BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

| In the Matter of the Application |) | Application No. NG- | 8000 |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------|
| of Metropolitan Utilities |) | | |
| District, Omaha, seeking |) | Planning Conference | Order |
| authority for Competitive |) | | |
| Natural Gas Provider authority |) | | |
| in the state of Nebraska. | , | Entered: October 9 | 2003 |

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

On August 12, 2003, Metropolitan Utilities District ("M.U.D.") filed the above-captioned application for authority as a competitive natural gas provider. The application was published on August 15, 2003, in The Daily Record, and the 30-day protest and formal intervention period expired on September 15, 2003. Motions to Dismiss ("Motions") were filed by Aquila, Inc. ("Aquila") and Cornerstone Energy, Inc ("Cornerstone").

In order to process the Motions of Aquila and Cornerstone, a telephonic planning conference was held in this matter on September 29, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. at the Commission, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The following persons were present at the teleconference: for M.U.D., Susan Prazan; for Aquila, Doug Law and Larry Headley; for Cornerstone Energy, Max Burbach, Stacia Norder, Bret Feller and Richard Haubensack; for NorthWestern Corporation, Alan Dietrich; and for the Commission, Andy Pollock, Miles Halcomb and Laura Demman.

This order serves to provide a timeline for proceeding on the Motions.

Deadline Event

October 16, 2003 Briefs in support/opposition of the Motions are due

October 20, 2003 Oral arguments on Motions of Aquila 11:00 am and Cornerstone in the Commission Hearing Room.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that an oral argument on the Motions to Dismiss filed by Aquila and Cornerstone is set for October 20, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

NG-0008 PAGE 2

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 9th day of October, 2003.

HEARING OFFICER:

Frank E. Landis