

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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Empire District Electric Schedules Conference Call to Discuss Third Quarter and Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2012 Financial Results

JOPLIN, MO-(BUSINESS WIRE)—October 9, 2012 – The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE:EDE) will hold its quarterly conference call to discuss the results for the third quarter and twelve months ended September 30, 2012 on Friday, October 26, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time (12:00 p.m. Central). The conference call will follow the Company's earnings news release, which will be available on Thursday, October 25, 2012.

Participants in the call should dial 877-941-8609, no passcode required. A replay of the call will be available for two weeks by dialing 800-406-7325 and entering the passcode 4569694#.

A live webcast of the call can be accessed via the Internet on Empire's web site at www.empiredistrict.com. The webcast will be available for replay for one year.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE: EDE) is an investor-owned, regulated utility providing electricity, 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.

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