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OF COUNSEL

RICHARD T. CIOTTONE

Co-2002-215

October 30, 2001

FILED²

OCT 3 0 2001

Missouri Public Service Commission

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary Public Service Commission Governor Office Building 200 Madison Street, Suite 100 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Re:

DAVID V.G. BRYDON

GARY W. DUFFY

PAUL A. BOUDREAU

SONDRA B. MORGAN

CHARLES E. SMARR

JAMES C. SWEARENGEN

WILLIAM R. ENGLAND, III

JOHNNY K. RICHARDSON

In the Matter of the Application of UtiliCorp United Inc. for Authority to

Acquire the Shares of Avon Energy Partners Holdings

Case No. <u>E0-2002-215</u>

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On behalf of UtiliCorp United Inc., enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter please find an original and eight (8) copies of an <u>Application</u>. A copy has also been hand-delivered to the Office of the Public Counsel this date.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND, P.C.

By:

Paul A. Boudreau

PAB/aw

Enclosures

CC:

Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Public Counsel

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) Case No. 60-2002-215
Take All Other Actions Reasonably Necessary)
to Effectuate Said Transaction.)

APPLICATION

OCT 3 0 2001

Service Commission

Submitted by:

Paul A. Boudreau #33155
BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456
Telephone (573) 635-7166
Facsimile (573) 635-0427
E-Mail: PaulB@brydonlaw.com

Attorneys for UtiliCorp United Inc.

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) Case No
Take All Other Actions Reasonably Necessary)
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APPLICATION

Submitted by:

Paul A. Boudreau #33155 BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C. P.O. Box 456 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456 Telephone (573) 635-7166 Facsimile (573) 635-0427 E-Mail: PaulB@brydonlaw.com

Attorneys for UtiliCorp United Inc.

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)	Case No.	
Take All Other Actions Reasonably Necessary)		
to Effectuate Said Transaction.)		

APPLICATION

COMES NOW UtiliCorp United Inc. ("UtiliCorp") pursuant to Section 393.190 RSMo. 2000 and 4 CSR 240-2.060(12), and for its Application to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") states that:

- 1. UtiliCorp is a Delaware corporation, in good standing in all respects, with its principal office and place of business at 20 West Ninth Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105-1704. UtiliCorp is authorized to conduct business in Missouri through its Missouri Public Service ("MPS") and St. Joseph Light & Power ("SJLP") operating divisions and, as such, is engaged in providing electrical, natural gas and industrial steam utility services in those areas certificated to it by the Commission as provided by law. UtiliCorp's Certificate of Incorporation and Amended Certificate of Authority to do business in this state as a foreign corporation have been filed with the Commission in Case No. EM-87-6 and said documents are incorporated herein by reference, collectively, in accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(G), and made a part hereof for all purposes.
- 2. Pleadings, notices, orders and other correspondence and communications concerning this Application should be addressed to:

Mr. Leslie J. Parrette, Jr.
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
UtiliCorp United Inc.
20 West Ninth Street
Kansas City, MO 64105-1704
Telephone (816) 467-9732
Facsimile (816) 783-5175

Mr. James Brook Vice President, International Regulatory Policy UtiliCorp United Inc. 20 West Ninth Street Kansas City, MO 64105-1704 Telephone (816) 467-3581 Facsimile (816) 467-9581

Mr. Paul A. Boudreau
Brydon, Swearengen & England P.C.
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Telephone (573) 635-7166
Facsimile (573) 635-0427

- 3. In accordance with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(E), UtiliCorp has attached hereto and marked as <u>Appendix 1</u> and <u>Appendix 2</u>, respectively, copies of the Registrations of Fictitious Name of MPS and SJLP on file with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office. Each document is made a part hereof for all purposes.
- 4. UtiliCorp has no pending actions or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court that involve customer service or rates which action, judgment or decision has occurred within three (3) years of the date of this Application.
- UtiliCorp has no Annual Report or Commission assessment fees that are overdue at the time of the filing of this Application.
- 6. FirstEnergy Corp. ("FirstEnergy"), headquartered in Akron, Ohio, is a diversified energy services holding company. Its subsidiaries and affiliates provide a wide range of energy and energy-related products and services, including the generation and sale of electricity; exploration and production of oil and natural gas; transmission and marketing of natural gas; mechanical and electrical contracting and construction; energy management; telecommunications; and e-commerce.

- 7. GPU, Inc. ("GPU"), is an electric utility holding company. Through various utility subsidiaries, GPU provides electric service to customers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. GPU also develops, owns, operates and invests in generation, transmission and distribution facilities. EI UK Holdings, Inc. ("EI UK") is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GPU which, in turn, owns Avon Energy Partners Holdings ("Avon").
- 8. UtiliCorp has made a written offer to FirstEnergy to acquire one hundred percent (100%) of the outstanding shares of Avon from EI UK. GPU is expected to merge with FirstEnergy prior to December 31, 2001. After the closing of the GPU/FirstEnergy merger, UtiliCorp expects that UtiliCorp and EI UK will execute the agreed-upon form of the Stock Purchase Agreement for the purchase and sale of all the outstanding shares of Avon. UtiliCorp expects to invest in the equity of Avon on a 50-50 basis with a financial partner (the "Partner").
- 9. Avon owns and operates Midlands Electricity plc ("Midlands"), comprising a substantial electric utility distribution business and several related businesses (collectively, the "Midlands Business") in the United Kingdom (UK). Midlands is one of twelve regional electricity companies in the UK that came into existence as a result of the privatization of the UK electricity industry in 1990. UtiliCorp anticipates that the acquisition of the Midlands Business will provide a strategic platform from which UtiliCorp will be able to expand its operations in the UK and into the rest of Europe.
- 10. Midlands' primary business is the regulated distribution of electricity to approximately 2.3 million industrial, commercial, and residential customers across its service territory in south-central England. Midlands' service territory has an estimated population of five million residents. Although historically industrial, the area's economy is now less dominated by heavy manufacturing and has seen increased growth in the commercial sector. Midlands is the only distributor of electricity in its service territory.

- 11. Midlands is also engaged in non-regulated activities, including electricity generation, electrical contracting, metering services, and related businesses. Through its wholly-owned subsidiary Midlands Power International Limited, Midlands owns minority investments in several generation plants in the UK and overseas.
- 12. UtiliCorp, through an acquisition vehicle owned by a UtiliCorp subsidiary and the Partner, will acquire one hundred percent (100%) of the outstanding shares of Avon. The purchase price for the shares is US\$362 million. In addition, Avon and its subsidiaries, including Midlands, will maintain significant indebtedness following the acquisition. All of that indebtedness will be non-recourse to UtiliCorp. UtiliCorp may, however, borrow (or guarantee the borrowing by the acquisition vehicle of) monies to fund its pro rata share of the purchase price (equal to its percentage interest in the joint venture vehicle). A diagram of the proposed investment structure is attached hereto, marked as <u>Appendix 3</u>, and made a part hereof for all purposes.
- 13. The following Appendices are attached hereto and made a part of this Application for all purposes in accordance with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(12)(1)(A) and (B):
- Appendix 4 A copy of the Stock Purchase Agreement in the agreed form to be executed by and between UtiliCorp and EI UK upon completion of the merger between GPU and FirstEnergy, expected to close prior to December 31, 2001; and
- Appendix 5 A certified copy of the Resolutions of the Board of Directors of UtiliCorp authorizing the acquisition of the outstanding shares of Avon. (To be late-filed)
- 14. Attached hereto, marked <u>Appendix 6</u>, and made a part hereof for all purposes, is a copy of financial statements showing the *pro forma* financial effect of UtiliCorp's acquisition of Avon on a consolidated basis.
 - 15. The proposed investment in Avon will have no adverse effect on Missouri customers of

UtiliCorp and, consequently, is not defrimental to the public interest. The Midlands Business will be operated totally separately from UtiliCorp's MPS and SJLP operations. UtiliCorp's Missouri customers will see no change in their day-to-day utility service or rates, and said customers will continue to be served effectively and efficiently without interruption. Also, UtiliCorp sets forth in paragraph 16 below five (5) specific corporate commitments designed to further insulate its Missouri customers from any possible adverse consequence associated with the proposed transaction.

