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September 13, 2000

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

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**  
SEP 13 2000  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

**Re: In the Matter of UtiliCorp United Inc. and AlintaGas Limited**  
**Case No. GM-2000-637**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On behalf of UtiliCorp United Inc., I deliver herewith an original and eight (8) copies of a Status Report to be filed with the Commission. A copy is also being hand-delivered to The Office of the Public Counsel this date.

I have also enclosed an extra copy of the Status Report which I request that you stamp "Filed" and return to the person delivering same to you.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By:

Paul A. Boudreau

PAB/aw

Enclosures

cc: Cliff Snodgrass, PSC  
The Office of Public Counsel

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

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**

SEP 13 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of UtiliCorp                     )  
United Inc. for Authority to Acquire, Indirectly,                 )  
an Ownership Interest in AlintaGas Limited,                     )  
and to Take All Other Actions Reasonably                         )  
Necessary to Effectuate said Transaction.                         )

Case No. GM-2000-637

**STATUS REPORT**

COMES NOW UtiliCorp United Inc. ("UtiliCorp") and provides the following report to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") concerning the status of this case:

1. By order directing filing dated September 8, 2000, the Commission directed UtiliCorp to file a report concerning the status of this case.

2. UtiliCorp is pleased to inform the Commission that on July 31, 2000, the Western Australian State Government named UtiliCorp and United Energy Limited, a company in which UtiliCorp holds a 34% ownership interest, as the successful cornerstone investor consortium to acquire a 45% ownership interest in AlintaGas, a gas distribution utility in Western Australia. This was the transaction which was the subject of the Application of the captioned matter. With regard to this development, copies of related news releases are attached hereto as Appendix A and are incorporated herein by reference.

3. This transaction has not yet been closed although, as the news release points out, it is expected to close by the end of October 2000. UtiliCorp will file a supplemental Status Report with the Commission when that event has occurred.

WHEREFORE, UtiliCorp has fully complied with the Commission's Order Directing Filing.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Swearengen #21510

Paul A. Boudreau #33155

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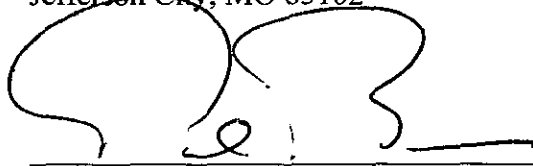
Attorneys for UtiliCorp United Inc.

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 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2000, to:

The Missouri Public Service Commission  
Cliff E. Snodgrass, Senior Counsel  
Governor Office Building  
200 Madison Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

The Office of the Public Counsel  
Governor Office Building  
200 Madison Street  
Room 650  
Jefferson City, MO 65102



**UtiliCorp United Inc. (ticker: UCU, exchange: New York Stock Exchange) News Release - 31-Jul-2000**

**UtiliCorp and United Energy Submit \$189 Million Winning Bid for Western Australia's AlintaGas**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--July 31, 2000--UtiliCorp United (NYSE:UCU) today announced that its \$US189 million joint bid with United Energy Limited for 45 percent of AlintaGas, a gas distribution utility in Western Australia, has been accepted by the state's government.**

The transaction is expected to close by the end of October.

AlintaGas is based in Perth, Australia, and serves 400,000 customers. It is Western Australia's principal gas distributor. The remaining 55 percent of the company will be offered to the public in Australia in a share float scheduled for September.

"We are extremely pleased to again be able to expand our interests in Australia," said Robert K. Green, president and chief operating officer of UtiliCorp and chairman of United Energy. "AlintaGas is a well-positioned business and complements our existing Australian business very well. We expect this transaction to be slightly accretive to UtiliCorp earnings in its first year of operations."

UtiliCorp entered the Australian energy market in 1995 as a member of the partnership that acquired United Energy from the state of Victoria. It currently owns 34 percent of United Energy, which has 560,000 customers. It also holds a 50 percent economic interest in Multinet Gas, a gas distribution company with 520,000 customers that is managed by United Energy. Ue Comm, owned by United Energy, provides fiber-optic networks in three Australian cities for broadband telecommunications.

Based in Kansas City, UtiliCorp United is an international electric and gas company with energy customers and operations across the U.S. and in Canada, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Germany, Spain, New Zealand and Australia. At March 31, 2000, UtiliCorp had total assets of \$US7.5 billion and 12-month sales of \$US19.6 billion. Additional information is available at [www.utilicorp.com](http://www.utilicorp.com). -0-

The full text of a press release issued by United Energy earlier today in Australia follows (all dollar amounts expressed in Australian currency):

31 July 2000

#### **UtiliCorp & United Energy Win Bid for AlintaGas**

UtiliCorp United and United Energy Limited are pleased to announce that their consortium has been successful in bidding for the 45 percent cornerstone shareholding in the Western Australian gas utility, AlintaGas.

The Western Australian State Government today named the UtiliCorp-United Energy consortium as the successful cornerstone investor, with a bid price of \$319.5 million.

The remaining 55 percent of the AlintaGas equity is intended to be sold through a public float. The Government has advised it plans to list the Company on the Australian Stock Exchange in October 2000.

UtiliCorp Senior Vice-President, Corporate Development, Paul Perkins, said the group was delighted to have the opportunity to invest in this outstanding utility asset.

"AlintaGas is a well-run business positioned in one of the most exciting energy regions in the world," said Mr Perkins.

"This is an exciting opportunity for UtiliCorp and our partner United Energy. Our decision to make this long-term investment highlights our commitment to the Australasian market which now

represents 11 percent of our total assets.

"Our investment in AlintaGas is an important addition to our portfolio of energy assets in the region."

United Energy Chief Executive Officer Don Bacon said the AlintaGas investment was a perfect fit and added a new geographic dimension to the regulated assets of United Energy and UtiliCorp in Australia.

"From what we've seen, AlintaGas is a business in excellent shape which is well positioned to take advantage of many new opportunities," said Mr. Bacon.

"AlintaGas has a pre-eminent position in the Western Australian market, and we look forward to assisting AlintaGas grow its business and broaden its range of activities."

United Energy and UtiliCorp are equal partners in the consortium.

#### **Company Background**

United Energy is one of Australia's fastest-growing energy companies. Its core business is the distribution of electricity to 550,000 connections in Melbourne's south, east and the Mornington Peninsula and the management of 590,000 gas connections in Melbourne's north and east.

United Energy has a 25% shareholding in Pulse Energy, a retail company which sells energy to more than one million customers in Victoria.

EdgeCap, a United Energy subsidiary, is an energy merchant business that buys and sells electricity in the wholesale market, trades related commodities, and sells risk management products.

United Energy also offers energy retailers a range of back office services including call centre, metering, billing and account collection functions. United Energy's telecommunications business has developed fibre optic networks in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. United Energy is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and has more than 52,000 predominantly Australian shareholders. AMP and UtiliCorp own 57.8% of United Energy.

#### **CONTACT:**

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