

LAW OFFICES  
**BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND**  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

DAVID V.G. BRYDON  
JAMES C. SWEARENGEN  
WILLIAM R. ENGLAND, III  
JOHNNY K. RICHARDSON  
GARY W. DUFFY  
PAUL A. BOUDREAU  
SONDRA B. MORGAN  
CHARLES E. SMARR

312 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 456  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0456  
TELEPHONE (573) 635-7166  
FACSIMILE (573) 635-0427

DEAN L. COOPER  
MARK G. ANDERSON  
TIMOTHY T. STEWART  
GREGORY C. MITCHELL  
BRIAN T. MCCARTNEY  
DALE T. SMITH  
BRIAN K. BOGARD

OF COUNSEL  
RICHARD T. CIOTTONE

January 2, 2001

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

**FILED<sup>3</sup>**  
JAN 02 2001  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

**Re: Case No. ER-2001-294**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the referenced case on behalf of UtiliCorp United Inc., please find an original and eight (8) copies of a Motion for Expedited Treatment.


Would you please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By:

  
James C. Swearngen

JCS/lar

Enclosure

cc: All Parties of Record

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

**FILED<sup>3</sup>**  
JAN 02 2001

In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of                     )  
UtiliCorp United Inc., d/b/a Missouri                    )  
Public Service   )

Case No. ER-2001-294

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

**MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

COMES NOW, UtiliCorp United Inc., d/b/a Missouri Public Service ("UtiliCorp") and for its Motion for Expedited Treatment respectfully states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"):

1. On November 2, 2000, UtiliCorp caused to be filed with the Commission two tariff sheets which together constitute an experimental recovery surcharge for UtiliCorp's Missouri retail electric operations. The tariff sheets bore an issuance date of November 2, 2000 and an effective date of December 8, 2000. The purpose of this tariff filing is to compensate UtiliCorp for a portion of the impact caused by the significant increases in the cost of natural gas used for electric generation and the significant increases in the cost of power purchased for UtiliCorp's Missouri retail electric operations which cost increases are directly related to natural gas market prices and are not reflected in UtiliCorp's current rates. The proposed surcharge is intended to recover certain of these cost increases above prescribed target levels in a timely manner, preventing undue financial harm to UtiliCorp while avoiding frequent, costly general rate increase requests.

2. On November 15, 2000, the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel") filed its Motion to Dismiss or, in the Alternative, Motion to Suspend Tariff and Request for Hearing, to which UtiliCorp responded. On November 17, 2000, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") filed its Motion to Suspend Tariff and for Early Prehearing Conference.

3. By its Order issued December 5, 2000, the Commission suspended the proposed tariff sheets to September 30, 2001, and directed that a prehearing conference be held on December 28, 2000. Parties to this case were directed to jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than January 4, 2001.

4. The prehearing conference was held as scheduled. Participants included UtiliCorp, the Public Counsel, the Staff and Intervenors Sedalia Industrial Energy Users' Association, Wire Rope Corporation of America, Inc. and Transworld Airlines, Inc. As a result of discussions held at the prehearing conference, it is apparent to UtiliCorp that it will be unable to reach an agreement with the other parties with respect to a proposed procedural schedule. As a consequence, UtiliCorp is filing the instant motion at its earliest opportunity.

5. As UtiliCorp has previously indicated, natural gas prices have increased in recent months from \$2.00 per Mcf to more than \$5.00 per Mcf. Moreover, the NYMEX futures price for 2001 summer gas is in the \$5.00 to \$5.50 Mcf range. The result of these gas price increases on the cost of the production of electricity and the cost of purchased power has been and is extremely significant from UtiliCorp's perspective. In fact, the incremental impact of these cost increases on UtiliCorp's 2001 Missouri retail electric operations is expected to be in the \$25 to \$30 million range.

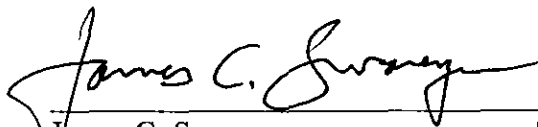
6. Given these circumstances, UtiliCorp believes that it is imperative that the proposed surcharge be allowed to take effect as soon as possible, but in any event no later than March 1, 2001. To accomplish this, UtiliCorp suggests that the following procedural schedule be adopted by the Commission for purposes of processing the involved tariff filing on an expedited basis:

January 16, 2001	UtiliCorp Direct Testimony
January 29, 2001	Staff, Public Counsel, Intervenor Rebuttal Testimony
February 5, 2001	UtiliCorp Surrebuttal Testimony
February 7, 2001	Prehearing Conference
February 8, 2001	List of Issues
February 9, 2001	Statement of Position on Issues
February 12-13, 2001	Hearing

7. By processing this case on an expedited basis and permitting the proposed surcharge to become effective no later than March 1, 2001, continued significant financial harm to UtiliCorp will be avoided. Specifically, UtiliCorp anticipates that it will experience \$25-\$30 million of unrecovered costs in connection with its 2001 electric retail operations as a result of these gas price increases.

WHEREFORE, UtiliCorp respectfully moves the Commission to grant its Motion for Expedited Treatment by adopting the procedural schedule set out in paragraph 6 supra and permitting the proposed surcharge to be processed and to take effect no later than March 1, 2001, good cause having been shown.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Swearngen #21510  
Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C.  
P.O. Box 456  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Telephone (573) 635-7166  
Facsimile (573) 635-0427  
E-Mail LRackers@brydonlaw.com

Attorneys for UtiliCorp United Inc.

**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, on this 2nd day of January, 2001, to all parties of record.

