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Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

ROBERT G. SCHEMENAUER

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102
573-751-3234
573-751-1847 (Fax Number)
<http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/psc/>

March 13, 2000

BRIAN D. KINKADE
Executive Director

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Director, Research and Public Affairs

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED²

MAR 13 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

RE: Case No. EM-2000-506

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of the **STAFF'S RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION'S ORDER DIRECTING STAFF TO INFORM THE COMMISSION WHETHER STAFF CAN INVESTIGATE AND FILE A STAFF REPORT REGARDING THE APPLICATION BY MAY 9, 2000.**

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan Williams
Assistant General Counsel
(573) 751-8702
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

NW/lb
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²

MAR 13 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of)
UtiliCorp United Inc. for Authority to)
Acquire, Indirectly, the Capital Stock of)
860023 Alberta Ltd., and to Take all Other)
Actions Reasonably Necessary to)
Effectuate Said Transactions)
)

Case No. EM-2000-506

**STAFF'S RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION'S ORDER
DIRECTING STAFF TO INFORM THE COMMISSION WHETHER
STAFF CAN INVESTIGATE AND FILE A STAFF REPORT
REGARDING THE APPLICATION BY MAY 9, 2000**

Comes now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by counsel, and for its Response to the Commission's Order Directing Staff to Inform the Commission Whether Staff Can Investigate and File a Staff Report Regarding the Application by May 9, 2000, states as follows:

1. On February 18, 2000, UtiliCorp United Inc. (UtiliCorp) filed its Application for Authority to acquire from TransAlta Corporation (TransAlta) its electric distribution and retail business located in Canada.
2. In its Application UtiliCorp stated that it is a Delaware Corporation subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission and that TransAlta is a Canadian Corporation.
3. UtiliCorp also stated in its Application how it planned to structure the acquisition and requested that the Commission issue its order regarding UtiliCorp's Application no later than June 1, 2000 with an effective date of no later than June 13, 2000.

4. In response to UtiliCorp's foregoing requests, the Commission, on March 1, 2000, issued its order to Staff directing Staff to "file a pleading no later than 3:00 p.m. on March 7, 2000, stating whether or not it will be able to complete its investigation of the proposed transaction and be able to file its report no later than May 9, 2000."

5. On March 7, 2000, the Staff filed a motion requesting until March 14, 2000, to file its response stating whether or not it will be able to complete its investigation of the proposed transaction and be able to file its report no later than May 9, 2000.

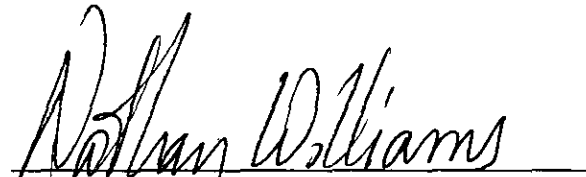
6. On March 9, 2000, the Commission granted to Staff the extension it had requested.

5. Staff has now reviewed its workload and considered the application in this case in light of other merger applications by this Applicant now pending before this Commission. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Staff anticipates that it will be able to complete its investigation of the proposed transaction and will be able to file its report in this case no later than May 9, 2000.

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully advises the Commission that it will be able to complete its investigation of UtiliCorp's proposed transaction and file its report by May 9, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel



Nathan Williams
Assistant General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 35512

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8702 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 13th day of March, 2000.



Service List for
Case No. EM-2000-506
March 13, 2000

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

James Swearengen/Paul Boudreau
Brydon, Swearengen & England, PC
PO Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102