- 16. In support hereof, UtiliCorp provides the following certification of corporate commitments with respect to the proposed transaction. By virtue of the filing of this verified Application, UtiliCorp certifies that:
 - a) UtiliCorp holds an investment grade rating at the time of the filing of this Application, and is committed to maintaining that rating;
 - b) UtiliCorp commits that cost allocations to the Missouri jurisdiction will not increase as a result of the proposed transaction, and further, UtiliCorp undertakes that it will reduce allocations where appropriate to reflect the effect of the proposed acquisition;
 - c) UtiliCorp commits that any acquisition premium paid by UtiliCorp with respect to this transaction will be treated below-the-line for ratemaking purposes and no recovery of any acquisition premium associated with its investment in Avon will be sought in any future Missouri rate case;
 - d) UtiliCorp commits it will not seek an increase in its cost of capital, nor any risk premium, as a result of the proposed transaction; and
 - e) UtiliCorp commits to provide to representatives of the Commission's Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel:

- Additional information about the transaction within thirty (30) days of the close thereof; and
- The most recent credit agency reports with respect to UtiliCorp, periodically as available.
- 17. UtiliCorp anticipates that all other preconditions for closing, including all other regulatory approvals, will be satisfied by December 31, 2001. Accordingly, UtiliCorp requests that the Commission issue an Order approving this Application by no later than December 15, 2001, bearing an effective date of ten (10) days thereafter.

WHEREFORE, UtiliCorp requests that the Commission issue an Order by December 15, 2001, bearing an effective date of no later than December 25, 2001:

- Authorizing the acquisition by UtiliCorp of the outstanding shares of Avon Energy Partners
 Holdings as provided for in the Stock Purchase Agreement, <u>Appendix 4</u> to this Application;
- 2) Authorizing UtiliCorp to execute and perform in accordance with the terms of all documents and to take, or cause to be taken, any and all other actions reasonably necessary to effectuate the transaction described herein;
- 3) Finding that the proposed transaction is not detrimental to the public interest; and
- 4) Granting such other relief deemed by the Commission to be just and proper in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A. Boudreau

#33155

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

P.O. Box 456

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456

Telephone (573) 635-7166

Facsimile (573) 635-0427

E-Mail: PaulB@brydonlaw.com

Attorneys for UtiliCorp United Inc.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered on this 30th day of October, 2001, to the following:

Office of the General Counsel Missouri Public Service Commission Governor Office Building 200 Madison Street P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Office of the Public Counsel Governor Office Building 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Paul A. Boudreau

AFFIDAVIT

State of Missouri
State of Missouri) ss. County of Tackson
County of Vackson
I. Les/ie V. Parrette, Vr., having been duly sworn upon my oath, state that I am the Secretary of UtiliCorp United Inc., that I am duly authorized to make this affidation behalf of UtiliCorp United Inc. and that the matters and things stated in the foregoing Application and appendices thereto are true and correct to the best of my information knowledge and belief. Subscribed and sworn before me this 25th day of October, 2001.
Notary Public Suning
My Commission expires: 12/28/01 SARA L. HENNING Notary Public - Notary Seal State of Missouri County of Jackson My Commission Exp. 12/28/2001



State of Missouri

273651

No. 2

Corporation Division

Judith K. Moriarty, Secretary of State

Registration of Fictitious Name

This information is for the use of the public and gives no protection to the name. There is no provision in this Chapter to keep another company or corporation from adopting and using the same name. (RSMo 417)

