



Empire District[™]
A Liberty Utilities Company

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EMPIRE DISTRICT – LIBERTY UTILITIES CENTRAL
ANNOUNCES DAVID SWAIN APPOINTED PRESIDENT**

JOPLIN, MO – January 12, 2017 – David Swain has been named President of Empire District – Liberty Utilities Central effective February 1, 2017. In this position, Mr. Swain will oversee the operations and leadership of the Liberty Utilities Central region.

Mr. Swain has 37 years of utility experience. Most recently he was President of Liberty Utilities – New Hampshire where he led Energy North and Granite State Electric. He previously served as President for Liberty Utilities operations in Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa. He began his career in Vandalia, Illinois, working for United Cities Gas Company. In 1997, he became the Division Operations Manager for Atmos Energy Corporation, one of the largest natural gas utilities in the United States.

Mr. Swain has also been very involved in the communities where he has lived throughout his career. He has served in various capacities with Chambers of Commerce and Regional Economic Development Boards. He was recognized as Small Business Advocate of the Year while working with the Economic Development Board in Southern Illinois. He and his wife, Andrea, will relocate to the Joplin area.

Also today, Bradley P. Beecher announced his retirement from Empire District effective March 31, 2017. His retirement follows a 29-year career in the utility industry.

In making the announcement, David Pasieka, President of Liberty Utilities, commented, “We owe Brad a huge debt of gratitude for the leadership and vision he has provided to Empire District. Among many other accomplishments, he successfully led the Company through the recovery effort after the May 2011 Joplin tornado, as well as the largest environmental improvement program in the Company’s history. He has provided a strong foundation for the existing members of the Empire leadership team to ensure the continued success of Empire District as part of the Liberty Utilities organization.”

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Company. Empire District is a 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. For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

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