

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)	<u>Case No. EF-2000-270</u>
Distribution Limited, a New Zealand Electric)	
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 DIRECTING RESPONSE

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 has requested expedited treatment in order to complete the purchase of shares by December 31, 1999. The Office of the Public Counsel and any interested party may respond to this request for expedited treatment. In particular, before setting a time for expedited responses, the Commission desires the Commission's Staff to file a

response to advise the Commission of the earliest date it could file a recommendation regarding the application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and any other party wishing to respond to the request of UtiliCorp United Inc. for expedited treatment shall respond no later than November 10, 1999.

2. That this order shall become effective on October 28, 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 28th day of October, 1999.

RECEIVED

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COMMISSION