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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application)	
of UtiliCorp United Inc. for)	
Authority to Acquire, Indirectly,)	
an Ownership Interest in Natural Gas)	<u>Case No. GM-98-531</u>
Businesses to be Privatized by the)	
State of Victoria, Australia, and to)	
Take All Other Actions Reasonably)	
Necessary to Effectuate Said Transaction.)	

ORDER DIRECTING RESPONSE

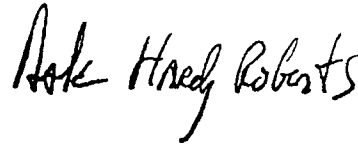
On May 26, 1998, UtiliCorp United Inc., d/b/a/ Missouri Public Service (UCU or Applicant) filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to bid on and acquire one or more natural gas businesses in the State of Victoria, Australia. Applicant also filed a motion for expedited consideration, stating that the timetable for the bidding process is ambitious, and that UCU needs regulatory approval by the end of July. In order to allow for a timely decision in this matter, the Commission will direct its Staff to respond expeditiously to the application and allow the Office of the Public Counsel to respond as well.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and any other party wishing to respond shall respond to the application no later than July 7, 1998.

2. That this order shall become effective on June 19, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lewis Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1),
(November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240,
RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 9th day of June, 1998.

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MISSOURI COMMISSION
ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT