PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF ROB WANDELL

JOPLIN, MO – August 4, 2016 – Mr. Rob Wandell retired from The Empire District Gas Company on July 31, 2016, following 27 years in the gas utility service.

Mr. Wandell joined the Company in June 2006 as a Pipefitter at the Gas Service Center in Marshall. In May 2011, he became a Local Maintenance Man at the Gas Service Center in Chillicothe, the position he holds at retirement.

He graduated from Wentworth Community College with an Associate of Arts degree. Before coming to Empire, Mr. Wandell worked at Soapy's Plumbing and served in the U.S. Army. He served six years, stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Karlsruhe, Germany.

Mr. Wandell has held the offices of Commander of AM VETS Post 157 and Vice President of the 249th Engineer Battalion Association. He is a life member of DAV and American Legion. He is also a member of the Salisbury Lions Club. He is a Past Scoutmaster for the troops in Marshall and Higginsville, Missouri.

Rob and his wife Linda have three sons 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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