BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Union

Electric Company and the Board of Municipal

Utilities of the City of Sikeston for an Order

Authorizing the Sale, Transfer, and Assignment

of Certain Electric Distribution Facilities and

Customers.

Customers.

ORDER DIRECTING STAFF REPORT

On March 3, 1999, Union Electric Company doing business as AmerenUE (UE) and the Board of Municipal Utilities of the City of Sikeston, Missouri (Board), filed their joint application seeking approval of the sale by UE to the Board of certain assets used to distribute electricity to customers residing within an area recently annexed by the City of Sikeston. On March 5, 1999, the Commission issued its Notice of Deficiency. On March 22, 1999, the parties supplemented their application, curing the deficiencies cited in the order of March 5, 1999.

The Commission believes that appropriate input from the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) will assist in the resolution of this matter. Therefore, the Staff will review the joint application filed herein, investigate the attendant circumstances and file its report, including a recommendation as to whether or not the joint application should be granted and, if so, upon what conditions.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall review the joint application filed herein, investigate the attendant circumstances and, on or before August 20, 1999, file its report herein, including a recommendation as to whether or not the joint application should be granted and, if so, upon what conditions.
 - 2. That this order shall be effective on August 3, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Kevin A. Thompson, Deputy Chief 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 21st day of July, 1999.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION