



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
ANNOUNCES RANDY RICHARDSON AS  
PLANT MANAGER OF EMPIRE ENERGY CENTER**



JOPLIN, MO – May 9, 2016 – Effective April 1, 2016, Mr. Randy Richardson was named Plant Manager of the Empire Energy Center. In this position, he is responsible for all aspects relating to staffing, operation, and maintenance of the plant.

Mr. Richardson graduated from the University of Missouri – Rolla with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He later received his Master of Business Administration through Northwest Missouri State University.

In July 1992, he joined Empire as an engineer and later served as Electrical Engineer of Line Design. He also held various positions at Empire's Riverton and Asbury plants including Local Projects Manager, AQCS Construction Manager, Manager of Operations, Supervisor of Coal Handling, and Electrical and Controls Manager.

Prior to joining Empire, Mr. Richardson worked as an Engineer for Eagle Picher.

Mr. Richardson and his wife, Christy, have three children.

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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](http://www.empiredistrict.com).

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