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December 15, 1999

FILED

DEC 15 1999

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

Missouri Public
Service Commission

**RE: UtiliCorp United, Inc and St. Joseph Light & Power merger,
Case No. EM-2000-292**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced case, please find the original and 14 copies of **Public Counsel's Corrected Proposed Procedural 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

cc: Counsel of record

Enclosure

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

FILED³

DEC 15 1999

In the Matter of the Joint Application)
of UtiliCorp United, Inc. and St. Joseph)
Light and Power Company for authority)
to merge St. Joseph Light & Power)
Company with and into UtiliCorp United,)
Inc. and, in connection therewith, certain)
other transactions.)

Case No. EM-2000-292

Missouri Public
Service Commission

**PUBLIC COUNSEL'S CORRECTED
PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Corrected Proposed Procedural Schedule states as follows:

On December 14, 1999, Public Counsel filed its Proposed Procedural Schedule in this case recommending a series of dates for significant procedural events in this matter; however, this filing contained certain inadvertent errors--most significantly, Public Counsel had intended to recommend that the deadline for the filing of prepared rebuttal testimony be set one month sooner (October 3, 2000, instead of November 3, 2000). Public Counsel's recommendations for subsequent events are adjusted accordingly. The correct proposal is set forth below.

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>DATES</u> |
|---|---------------------|
| Supplemental Direct Testimony of SJLP - UtiliCorp | March 1, 2000 |
| Supplemental Direct Testimony of EDE - UtiliCorp | March 1, 2000 |
| Rebuttal Testimony of Staff, Public Counsel and Intervenors | October 3, 2000 |
| Joint Applicants' Surrebuttal Testimony and Other Parties' Cross-Surrebuttal Testimony to each other | October 31, 2000 |
| Other Parties' Surrebuttal Testimony to Joint Applicants SJLP - UtiliCorp & EDE - UtiliCorp | November 28, 2000 |

1. The appropriateness of this schedule is based on several assumptions. First, that the Commission orders the Joint Applicants in the UtiliCorp/SJLP merger case to remedy by March 1, 2000, all of the Joint Applicant's direct testimony deficiencies identified in the Staff's Reply to December 3, 1999 Response of UtiliCorp and SJLP. Second, since Public Counsel expects the forthcoming UtiliCorp/Empire direct testimony to have similar deficiencies, OPC assumes that the Joint Applicants in the UtiliCorp/Empire merger case will also be ordered to remedy such deficiencies by March 1, 2000. Third, Public Counsel assumes that the Joint Applicants will comply with the Commission order to file supplemental direct testimony that adequately remedies the deficiencies as ordered by the Commission. Fourth, the Joint Applicants in the UtiliCorp/SJLP and UtiliCorp/Empire merger cases are assumed to respond to discovery requests in a complete and timely manner.

2. If any of the assumptions contained in the above paragraph are not realized, then Public Counsel reserves the right to recommend further changes in any procedural schedule which is based on these assumptions.

3. The above procedural schedule is based primarily on the revised UE/CIPSO merger procedural schedule that was approved by this Commission with an additional 30 days added to the interval between when complete direct testimony (including adequate supplemental direct testimony) is filed and the date when rebuttal testimony is filed. Public Counsel believes that this schedule is consistent with the proposed procedural schedule filed by the Staff in its December 14, 1999 pleading, except that the schedule proposed herein by OPC includes actual dates which are based on the assumption that certain events discussed above in paragraph 1 take place between now and March 1, 2000.

4. As the Staff indicated in its procedural schedule that it proposed on December 14, 1999, an additional 30 days should be added to the UE/CIPSCO schedule because of the complexity of the UtiliCorp/SJLP regulatory plan, the incomplete aspects of certain facets of the proposed UtiliCorp/SJLP merger and the additional work required to review two merger applications simultaneously.

WHEREFORE Public Counsel requests the Commission adopt its proposed procedural schedule, as corrected in this filing, in the above referenced matter.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Coffman", written over a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing document has been either faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered to the following counsel of record on this 15th day of December, 1999:

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Chief Deputy General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
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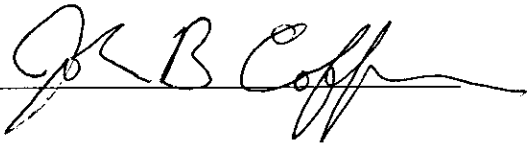
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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J B Coffey", is written over a horizontal line.