

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ANNOUNCES PETE BABB AS DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES



JOPLIN, MO – October 13, 2016 – Mr. Keith “Pete” Babb has been promoted to Director of Human Resources for The Empire District Electric Company. In this position, he is responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of personnel policies and practices, as well as assisting with performance management, labor relations, worker’s compensation, and safety.

Mr. Babb graduated from East Newton High School. He then earned an Associate Degree in Business before graduating from Missouri Southern State University with a double major in Economics & Finance and Marketing. Mr. Babb also received his Master of Business Administration degree from Missouri State University.

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During his 21 years of combined service with Empire, Mr. Babb held the positions of Rate Analyst, Planning Analyst, Corporate Planner, Manager of Training and Development, and Assistant Director of Human Resources.

Prior to rejoining Empire in 2011, Mr. Babb held human resource management positions with Midcon Cables, La-Z-Boy Midwest, Schreiber Foods, and Miracle Recreation.

Mr. Babb has served on the Neosho YMCA Board of Directors. He currently serves on the Joplin YMCA Board of Directors, where he also served as Past President.

He has served as a Deacon for the Hillcrest Church of Christ for the past 30 years.

Mr. Babb and his wife, Pam, have three children and four grandchildren.

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 provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit www.empiredistrict.com.

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