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December 14, 1999

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

**FILED**<sup>3</sup>

DEC 14 1999

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

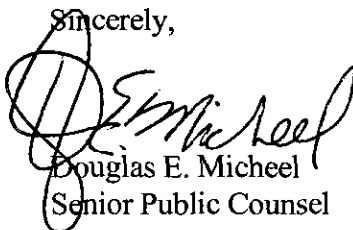
**RE: UtiliCorp United, Inc. and St. Joseph Light & Power Company**  
**Case No. EM-2000-292**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing please find the original and fourteen copies of **Public Counsel's Proposed Procedural Schedule**. I have on this date mailed or hand-delivered copies to all counsel of record. Please "file" stamp the extra-enclosed copy and return it to this office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Douglas E. Micheel  
Senior Public Counsel

DEM/mm

Enclosures

cc: Counsel of Record

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

**FILED<sup>3</sup>**

DEC 14 1999

In The Matter Of The Joint Application Of )  
UtiliCorp United Inc. And St. Joseph Light )  
& Power Company For Authority To Merge )  
St. Joseph Light & Power Company With )  
And Into UtiliCorp United Inc. And, In )  
Connection Therewith Certain Other )  
Related Transaction. )

Case No. EM-2000-292

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

**Public Counsel's Proposed Procedural Schedule**

Comes now the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel") in response to the directive of the Regulatory law Judge at the early prehearing conference on December 6, 1999 to submit a proposed procedural schedule offers the following procedural schedule modeled after the UE/CIPSCO procedural schedule plus thirty days:

**EVENT**

**DATES**

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

November 1, 2000

Joint Applicants' Surrebuttal Testimony and Other

Parties' Cross-Surrebuttal Testimony To Each Other

November 28, 2000

Other Parties' Surrebuttal Testimony To

Joint Applicants SJLP – UtiliCorp and EDE - UtiliCorp

January 4, 2001

Start of Evidentiary Hearings

February 1, 2001

1. The appropriateness of this schedule is based on several assumptions. First, that the Commission orders the Joint Applicants in the UtiliCorp/SJLP to remedy all of the Joint Applicant's direct testimony deficiencies identified in the Staff's Reply to December 3, 1999 Response of UtiliCorp and SJLP by March 1, 2000. 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 be ordered to remedy such deficiencies by March 1, 2000. Third, Public Counsel assumes that the Joint Applicants 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.

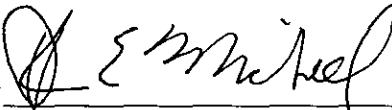
2. If any of the assumptions contained in the above paragraph are not realized, then Public Counsel reserves the right to recommend further changes in any procedural schedule which is based on these assumptions.

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) 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, the 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 aspects 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 in the above referenced matter.

Respectfully submitted,  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas E. Micheel (#38371)  
Senior Public Counsel  
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Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 751-5560  
(573) 751-5562 FAX

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to the following this 14th day of December, 1999:

James Swearengen  
Brydon, Swearengen & England  
P.O. Box 456  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Jeffrey Keevil  
Stewart & Keevil  
1001 Cherry St., Suite 302  
Columbia, MO 65201

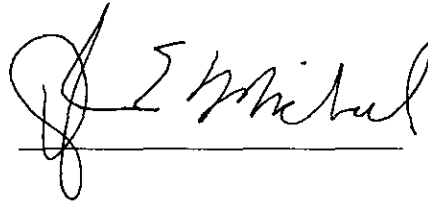
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Mark W. Comley  
Newman, Comley & Ruth  
601 Monroe St., Suite 301  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. E. Michael", written over a horizontal line.