



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY
TO CUT RIBBON FOR NEW OZARK SUBSTATION**

JOPLIN, MO – June 19, 2017 – Empire District will hold a ribbon cutting and dedication for its newly completed electrical substation located at 1550 West Jackson, Ozark, Missouri, at 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 20, 2017.

The project is a part of Empire’s ongoing initiative to strengthen the energy delivery system and increase reliability and system capacity.

According to Blake Mertens, Vice President of Operations - Electric, “This new substation has several advantages; it will allow maintenance to be performed without a service interruption to customers, it will better serve the peak demand in the Ozark area, and it provides an alternative to shift load from adjacent substations which may reduce the number of customers affected by an outage and reduce the duration of the event.”

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. and headquarters for the Liberty Utilities Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to approximately 320,000 customers across six states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit www.empiredistrict.com. For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

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Contact:

Julie Maus
Director of Corporate Communications
417-625-5101
jmaus@empiredistrict.com