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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Missouri Public Service's,)	
a Division of UtiliCorp United Inc.,)	
Purchased Gas Adjustment Factors to be)	<u>Case No. GR-97-298</u>
Audited in its 1996-1997 Actual Cost)	
Adjustment.)	

ORDER SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE

On September 1, 1998, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed its recommendations regarding Missouri Public Service's 1996-1997 actual cost adjustment (ACA) filing. Staff recommended that this ACA case remain open, pending an order from the Commission in Case No. GR-95-273 and Case No. GR-96-192.

On September 22, the Commission issued its Order Directing Response directing Missouri Public Service (MPS), a division of UtiliCorp United Inc. to file its response to the Staff's recommendation no later than October 14, 1998. On October 8, 1998, MPS filed its response to Staff's recommendations as directed by the Commission's order issued September 22. MPS concurred with Staff on some points and disagreed with Staff on other points. Both parties concurred that the Commission should delay any further action until Case No. GR-95-273 and Case NO. GR-96-192 had been decided.

On September 23, the Commission issued its Report and Order in Case No. GR-95-273, effective October 6, 1998. On December 16, 1998, the Commission issued its Report and Order in Case No. GR-96-192, effective December 29, 1998. This case is now ready to move forward.

The Commission will schedule a prehearing conference. The parties should be prepared to discuss the facts and stipulate to those facts which are not in dispute. The Commission will also order the filing of a proposed procedural schedule to ensure that the case progresses.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That a prehearing conference is set for March 24, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's offices on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Conference Room 3, Jefferson City, Missouri. Any person with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline -- 1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline -- 1-800-829-7541.

2. That the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule no later than April 5, 1999.

3. That this order shall become effective on March 25, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Shelly A. Register, Regulatory Law
Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1),
(November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240,
RSMo., 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 15th day of March, 1999.