

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Julie Maus Manager of Media Relations 417-625-5101 jmaus@empiredistrict.com

EMPIRE DISTRICT COMPLETES AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION AT OZARK BEACH DAM

JOPLIN, MO – August 26, 2013 – Empire District recently completed application of aquatic herbicides to nuisance vegetation near the Ozark Beach (Powersite) Dam in Forsyth, Missouri. The Company worked closely with the Missouri Department of Conservation to develop an environmentally sound plan to control the vegetation, which includes Curlyleaf Pondweed, Coontail, and Southern Naiad.

The application consists of EPA registered and aquatically approved herbicides that are routinely used to eradicate nuisance vegetation. There are no post-application restrictions against swimming or fishing in treated water. The application area begins near the Dam and continues upstream approximately one-half mile to the Missouri Department of Conservation lake access point.

Problems associated with nuisance vegetation include:

- Dense weed mats can become uprooted during high water flows and clog filters and intake structures at the Dam and interfere with the generation of electricity.
- Reduces water flow, leading to stagnation and increased mosquito-breeding habitat.
- Promotes accumulation of silt, which reduces water depth and increases the spread of aquatic weeds.
- Interferes with recreational boating and fishing by increasing the potential for entangling props and lures.

According to Hal VanDaGraff, plant manager at Ozark Beach, "Controlling vegetation will improve recreational opportunities along the lake and help to ensure we continue to provide reliable electricity to our customers."

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE: EDE) is an investor-owned, regulated 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 provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit www.empiredistrict.com.

###