



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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

EMPIRE ANNOUNCES RELIABILITY ENHANCEMENTS IN THE CARL JUNCTION AREA

JOPLIN, MO – November 8, 2016 – The Empire District Electric Company is conducting a pilot project to enhance service reliability in parts of the Carl Junction, Missouri area. PAR crews contracted by Empire will begin work on the project this week and continue through the end of the year. The work area will stretch west from Highway 171 to the state line and from Center Creek to approximately one and one-half miles south of Fir Road.

The pilot project involves the installation of wildlife protection devices on existing pole transformers and pole risers. Each pole transformer or riser serves approximately one to three customers. Crews will work on one transformer or riser at a time. To ensure safety during the installation, there will be a short service interruption of about 20 minutes for each small group of customers. Crews will notify customers just prior to the interruption by coming to their door. This process will ensure minimal interruption for customers as well as efficient and cost-effective completion of the project. The project should not result in any road closures or traffic issues.

Customers should be aware these times are approximations and work could be postponed or extended due to weather or other issues. The pilot project area includes about 1500 customers.

This is one of many projects designed to enhance the reliability of the electrical system. As part of Empire's on-going initiative to improve reliability, a separate line replacement project is currently wrapping up along Joplin Street to the west of Briarbrook.

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.

###