

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
April 14, 2000**

CASE NO: EM-2000-369

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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Uncertified Copies:

Robert K. Green
President & Chief Operating Officer
UtiliCorp United, Inc.
20 W. Ninth Street
Kansas City, MO 64138

Myron W. McKinney
President & Chief Executive Officer
The Empire District Electric Company
602 Joplin Street
Joplin, MO 64801

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO EXTEND FILING DATES

On April 13, 2000, the Staff of the Commission filed a motion asking that the Commission extend the filing dates of rebuttal, surrebuttal and cross-surrebuttal testimony and schedules. Staff's motion indicates that it has encountered difficulties in completing its rebuttal testimony in time to meet the June 7 filing date established by the current procedural schedule. Staff requests an extension of the filing date for rebuttal testimony to June 21. Staff's motion indicates that UtiliCorp United Inc. (UtiliCorp) and The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) do not object to this extension so long as the time allowed for them to file surrebuttal testimony is similarly extended. Staff therefore asks that the time for filing of surrebuttal and cross-surrebuttal testimony be extended from August 9 to August 23. In addition, Staff has filed a motion in case number EM-2000-292, the merger case of St. Joseph Light and Power Company and UtiliCorp, asking that the procedural schedule in that case also be extended.

Staff's motion represents that the granting of its request will not delay either of the two merger cases. Staff's motion also represents that it has contacted all other parties and none objects to Staff's motion. Staff asks that its motion be considered expeditiously.

The Commission has considered Staff's motion and finds that it should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

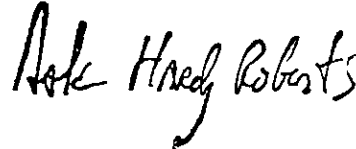
1. That Staff's Motion to Extend Filing Dates of Rebuttal, Surrebuttal and Cross-Surrebuttal Testimony and Schedules and Request for Expedited Consideration is granted.

2. That the revised procedural schedule for this case shall be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
December 15, 1999	Direct Testimony filed by UtiliCorp and Empire
June 21, 2000, 3:00 p.m.	Rebuttal Testimony by all other parties
July 24, 2000, 10:00 a.m.	Prehearing Conference
July 31, 2000, 3:00 p.m.	List of Issues to be filed by Staff
August 23, 2000, 3:00 p.m.	Surrebuttal Testimony to be filed by all parties
August 23, 2000, 3:00 p.m.	Statements of Positions to be filed by all parties.
September 11-15, 2000, 8:30 a.m.	Hearing

3. That this order shall become effective on April 20, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Morris L. Woodruff, 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 14th day of April, 2000.

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

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 14th day of April 2000.



Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge