

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of an Examination of Class Cost of Service)
and Rate Design in the Missouri Jurisdictional Electric) **Case No. EO-2002-384**
Service Operations of Aquila, Inc., formerly known as)
UtiliCorp United Inc.)

ORDER DIRECTING FILING

Issue Date: September 16, 2005

Effective Date: September 16, 2005

On August 29, 2005, the Public Counsel filed his Motion for Reconsideration of Order Regarding Consolidation and Procedural Schedule and Motion for Local Public Hearings. Therein, Public Counsel states:

Regardless of whether the Commission reconsiders the schedule in this case, it should schedule local public hearings. The parties are very likely to propose significant shifts in class revenue responsibility, which would translate into significant increases and decreases for the various rate classes. Aquila ratepayers should have the opportunity to comment on these proposals after they are filed, before any Commission-ordered settlement conference. Local public hearings held before a settlement conference is convened will avoid repeating the debacle the Commission created in the Laclede Gas Company rate case [Case No. GR-2005-0284] by ordering the parties to participate in settlement negotiations before it scheduled local public hearings. If the Commission does not reconsider its rejection of Staff's proposed schedule, local public hearings could be held after direct testimony and before a settlement conference by making minor adjustments to the currently-ordered schedule.

None of the other parties to this case have commented, favorably or otherwise, on Public Counsel's proposal. Contrary to Public Counsel's assertion, it is not possible to hold local public hearings before the Settlement Conference in this case, which is scheduled for the week of September 24 through September 28. The Commission,

therefore, is considering setting two local public hearings in this case for the week of October 17, one to be held in St. Joseph in the evening and the other to be held in Raytown in the evening. It would be helpful for the parties to respond regarding this proposal, particularly whether or not there is time for notice of these hearings to be given to every affected ratepayer by bill insert.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the parties shall respond to the proposal for local public hearings stated above on or before Wednesday, September 21, 2005.
2. That Aquila, Inc., shall state in its response whether or not there is sufficient time to provide notice of these hearings to every affected ratepayer by bill insert and, if not, the cost that would be incurred should a separate mailing be required.
3. That this order shall become effective on September 16, 2005.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

Kevin A. Thompson, Deputy Chief
Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation
of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 16th day of September, 2005.