

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robin McAlester
Corporate Communications
417-625-5180
rmcalester@empiredistrict.com

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF COY ELSTEN



JOPLIN, MO – March 10, 2016 – Mr. Coy Elsten retired from The Empire District Electric Company on February 29, 2016, following 42 years of service.

Mr. Elsten joined the Company on June 13, 1974, as a Laborer at Asbury. He served in many roles throughout his career at Empire including Operator 3rd and 4th Class, Meter Reader 2nd and 1st Class, Groundman, Lineman 4th and 3rd Class, Mechanical Maintenance 4th – 1st Class, Welder, Machinist, and Maintenance Foreman Low. In July 2001, he advanced to Maintenance Foreman High, the position he held at retirement.

Mr. Elsten is a graduate of Baxter Springs High School and attended Franklin Technology School. Prior to joining Empire, he worked at Walmart, Sperry Vickers Joplin and O&F Machine.

He enjoys fishing, especially fly fishing for trout, tying flies, gardening, photography, metal and wood working, and spending time with his grandchildren. After retirement he plans to spend time traveling

(more)

and doing the things he didn't have time for in the past. He hopes to take a trip to the Netherlands where he has family he has never met.

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.

###