

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: SMALL VOLUME GAS TRANSPORTATION	DOCKET NO. NOI-98-3
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**ORDER GRANTING EXTENSIONS AND
ESTABLISHING COMMENT AND RESPONSE DATES**

(Issued October 11, 2000)

The Utilities Board (Board) established this docket on December 28, 1998, to hold workshops for the development of competitive markets for transportation of natural gas to small volume end-users. By order issued March 3, 2000, the Board dismissed all of the filed plans, finding that the plans did not provide a satisfactory means to open the natural gas market to small volume gas end-users. In that order the Board determined that removal of barriers to competition would best be accomplished by each public utility filing company-specific tariffs.

On August 8, 2000, the Board, based upon a review of the comments and consideration of the workshops, found that the most effective way to move the process forward is to have each utility file draft tariffs in this docket for Board review. The draft tariffs were due on October 9, 2000. Draft tariffs have been filed by MidAmerican Energy Company, Interstate Power Company, IES Utilities Inc., and Peoples Natural Gas Company, Division of UtiliCorp United Inc. (Peoples). Peoples' draft tariff did not include its third-party marketer's agreement, which Peoples

envisions to be linked to the tariff. On October 6, 2000, United Cities Gas Company (United Cities), citing difficulties in completing its draft tariffs, filed a motion for an extension of the filing date.

The Board finds that other interested parties should have an opportunity to address the draft tariffs in Docket No. NOI-98-3. The Board will therefore set a date for comments and a response date for each utility. Also, the Board will grant the extension of time for United Cities and will set a deadline for Peoples to file its third-party marketer's agreement.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Interested parties may file comments regarding the draft tariffs of MidAmerican Energy Company, Interstate Power Company, and IES Utilities Inc. on or before October 30, 2000.
2. The Utilities may file responses to these comments on or before November 13, 2000.
3. United Cities Gas Company is granted an extension of time until October 31, 2000, to file the draft tariffs.
4. Peoples Natural Gas Company, Division of UtiliCorp United Inc., shall file its third-party marketer's agreement on or before October 31, 2000.
5. Interested parties may file comments regarding the draft tariffs filed by United Cities and the draft tariffs and third-party marketers agreement filed by Peoples on or before November 14, 2000.

6. The utilities may file responses to these comments on or before
November 21, 2000.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr. /s/ Diane Munns
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 11th day of October, 2000.