



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF TOM SNYDER



JOPLIN, MO – July 31, 2013 – Mr. Tom Snyder will retire from The Empire District Electric Company as plant manager of the Ozark Beach Hydroelectric Dam facility on July 31, 2013, following 41 years of service.

Mr. Snyder joined the Company on February 10, 1972, as a laborer at the Asbury Energy Center. Later that year, he became a mechanical maintenance helper and was promoted to mechanical maintenance fourth class in 1973. Mr. Snyder later served as an electrician fourth class in Bolivar and was promoted to journeyman electrician in Baxter Springs. In 1978, he moved to the foreman position of the production department at Ozark Beach. He became the acting plant superintendent in 1979, and advanced to the plant superintendent position in 1980.

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In 1995, Mr. Snyder became the plant manager at Ozark Beach.

He is a graduate of Carl Junction High School and attended Franklin Technology Center in Joplin, Missouri. Prior to joining Empire, Mr. Snyder worked for Snyder Construction Company.

Mr. Snyder married Melody J. Bastian on August 20, 1972. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Snyder is a Mason, a member and deacon of the First Baptist Church in Forsyth, Missouri, and a member and past president of Kiwanis.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE:EDE) is an investor-owned utility providing electric, natural gas (through its wholly owned subsidiary The Empire District Gas Company), and water service, with approximately 216,000 customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. A subsidiary of the Company also provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit www.empiredistrict.com.

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