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EMPIRE DISTRICT EMPLOYEES TO BE RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

JOPLIN, MO – January 2, 2014 – Safety on the job conveys its own reward, but Empire employees will receive an additional honor to mark a significant safety milestone on Friday, January 3, 2014, at 10 a.m., at the Company’s Joplin Service Center, 931 East 4th Street in Joplin, Missouri.

Representatives from the National Safety Council of the Ozarks will be on hand to make a special presentation in recognition of the achievement of 1,000,000 hours worked without a lost-time injury. The injury-free period stretches over eight months dating back to April 1, 2013. The million-hour mark has been attained only six times in Company history. The last time was in July 2004.

According to Brad Beecher, president and CEO, “We are very proud to see our employees recognized for their outstanding safety awareness and practices, but our most important reward is seeing each of them return home safely to their families each day.”

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE: EDE) is an investor-owned, regulated utility providing electricity, 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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