We, the undersigned, are doing business under the following name, and at the following address:

Name to be registered:	Missouri Public Service	
Missouri Business Address	10700 E. 350 Highway	
(if not, other): City, State and Zip Code:	Kansas City, MO 64138	

The parties having an interest in the business, and the percentage they own are (if a corporation is owner, indicate corporation name and percentage owned). If all parties are jointly and severally liable, percentage of ownership need not be listed:

Name of Owners,		If listed, Percentage of ownership		
Individual or Corporate F 300 558 ag	Street and Number	City	State	must equal 100%
UtiliCorp United Inc.	911 Main, Suite 3000	O Kansas City	<u>MO</u>	100 %
· :				9

Make check for \$2.00 payable to the State Director of Revenue.

TO BE FILED IN DUPLICATE (Must be typed or printed)

Return to: Secretary of State Corporation Division P.O. Box 778 Jefferson City, Mo. 65102



SECRETARY OF STATE

APPENDIX 1

1-213651

The undersigned, being all the parties owning interest in the above company, oeing duly sworn, upon their oaths each did say that the statements and matters set forth herein are true.

Individual Owners	<u> X</u>	<u>X</u>
Sign Here	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
1	X	<u>X</u>
273651	хох Vice-President and its жекжекну хи Ass	sed this application to be executed in its name by its ***********************************
If Corporation is Owner, Corporate Officers Execute	Gay of JUL 12 1994	By Dale Wolfts Pictor Vice-President By Judy Samayon, Secretary or Assistant Secretary
Here State of Missouri	SECRETARY OF STATE (Corporate Seal) If no seal, state "none".	The Secretary of State's Office makes every effort to provide program accessibility to all citizens without regard to disability. If you desire this publication in alternate form because of a disability, please contact the Director of Publications, P.O. Box 778, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102; phone (314) 751-1814. Hearing-impaired citizens may contact the Director by phone through Missouri Relay (800-735-2966). The Corporations Division also maintains a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (314) 526-5599.
County of	Jackson ss	
1, Joyce	J. Auer, A Notary Public, o	rsonally appeared before me DALE J. WOLF,
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		he signed as his own free act and deed the foregoing
document in the	e capacity therein set forth and declared that	the statements therein contained are true.
IN WITNES	S WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand	and seal the day and year before written.
1	(Notarial Seal)	Jan King
		Notary Public
· Corp. =56		Joyce J Auer, Notary Public Jackson County, State of Missouri My Commission Expires 8/28/95



State of Missouri

No. X

0384375

Rebecca McDowell Cook, Secretary of State

Corporations Division



Registration of Fictitious Name

(Submit in duplicate with filing fee of \$7)

JAH 20 2001

(Must be typed or printed)

SECRETARY OF STATE

This information is for the use of the public and gives no protection to the name. There is no provision in this Chapter to keep another person or business from adopting and using the same name. (Chapter 417, RSMo.)

We, the undersigned, are doing business under the following name, and at the following address:

Name to be registered:

St. Joseph Light & Power Company

Missouri Business Address:

20 W. 9th Street

(P.O. Boxes not accepted) City, State and Zip Code:

Kansas City, MO 64105

The parties having an interest in the business, and the percentage they own are (if a business entity is owner, indicate business name and percentage owned. If all parties are jointly and severally liable, percentage of ownership need not be listed):

Street and Number	City	State and Zip Code	If listed, Percentage of ownership must equal 100%
20 W. 9th Street	Kansas City	MO 64105	100%
b.7.			
<u> </u>			**
	20 W. 9th Street	20 W. 9th Street Kansas City	Street and Number City Zip Code 20 W. 9th Street Kansas City MO 64105

Return to: Secretary of State

Corporations Division

P.O. Box 778

Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

(Over)

Corp. #56 (5/99)

