

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
December 16, 1999**

CASE NO: EM-2000-369

Office of the Public Counsel

P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

General Counsel

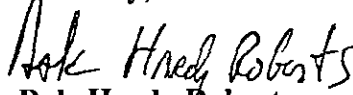
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

James C. Swearengen/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,



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

Uncertified Copies:

**To all the electric companies, all gas companies and all water companies regulated
By the Commission.**

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 AND NOTICE

On December 15, 1999, UtiliCorp United Inc. (UtiliCorp) and The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) filed a joint application with the Commission for authority to merge Empire with and into UtiliCorp. Proper parties should be given notice and an opportunity to intervene in this matter. The Records Department of the Commission shall send a copy of this order to the mayors of all municipalities and county commissions located within the service areas of UtiliCorp and Empire. The Information Officer of the Commission shall send notice of this application to the members of the General Assembly who represent each county located within the service areas of UtiliCorp and Empire, and to the newspapers that serve each county within the service areas of UtiliCorp and Empire, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current Official Manual of the State of Missouri. In addition, the Records Department of the Commission shall send notice to all the electric

companies regulated by the Commission, to all gas companies regulated by the Commission, and to all water companies regulated by the Commission.

Proper persons wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission. Copies of the application to intervene should be sent to the parties listed below.

The requirement of a hearing has been fulfilled when all those having a desire to be heard are offered an opportunity to be heard. If no proper party is granted intervention and neither the Commission's Staff nor the Office of the Public Counsel requests a hearing, the Commission may determine that a hearing is not necessary and that the Applicant may submit its evidence in support of the application by verified statement. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Information Office and the Records Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall provide notice as set out herein.

2. That any interested person wishing to intervene in this case shall file an application on or before January 14, 2000 with:

Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

and copies shall be served upon the following persons:

James C. Swearngen
Paul A. Boudreau
Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C.
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456

Attorneys for UtiliCorp United Inc. and The Empire District
Electric Company

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

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

and

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

3. That this order shall become effective on December 27, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

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 16th day of December, 1999.

**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 December 1999.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

