

**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 Service)	Case No. EO-2002-384
Operations of Aquila, Inc., Formerly)	
Known as UtiliCorp United Inc.)	

JOINT RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING

In response to the Commission's March 18, 2005 order directing the parties to cooperate in preparing a proposed procedural schedule, the parties, through the Staff, jointly submit the following:

1. The Commission ordered:

That the parties shall cooperate with the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission in developing a proposed procedural schedule. This schedule shall include dates for filing prepared testimony, for an evidentiary hearing, and for any necessary technical conferences. The Commission's Staff shall have the responsibility for drafting and filing the proposed procedural schedule, not later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2005.

2. Aquila, Inc. has stated that it will, on or about May 24, 2005, file a general rate increase case for electric service in the Missouri service areas where it is certificated to provide electric service. The parties are in agreement that class cost-of-service and rate design issues will be part of that general rate increase case.

3. The parties agree that it is not in the public interest to change rates to electric customers to implement a new rate design based on class cost-of-service studies followed, at

most a few months thereafter, by a change in rates to implement a general rate increase, or decrease, and potential rate design changes.

4. Due to Aquila's impending general electric rate increase case, the parties believe it is in the interest of the Commission, the parties, Aquila's Missouri electric customers and the public to delay setting a procedural schedule in this case with fixed dates for filing prepared testimony and for an evidentiary hearing until after Aquila files its general electric rate increase case in May of 2005. At that time, the parties will be able to propose dates for filing prepared testimony and hearings related to class cost-of-service and rate design issues that coordinate with the dates for filing prepared testimony and hearings in the rate case.

5. However, in an effort constructively to respond to the Commission's directive as well as its expressed concern about the progress of this case, the parties jointly propose the following schedule for technical conferences:

First conference:

A conference led by Aquila to discuss its class cost-of-service study and rate design objectives to be held May 6, 2005.

Second conference:

A conference at which the parties other than Aquila will present drafts of their class cost-of-service studies to be held June 17, 2005.

Third conference:

A conference at which the parties will address proposed rate structures and billing determinant issues to be held June 29, 2005.

WHEREFORE, the parties respectfully request the Commission to accept the foregoing as their response to the Commission's order directing the filing of a procedural schedule in this case with the understanding that they will provide a schedule with specific dates for filing prepared testimony and for an evidentiary hearing related to class cost-of-service and rate design issues after Aquila files its general rate increase case.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/s/ Nathan Williams

Nathan Williams
Senior Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 35512

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8702 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
nathan.williams@psc.mo.gov

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 18th day of April 2005.

/s/ Nathan Williams