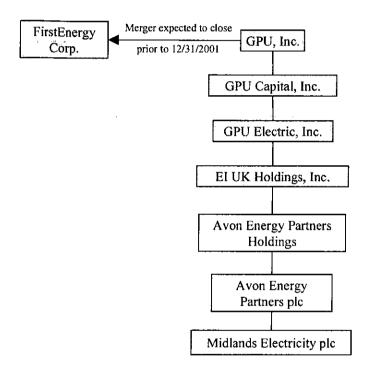
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	dersigned, being all the parties own ts and matters set forth herein are		ny, being duly sworn, ı	upon their oaths each did say
ndividual Owners	(x	X		HED
Sign Here	₹ ×	X	-	·
	x	X	J	M 8 8 2001
			M	u Rom
	The undersigned busin	ess entity has caused this applicat	ion to be exemplain	ISARaine PAINSTATE
	Vice President Title of Author	, on this	8th day of Januar	y, 2001 /day/year
		.)	monds	uay, yeai
If Business Entity	, Well K	Walf Dale J. Wolf		Vice President
Is		poration President or Vice President)	Printed Name	Title
Owner, Authorized	Mancy & Brown	Nancy J. Brown	ning	Assistant Secretary
Person Execute Here	(II corporation, Signature of	Secretary or Asst. Secretary	Printed Name	Title
(Corporate Seal If no seal, state				
State of Missou	ri .	} ss		
County of Jack	son	. } "		
I. Lev	visann Rosenberger	, A Notary Public, do hereb	y certify that on Janua	ary 8, 2001
-, <u>-</u>		<u> </u>	, ,	month/day/year
personally appe	eared before me Dale J. Wolf	, a	nd being duly sworn b	y me, acknowledged that
he/she signed a	s his/her own free act and deed the	e foregoing document in the capac	city therein set forth an	d declared that the statements
therein containe	ed are true.			
IN WI	TNESS WHEREOF, I have hereu	into set my hand and seal the day	and year before writter	1.
			γ	0
	(Notarial Seal or Stamp)	Seuran	Notary Public	arger
	LEWISANN ROSENBERGER Notary Public - Notary Seal	Lewisann Rosenbe	December 8, 2002	
	State of Missouri County of Jackson	My County of Commiss		
Corp. #56 (5/99)	My Commission Expires 12/08/2002	iriy county of commiss		

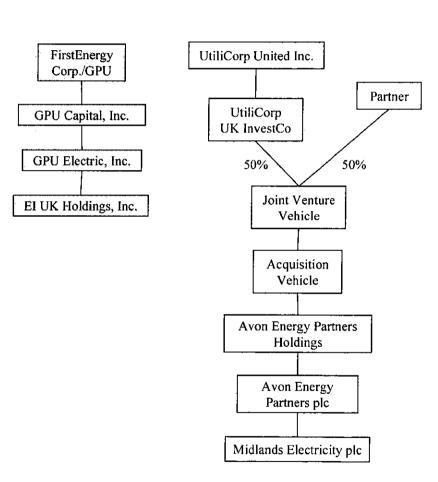
Corp. #56 (5/99)

MIDLANDS ACQUISITION STRUCTURE

Pre-Acquisition Structure



Post-Acquisition Structure



The Stock Purchase Agreement has been designated highly confidential. It will be filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission pursuant to the terms of a Protective Order issued under 4 C.S.R. 240-2.085.

To be late-filed

Pro Forma Capitalization as of 06/30/2001 for UtiliCorp United Inc.

