



PRESS RELEASE

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EMPIRE DISTRICT LAUNCHES LED STREET LIGHTING PILOT IN OZARK

JOPLIN, MO – January 22, 2015 – Empire has launched a pilot project to evaluate the use of energy efficient LED (light emitting diode) street lighting. Ozark city officials will join Empire to mark the launch of the project at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, at 780 North 18th Street. The city of Ozark is one of five communities to be included in the pilot project, with lights installed along North 18th Street between West Diane and West Dawn Streets.

According to Brent Baker, general manager of Customer Service, Transmission and Engineering at Empire, “This pilot project is an important step in evaluating the potential benefits of LED lighting technology and determining the feasibility of broader deployment on our system.”

The pilot will take place over a two-year period. In addition to Ozark, the project includes installations in Branson, Neosho, Republic and Webb City.

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 217,000 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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