



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF BOB ELLIS



JOPLIN, MO – August 3, 2016 – Mr. Bob Ellis retired from The Empire District Electric Company on July 31, 2016, following 11 years of service.

Mr. Ellis joined the Company in June 2005 as a Senior Accountant. In March 2009, he was promoted to Manager of Fuel Accounting, and in February 2011, he was named Manager of Fuel and Revenue Accounting, the position he held at retirement.

Mr. Ellis graduated from Pittsburg State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and his Master of Business Administration. Before coming to Empire, Mr. Ellis was the Owner/Manager at Bob's Apple Market in Columbus, Kansas. He later worked at Premier Turbines in Neosho, Missouri, as the Accounting Manager.

Mr. Ellis served in the U.S. Air Force from 1970-1974 as Staff Sergeant. He is treasurer and past president for the Columbus Lions Club. He is a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Bob and his wife Cynthia have two children and two 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 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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