

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LIBERTY UTILITIES - EMPIRE
ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF JOHN DEFFENBAUGH**



JOPLIN, MO – March 5, 2018 – Mr. John Deffenbaugh retired from The Empire District Electric Company on January 31, 2018, following 38 years of service.

Mr. Deffenbaugh joined the Company in January 1980 as an Electrician at the Neosho Service Center. In March 2002, Deffenbaugh moved to Systems Operation in Joplin where he began working as a Dispatcher 4th Class. He advanced to Dispatcher 1st Class in June 2003, the position he held at retirement.

Mr. Deffenbaugh is a graduate of Neosho High School and attended Crowder College.

Previously, Mr. Deffenbaugh worked at La-Z-Boy as an Upholsterer.

Mr. Deffenbaugh and his wife, Kriste Jones, have three children and ten 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. For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

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