



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMPIRE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY WITH HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JOPLIN, MO – April 19, 2016 – In recognition of Earth Day, The Empire District Electric Company will present a tree planting program to second and third graders at Highland Elementary School, Columbus, Kansas on Friday, April 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Arborist will guide the students in proper planting techniques and the importance of the Right Tree in the Right Place as they plant four redbud trees on the school grounds. Immediately following will be a ceremonial planting of a Tulip Poplar to replace the historic Cottonwood the school had to remove. Retired teachers and other faculty members will be in attendance.

For more information about Empire's vegetation management program and tree planting tips, visit us at www.empiredistrict.com/trees.

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.

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