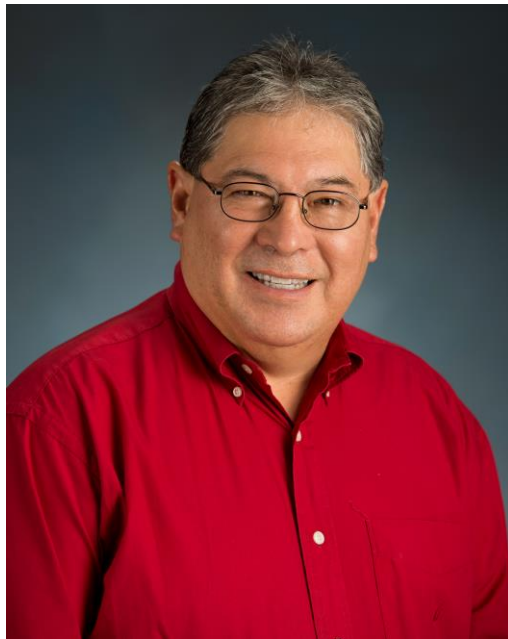


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LIBERTY UTILITIES - EMPIRE  
ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF DON EZELL**



JOPLIN, MO – March 2, 2018 – Mr. Don Ezell retired from The Empire District Electric Company on December 31, 2017, following 32 years of service.

Mr. Ezell joined the Company in April 1985 as a Mail Clerk. During his employment, Ezell worked as a Laborer at the Asbury Power Plant, an Operator at the Riverton Power Plant, and a Senior Operator/Technician at the State Line Combined Cycle Power Plant, the position he held at retirement.

Mr. Ezell is a graduate of Galena High School and Pittsburg State University.

Before joining the Company, Don worked for Gulf Oil Chemicals. He also served in the U.S. Navy as a 1st Class Petty Officer Signalman. His service included two years Active duty, including a tour in Vietnam, and ten years Reserve.

Mr. Ezell and his wife, Susan Leigh Shears, have two children and six grandchildren.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, Empire District is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. and headquarters for the Liberty Utilities Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to nearly 320,000 customers across six states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire District, visit [www.empiredistrict.com](http://www.empiredistrict.com). For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit [www.libertyutilities.com](http://www.libertyutilities.com).

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