

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
March 1, 2001**

CASE NO: GO-2001-249

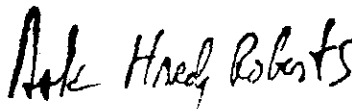
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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of an Investigation into Various)
Issues Related to UtiliCorp United Inc.'s Gas) Case No. GO-2001-249
Supply Services Department.)

ORDER SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE
AND REQUIRING FILING OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On October 16, 2000, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) moved the Commission to establish a case in order to investigate certain allegations of impropriety contained in an anonymous letter received by the Chair of the Commission on September 9, 2000. The allegations assert that the Gas Supply Services Department of UtiliCorp United Inc., doing business as Missouri Public Service (UtiliCorp), has engaged in certain improper activities intended to increase corporate profits at the expense of Missouri ratepayers. Staff further stated that it "takes these allegations seriously." On October 31, 2000, UtiliCorp responded to Staff's motion, denying the allegations of impropriety and supporting Staff's motion to open a case. The Commission issued its order establishing this case on November 9, 2000. On November 3, UtiliCorp sought a protective order, which the Commission granted on November 28.

On November 20, 2000, Missouri Gas Energy (MGE) filed its timely application to intervene. Staff responded in opposition on November 30 and the Commission denied the application on December 6.

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On January 23, 2001, the Midwest Gas Users' Association (MGUA) filed an Application to Intervene and Statement of Position Regarding Application for Variance in this case. This pleading was defective on its face and was summarily denied on February 2, 2001.

This matter is now at issue and a prehearing conference and procedural schedule are appropriate to ensure its prompt resolution. At the prehearing conference, the parties' representatives should be prepared to cooperate in developing a procedural schedule. Counsel must know, consequently, the nature of any planned discovery and the interval necessary for its completion. The parties' representatives should also be prepared to engage in settlement negotiations. It is expected that the prehearing conference will provide an opportunity for the parties to further pursue settlement discussions.

The parties shall jointly file a proposed procedural schedule. The proposed procedural schedule shall establish dates for the prefil-
ing of direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony according to Commis-
sion rule, as well as a date for the filing of a joint list of issues,
a statement by each party of its position on each issue, and a list of
witnesses. The proposed procedural schedule shall also establish
dates for the hearing of this matter.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That a prehearing conference shall be held on March 13, 2001, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The prehearing will be held at the Commission's offices in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, a building that meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities

Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in this prehearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearing.

2. That the parties shall jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than March 20, 2001.

3. That this order shall become effective on March 11, 2001.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

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 1st day of March, 2001.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 1st day of March 2001.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

