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July 12, 1999

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

FILED

JUL 12 1999

Missouri Public
Service Commission

**RE: Union Electric Company,
Case No. EM-96-149**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced case, please find the original and 14 copies of **Public Counsel's Responses to Union Electric Company's Request for Amendment of Briefing Schedule**. Please "file stamp" the extra enclosed copy and return it to this office. I have on this date mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered the appropriate number of copies to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John B. Coffman
Deputy Public Counsel

JBC:kh

Enclosure

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

FILED

JUL 12 1999

In the Matter of the Application of)
Union Electric Company for an Order)
Authorizing: (1) Certain Merger)
Transactions Involving Union Electric)
Company; (2) The Transfer of Certain)
Assets, Real Estate, Leased Property,)
Easements and Contractual Agreements)
to Central Illinois Public Service Company;)
and (3) In Connection Therewith, Certain)
Other Related Transactions.)

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Case No. EM-96-149

**PUBLIC COUNSEL'S RESPONSE TO UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF BRIEFING SCHEDULE**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Response states as follows:

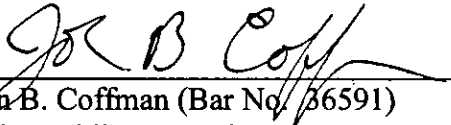
1. On July 7, 1999, Union Electric Company (Company) filed an unopposed request for an amendment of the briefing schedule, essentially extending the deadline for initial briefs by two weeks and postponing the deadline for reply briefs by only one week. Public Counsel joins in this request.

2. Counsel for Public Counsel in this matter is also the attorney assigned to the Western Resources/Kansas City Power and Light merger application case before the Commission and before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as the attorney assigned to the St. Joseph Light and Power Company electric case, and other Commission cases that require serious attention this month. While it was hoped that an extension of the briefing schedule would not be needed, the reasonable extension of one week for the conclusion of briefing in this case is necessary to ensure that all issues in this case can be adequately addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

BY:


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing document has been either faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered to all counsel of record on this 12th day of July, 1999.

