

Exhibit:
Issue: Retiree Health Insurance
Witness: Richard Vanwinkle
Type of Exhibit: Rebuttal
Sponsoring Party: Intervenor Retirees
Case No.: EM-2000-369
Date Prepared: June 19, 2000

Before the Public Service Commission
of the State of Missouri

Rebuttal Testimony

of

Richard Vanwinkle

June 2000

FILED
JUN 21²² 2000 *nh*
Missouri Public
Service Commission

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


In the matter of the Joint Application)
of Utilicorp United Inc. and The Empire)
District Electric Company for authority)
to merge The Empire District Electric) EM-2000-369
Company with and into Utilicorp United)
Inc. and, in connection therewith, certain)
other related transactions.)

AFFIDAVIT OF RICHARD VANWINKLE

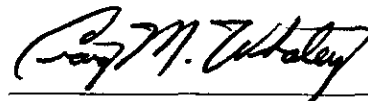
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF JASPER)

Richard Vanwinkle, of lawful age and being first duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. My name is Richard Vanwinkle. I am a retiree of Empire District Electric.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my Rebuttal Testimony consisting of pages 1 through 4.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that my statements contained in the attached testimony are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Richard Vanwinkle

Subscribed and sworn to me this 20th day of June, 2000.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2/8/03

**CRAIG M. WHALEY, Notary Public
State of Missouri, Newton County
My Commission Expires Feb. 8, 2003**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI
REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF RICHARD VANWINKLE
ON BEHALF OF INTERVENOR EMPIRE RETIREES**

CASE NO. EM-2000-369

1 Q. Please state your name.

2 A. Richard Vanwinkle.

3 Q. Please state your age.

4 A. 74 years old.

5 Q. Please state your current occupation or if retired.

6 A. Retired.

7 Q. Who was your former employer?

8 A. Empire District Electric Company.

9 Q. For how long were you an employee of Empire District Electric?

10 A. 34 years.

11 Q. When did you retire?

12 A. May 31, 1988.

13 Q. Could you summarize the purpose of your testimony.

14 A. To give my history with Empire District Electric and why I chose to work there and continue
15 there until retirement. Then to discuss the benefits Empire District Electric gives its retirees.
16 Finally, to oppose the proposed stripping of retiree benefits under the proposed merger. To
17 help some of my fellow retirees who will be hurt by losing their health benefits.

18 Q. When did you become aware of the proposed merger between Empire District Electric and

1 Utilicorp?

2 A. Approximately May 1999.

3 Q. How did you become aware of the proposed merger?

4 A. Television, news release, fellow retirees.

5 Q. When were you aware that the merger had to be approved by the Missouri Public Service
6 Commission?

7 A. May 1999.

8 Q. Did you ever receive notice that you needed to intervene before the Public Service
9 Commission by January 14, 2000?

10 A. No, not to my knowledge.

11 Q. Going back to your employment with Empire District Electric, why did you go to work for
12 Empire District Electric?

13 A. Better pay, better benefits and a good place to work.

14 Q. Were there opportunities to leave Empire District Electric for a better salary?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Why did you not take those other jobs?

17 A. Benefits and it was a good company.

18 Q. What part of the retirement benefits were of importance to you?

19 A. Amount of retirement and health care.

20 Q. Could you discuss the current retirement benefits to which you are entitled?

Rebuttal Testimony:
Richard Vanwinkle

- 1 A. Retirement check and health care for me and my wife.
- 2 Q. How does the retiree medical insurance compare to other retirement plans you are aware of?
- 3 A. Better than most.
- 4 Q. How important is the medical insurance to you?
- 5 A. Very important.
- 6 Q. What is your current income?
- 7 A. \$2,850.93 per month.
- 8 Q. What is your payment on the medical insurance?
- 9 A. \$25.25 per month.
- 10 Q. Do you know what amount Empire District Electric pays for your medical insurance?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Could you afford to pay the full premium amount for the medical insurance?
- 13 A. If I had to.
- 14 Q. Are you aware of what will happen to the current medical insurance under the proposed
- 15 merger?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. How did you first become aware of the effect on your benefits of the proposed merger?
- 18 A. A meeting with Mr. McKinney.
- 19 Q. When was that?
- 20 A. About July 1999.

Rebuttal Testimony:
Richard Vanwinkle

1 Q. What would the effect of this change be on you and other retirees?

2 A. It would affect me some, but others would be affected much more.