

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY**

April 14, 2000

CASE NO: EM-2000-292

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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



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

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)	
UtiliCorp United Inc. and St. Joseph)	
Light & Power Company for Authority to)	
Merge St. Joseph Light & Power Company)	<u>Case No. EM-2000-292</u>
with and into UtiliCorp United Inc., and,)	
in Connection Therewith, Certain Other)	
Related Transactions.)	

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO EXTEND FILING DATES

On April 13, 2000, the Staff of the Commission filed a motion asking that the Commission extend the filing dates of rebuttal, surrebuttal and cross-surrebuttal testimony and schedules. Staff's motion indicates that it has encountered difficulties in completing its rebuttal testimony in time to meet the April 20 filing date established by the current procedural schedule. Staff requests an extension of the filing date for rebuttal testimony to May 2. Staff's motion indicates that UtiliCorp United Inc. (UtiliCorp) and St. Joseph Light & Power Company (SJLP) do not object to this extension so long as the time allowed for them to file surrebuttal testimony is similarly extended. Staff therefore asks that the time for filing of surrebuttal and cross-surrebuttal testimony be extended from June 15 to June 26. In addition, Staff has filed a motion in case number EM-2000-369, the merger case of The Empire District Electric Company and UtiliCorp, asking that the procedural schedule in that case also be extended.

Staff's motion represents that the granting of its request will not delay either of the two merger cases. Staff's motion also represents that it has contacted all other parties and none objects to Staff's motion. Because the date for filing rebuttal testimony is rapidly approaching, Staff asks that its motion be considered expeditiously.

The Commission has considered Staff's motion and finds that it should be granted. In addition to the changes sought by Staff, the Commission will make one other change in the procedural schedule. The date established for the filing of statements of positions will be moved from June 22 to June 26, to correspond with the new date for the filing of surrebuttal and cross-surrebuttal testimony.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Staff's Motion to Extend Filing Dates of Rebuttal, Surrebuttal and Cross-Surrebuttal Testimony and Schedules and Request for Expedited Consideration is granted.

2. That the revised procedural schedule for this case shall be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
October 19, 1999	Direct Testimony filed by UtiliCorp and SJLP
May 2, 2000, 3:00 p.m.	Rebuttal Testimony by all other parties
May 18, 2000, 10:00 a.m.	Prehearing Conference
May 25, 2000, 3:00 p.m.	List of Issues to be filed by Staff
June 26, 2000, 3:00 p.m.	Surrebuttal Testimony to be filed by all parties

June 26, 2000, 3:00 p.m.

Statements of Positions to be filed by all parties.

July 10-14, 2000, 8:30 a.m. Hearing

3. That this order shall become effective on April 20, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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 14th day of April, 2000.

**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 14th day of April 2000.

Dale Hardy Roberts

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

