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April 26, 2000

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: Case No. EM-2000-369

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the referenced case on behalf of UtiliCorp United Inc., please find an original and fourteen copies of a Motion to Substitute Witnesses and To File Related Direct Testimony.


Would you please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By:


James C. Swearengen

JCS/lar

Enclosure

cc: All Parties of Record

FILED²
APR 26 2000
Missouri Public
Service Commission

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²
APR 26 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the matter of the Joint Application of)
UtiliCorp United Inc. and The Empire)
District Electric Company for authority)
to merge The Empire District Electric)
Company with and into UtiliCorp United)
Inc. and, in connection therewith, certain)
other related transactions.)

Case No. EM-2000-369


MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE WITNESS
AND TO FILE RELATED DIRECT TESTIMONY

COMES NOW UtiliCorp United Inc. ("UtiliCorp"), by and through its counsel, and for its Motion respectfully states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"):

1. On October 19, 1999, UtiliCorp caused to be filed in this case, among other things, the direct testimony of Robert W. Holzwarth.
2. Mr. Holzwarth has recently been transferred to a work location in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and is therefore no longer able to take part in these proceedings.
3. In view of the foregoing, UtiliCorp desires that Mr. Frank A. DeBacker be allowed to adopt the previously filed testimony of Mr. Holzwarth. In connection therewith, UtiliCorp proposes that the Commission permit the filing of certain direct testimony of Mr. DeBacker which testimony is made a part of this Motion as Attachment 1. Mr. DeBacker is fully qualified and prepared to adopt Mr. Holzwarth's testimony as his own.
4. The granting of this Motion will not delay this proceeding or prejudice any party.

WHEREFORE, UtiliCorp moves that the Commission issue its order permitting the substitution of witness as described herein and the filing of the related direct testimony.

Respectfully submitted,


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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, on this 26th day of April, 2000, to all parties of record.

