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to trustees, officers and controlling persons of Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, Registrant has been advised that, in the opinion of the Commission, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act, and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered. Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Item 30. Business and Other Connections of Investment Adviser

The Investment Adviser, a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of New York, acts as investment adviser to the Registrant. The Registrant is fulfilling the requirement of this Item 30 to provide a list of the officers and directors of the Investment Adviser, together with information as to any other business, profession, vocation or employment of a substantial nature engaged in by the Investment Adviser or those officers and directors during the past two years, by incorporating by reference the information contained in the Form ADV of the Investment Adviser filed with the commission pursuant to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

(Commission File No. 801-26202).

Item 31. Location of Accounts and Records

The accounts and records of the Registrant are maintained in part at the office of the Investment Adviser at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422, in part at the offices of the Custodian, Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, One Boston Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, at the offices of the Fund's Administrator, PFPC, Inc, 3200 Horizon Drive, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406, and in part at the offices of EquiServe Trust Company, N.A., PO Box 43025, Providence, RI 02940-3025.

Item 32. Management Services

Not applicable.

Item 33. Undertakings

1. Registrant undertakes to suspend the offering of shares until the prospectus is amended, if subsequent to the effective date of this registration statement, its net asset value declines more than ten percent from its net asset value, as of the effective date of the registration statement or its net asset value increases to an amount greater than its net proceeds as stated in the prospectus.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:
 1. To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424 (b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;
 - (iii) To include any material information with respect to

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

- 2. To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
3. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to supplement the prospectus, after expiration of the subscription period, to set forth the results of the subscription offer, and the terms of any subsequent raftering thereof.
5. 1. Registrant undertakes that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of the Registration Statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in the form of prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 497 (h) will be deemed to be a part of the Registration Statement as of the time it was declared effective.
2. Registrant undertakes that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus will be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time will be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
6. Registrant undertakes to send by first class mail or other means designed to ensure equally prompt delivery, within two business days of receipt of a written or oral request, any Statement of Additional Information constituting Part B of this Registration Statement.

SIGNATURES

As required by the Securities Act of 1933, this Registrant's Registration Statement has been signed on behalf of the Registrant, in the City of Rye, State of New York, on the 22rd day of May, 2003.

THE GABELLI UTILITY TRUST

By: /s/ Bruce N. Alpert

Bruce N. Alpert
Vice President and Treasurer

As required by the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature Title Date
* Chairman of the Board, President May 22, 2003
----- Chief Investment Officer

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Mario J. Gabelli	and Trustee	
/s/ Bruce N. Alpert ----- Bruce N. Alpert	Chief Financial Officer	May 22, 2003
* ----- Thomas E. Bratter	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- Felix J. Christiana	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- Anthony J. Colavita	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- James P. Conn	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- Vincent D. Enright	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- John D. Gabelli	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- Karl Otto Pohl	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- Anthony R. Pustorino	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* ----- Salvatore J. Zizza	Trustee	May 22, 2003
* /s/ Bruce Alpert ----- Bruce N. Alpert,		May 22, 2003

Edgar Filing: GABELLI UTILITY TRUST - Form N-2

Attorney-in-Fact

EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
EX-99 (n) (1)	Consent of PricewaterHouseCoopers LLP