

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
January 16, 2002**

CASE NO: EM-2002-297

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Paul A Boudreau
Brydon, Swearengen & England P.C.
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of UtiliCorp)
United Inc., a Delaware Corporation, for)
Authority to Merge to Effect a Name Change)

Case No. EM-2002-297

ORDER SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND
ORDER REQUIRING FILING OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On December 21, 2001, UtiliCorp United Inc., filed its application for approval by the Missouri Public Service Commission under Section 393.190, RSMo 2000, of a merger between UtiliCorp and UtiliCorp Renaming Corporation.

On January 11, 2002, the Office of the Public Counsel filed its request for, *inter alia*, an evidentiary hearing.

Thus, this matter is now contested and a prehearing conference and procedural schedule are appropriate to ensure its prompt resolution. At the prehearing conference, the parties or their representatives should be prepared to discuss the nature of any discovery each will conduct and the interval necessary for its completion; the number of witnesses each expects to call at hearing; the number and nature of any exhibits each expects to offer at hearing; and the anticipated length of the hearing. The parties or their representatives should also be prepared to discuss the current status of settlement negotiations. It is expected that the prehearing conference will provide an opportunity for the parties to further pursue settlement discussions.

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The parties must jointly file a proposed procedural schedule. The proposed procedural schedule must establish dates for the filing of a list of the issues to be determined by the Commission and statements by the parties of their position on each such issue. The proposed procedural schedule must also include a date for the filing of a list of the witnesses to be called on each day of hearing, the order in which they will appear and the order of cross-examination agreed upon by the parties. The proposed procedural schedule must also establish dates for the hearing of this matter.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That a prehearing conference will be held on February 14, 2002, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference will be held at the Commission's offices at the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, Room 305. The Governor Office Building is a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the prehearing conference should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the prehearing conference.

2. That the parties must jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than February 21, 2002.

3. That any party wishing to intervene in this matter shall file an application no later than February 6, 2002, with:

Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

and send copies to:

David A. Meyer, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

and

Paul A. Boudreau, Esq.
Brydon, Swearingen & England, P.C.
312 East Capitol Avenue
Post Office Box 456
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456

and

M. Ruth O'Neill, Esq.
Office of the Public Counsel
Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street, Suite 650
Post Office Box 7800
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-7800

4. That this order will become effective on January 26, 2002.

BY THE COMMISSION



**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Law Judge**

(S E A L)

Bill Hopkins, Senior Law Judge,
by delegation of authority under
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 16th day of January, 2002.

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 16th day of Jan. 2002 .

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

