

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **THE EMPIRE DISTRICT GAS COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF DENNIS VANGUNDY**



JOPLIN, MO – February 16, 2015 – Mr. Dennis VanGundy will retire from The Empire District Gas Company on February 28, following 43 years of service.

Mr. VanGundy began his career in the gas business with St. Joseph Light & Power as a gas foreman. After four years, he joined Aquila as a gas foreman where he worked for 34 years. He joined the Empire staff in June 2006 as a gas distribution foreman. In June 2009, his title was changed to gas foreman, the position he holds at retirement.

He is a graduate of Maryville High School and also served in the United States Naval Reserves.

Mr. VanGundy is a life member of the Maryville Elks Lodge. He enjoys fishing at Mozingo Lake in Maryville, Missouri, and Rudy Inlet in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and hopes to spend more time there during his retirement.

(more)

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 218,000 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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