PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ANNOUNCES SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE OUTAGE IN GALENA, KANSAS

JOPLIN, MO – October 4, 2012 – The Empire District Electric Company will interrupt service to customers in Galena, Kansas for approximately two hours beginning at 3:30 a.m., Friday, October 5, 2012.

Customers should be aware that these times are approximations, and the outage could be postponed or extended due to weather or equipment issues.

The outage will include the area from 20th Street north to Front Street and from the Kansas state line west to Spring River.

The interruption is necessary to allow crews to safely complete substation equipment repair work and to ensure continued safe and reliable service for customers.

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 215,000 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.