



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Erica Wright  
Corporate Communications  
417-625-5180  
ewright@empiredistrict.com

### **CHRISTMAS ELVES NEEDED TO BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR OTHERS**

JOPLIN, MO – November 10, 2016 – Since 1987 employees and customers of The Empire District Electric Company have provided holiday cheer to their elderly neighbors through the Christmas Elves program. Over the years, tens of thousands of gifts have been distributed to elderly customers who live alone without family members to celebrate the holiday. This year is no different as over 200 elderly friends and neighbors will rely upon a generous Christmas Elf to deliver a little ho-ho-ho into their holiday.

To become a Christmas Elf, simply visit the Joplin office beginning Monday, November 14, select the name and wish list of an elderly neighbor, fill all or part of their list, and return the wrapped gifts to the Joplin Office by Wednesday, November 30. The gifts will be delivered to recipients before Christmas.

Wish lists are often quite simple and include items such as gloves, socks and slippers, blankets, stationery and stamps, pet food and supplies, and non-perishable food items. Elves are asked to limit the size and weight of boxes – large or heavy boxes can be difficult for both volunteers and recipients to handle.

Those who may not have the time to do the shopping, but wish to help elderly and/or disabled residents in Empire's service area, can choose instead to make a monetary donation to Project Help. This program provides assistance to meet emergency energy-related expenses. Donations can be made at the Empire office or by completing the form found on Empire's website and including it with your bill payment.

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).

###