



PRESS RELEASE

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EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY TO CUT RIBBON FOR NEW COLUMBUS SOUTHEAST SUBSTATION

JOPLIN, MO – October 09, 2015 – The Empire District Electric Company will hold a ribbon cutting and dedication for its newly completed substation near Columbus, Kansas, at 10 a.m., Wednesday, October 14, 2015.

Over \$4 million in upgrades were completed at the Columbus Southeast Substation as part of a special initiative to strengthen Empire's energy delivery system, Operation Toughen Up. As a result, this project will provide improved service reliability for customers by providing additional support to four other substations, impacting the communities of Carona, Columbus, Hallowell, Roseland, Weir, Scammon, Sherman City, Sherwin, Skidmore and West Mineral.

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 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.

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