



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF BILL COURTNEY



JOPLIN, MO – May 25, 2013 – Mr. Bill Courtney will retire from The Empire District Electric Company's Webb City Line Operations on May 31, 2013, after 45 years of service.

Mr. Courtney joined the Company on January 29, 1968, as a groundman in Columbus Line Operations. He became a journeyman lineman in November 1970. Over the course of his career, Mr. Courtney worked as a laboratory assistant at Asbury and Riverton and spent time working the meter and service truck in Columbus. He was promoted to line foreman in Joplin in February 1984 and was named special employee in Webb City in July 1989, the position he holds at retirement.

Mr. Courtney is a graduate of Cherokee County Rural High School in Columbus, Kansas. He attended classes at Parsons Junior College and received a pastoral and evangelism church ministry degree from Crown College – Crossroads Baptist Institute.

Prior to employment at Empire, Mr. Courtney worked for Gulf Oil Company in maintenance/operations (more)

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of fertilizer projects.

Mr. Courtney married Connie M. Bowin on November 18, 1966. They have three children: Curt, Heather, and Autumn, who passed away earlier this year.

Mr. Courtney is a charter member of the Crossroads Baptist Church in Carthage, Missouri. He is past president of the Cherokee County Sportsman Association and past member of the Kansas Jaycees. He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers where he has served three terms as business manager from 1986 through 1992 and was president from 1999 through 2002.

During his retirement, Mr. Courtney looks forward to building and improving his family's world class Texas Longhorn herd, fishing, hunting, traveling to watch his grandchildren in sports and activities, and continue the Christian outreach ministry that he and his wife established.

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 216,000 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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