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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of UtiliCorp	)	
United Inc. for Authority to Increase its	)	
Ownership Interest in Horizon Energy	)	
Distribution Limited, a New Zealand Electric	)	<u>Case No. EF-2000-270</u>
Distribution Utility, by Acquiring Indirectly	)	
47.7 Percent of the Capital Stock Thereof,	)	
and to Take All Other Actions Reasonably	)	
Necessary to Effectuate Said Transaction.	)	

**ORDER REGARDING CASE STATUS**

On October 2, 1999, UtiliCorp United, Inc. (UtiliCorp), filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to act through its 78.8 percent owned New Zealand subsidiary, UnitedNetworks Limited (UnitedNetworks), to increase UnitedNetworks' equity ownership interest in Horizon Energy Distribution Limited (Horizon) to 100 percent by acquiring the remaining voting securities of Horizon. Per UtiliCorp's application the acquisition will occur by private and open market purchases of approximately 47.7 percent of the outstanding shares of Horizon.

UtiliCorp requested expedited treatment in order to complete the purchase of shares by December 31, 1999. On October 28, 1999, the Commission issued an order directing a response to this request. The Commission's Staff filed its response on November 10, 1999, indicating that Staff did not oppose the request for expedited treatment provided that the information it required to prepare its recommendation were timely provided

by UtiliCorp. On November 23, 1999, UtiliCorp withdrew its request for expedited consideration of its application.

Based on the case file the status of this case is uncertain and no substantive activity has occurred before the Commission since the filing of the application on October 2, 1999. Absent the occurrence of substantive activity reflected in a case filing or a request for a continuance the Commission may dismiss this case after 90 days pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.116(2). In this case such a dismissal would not prejudice the applicant and would merely reflect the Commission's desire to efficiently manage its case files.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That absent other substantive filings, UtiliCorp United Inc. shall advise the Commission no later than January 10, 2000, of the status of this case or be subject to dismissal under 4 CSR 240-2.116(2).
2. That this order shall become effective on December 2, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

( S E A L )

Keith Thornburg, Regulatory Law  
Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1)  
(November 30, 1995) and  
Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 2nd day of December, 1999.

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