

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
December 14, 2001**

CASE NO: EO-2002-215

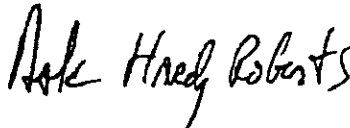
Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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

James C. Swearingen
Paul A. Boudreau
Brydon, Swearingen & England P.C.
P.O. box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Uncertified Copies:

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of UtiliCorp)	
United Inc. for Authority to Acquire, the Shares of)	
Avon Energy Partners Holdings and to Take)	<u>Case No. EO-2002-215</u>
All Other Actions Reasonably Necessary to)	
Effectuate Said Transaction)	

ORDER DIRECTING EXPEDITED FILING

On October 30, 2001, UtiliCorp United Inc. (UtiliCorp) filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to acquire the outstanding shares of Avon Energy Partners Holdings. ^{11/1/01}Due to the proposed timetable for the transaction, UtiliCorp requested the Commission's expedited action on its application.

On December 13, 2001, UtiliCorp filed a Notice to the Commission informing the Commission of recent events potentially impacting its transaction. According to the information provided, UtiliCorp's 50% partner in the acquisition may withdraw due to recent events related to the collapse of Enron Corp. If UtiliCorp were to proceed without a partner, the projected financial impact of the acquisition on UtiliCorp would vary from the representations and information UtiliCorp has previously submitted to the Commission. UtiliCorp states that it would accept as a further condition for the Commission's approval of its application a condition requiring UtiliCorp to have a partner to participate in the acquisition as presented and described in the application.

UtiliCorp further renewed its request for expedited treatment. In order to allow time for the Commission's consideration of this information and to determine whether the

positions of the Commission's Staff or the Office of the Public Counsel will be changed or affected, the Commission will direct expedited responses to this information and offer of a further condition. Staff and Public Counsel are not precluded from requesting additional time but should respond as fully as possible.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel file responses to the notice and offer of an additional condition filed and proposed by UtiliCorp United Inc., no later than 12:00 p.m. on December 17, 2001.
2. That this order shall become effective on December 14, 2001.

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
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 14th day of December, 2001.

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 Dec. 2001.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