(In millions US\$)

Capital Component	Percentage of Capital	Capital Dollars	Proforma Adjustments (1)	Proforma Capital Dollars	Proforma Percentage of Capital
Common Equity	46.5%	2,586.7		2,586.7	44.9%
Comp. Obligated Preferred Securities	6.3%	350.0		350.0	6.1%
Long Term Debt	44,5%	2,478.4	200.0	2,678.4	46.4%
Short Term Debt	2.7%	151.4	erang jing abelg b	151.4	2.6%
Total	100.0%	5,566.5	200.0	5,766.5	100.0%

Notes:

Financial Ratio Benchmarks Total Debt / Total Capital

				Current UtiliCorp
				Rating
Standard & Poor's Corporation		AA	A	BBB
Utilities Rating Service,				
Financial Statistics	Range (%)	32.5 - 39.5%	39.5 - 46.0%	46.0 - 53.5%
Electric Utilities	Median (%)	36.0%	42.8%	49.8%

⁽¹⁾ Proforma adjustment to capitalization includes 50% of the equity investment in the target company, plus transaction costs, which UtiliCorp has conservatively estimated at \$19 million. This request represents the maximum amount of investment funding required. The actual amount may be less based on transaction costs. Additionally, the proforma numbers are funded using 100% debt, which represents the worst case scenario to UtiliCorp's financial ratio benchmarks.

Selected Pro Forma Financial Ratios for UtiliCorp United Inc.

Ratio Analysis	Ratio as of 06-30-2001	Proforma Ratio (1)	S&P Guidelines "AA" Rating	S&P Guidelines "A" Rating	S&P Guidelines "BBB" Rating (2)
Pre-tax Interest Coverage	3.6 x	3.6 x	6.2 - 5.2 x	5.2 - 4.0 x	4.0 - 2.6 x
Funds From Operations Interest Coverage	3.1 x	3.1 x	6.6 - 5.7 x	5.7 - 4.5 x	4.5 - 3.1 x
Funds From Operations to Total Debt	26.9%	26.3%	47.0 - 39.0 %	39.0 - 31.0 %	31.0 - 22.0 %
Total Debt / Total Capital	47.2%	49.1%	32.5 - 39.5 %	39.5 - 46.0 %	46.0 - 53.5 %

⁽¹⁾ Proforma ratios assume transaction is funded with 100% debt, representing the worst possible scenario to UtiliCorp's proforma financial ratios.

⁽²⁾ Current UtiliCorp United credit rating.

Rating	<u>Outlook</u>
Baa3	Positive Outlook
BBB	Stable
BBB	
	Baa3 BBB

Notes And Calculations:

(In Millions US\$)

Actuals 12

	months ended 06/30/2001	Acquisition (1)	Proforma
1. Pretax Interest Coverage			
Net Income	339.7	25.3	365.0
+ Income Taxes:	261.0	15.4	276.5
+ Income Adjustments (gross)			-
+ Subsidiary Preferred and Preference Dividend			_
+Interest Expense (Net, Including MIPS/PEPS/RHINO	228.9	15.0	243.9
+Minority Interest	11.8		11.8
-AFUDC Equity			
	841.4	55.7	897.0
Divided by Interest Expense(Net) +	228.9	15.0	243.9
Capitalized Interest + AFUDC Debt	4.5		4.5
	3.6	3.7	3.6
2. Funds From Operations Interest Coverage	339.7	25.3	365.0
Net Income (continuing operations) +Depreciation:	220.8	23.3	220.8
+Amortization:	30.3	0.9	31.3
+Net Changes in Price Risk Mgmt Assets & Liabilities	23.4	0.9	23.4
- Equity in Earnings:	(170.4)	(19.9)	(190.3)
+Dividends from Subs. & Partnerships	84.9	14.8	99.7
+Total Interest Charges Paid:	228.9	15.0	243.9
+/-Deferred Income Taxes:	(46.5)	1.7	(44.8)
-Capitalized Interest	(4.5)		(4.5)
	706.7	37.7	744.4
Divided by Gross Interest Incurred:	228.9	15.0	243.9
	3.1	2.5	3.1
3. Funds From Operations to Total Debt			
Funds from Operations	706.7	37.7	744.4
Short Term Debt	151.4		151.4
Long Term Debt	2,478.4	200.0	2,678.4
	27%	19%	26%

⁽¹⁾ Acquisition financial metrics on a 100% debt funded basis, which represents the worst case scenario to UtiliCorp.