

A:

STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service  
Commission held at its office  
in Jefferson City on the 30th  
day of September, 1998.

In the Matter of Tariff Sheets Filed	)	
by Missouri Public Service, a Division	)	<u>Case No. ET-99-126</u>
of UtiliCorp United, Inc. to Modify its	)	Tariff File No. 9900181
Electric Line Extension Rule	)	

**ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF AND PROVIDING NOTICE**

On September 1, 1998, Missouri Public Service, a Division of UtiliCorp United, Inc. (MPS) submitted tariffs proposing to modify its electric line extension rules. The tariffs bear an effective date of October 1, 1998.

Two entire sets of line extension rules were submitted. One is identical to the current tariffs except that the following language has been added: "Available for Applications where MPS Construction Begins Before or On December 31, 1998." The second set embodies very significant modifications to MPS's current line extension procedures. This set contains the following language: "Available for Applications where MPS is Expected to Commence Construction On or After January 1, 1999." The effect of the filing, if approved by the Commission, would be to continue MPS's current practice until the end of this year, and to have the new procedures commence January 1, 1999.

MPS's present electric line extension rule provides that a fixed length of distribution line and a fixed length of service line will be allowed for each new customer. Distribution system extensions are made to individual residential customers at no cost to the customer for

the first 1200 feet. Service line extensions to individual residential customers are provided at no charge for the first 100 feet. Under the proposed modifications, a much shorter length of distribution line will be provided free of charge. Any required extension in excess of this length will be paid in whole or in part by the customer, depending on the customer's projected usage.

The proposed modifications are such a significant departure from MPS's current practice, and from the practices followed by other Missouri regulated electric utilities, that the Commission is reluctant to accept them without an evidentiary record demonstrating that they are in the public interest. In order to allow sufficient time to study the effect of the proposed modifications to the line extension rules and to determine if they are just, reasonable and in the public interest, the proposed tariffs should be suspended for a period of 120 days plus an additional six months beyond the requested effective date.

The Commission has determined that proper parties should be given notice and an opportunity to intervene in this matter. The Records Department of the Commission shall serve a copy of this order upon the mayor of each city and the county commission of each county in MPS's service area. In addition, the Information Office shall send notice of this order to the publisher of each newspaper located in the counties in which MPS provides service, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current *Official Manual of the State of Missouri*, and to the members of the General Assembly representing the Missouri area served by MPS.

Anyone wishing to intervene must submit an application to intervene to:

Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission  
Post Office Box 360  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Copies of the application to intervene should be sent to:

James C. Swearengen  
Brydon, Swearengen & England P.C.  
312 E. Capitol Avenue  
Post Office Box 456  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Matt Tracy  
UtiliCorp United, Inc.  
20 West Ninth Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

and

Office of the Public Counsel  
Post Office Box 7800  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That the proposed tariff sheets submitted on September 1, 1998, by Missouri Public Service, a Division of UtiliCorp United, Inc., and assigned Tariff No. 9900181, are hereby suspended for a period of one hundred and twenty days beyond October 1, 1998, to January 29, 1999, or until otherwise ordered by this Commission.

2. That the tariffs suspended in ordered paragraph 1 are hereby suspended an additional six (6) months beyond January 29, 1999, to July 29, 1999, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

3. That the Records Department and Information Office of the Commission shall provide notice as described in this order.

4. That any proper person or entity desiring to intervene in this case shall file its application to intervene and serve copies of the same as directed herein on or before November 1, 1998.

5. That this order shall become effective on September 30,  
1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

*Dale Hardy Roberts*

Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray,  
Schemenauer and Drainer, CC., concur.

Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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COMMISSION COUNSEL  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION