



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF ROBIN HARDIN**



JOPLIN, MO – February 4, 2015 – Ms. Robin Hardin retired from The Empire District Electric Company on January 31, following 26 years of service.

Ms. Hardin joined the Company on August 9, 1988 as an analyst programmer. In May 1993, she was promoted to senior analyst programmer and, in October 1995, she was named information systems analyst. In April 1998, she transferred to the finance/treasury department as the associate investor relations specialist. In August 1998, she was named shareholder relations specialist and, in February 2002, she was promoted to senior shareholder relations specialist, the position she held at retirement.

She is a graduate of Parkwood High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Missouri – Rolla.

(more)

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She married Keith Hardin on May 10, 2003. She has one stepson and two grandchildren.

Prior to joining Empire, she worked as the office manager for Dr. Andre Beniort in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, and as a programmer analyst for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in St. Louis, Missouri.

She is a member of Christ Church of Oronogo and a member of the Joplin American Cancer Society Relay for Life planning board. She enjoys reading and collecting vintage postcards.

After retirement, she plans to travel and to spend summer days in Maine with family and friends. She is also looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren.

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 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](http://www.empiredistrict.com).

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