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April 24, 2001

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

Re: Case No. EO-2001-472

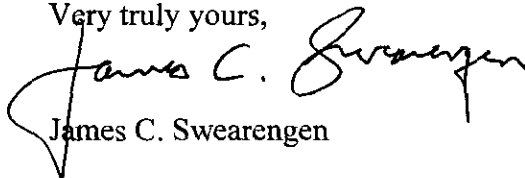
Dear Mr. Roberts:

Herewith please find a copy of a press release issued today by UtiliCorp United Inc. in which it announces that it has discontinued its efforts to sell the company's utility network construction and maintenance business and related assets. Would you please bring this matter to the attention of the Commission.

A copy of this correspondence and press release will be provided to the Commission's General Counsel, the Office of the Public Counsel, Stuart Conrad, William A. Jolley and James R. Waers.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


James C. Swearengen

JCS/lar

Enclosures

cc: Steve Dottheim
John Coffman
David Meyer
William Jolley
Stuart Conrad
James R. Waers

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**UTILICORP DISCONTINUES PLANS TO SELL ITS U.S. NETWORK
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS**

KANSAS CITY, MO, April 24, 2001 — UtiliCorp United (NYSE: UCU) today announced that it has discontinued its efforts to sell the company's utility network construction and maintenance business and related assets.

In November last year, UtiliCorp announced a competitive bid process for the business, which supports the company's electricity and natural gas network transmission and distribution operations in seven states.

"While there were sincere and extensive discussions during the past several months with potential purchasers of the business, we did not find an arrangement that would be mutually beneficial for employees and customers and also achieve value for UtiliCorp shareholders," said James G. Miller, UtiliCorp senior vice president and CEO of the company's U.S. Utility unit. However, he added that the company remains committed to the concept of unbundling utility services such as those the company has successfully unbundled in its overseas operations.

The potential sale in the U.S. would have affected about 900 UtiliCorp employees plus the equipment involved in operations and related engineering work on the company's electricity and natural gas networks in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska.

Based in Kansas City, Mo., UtiliCorp United is a multinational energy company with more than 4 million customers. It operates in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, Norway, New Zealand and Australia. At December 31, 2000, UtiliCorp had \$14.1 billion in assets and annual sales of \$29.0 billion.

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